

**A RESOLUTION OF THE \_\_\_\_\_**  
**DECLARING SUPPORT OF**  
**THE SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO**  
**REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT, AN**  
**AWSA PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY**  
**THE CITY OF DEMING TO THE**  
**NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Mexico is entitled to divert up to 14,000 acre-feet of water from the Gila and San Francisco Rivers under the Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA) for the benefit of the four-county Southwest New Mexico Water Planning Region (Catron, Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna Counties) and receives federal funds to finance local projects to develop these water resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the AWSA water is the only source of new water supply to the four-county region; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Deming submitted an application for a water diversion project to the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) pursuant to the AWSA, which was accepted for further evaluation in February 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 18, 2013, the ISC invited applicants to amend their applications to incorporate elements of other similar applications or otherwise improve the clarity and scope of the application; and

**WHEREAS**, the cities of Deming, Silver City, Hurley, Bayard, and Santa Clara, and Luna and Grant counties met on February 12, 2013 to provide direction to the City of Deming in amending its application; and

**WHEREAS**, the goal of the Southwest New Mexico Regional Water Supply Project is to divert, store, and convey through a pipeline the AWSA water available to New Mexico for the benefit of citizens of the four-county region, including the municipal, agricultural, recreational, environmental, and industrial sectors, to assure long-term sustainable water supplies and economic vitality of this region; and

**WHEREAS**, most public and domestic water supplies in the region are provided by groundwater, which is a finite and declining resource in Luna and Grant counties; and

**WHEREAS**, a reliable surface water supply to augment and enhance mined groundwater sources will ensure that long-term water supplies are available to the region through a conjunctive management system that relies on groundwater in times of drought and on surface water when supplies are available; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has developed a conceptual design for a diversion and storage project, which was developed independently of the ISC application process and is substantially different from the diversion project applications approved by the ISC; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau’s project, which was presented to the Input Group on January 14, 2013, involves construction a series of small reservoirs, none of which would individually provide significant storage for the AWSA water; and

**WHEREAS**, the (enter name of entity signing the resolution) opposes multiple, small-scale construction projects because this will result in a larger number of construction sites with limited storage, thereby significantly increasing the construction and permitting cost and operational complexity of the project without guaranteeing that adequate storage will be available to ensure the benefits of the AWSA water; and

**WHEREAS**, (enter name of entity signing the resolution) supports a diversion project with one or two storage facilities capable of diverting and storing the full amount of AWSA water for future use; and

**WHEREAS**, (enter name of entity signing the resolution) supports the use of water rights exchange mechanisms that allow use of AWSA water for the benefit of the four-county region and may result in significant cost savings by avoiding expensive conveyance structures; and

**WHEREAS**, (enter name of entity signing the resolution) supports the creation of a local regional water authority that will oversee and manage the project and will enter into contracts to sell water to eligible water users; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the firm resolution and desire that the benefits of the AWSA remain within the four-county region, and the (enter name of entity signing the resolution) objects to any efforts to transfer or sell the AWSA water resources outside the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the communities, water users, and stakeholders in the Southwest New Mexico Water Planning Region, including Catron, Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna Counties, wish to work cooperatively to protect and conserve the water resources of the planning region and to ensure that the water supplies assured to New Mexico under the AWSA are utilized for the benefit of the planning region.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE (decision-making body of the entity signing the resolution) that:**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ supports the City of Deming’s revised application for the Southwest New Mexico Regional Water Supply Project; and

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ supports intergovernmental cooperation on development of this project and protection of this water supply for the benefit of the region; and

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ requests that all technical work provided by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation be consistent with the conceptual framework presented by the applicants for funding under the AWSA and approved by the ISC; and

4. The \_\_\_\_\_ opposes the exportation or conveyance of AWSA water outside the four-county region.

RESOLVED THIS \_\_\_ DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2013 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

Approved as to legal form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town/City Attorney