



**TOWN OF TAOS, NEW MEXICO
RESOLUTION 08-26**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF TAOS DECLARING SUPPORT OF
THE TAOS REGIONAL WATER PLAN**

WHEREAS, the communities, water users, and stakeholders in the Taos Water Planning Region wish to work cooperatively to protect and conserve the water resources of the planning region, which includes all of Taos County and a small part of Rio Arriba County in the Embudo and Upper Santa Barbara watersheds; and

WHEREAS, much of the water in the region is supplied by surface water sources vulnerable to drought; and

WHEREAS, most public and domestic water supplies in the planning region are provided by groundwater; and

WHEREAS, both surface and groundwater uses are limited by the availability of water rights and policies related to the Rio Grande Compact; and

WHEREAS, the Taos Regional Water Plan provides a means of protecting water rights in the region, which could potentially be sold or transferred outside of the region; and

WHEREAS, there is considerable interest in protecting and/or enhancing water quality in the region; and

WHEREAS, the need for watershed management to reduce the risk of catastrophic forest fire and improve water quality is important to the area; and

WHEREAS, there is considerable support for protecting the acéquias within the region and supporting a viable agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS, updates to address aging infrastructure are needed in communities throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, communities in the region are pursuing economic development opportunities, and it is important to ensure both that adequate water supply is available for growth and that growth occurs in a responsible manner regarding water availability; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for ongoing public education regarding the water resources and water issues of the region; and

WHEREAS, additional information about water use, water depletions, water supply, and water rights are needed to improve the understanding of water issues within the region; and

WHEREAS, all parties in the region have negotiated and mediated the terms of the Taos Regional Water Plan and wish to express their support for the Plan as mediated and agreed to.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF TAOS TOWN COUNCIL THAT:

1. The Town of Taos supports implementation of the Taos Regional Water Plan.
2. The Town of Taos Council supports Intergovernmental cooperation on water supply development and/or protection of the Region's water supply.
3. Voluntary efforts to keep the water resources of the region within the region (instead of being transferred outside of the region) are encouraged.
4. The establishment of programs to protect the health of watersheds and riparian areas is essential to protect water quality, recreational values, and the environmental health of the Region.
5. The prevention of water quality degradation, including projects that provide funding and technical support for improved wastewater management, are necessary for the protection of water resources.

6. Projects that support continuation of traditional agriculture in the region are essential to maintaining the historic culture.
7. The promotions of programs that provide infrastructure improvements, including those that focus on regional cooperation, are important for the continuing viability of the region.
8. Ensuring that adequate water supplies are available prior to allowing new development and that new development occurs using conservation measures is imperative.
9. Efforts to provide centralized and accessible public education on water issues should be pursued.
10. All practicable efforts should be made to further the collection and analysis of hydrologic data to supplement the Taos Regional Water Plan.
11. The Town of Taos Council and the Taos County Board of Commissioners, at the April 30th 2008 Joint Meeting, mutually agreed to honor their respective Resolutions that reaffirm their joint support of the Taos Regional Water Plan.

RESOLVED THIS 20TH DAY OF MAY, 2008 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

Councilmember Rudy C. Abeyta	YES
Councilmember Darren M. Cordova	YES
Councilmember A. Eugene Sanchez	YES
Councilmember Amy Quintana	YES

Bobby F. Duran, Mayor

ATTEST:

Renee Lucero, Town Clerk

Approved as to legal form:

Renee Barela-Gutierrez, Town Attorney