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SENATE BILL 260

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Jacob R. Candelaria

AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER PROJECTS; SPECIFYING THOSE MEMBERS OF THE
WATER TRUST BOARD WHO CAN BE ELECTED AS CHAIR.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 72-4A-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2001,
Chapter 164, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

"72-4A-4. WATER TRUST BOARD CREATED.--

A. The "water trust board" is created. The board
is composed of the following sixteen members:

(1) the state engineer or the state engineer's
designee;

(2) the secretary of finance and
administration or the secretary's designee;

(3) the executive director of the New Mexico
finance authority or the executive director's designee;

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- 1 (4) the secretary of environment or the
2 secretary's designee;
- 3 (5) the secretary of energy, minerals and
4 natural resources or the secretary's designee;
- 5 (6) the director of the department of game and
6 fish or the director's designee;
- 7 (7) the director of the New Mexico department
8 of agriculture or the director's designee;
- 9 (8) the executive director of the New Mexico
10 municipal league or the executive director's designee;
- 11 (9) the executive director of the New Mexico
12 association of counties or the executive director's designee;
- 13 (10) five public members appointed by the
14 governor and confirmed by the senate and who represent:
- 15 (a) the environmental community;
- 16 (b) an irrigation or conservancy
17 district that uses surface water;
- 18 (c) an irrigation or conservancy
19 district that uses ground water;
- 20 (d) acequia water users; and
- 21 (e) soil and water conservation
22 districts;
- 23 (11) one public member appointed by the Indian
24 affairs commission; and
- 25 (12) the president of the Navajo Nation or the

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1 president's designee.

2 B. The chair of the board shall be a public member
3 elected by a quorum of the board members. The board shall meet
4 at the call of the chair or whenever three members submit a
5 request in writing to the chair, but not less often than once
6 each calendar year. A majority of members constitutes a quorum
7 for the transaction of business. The affirmative vote of at
8 least a majority of a quorum present shall be necessary for an
9 action to be taken by the board.

10 C. Each public member of the board appointed by the
11 governor shall be appointed to a four-year term. To provide
12 for staggered terms, two of the initially governor-appointed
13 public members shall be appointed for terms of two years and
14 three members for terms of four years. Thereafter, all
15 governor-appointed members shall be appointed for four-year
16 terms. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the
17 governor for the remainder of the unexpired term.

18 D. Public members of the board shall be reimbursed
19 for attending meetings of the board as provided for nonsalaried
20 public officers in the Per Diem and Mileage Act and shall
21 receive no other compensation, perquisite or allowance.

22 E. Public members of the board are appointed public
23 officials of the state while carrying out their duties and
24 activities under the Water Project Finance Act."