

SOUTHERN RIO GRANDE DIVERSIFIED Crop Farmers Association

Box 2068, Mesilla Park, NM. 88047

November 3, 2017

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JON BOLLER, ESQ.
Senior Staff Attorney
Legislative Council Service
Room 411, State Capitol
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Re: *Testimony before the Legislative Interim Committee on Water and Natural Resources*

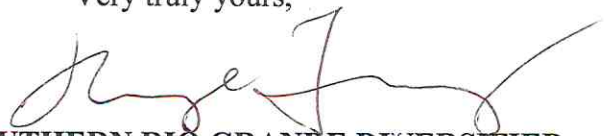
Dear Chairman, Senator Joseph Cervantes & Committee:

The Southern Rio Grande Diversified Crop Farmers Association (“Association”) is committed to the preservation of row crop farming in the Lower Rio Grande. The Association recognizes the stresses in the Lower Rio Grande Basin as a result of changes to the environment.

Recognizing that the open ground utilized by the row crop farmers is regularly looked upon as the only means of responding to sometimes drastic fluctuations in the available water resource in the Lower Rio Grande, the Association is committed to the rotational fallowing leasing approach to reducing depletions, as opposed to the buy-and-dry process that was used in the Lower Pecos. Members of the Association are multi-generational farmers, and wish to preserve the alternative of agriculture for coming generations. The Association recognizes that rotational fallowing and leasing in response to continually shifting depletion requirements will require flexible, responsive, hydrologically sound management system backed by a responsive water rights administration system able to adapt promptly in real-time to the necessity for changes in the environment.

The Association likewise recognizes that stakeholders in the success of this process will need to invest locally, state-wide and nationally in order to support this project with the adequate resources for its success. The Association acknowledges and is very grateful for the participation of EBID in the LRG Groundwater Users Group process.

Very truly yours,



**SOUTHERN RIO GRANDE DIVERSIFIED
CROP FARMERS ASSOCIATION**