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1 discouraged and opposed; and

2 WHEREAS, the ground water of the Estancia basin
3 constitutes the sole potable water supply upon which the
4 communities in the basin depend; and

5 WHEREAS, the local governments of Moriarty, Estancia,
6 Mountainair, Edgewood and Torrance county and local residents
7 of the Estancia basin have joined together in opposing
8 increased mining and exportation of ground water from the
9 Estancia basin; and

10 WHEREAS, the boards of county commissioners of Torrance,
11 Bernalillo and Santa Fe counties have actively discouraged the
12 exportation of any ground water from the Estancia basin; and

13 WHEREAS, during the hearings on the regional water plan
14 and the Torrance county comprehensive ordinance, the Estancia
15 basin public consistently voiced their opposition to the
16 exportation of water from the Estancia basin, fearing that
17 exportation will both impair the existing water rights and be
18 detrimental to planning regions' public welfare; and

19 WHEREAS, the state engineer has administratively
20 designated parts of the Estancia basin as a critical management
21 area, curbing both domestic use and other uses of water; and

22 WHEREAS, there is uncertainty regarding the maximum amount
23 of ground water that will be placed to beneficial use in any
24 given year within the Estancia basin, and all studies conclude
25 that current existing diversions from the aquifer exceed the

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1 rate at which it is being recharged; and

2 WHEREAS, the continued and future economic existence of
3 the Estancia basin communities is dependent on a reliable, if
4 not entirely sustainable, water supply; and

5 WHEREAS, the city of Santa Fe has access to a reliable,
6 renewable, sustainable water supply from the Rio Grande and has
7 the ability to acquire water rights within that system; and

8 WHEREAS, the city of Santa Fe has ground water resources
9 that it can mine, as it deems necessary, in order to sustain
10 its current and projected growth; and

11 WHEREAS, the city of Santa Fe should exploit its own
12 ground water resources rather than those in the Estancia basin;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the city of Santa Fe has options, as well as the
15 means and assets, to explore alternatives to mining the
16 nonrenewable ground water resources in the rural Estancia basin
17 and depriving fellow New Mexicans, including ranchers, farmers
18 and community governments, of a future just to accommodate its
19 projected growth;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the exportation of mined water from a
22 closed ground water basin must be consistent with the public
23 welfare of New Mexico, not contrary to the planning objectives
24 set forth in a regional water plan, and that there must be a
25 demonstrable need to export ground water and that there are no

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1 alternative available sources of water to supply the region
2 seeking to import ground water; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state engineer be
4 requested to adopt the above provisions as part of this process
5 for evaluating applications proposing to export ground water
6 from the Estancia basin; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the state engineer.

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