

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 6

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

INTRODUCED BY

Andy Nunez

A JOINT MEMORIAL

DECLARING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5 THROUGH FEBRUARY 11, 2015 TO  
BE "NEW MEXICO WATER AWARENESS WEEK" AT THE LEGISLATURE AND  
REQUESTING ACTIONS BY STATE AGENCIES IN FORMULATING WATER  
POLICY.

WHEREAS, more than three hundred people from thirty-one  
New Mexico counties, including business leaders, environmental  
advocates, researchers, farmers and ranchers, tribal leaders,  
government officials and students, took part in a two-day town  
hall on water policy in April 2014 organized by New Mexico  
first; and

WHEREAS, New Mexicans called on the state of New Mexico to  
strengthen the regional and state water planning process,  
ensure that water supply systems are resilient and advance  
effective water rights management, including the use of

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1 voluntary shortage-sharing agreements; and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexicans further called for protection of  
3 water supplies by preventing catastrophic forest fires through  
4 comprehensive watershed-scale restoration projects, including  
5 forest thinning, as well as the reduction of stakeholder  
6 conflicts regarding habitat; and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexicans called for exploration of new water  
8 sources, including the capture and use of storm water,  
9 assessment of brackish water sources and advancement of reuse  
10 of produced water by oil and gas development; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexicans called on the state of New Mexico to  
12 improve coordination among funding sources for vetted water  
13 projects; and

14 WHEREAS, many of these priorities were also voiced by New  
15 Mexicans attending 2013 and 2014 water policy events hosted by  
16 the university of New Mexico Utton transboundary resources  
17 center and Sandia national laboratories;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the week of February 5 through  
20 February 11, 2015 be declared "New Mexico Water Awareness Week"  
21 at the legislature; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interstate stream  
23 commission, in partnership with relevant nonprofit  
24 organizations, be requested to consider the development of a  
25 future forum or policy brief comparing the water planning

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1 process in New Mexico with other states, enabling lawmakers and  
2 community members to learn from best practices in other  
3 locations; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of the state  
5 engineer and the interstate stream commission, in partnership  
6 with relevant state, city, county, tribal and private entities,  
7 be requested to research and document best practices for water  
8 shortage-sharing agreements, including their role in the active  
9 water resource management program; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of environment,  
11 in partnership with relevant state, tribal and federal  
12 entities, be requested to research the development of a uniform  
13 application for water funding to align information gathering  
14 for multiple sources; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that legal and scientific research  
16 into aquifer storage and recovery of storm water in New Mexico  
17 is needed and should be pursued by state or private entities;  
18 and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that research and deliberation on  
20 habitat preservation strategies that address environmental and  
21 private sector needs is warranted and should be pursued by  
22 state or private entities; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to the governor, members of the legislature, the  
25 director of the university of New Mexico Utton transboundary

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resources center and the director of New Mexico first.

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