

Merced de Santa Barbara
Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees
Bonifacio Vasquez, President
Vincent Abeyta, Vice President
Henry Trujillo, Secretary
Manuel Trujillo, Treasurer
Lorrie Garcia, Member

Resolution No. 2016-002

**A RESOLUTION STATING THE MERCED DE SANTA BARBARA'S POSITION ON THE PROPOSED
PECOS WILDERNESS EXPANSION WITHIN THE CARSON AND SANTA FE NATIONAL FORESTS**

WHEREAS, the Merced de Santa Barbara, in accordance with Section 49-1-2 NMSA 1978 which states "land grants shall be managed, controlled and governed by their bylaws, by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and as provided in Sections 49-1-1 through 49-1-18 NMSA 1978 as Political Subdivisions of the State of New Mexico; and,

WHEREAS, the Merced de Santa Barbara was established in 1796 to support and sustain the settlements of Santa Barbara, Llano San Juan Nepumuceno, Llano de la Yegua, Rio del Pueblo, and the areas known as "lo de Mora" and other communities surrounding the land grant; and,

WHEREAS, the communities surrounding the proposed expansion remain land-based, agrarian communities; and,

WHEREAS, the heirs of the Santa Barbara Land Grant have used and relied upon the common lands of the Merced for water, grazing of sheep and cattle, hunting, harvesting timber, gathering fuel wood and other resources, in addition to using the forest for recreational purposes; and,

WHEREAS, any expansion into the common lands impacts the subsistence intent of the land grant; and,

WHEREAS, any expansion into any part of the Santa Barbara Common Lands will further dispossess the heirs and their rightful claim to historical common land use; and

WHEREAS, any expansion into any part of the Merced de Santa Barbara will negatively impact the identity, culture and heritage of the communities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Merced de Santa Barbara have an affirmative duty to protect the common lands from losses of ANY nature; and,

WHEREAS, the Merced de Santa Barbara's objects and purposes are to identify, determine, acquire and secure the common lands and common waters of the Merced; and,

WHEREAS, the water source that feeds all the acequias and all other waters that flow downstream originates in the Santa Barbara Land Grant; and

WHEREAS, extreme forest overgrowth increases the probability of a catastrophic fire that would contaminate and pollute all the downstream waters; and

WHEREAS, the people living in the surrounding communities of the Merced have valid concerns regarding extreme fire dangers a designated wilderness policy would create; and,

WHEREAS, the designated wilderness precludes future forest maintenance such as thinning which helps increase the amount of water that flows downstream; and

WHEREAS, the acequia systems that originate in the Merced de Santa Barbara must always be easily accessible for maintenance and repair; and,

WHEREAS, The Merced de Santa Barbara's objects and purposes are to promote the local economic development and infrastructure of the communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Merced de Santa Barbara's objects and purposes are to determine the land uses of the common lands in accordance with the requirements of the State of New Mexico; and,

WHEREAS, the people of Penasco and surrounding communities **voted unanimously** against a wilderness expansion into the Santa Barbara and the Santo Tomás Apóstol del Rio de las Trampas land grants; and

WHEREAS, A petition against a Wilderness expansion was signed by 340 community members; and

WHEREAS, the Wilderness Act made no provision for Non Government Organizations to propose wilderness, the proposed wilderness expansion is invalid.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MERCED DE SANTA BARBARA BOARD OF TRUSTEES, That:

1. The Merced de Santa Barbara Board of Trustees and the membership of the Merced do NOT support any expansion into any part of the historical boundaries of the Merced, including the wilderness area put forth by the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance and the New Mexico Wildlife Society, and others. We join our voices with the New Mexico Land Grant Consejo and all Land Grant Members, the New Mexico Acequia Association, the Northern New Mexico Stockman's Association, the Rio Arriba Board of County Commissioners, the Mora County Board of Commissioners and other opponents of the proposed expansion.
2. The Merced de Santa Barbara Board of Trustees believe it is necessary to continue working with the United States Forest Service to provide input on sustainable use of forest resources and common land management.
3. The Merced de Santa Barbara Board of Trustees urges the Taos County Commissioners, our New Mexico Congressional delegation, and the Wilderness advocates to consider the historical significance of the land grant and the necessary and historical use of the common lands by the communities. We urge all parties to read the fact-finding report "*The People of Northern New Mexico and the National Forests*" (Hassell, 1968), and the resulting US Forest Service policy "Southwestern Policy on Managing National Forest Lands in the Northern Part of New Mexico" (Hurst, 1972.) These documents, their findings, and recommendations are still very relevant today.

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President Bonifacio Vasquez

Date: June 26, 2016

Vice President Vincent Abeyta

Date: June 26, 2016

Secretary Henry Trujillo

Date: June 26, 2016

Treasurer Manuel Trujillo

Date: June 26, 2016

Member Lorrie Garcia

Date: June 26, 2016

**Merced de Santo Tomás Apóstol
del Rio de las Trampas**

Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees

Alex Lopez, President
Arnold Lopez, Vice President
Ernestina Lopez, Secretary
Samuel Lopez, Treasurer
Ruben Aguilar, Member

Resolution No. 2016-002

**A RESOLUTION STATING THE MERCED DE SANTO TOMÁS APÓSTOL DEL RIO DE LAS
TRAMPAS'S POSITION ON THE PROPOSED PECOS WILDERNESS EXPANSION WITHIN THE
CARSON AND SANTA FE NATIONAL FORESTS**

WHEREAS, the Merced de Santo Tomás Apóstol del Rio de las Trampas, in accordance with Section 49-1-2 NMSA 1978 which states "land grants shall be managed, controlled and governed by their bylaws, by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and as provided in Sections 49-1-1 through 49-1-18 NMSA 1978 as Political Subdivisions of the State of New Mexico; and,

WHEREAS, the Merced de Santo Tomás Apóstol del Rio de las Trampas was established in 1751 to support and sustain the settlements of Trampas, El Valle, Diamante, Ojo Sarco, Chamisal, Ojito, and Llano San Juan; and,

WHEREAS, the communities surrounding the proposed expansion remain land-based, agrarian communities; and,

WHEREAS, the heirs of the Merced de Santo Tomas del Rio de Las Trampas have used and relied upon the common lands of the Merced for water, grazing of sheep and cattle, hunting, harvesting timber, gathering fuel wood and other resources, in addition to using the forest for recreational purposes; and,

WHEREAS, any expansion into the common lands impacts the subsistence intent of the land grant; and,

WHEREAS, any expansion into any part of the Las Trampas Common Lands will further dispossess the heirs and their rightful claim to historical common land use; and

WHEREAS, any expansion into any part of the Merced de Santo Tomás Apóstol del Rio de las Trampas will negatively impact the identity, culture and heritage of the communities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Merced de Santo Tomás Apóstol del Rio de las Trampas have an affirmative duty to protect the common lands from losses of ANY nature; and,

WHEREAS, the Merced de Santo Tomás Apóstol del Rio de las Trampas's objects and purposes are to identify, determine, acquire and secure the common lands and common waters of the Merced; and,

WHEREAS, the water source that feeds all the acequias and all other waters that flow downstream originates in the Santa Barbara Land Grant and the Las Trampas Land Grant; and

WHEREAS, extreme forest overgrowth increases the probability of a catastrophic fire that would contaminate and pollute all the downstream waters; and

WHEREAS, the people living in the surrounding communities of the Merced have valid concerns regarding extreme fire dangers a designated wilderness policy would create; and,

WHEREAS, the designated wilderness precludes future forest maintenance such as thinning which helps increase the amount of water that flows downstream; and

WHEREAS, the acequia systems that originate in the Merced de Santo Tomás Apóstol del Rio de las Trampas must always be easily accessible for maintenance and repair; and,

WHEREAS, The Merced de Santo Tomás Apóstol del Rio de las Trampas's objects and purposes are to promote the local economic development and infrastructure of the communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Merced de Santo Tomás Apóstol del Rio de las Trampas's objects and purposes are to determine the land uses of the common lands in accordance with the requirements of the State of New Mexico; and,

WHEREAS, the people of Trampas, Penasco and all surrounding communities voted **unanimously against** a wilderness expansion into the Santa Barbara and the Santo Tomás Apóstol del Rio de las Trampas land grants; and

WHEREAS, A petition against a Wilderness expansion was signed by 340 community members; and

WHEREAS, the Wilderness Act made no provision for Non Government Organizations to propose wilderness, the proposed wilderness expansion is invalid.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MERCED DE SANTO TOMÁS APÓSTOL DEL RIO DE LAS TRAMPAS BOARD OF TRUSTESS, That:

1. The Merced de Santo Tomás Apóstol del Rio de las Trampas Board of Trustees and the membership of the Merced do NOT support any expansion into any part of the historical boundaries of the Merced, including the wilderness area put forth by the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance and the New Mexico Wildlife Society, and others. We join our voices with the New Mexico Land Grant Consejo and all the Land Grant members, the New Mexico Acequia Association, the Northern New Mexico Stockman's Association, the Rio Arriba Board of County Commissioners, the Mora County Board of Commissioners and other opponents of the proposed expansion.
2. The Merced de Santo Tomás Apóstol del Rio de las Trampas Board of Trustees believe it is necessary to continue working with the United States Forest Service to provide input on sustainable use of forest resources and common land management.
3. The Merced de Santo Tomás Apóstol del Rio de las Trampas Board of Trustees urges the Taos County Commissioners, our New Mexico Congressional delegation, and the Wilderness advocates to consider the historical significance of the land grant and the necessary and historical use of the common lands by the communities. We urge all parties to read the fact-finding report "*The People of Northern New Mexico and the National Forests*" (Hassell, 1968), and the resulting US Forest Service policy "Southwestern Policy on Managing National Forest Lands in the Northern Part of New Mexico" (Hurst, 1972.) These documents, their findings, and recommendations are still very relevant today.

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del Rio de las Trampas**

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Arnold Lopez, Vice President
Ernestina Lopez, Secretary
Samuel Lopez, Treasurer
Ruben Aguilar, Member

x Alex Lopez

Alex Lopez, President

x Ernestina Lopez

Ernestina Lopez, Secretary

x Ruben Aguilar

Ruben Aguilar, Board of Trustee Member

x Jose Arnaldo Lopez

Jose Arnaldo Lopez, Vice President

x Samuel Lopez

Samuel Lopez, Treasurer