

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE MID-REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TO CONVENE A
3 TASK FORCE TO STUDY WAYS TO PREVENT THE BUILDUP OF TRASH IN
4 ARROYOS.

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6 WHEREAS, the arroyos of New Mexico function as natural
7 drainage systems, carrying storm water runoff from mountains
8 and mesas to rivers; and

9 WHEREAS, natural arroyos are rich in plant life, which
10 attracts native wildlife in search of food and shelter; and

11 WHEREAS, arroyos in urban areas are the primary tool
12 used by flood control authorities to manage storm water
13 drainage and runoff; and

14 WHEREAS, in highly developed urban areas, many arroyos
15 have been straightened and lined with concrete to prevent
16 erosion and to control flash flooding; and

17 WHEREAS, both types of arroyos are often augmented with
18 walking paths and trails, which enhance neighborhoods and
19 local parks; and

20 WHEREAS, both the functional value and the aesthetic
21 value of arroyos are under threat due to an accumulation of
22 trash; and

23 WHEREAS, the accumulation of trash and litter in arroyos
24 is detrimental to the environment, is unsightly and leads to
25 costly clean-up efforts; and

1 WHEREAS, in addition to intentional littering, trash
2 finds its way to arroyos as a result of poorly secured trash
3 and recycling debris, tossed cigarette butts and the
4 thoughtless disposal of a multitude of personal items; and

5 WHEREAS, trash and litter harm the environment in a
6 number of ways, including by serving as a breeding ground for
7 disease-causing rodents and insects, contaminating water
8 supplies and threatening natural vegetation and wildlife; and

9 WHEREAS, floating materials, such as plastic bottles,
10 cups, plastic bags and other debris, must be screened out of
11 the runoff from arroyos before the water can be discharged
12 into a river; and

13 WHEREAS, it is important to maintain the functional
14 purpose of arroyos, preserve the natural beauty and
15 recreational opportunities provided by arroyos that are free
16 of trash and save New Mexico's cities, counties and
17 municipalities the expense of removing litter and trash from
18 arroyos;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the mid-region council of
21 governments be requested to convene a task force to study
22 ways to prevent the buildup of trash in arroyos; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
24 representatives from city, county and municipal flood control
25 boards, the department of environment and the environmental

1 improvement board and others with experience and knowledge
2 regarding arroyos and city planning; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that findings and recommendations
4 from the study be presented to the appropriate interim
5 committee by October 2011; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the mid-region council of governments, the
8 secretary of environment, the chair of the environmental
9 improvement board, the New Mexico association of counties and
10 the New Mexico municipal league.

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