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SENATE MEMORIAL 12

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Bernadette M. Sanchez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE MID-REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TO CONVENE A
TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE ABILITY OF THE ALBUQUERQUE-BERNALILLO
COUNTY WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY TO ACCOMPLISH ITS REQUIRED
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND TO IDENTIFY ALTERNATIVE
APPROACHES TO BOARD COMPOSITION OF THE AUTHORITY.

WHEREAS, the Albuquerque-Bernalillo county water utility
authority is created in statute; and

WHEREAS, the membership of the board of the authority is
composed of the mayor of Albuquerque, three city councilors
appointed by the Albuquerque city council and three county
commissioners appointed by the Bernalillo county board of
county commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the authority makes policy decisions about water
and sewer usage, sets water and sewer rates and sets drought

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1 restrictions and other water regulations and ordinances; and

2 WHEREAS, the authority may acquire, maintain, contract
3 for, condemn or protect water and wastewater facilities; and

4 WHEREAS, the authority is empowered to approve major water
5 utility projects and to issue bonds to finance those projects;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, these duties are complex and time-consuming and
8 may exceed the qualifications and abilities of and the time
9 available to city councilors and county commissioners and may
10 limit their effectiveness in accomplishing the other duties and
11 responsibilities that are required of them; and

12 WHEREAS, the mid-region council of governments is a
13 multicounty governmental agency that works to identify and
14 implement regional long-term policy to ensure healthy
15 communities in New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, among the efforts in which the mid-region council
17 of governments is involved is water planning to address the
18 fundamental concern of cities and counties about how to meet
19 current and future water needs in the region; and

20 WHEREAS, the mid-region council of governments was created
21 to conduct and coordinate regional planning and to provide
22 advice and recommendations to member governments to assist
23 local governments to make informed decisions; and

24 WHEREAS, meeting the water needs of Albuquerque and
25 Bernalillo county is critically important to the future well-

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1 being of all residents of the city and the county;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
3 OF NEW MEXICO that the mid-region council of governments be
4 requested to convene a task force to study the ability of the
5 Albuquerque-Bernalillo county water utility authority to
6 accomplish its required duties and responsibilities and to
7 identify alternative approaches to board composition of the
8 authority; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force collect data,
10 foster dialogue and identify and recommend strategies that will
11 strengthen the ability of the Albuquerque-Bernalillo county
12 water utility authority to meet the current and future water
13 utility needs of the city and the county; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
15 findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim
16 legislative committee by November 2011; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the mid-region council of governments and the
19 Albuquerque-Bernalillo county water utility authority.