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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-52

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Renee D. Villarreal

Councilor Peter N. Ives

A RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION OF AND FULL FUNDING FOR THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.

WHEREAS, The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), created by the United States Congress 54 years ago, is one of the most successful government programs in preserving our country’s precious natural and cultural resources and improving equitable access to the outdoors in urban and rural communities, which is essential to New Mexico’s health, culture, economic opportunity and the future of our children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, LWCF has been instrumental in creating opportunities for New Mexicans in urban, suburban, and rural areas to get outdoors and has been a critical tool in conserving national parks and historic sites, national wildlife refuges and monuments, watersheds, working forests, wildlife areas, and state and local parks, trails and ball fields; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been used to help create access for recreation, sportswomen, sportsmen; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been used to protect and preserve

1 the integrity of essential wildlife corridors and habitat; and

2 **WHEREAS**, LWCF is based on the simple premise that as we extract natural resources that
3 belong to our nation – offshore oil and gas – we should in turn protect and invest in onshore resources
4 for future generations; and

5 **WHEREAS**, LWCF takes a portion of royalties from offshore oil and gas development and
6 invests that money in protecting America’s important public lands for future generations – be that an
7 iconic national park or an urban playground; and

8 **WHEREAS**, though LWCF is authorized to receive \$900 million annually, this cap has been
9 met only twice during the program’s nearly five decades of existence and, instead of being fully
10 funded, nearly every year Congress diverts much of this funding to purposes other than conserving
11 our most important lands and waters; and

12 **WHEREAS**, despite receiving only a fraction of its intended funding over the last 54 years,
13 LWCF has led to the protection of land in every state and nearly every county, has improved access to
14 these public lands, and has provided matching grants for the creation of more than 41,000 state and
15 local park projects; and

16 **WHEREAS**, LWCF supports and maintains the economic asset that our federal, state and
17 local public lands represent; and

18 **WHEREAS**, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, paddling and other outdoor recreation
19 activities contribute a total of \$9.9 billion annually to the New Mexico economy and support 99,000
20 jobs in our state (source: Outdoor Industry Association, 2017).

21 **WHEREAS**, whether manufacturing, retail or service related, most of these jobs are
22 sustainable resource or tourism-based jobs and cannot be exported; and

23 **WHEREAS**, New Mexico has received more than 1,200 state side LWCF grants to local
24 governments and state parks, totaling over \$44 million and touching all of the state’s counties; and

25 **WHEREAS**, over the last 54 years, LWCF funding has contributed to the enhancement of

1 local parks and recreational opportunities that are part of the fabric of the City of Santa Fe, including
2 Ragle, Calle Lorca, Candelero, Alto, and Larragoite Parks as well as recreational improvements to
3 other Santa Fe parks and schools, to the protection of Santa Fe National Forest and Santa Fe
4 Watershed, and to the protection of area attractions such as Hyde Memorial State Park, Valles
5 Caldera National Preserve, the Rio Chama and Rio Grande, and Bandelier, Rio Grande del Norte, and
6 Kasha Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monuments; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the parks, trails, and recreation projects dependent upon LWCF funding are
8 green spaces that contribute to the health and well-being of New Mexican families; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Land and Water Conservation Fund was initially authorized in 1965 by the
10 President and Congress and will expire on September 30, 2018; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe encourages the State of New Mexico to seek LWCF state
12 matching funds aimed at improving outdoor recreation and health for local communities, working
13 collaboratively with cities and towns throughout the State to identify LWCF projects promoting
14 outdoor recreation and improving the quality of life in our communities.

15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Santa Fe expresses support for,
16 and urges Congress to act swiftly to enact full funding for and permanent reauthorization of the Land
17 and Water Conservation Fund given the important contributions it makes to our nation's and New
18 Mexico's health, well-being, economic opportunity and access to our nation's natural treasures.

19 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the entire
20 New Mexico Congressional Delegation to show support for the full funding and permanent
21 reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

22 PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of August, 2018.

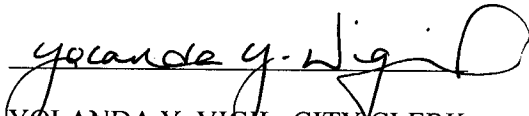
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25 ALAN M. WEBBER, MAYOR

1 ATTEST:

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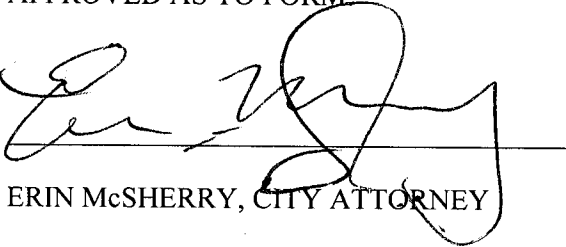
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YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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ERIN McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

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M/Legislation/Resolutions 2018/2018-52 Land and Water Conservation Fund Support