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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-56

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth

Councilor Peter N. Ives

Councilor Christopher M. Rivera

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING STAFF TO DEVELOP A FORTY-YEAR WATER PLAN AND A LONGER RANGE, EIGHTY-YEAR PLAN TO EVALUATE THE CITY'S WATER DEMAND AND SUPPLIES, INCLUDING AN EVALUATION OF OPERATIONAL SCENARIOS TO MAXIMIZE THE CITY'S EXISTING WATER SUPPLIES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN STRATEGIES.

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Fe has four primary sources for its municipal water supply, including surface water from the Santa Fe River watershed (McClure and Nichols reservoirs), imported San Juan-Chama Project surface water from the Colorado River Basin (Buckman Direct Diversion or BDD), the City Well Field, and the Buckman Well Field; and

WHEREAS, the City's water sources are vulnerable to natural conditions that could limit their availability, including climate change, drought, reduced recharge, water quality, and wildfire; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the status quo could lead to major water shortages by 2055, because of climate change and increasing populations, according to the U.S. Bureau of

1 Reclamation's 2015 Santa Fe Basin Study; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the 2015 Santa Fe Basin Study predicts that the City of Santa Fe and
3 Santa Fe County could experience a shortfall in their municipal water supply of over 9,000
4 acre-feet per year by 2055; and

5 **WHEREAS**, acquiring additional water rights and water supplies would be very
6 expensive, costing hundreds of millions of dollars, and would have other adverse
7 consequences; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the City is a national leader and has done an excellent job of promoting
9 conservation of water as a way of maximizing its existing water supply; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the City's ongoing commitment to water conservation is only one of
11 the necessary steps to water sustainability and resiliency; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the City must plan for and make smart decisions to ensure reliable
13 water in the future; and

14 **WHEREAS**, prudent municipal water supply planning requires the City to identify
15 and pursue ways to maximize its current water supply for both the present and the future,
16 create operational flexibility, and provide system resiliency; and

17 **WHEREAS**, it would also be prudent for the City to develop a forty-year water plan
18 to evaluate the City's water demand and supplies under various scenarios; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the City should also employ climate change models to plan for the next
20 eighty years and to implement strategies and projects that will put to beneficial use the City's
21 existing water supplies; and

22 **WHEREAS**, opportunities may exist to work with other local water providers on a
23 regional water supply plan that would coordinate resources; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the City and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation have completed a Santa
25 Fe Water Reuse Feasibility Study in 2016 that demonstrates that the City's reclaimed water

1 is a vastly under-utilized resource, evaluates water reuse alternatives, and prioritizes
2 improvements; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the City has conducted extensive public outreach to discuss City
4 strategies to maximize its existing water supplies; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the City recently had a short-term water quality exceedance at the
6 Paseo Real Water Reclamation Facility that required the use of potable water for irrigation,
7 an incident that could have been avoided had a return flow pipeline and associated storage
8 facilities been constructed and operational.

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF**
10 **THE CITY OF SANTA FE** that the City Manager shall work with the City Attorney,
11 Public Utilities Director, and their respective staffs to develop and propose a forty-year water
12 plan and a longer range, eighty-year water plan to evaluate the City's water demand and
13 supplies, including implementation of operational scenarios to maximize the City's existing
14 water supplies.

15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that public outreach and community input be an
16 important part of shaping these plans and policies for water supply management as well as
17 planning for reliable water future especially in the face of climate change.

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that these plans reflect the City's shared values
19 weighing costs and benefits and in addition supporting resiliency, flexibility, and collaboration
20 while also being ecologically, environmentally and culturally sensitive.

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City evaluate potential strategies to use with
22 other local water providers for a regional water plan that would maximize resources.

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City maximize the City's allocation of San
24 Juan Chama water by implementing the design and construction of a return flow pipeline
25 including acquiring the necessary state and federal permits, while evaluating other feasible

1 options for water reuse.

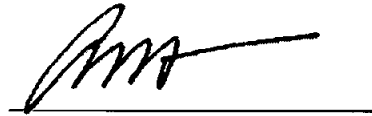
2 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the concerns of downstream users and the
3 environmental community continue to be discussed and addressed as the work continues in the
4 design and permitting stage of this project.

5 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 11th day of December, 2019.

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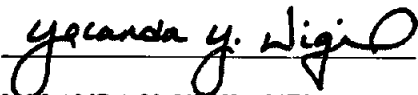
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ALAN M. WEBBER, MAYOR

10 ATTEST:

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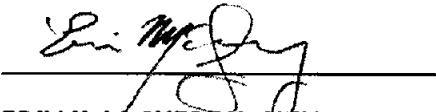
YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

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Legislation/2019/Resolutions/2019-56 Water 2100 Planning