

CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-40

INTRODUCED BY:

Mayor Alan Webber

A RESOLUTION

**CALLING ON THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO ADVOCATE
IN OPPOSITION TO THE TERERRO MINE PROJECT; SUPPORTING THE
PROTECTION OF THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE, HABITATS, AND WATERWAYS OF
NEW MEXICO.**

WHEREAS, according to the New Mexico Environment Department (“NMED”), Tererro Mine was in operation from the years 1903-1907 and 1926-1939 in the Upper Pecos River Valley; and

WHEREAS, after the closure of the Tererro Mine in 1939, the natural environment around the Upper Pecos River Valley experienced negative consequences including the introduction of ground water contaminants and pollution of the Pecos river due to the mine tailings; and

WHEREAS, for example, according to a research paper produced by Southwest Research and Information Center, surface water samples taken from Alamitos Creek in 1991 by the New Mexico State Agency and Operator Investigations (“NMAOI”) contained concentrations of lead, cadmium, iron, and manganese in excess of standards set by the New Mexico Water Quality

Control Commission (“NMWQCC”) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) Maximum Contamination Levels; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, in addition to the above, the NMAOI also found concentrations of sulfate, manganese, and total dissolved solids in excess of the NMWQCC standards in the ground water; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Research and Information Center states that, in March of 1991, Spring snowmelt carried toxic contaminants consisting of sulfuric acid, zinc, and aluminum into the Pecos River, killing ninety thousand (90,000) Rio Grande cutthroat trout at the Lisboa Springs Fish Hatchery; and

WHEREAS, after the contamination of the Pecos River, the EPA deemed the clean-up of the Tererro Mine and the nearby El Molino Mill as a Superfund site due to the hazardous waste left over from the Tererro Mine’s tailings; and

WHEREAS, according to the Stop Tererro Mine Coalition, in June 2019, Comexico LLC (“Comexico”), “acquired 20 mining claims in the Jones Hill area near Tererro, NM” and in 2019, “Comexico applied for permits to conduct exploratory drilling for gold, copper, zinc, lead, and silver” in an operation named the “Tererro VMS Project”; and

WHEREAS, according to NMED’s public notice of the Tererro VMS Project, the exploratory drilling will consist of thirty (30) holes up to four thousand (4,000) feet deep; and

WHEREAS, the Stop Tererro Mine Coalition also states that “the initial exploratory drilling would adversely impact more than 400 acres and five tributaries of the Pecos, plus the rivers mainstream.”; and

WHEREAS, mining threatens natural landscapes, waterways, and habitats; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Fe (“City”) is committed to preserving the waterways of New Mexico.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GOVERNING BODY OF

1 **THE CITY OF SANTA FE** opposes the Tererro VMS Project proposed by Comexico and calls
2 upon the New Mexico Congressional Delegation to advocate for the following actions:

- 3 1) Prohibit the Tererro VMS Project from moving forward in order to protect the natural
4 landscapes, waterways, and habitats of the Santa Fe National Forest, Pecos Wilderness,
5 and Pecos River.
- 6 2) Support the introduction of legislation to protect the Santa Fe National Forest and
7 Pecos Wilderness from further attempts of mining in the future.

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City is dedicated to the protection of the natural
9 beauty of the state of New Mexico, the protection of its landscape and waterways, and the
10 accessibility of clean water for all.

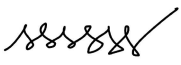
11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk shall forward this Resolution to the
12 U.S. Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the United States Department of Agriculture, the
13 Chief of the United States Forest Service, the Deputy Chief of the United States Forest Service, the
14 United States Forest Service Southwest Regional Forester, the Director of the Bureau of Land
15 Management, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Land and Mineral Management, the
16 Chief of Staff at the White House Council on Environmental Quality, the New Mexico Federal and
17 State Delegation, the Governor of New Mexico, and the Jemez and Tesuque Pueblos.

18 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 9th day of October, 2024.

19 
20 Alan Webber (Oct 13, 2024 11:37 MDT)

21 ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

22 ATTEST:

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25 GERALYN F. CARDENAS, INTERIM CITY CLERK

1 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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4 ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

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25 *Legislation/2024/Resolutions/2024-40(R)/Opposing Tererro Mine Development*