

***Linking Stakeholder Priorities with Water Management & Adaptation Strategies  
in the Santa Fe River Watershed  
Santa Fe County, New Mexico***

Proposal to the  
WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program  
Phase 1 Grants for Fiscal Years 2019 & 2020  
Funding Opportunity Announcement BOR-DO-19-FO10



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## 1. Executive Summary

Date: November 13, 2019

Applicant: Santa Fe Watershed Association

Applicant Location: Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, NM

Project Timeline: 2 years, 2020-2022

The Project will not be located on a federal facility

The Santa Fe watershed faces challenges regarding future availability, sustainability and reliability of surface water supplies. As an existing watershed group, the Santa Fe Watershed Association is proposing a Watershed Restoration Planning Project focused on working with diverse stakeholders within the watershed to understand and document their watershed management priorities, issues, and concerns in order to reduce conflict and facilitate solutions to complex water supply issues. Cooperative Watershed Management Program funds will cover time and effort associated with implementing a four-phase project to assess and link stakeholder priorities with ongoing watershed management. The first project goal is to gather, organize, and synthesize information regarding spatial relevance and context of watershed issues and current and pending management actions, and to compile a comprehensive list of stakeholders in the watershed. The second goal is to implement replicable procedures to document watershed priorities and concerns of diverse stakeholders that affect and are affected by the Santa Fe watershed. The third goal is to facilitate a deliberative workflow process with city and county water managers to identify areas of alignment and misalignment between stakeholder priorities and concerns with adaptive strategies contained in the Santa Fe River Basin Plan and other pertinent watershed management documents. These efforts will culminate in a Phase 1 watershed plan that documents specific steps watershed managers and the Santa Fe Watershed Association could collectively take to improve the integration of stakeholder priorities and concerns into targeted Basin Study adaptation strategies.

## 2. Background Data

**Description of Watershed:** The Santa Fe River watershed is a sub-basin of the Rio Grande located entirely within Santa Fe County, New Mexico. Its headwaters are located on the eastern slope of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains near Lake Peak (elevation 12,409 ft) within the Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF). Below the mountains the Santa Fe river courses west/southwest through the City of Santa Fe (City), several small villages in Santa Fe County and eventually through the Pueblo of Cochiti before joining the Rio Grande below Cochiti Dam (elevation 5,227 ft; **Figure 1**). The watershed drains approximately 285 square miles. The total length of the Santa Fe River is approximately 46 miles.

Steep forested slopes in the upper watershed can exceed 40 degrees from the mountainous ridgeline down to the zone where pre-Cambrian rocks of the Sangre de Cristo range meet the deep sediments of the Santa Fe Group that underlies most of the Santa Fe River basin. The topography downstream of the SFNF boundary is relatively gently rolling except in the deeply

incised basalt canyon immediately upstream of where the Santa Fe River enters the Village of La Bajada (**Figure 1**).

Temperature and precipitation in the watershed vary dramatically with elevation. Average annual precipitation ranges from 35-inches per year near the headwaters to approximately 8 - inches per year at the Rio Grande confluence. Snow season typically occurs from November through April with a seasonal average of 225 inches at the Santa Fe ski area. Average annual high and low temperatures in the center of the watershed are 65°F and 34.8°F, respectively, with highest daytime temperatures in July (avg high 86°F) and lowest in January (avg high 44°F).

Vegetation types in the watershed are controlled by elevation and associated precipitation and temperature. Alpine tundra is found at the highest elevations followed in descending order by spruce-fir forest, mixed conifer forest, and then around 7,500 feet a transition to mostly ponderosa pine. Below approximately 6,500 feet the vegetation transitions to a mix of piñon pine-juniper woodlands and semi-arid rangelands covering approximately 80% of the watershed.

Land use in the Santa Fe watershed includes a mix of wilderness, urban-municipal, agriculture, and grazing. Approximate acreages of each from upstream to downstream are presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Land Uses and approximate acreages within the Santa Fe River watershed

Land Use	Acreage	Percent of Total
Pecos Wilderness (managed by SFNF)	7,000	2.7
Municipal Watershed (restricted access to protect potable water supply; within the SFNF but exclusive of wilderness)	10,000	3.8
City of Santa Fe (mixed density urban development; 2018 population 84,559)	33,591	13
Santa Fe County (mixed density development and open land; 2018 population within the watershed outside City limits approximately 30,976)	159,409	62
Caja del Rio (grazing land managed by BLM & SFNF)	27,368	10.6
Acequia-irrigated agricultural land	100	<1
Cochiti Pueblo (grazing land and wetlands)	20,181	7.8
<b>TOTAL (approximate)</b>	<b>257,649</b>	<b>100</b>



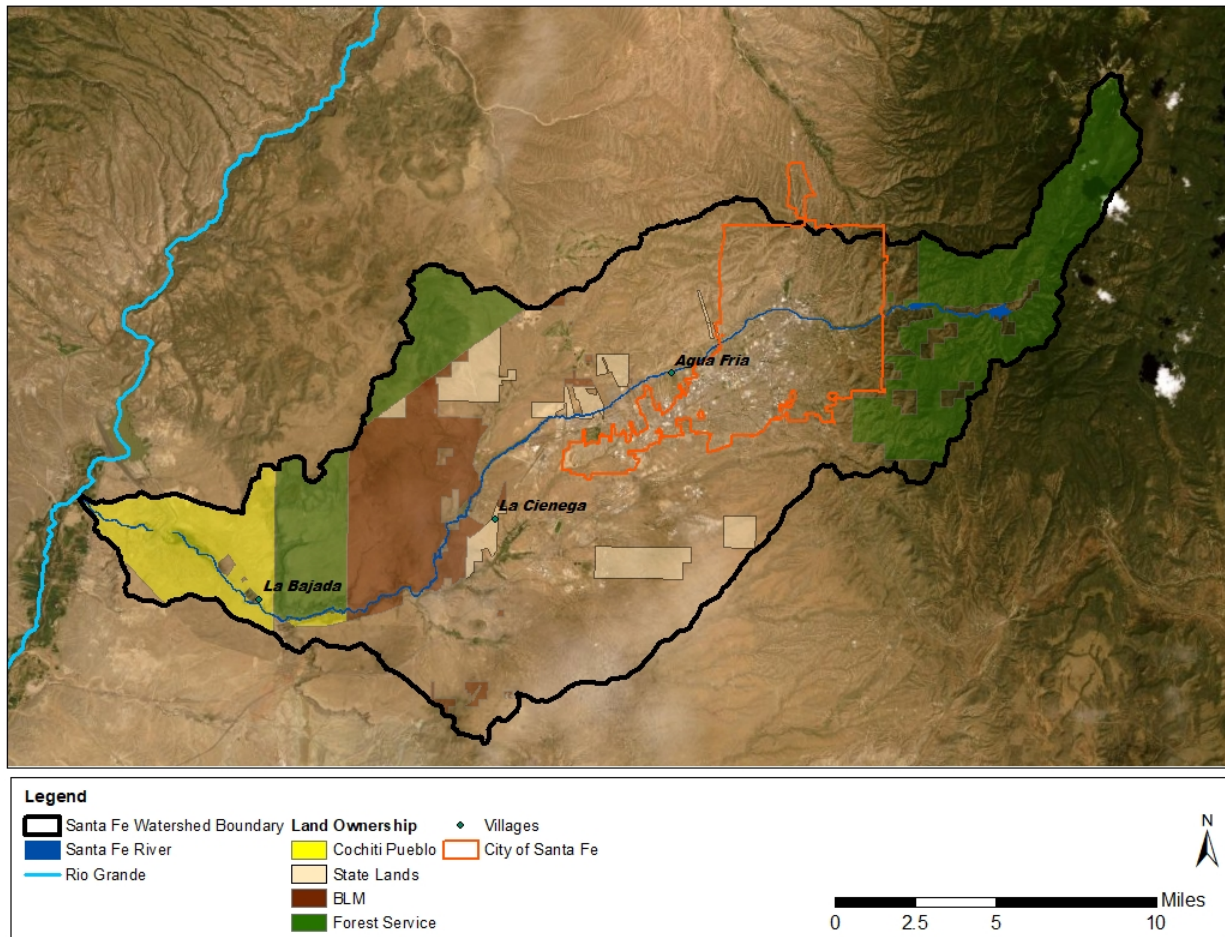


Figure 1. Santa Fe River Watershed

**Water Supply Sources and Associated Water Rights:** The Santa Fe River watershed encompasses the City of Santa Fe and the portion of Santa Fe County with both the highest population density and the highest growth rate. The City and County water supply systems are strongly interconnected, with the County system surrounding the City system to the west, north and south. Municipal, industrial and agricultural water users residing within the watershed and served by the City and County utilities obtain their water from two surface water sources and two groundwater well fields. The proportion of water from these four supply sources varies each year, but groundwater sources are used primarily to supplement surface water shortages in times of drought. These water supplies are piped to water users in the City and to Villages within Santa Fe County served by the City and County water utility departments. Approximately 22,000 people currently reside in unincorporated portions of the watershed and their drinking water supply relies on groundwater from private or community wells. These water sources and associated water rights are summarized as follows:

Upper Santa Fe River: Surface water flowing down the Santa Fe river from the upper watershed is captured in two storage reservoirs. Both reservoirs are located east of the City within the closed upper Santa Fe River municipal watershed (**Figure 2**), which lies wholly within the SFNF. The upper reservoir, McClure, was initially built in 1926 and was modified in 1935, 1947 and again in 1995 to incrementally increase storage capacity. Today McClure can store up to 3,255 acre-feet (ac-ft). The lower reservoir, Nichols, was completed in 1943 and can store up to 684 ac-ft. The total combined storage capacity of both reservoirs is approximately 3940 ac-ft. All but 1,061 ac-ft of McClure reservoir storage capacity fall under the regulations of the Rio Grande Compact (Compact). Under Compact rules, operations at McClure and Nichols reservoirs are affected by the amount of water held in the Elephant Butte Project storage, and whether New Mexico had an accrued debit or credit at the end of the previous year.

The City's Canyon Road Water Treatment Plant (CR-WTP) controls water from McClure to Nichols, from Nichols to the water treatment plant, and can control by-pass flows to deliver water to four acequias and to provide managed instream flows to the river. The CR-WTP treats water for potability and controls distribution from this source to water users served by the City and County utilities. Acequias receiving by-pass water include Acequia Llano, Acequia Madre, Acequia Muralla, and Acequia Cerro Gordo. All four acequias serve small private orchards, gardens and pastures. Instream flows to the Santa Fe River below Nichols Reservoir are required under terms of the 2012 *Living River Program* (Ordinance 2012-10). The ordinance requires up to 1,000 ac-ft/year be provided to the Santa Fe River downstream of the dam based on water supply forecasts. In years when the April snowmelt runoff forecast falls below 75% of the annual average, these instream flows are scaled proportionally downward. Another factor impacting instream flow is that the discharge into the Santa Fe River downstream of Nichols Reservoir cannot exceed the discharge measured at the gage upstream of McClure Reservoir.

The City of Santa Fe owns 5,040 ac-ft/year of Santa Fe River water rights and has a right to store up to 4,000 ac-ft in the reservoirs under Office of the State Engineer Permit 1677. Of the 5,040 ac-ft, 1,540 ac-ft has a pre-1907 (senior) priority date while the remaining 3,500 ac-ft have a 1925 priority date. Acequias Madre and Cerro Gordo have an annual irrigation right of 93.48 ac-ft. Acequias Llano and Muralla have a combined irrigation right of 63.05 ac-ft/year (**Table 2**).

Buckman Direct Diversion: The Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD) diverts surface water from the Rio Grande roughly 10 miles west of the City limits near the historic Buckman townsite (**Figure 2**). The BDD is jointly owned by the City and Santa Fe County, and was completed in 2010 to deliver senior Rio Grande water rights or other San Juan-Chama Project (SJCP) water owned by the City, Santa Fe County and Las Campanas Water and Sewer Cooperative, and the Club at Las Campanas (the latter two fall outside of the Santa Fe watershed). The BDD project pumps water from the Rio Grande 11-miles and 1,100 vertical feet uphill to the Buckman Regional Water Treatment Plant (BR-WTP; **Figure 2**). The BR-WTP can deliver up to 15 million gallons per day of treated drinking water for City and Santa Fe County water system customers.

Annual water diversions from the Rio Grande via the BDD Project are limited to 8,730 ac-ft/year. The City has rights to 5,230 ac-ft/year; all of which is imported SJCP water. Santa Fe County currently has annual diversion rights to 2,167 ac-ft (**Table 2**) of which 367 ac-ft is imported SJCP water, 464 ac-ft was acquired through various right transfers, and 1,336 ac-ft are senior (pre-1907) right to “native” Rio Grande surface water.

City Well Field: There are seven active groundwater wells within the City limits, most of which were drilled in the 1950s and all are located near the Santa Fe River (**Figure 2**). The City Well Field was a critical supplement to the upper watershed surface water sources, and in 1951 provided approximately 68% of the drinking water supply. Today these wells are only used to maintain compliance, assure production capability (e.g. exercise them) and in times of extreme drought and associated shortages of surface water supplies. The City Well Field has a permitted diversion right of up to 4,865 ac-ft/year (**Table 2**).

Buckman Well Field: The Buckman Well Field includes 13 groundwater wells located outside of the Santa Fe Watershed (**Figure 2**). Nine of these wells were constructed in the early 1970s and four more were operational beginning in 2003. As with the City Well Field, groundwater supply from the Buckman Well Field is inversely related to surface water availability: groundwater is conserved except to maintain compliance, assure production capability (e.g. exercise them) and when needed to compensate for drought-induced shortfalls in surface water supplies.

The City is permitted to pump up to 10,000 ac-ft/year from these wells (**Table 2**). Between 1972 and 2002, total well field diversions ranged from 16 to 5,890 ac-ft/year. Between 2003 and 2017 total diversions ranged from less than 1,000 up to 5,823 ac-ft/year.

Santa Fe Wastewater Treatment Plant (SF-WWTP): The SF-WWTP treats an average of approximately 5,800 ac-ft/year of treated effluent. Approximately 20 to 25 percent of this treated effluent is currently sold to users across the watershed each year for: dust control and other construction purposes; irrigation of municipal recreational fields and the infield at Santa Fe Downs; irrigation of the Marty Sanchez Links de Santa Fe and the Santa Fe Country Club golf courses; dust control at the regional landfill; watering livestock on the Caja del Rio; and irrigation of the education scape at the NM Game and Fish facility. The remainder is currently released to the Santa Fe River downstream of the treatment plant where a portion is diverted by acequias serving villages of La Cieneguilla and La Bajada. Potential future uses of treated wastewater, to name a few, include off-setting surface water depletions caused by groundwater pumping from the Buckman well field, piping treated water upstream to the Santa Fe River, and supplementing the basins’ potable water supply.

Table 2. Summary of Water Sources, General Permit Holders and Associated Water Rights

Source	Permit Holder	Water Right (ac-ft/year)
Upper Santa Fe River	City of Santa Fe	5,040
	Acequias Madre and Cerro Gordo	93.48
	Acequias Llano and Muralla	63.05
BDD Project	City of Santa Fe	5,230
	Santa Fe County	2,167
Buckman Well Field	City of Santa Fe	10,000
City Well Field	City of Santa Fe	4,865

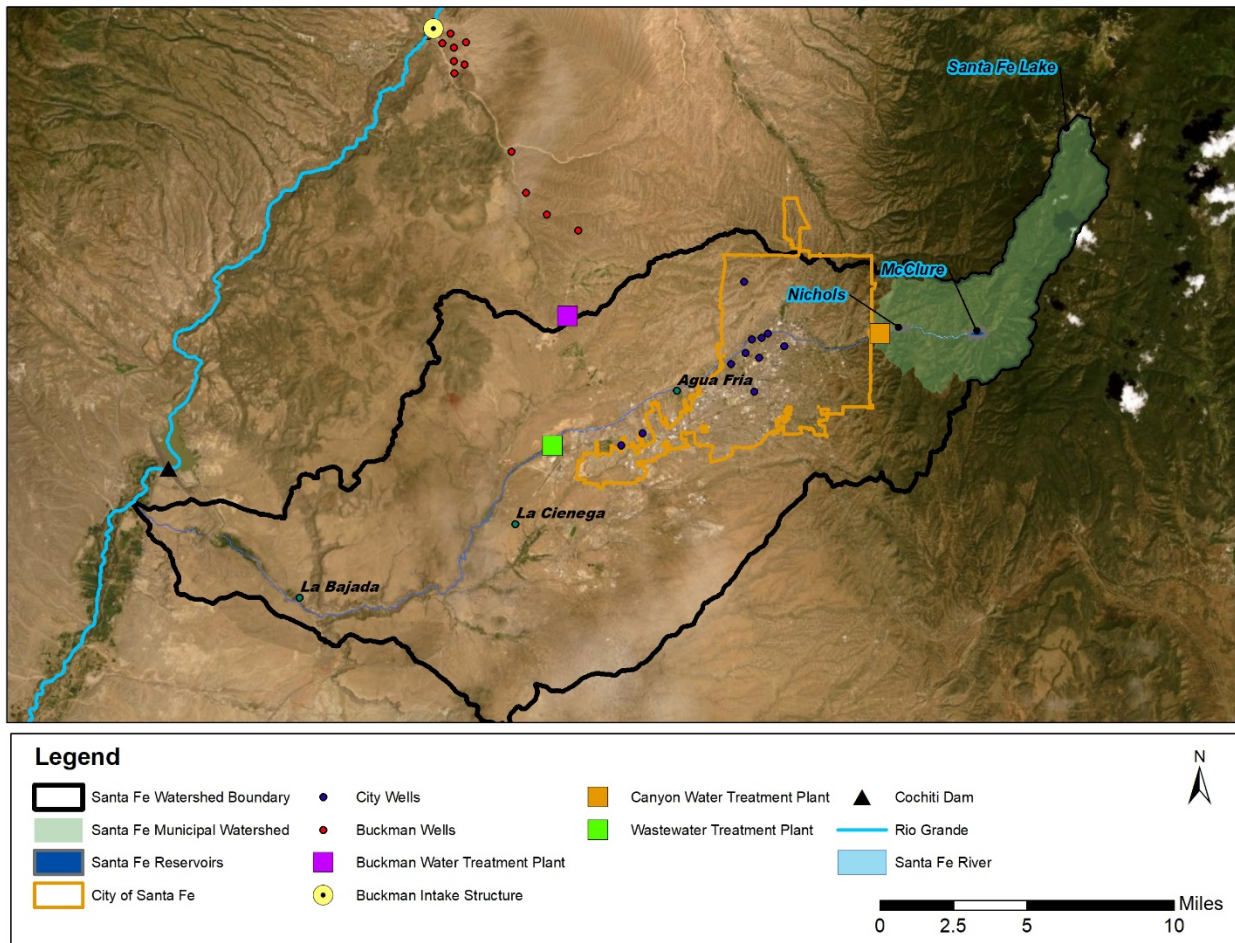


Figure 2. Water Supply Infrastructure

**Current Water Uses:** The percent of water supply allocated by the City and County utilities to major water-use sectors varies somewhat each year, but the greatest proportion is use by Single Family Residential followed by Commercial and Industrial users. In 2017 water use by Multi-Family Residential users within the City was approximately equal to all “Other” miscellaneous uses combined (fire suppression, irrigation, instream flows to the Santa Fe River, irrigation delivery to Agua Fria, El Guicu, and La Bajada acequias; **Table 3**).



Table 3. Current Water Uses by Major Sector

Water Use	City	SF County Utility
Single Family Residential	50%	66%
Commercial/Industrial/Institutional	29%	33%
Multi-Family Residential	10%	-
Other (fire, irrigation, bulk water, acequias, instream flow)	11%	1%

**Water Issues:** The human population density, socio-economic conditions and ecological character of the watershed vary widely across the watershed. Accordingly, the issues requiring management attention (e.g., wildfire, river drying, riparian habitat loss, urban flood risk, agricultural water shortages, invasive species, water quality, illegal dumping, water conservation enforcement, etc.) also differ widely throughout the watershed. The unifying issue affecting all watershed segments, however, is the concern over future availability, sustainability and reliability of surface water supplies. Rio Grande basin climate models predict a 35% reduction in annual snowmelt runoff by 2100, while population projections in the Santa Fe River watershed are predicted to increase 35% within just the next 30 years. Combined with significant rises in air temperatures, these predicted climatic changes have important implications for human water demands and the health of forests, fish and wildlife, and ecosystems throughout the watershed.

Unsurprisingly, no new sources of water are expected to materialize. To meet current and projected human and environmental water demands, therefore, County and City water managers are collaborating on ways to maximize water conservation and optimize management of their joint water supply portfolios. One important example of this collaboration is a joint City-County partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation to complete the *Santa Fe River Basin Study* (Basin Study). The Basin Study, funded by Reclamation's WaterSMART Program and completed in 2015, uses models and other tools to identify climate related impacts to water supplies, assess forecasted changes in water supply and demand, and identify and analyze potential adaptation strategies for the combined City and County water supply.

The Basin Study provides an essential *road map* for water planners, managers and decision makers. **Successful implementation, however, requires a clear vision for how to productively and effectively engage with the diverse communities and interest groups who impact the watershed and are impacted by changing watershed conditions as well as City and County land and water management decisions.** Some citizen groups in the watershed are well organized and are highly effective at halting proposed water programs when they feel they have not been informed, or if they perceive that City/County projects do not effectively integrate or address related community priorities or concerns. Conversely, under-represented groups living along the watershed with equally important priorities and concerns often lack a strong voice or an organized way to convey their issues to managers and decision makers. **Accordingly, City and County water managers have identified as a key issue the need for**



developing more comprehensive, inclusive and replicable community outreach processes so that stakeholder priorities, ideas and concerns can be effectively integrated into decision making processes associated with implementing Basin Study recommendations. This requires understanding and documenting the range of priorities and concerns of stakeholders (including under-represented groups) within different segments of the watershed so that City and County managers can devise ways to integrate stakeholder perspectives into individual Basin Study adaptation strategies. As an established watershed group having relationships with many different communities and interest groups throughout the watershed, the Santa Fe Watershed Association is uniquely positioned to design, implement and document these outreach processes for the benefit of all affected parties.

### 3. Project Location

The proposed project will focus on the entire Santa Fe River watershed located in Santa Fe County New Mexico (**Figure 1**). The watershed lies within the Rio Grande Region (Region 13) of the USGS Hydrologic Unit Map (10-digit HUC ID:1302020101; **Figure 3**). The watershed drains approximately 285 square miles and has a total length of approximately 46 miles. Additional details are described above in the *Watershed Description* section.

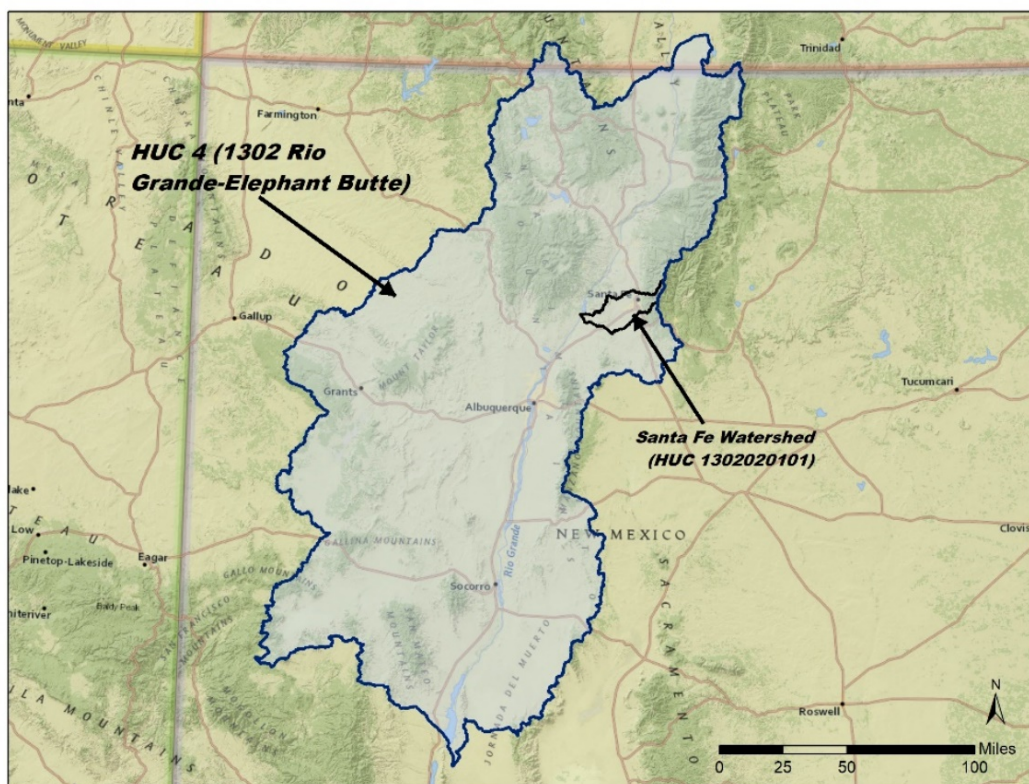


Figure 3. Map showing location of the Santa Fe Watershed (HUC 10) within the larger US Geological Survey Hydrologic Unit Map (HUC 4).

#### 4. Technical Project Description and Milestones

**Applicant Category:** The Santa Fe Watershed Association (SFWA) is applying for a FY2020 CWMP Phase 1 Planning Grant as an *Existing Watershed Group*. We are applying under this category because we are a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization who has been working since 1997 with citizens, governments, tribes and other non-profit organizations throughout the Santa Fe River watershed.

**History and Background of the SFWA:** The Santa Fe Watershed Association is a grassroots non-regulatory entity that addresses water availability and quality issues within the Santa Fe River watershed. As a registered 501(c)3 non-profit, we focus on promoting consensus around the sustainable use and management of water resources throughout the watershed. Our organization was founded in 1997 and over past two decades we have had over 2,900 “Watershedders” as proponents supporting our efforts with both time and funding.

Our organization was initially formed to restore damage caused by gravel mines in the Santa Fe riverbed near the Village of Agua Fria. This effort led to the San Ysidro Crossing County Park and the current County Greenway Project along the Santa Fe River in the County reaches downstream of the City. Since this time, we have created program areas divided into four categories: *Education, Stewardship, Restoration, and Advocacy*.

- Under *Education*, we have taught the *My Water, My Watershed* classes since 2011, taking over 8,000 students into the Municipal Watershed to teach them where their water comes from. We partner with the Audubon Society and the Santa Fe Botanical Gardens to extend this program to other grades and locations. We have also taught the *Climate Masters* class for the past eight years to the whole community, and Middle School Monitoring classes as well.
- For *Stewardship*, the SFWA has coordinated approximately forty-five *Steward Teams* (each team approximately 10 members) who commit to monitoring and cleaning up different sub-reaches of the Santa Fe River and arroyos. This has been a program for seventeen years. As part of this Adopt-the-River/Adopt-an-Arroyo programs, we hold three watershed-wide cleanup days per year. Partners include the City of Santa Fe, the County of Santa Fe, and forty-five private (and public) business sponsors.
- For *Restoration*, we partner with the State of New Mexico, the Santa Fe Public Schools, the City of Santa Fe, the County of Santa Fe, and the Santa Fe Indian School to construct bio-retention basins around the watershed.
- For *Advocacy*, some noteworthy examples include:
  - Partnered with the US Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, and The City of Santa Fe to create a 20-year 2010 Municipal Watershed Plan. We continue to convene quarterly Signatories Meetings to keep the plan elements current;
  - Co-sponsoring the 2020 City Water Conservation Plan;
  - Regularly attend the Santa Fe River Traditional Communities Collaborative meetings; and

- Led and organized stakeholder efforts to pass the *Target Flow for a Living River Ordinance* on February 29th, 2012.

**Eligibility of Applicant:** The Santa Fe Watershed Association is an existing watershed group and grassroots 501c3 nonprofit organization. It meets the described eligibility requirements of the program in the following ways:

- 1) The SFWA's projects significantly affect the quality of water in the watershed and all watershed improvement projects consider the quantity of water required to sustain native plant communities and habitats. The SFWA, its partners (**Table 4**) and area stakeholders are significantly affected by the quality and quantity of water in the watershed.
- 2) SFWA is capable of promoting the sustainable use of water resources. SFWA has been active in the watershed for 22 years and in that time, has accomplished many projects and achieved great community support.
- 3) The SFWA is located in Santa Fe, NM in the western United States.

Table 4. Organization and Government Partners of the Santa Fe Watershed Association

<b>Local</b>	City of Santa Fe County of Santa Fe SF Botanical Gardens SF Green Chamber of Commerce SF Public Schools
<b>State</b>	NM Environmental Dept. NM Facilities Dept. New Mexico True State Land Office SF-Pojoaque Soil and Water Conservation Dist.
<b>Federal</b>	US Forest Service – Santa Fe National Forest Bureau of Land Management – Taos Field Office

**Goals:** The mission of the Santa Fe Watershed Association is to protect and restore the health and vibrancy of the Santa Fe River and its watershed for the benefit of people and the environment. One of our stated organization goals is to find common ground among different points of view regarding uses of the river and its watershed. **Our goals for the CWMP project are four-fold:**

**GOAL 1:** to gather, organize and synthesize information regarding spatial relevance and context of watershed issues and current and pending management actions, and to compile a comprehensive list of stakeholders in different portions of the watershed;

GOAL 2: to develop and implement replicable procedures for documenting watershed priorities and concerns of diverse stakeholders and interest groups that affect and are affected by the Santa Fe River watershed;

GOAL 3: to facilitate a workflow and deliberative process with City and County water managers to identify areas of alignment and misalignment between stakeholder priorities and concerns with adaptive strategies contained in the Santa Fe River Basin Plan and other pertinent watershed management documents; and

GOAL 4: to create a Phase 1 watershed plan that documents procedures, results, and recommendations regarding specific steps watershed managers could take to improve the integration of stakeholder priorities and concerns into targeted Basin Study adaptation strategies.

***Approach and Timeline:*** Our approach to achieving the four goals listed above are as follows:

**GOAL 1: Synthesis of Watershed Issues and Stakeholders in Different Watershed Segments**

***Timeline: Year 1, Approximately 3 Month Duration***

Santa Fe watershed managers commonly break the watershed into three principal segments: Upper, Middle and Lower segments (**Figure 4**). The Upper segment generally covers the portion of the watershed from the headwaters of the Santa Fe River to Cerro Gordo Road downstream of the Canyon Road WTP. The Middle segment covers much of the heavily urbanized portion of Santa Fe between Cerro Gordo and the Santa Fe WWTP. The Lower segment generally applies to more rural and sparsely populated segments of the watershed downstream of the WWTP to the Rio Grande. We are concerned, however, that this three-part subdivision may be too coarse for adequately identifying a full range of possible stakeholders, particularly under-represented communities and groups. Accordingly, Step 1 towards achieving this goal will involve assembling existing Geographic Information System (GIS) data and other relevant information to assess how to meaningfully partition the watershed based on attributes such as distribution of communities, land uses, water issues and ecosystems. The outcome of Step 1 will be a finer resolution subdivision of the watershed in a GIS.

Once the watershed has been meaningfully subdivided into discreet segments, Step 2 will focus on gathering, reviewing and synthesizing the Basin Study and other existing watershed management documents that describe existing or planned actions. Some of these documents address watershed-wide efforts, but others are specific to certain segments of the watershed. The objective of Step 2, therefore, will be to identify which existing or planned actions could directly impact stakeholders in discreet segments of the watershed and which have broader, watershed-scale implications. The outcome of Step 2 will be to organize these watershed management actions by watershed segment in a tabular format that can be imported into the project GIS.

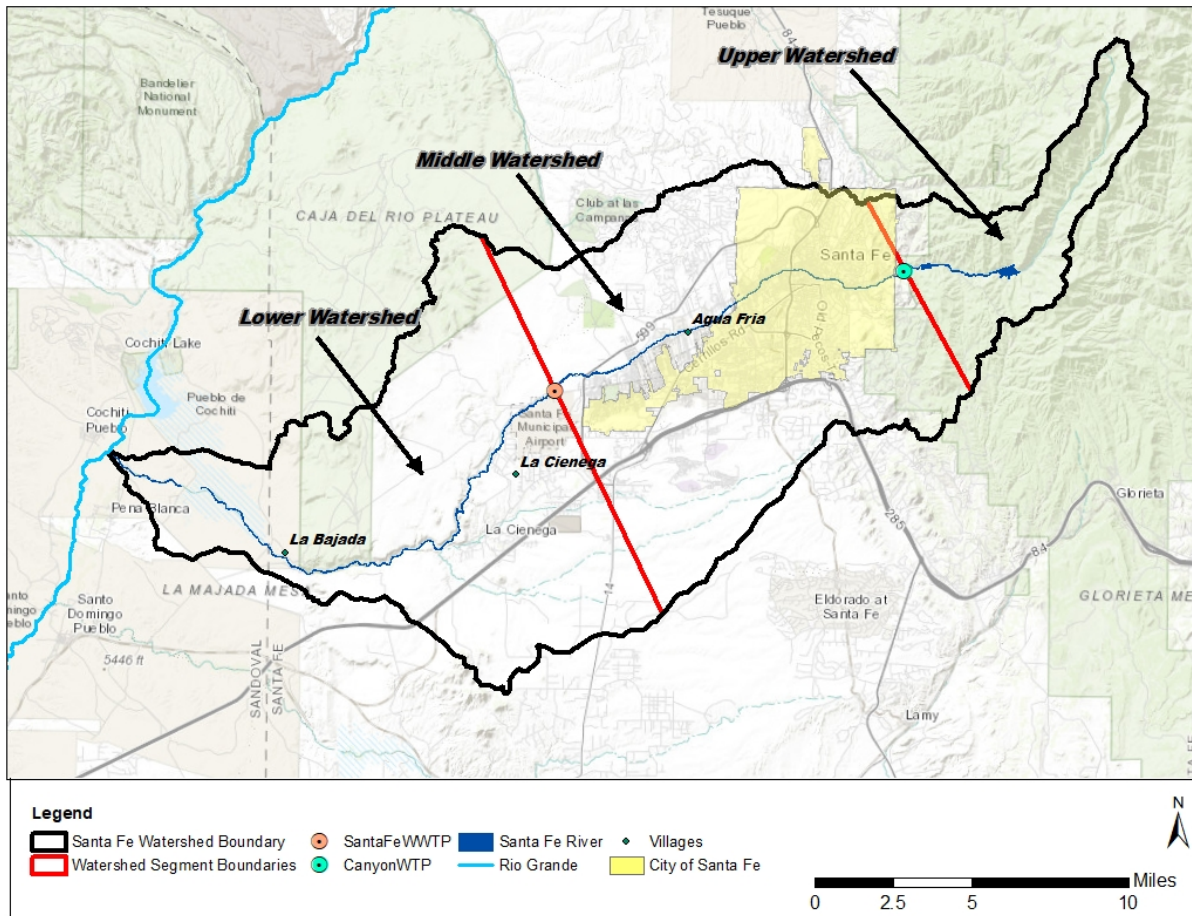


Figure 4. Preliminary Watershed Partition into Upper, Middle and Lower Segments

Step 3 will entail evaluating existing watershed documents to understand what, if any, stakeholder outreach efforts were implemented. In addition to gleaning this information from the documents, we will reach out to document authors to understand which stakeholder groups were involved, what the outreach efforts entailed, and how (or whether) community input shaped or effected the proposed watershed management action. We will also share our working list of identified stakeholders within different watershed segments with other interest groups and managers to make sure the lists are as complete as possible. The outcomes of Step 3 include: a) identification of which stakeholder groups have participated in various watershed planning efforts; b) identification of any affected stakeholder groups that did not participate; c) updates to the project database based on stakeholder identification and involvement to date, and; d) providing this information along with outcomes of Steps 1 and 2 above to facilitate stakeholder outreach actions described below under GOAL 2.

Our approach to accomplishing GOAL 1 will address the following tasks (as listed in Section C of the CWMP Request for Proposals):



- Task A4 – *Gathering information about issues and needs related to water quality and quantity within the watershed.*
- Task A5 – *Conducting pre-planning activities, including outlining a watershed restoration plan, researching existing plans related to the watershed, collecting baseline information, and identifying restoration needs for the watershed.*
- Task B2 – *Conducting mapping and other technical analyses, including obtaining data, performing modeling, or developing goals and benchmarks for the restoration plan.*

## **GOAL 2: Stakeholder & Watershed Priority Analysis**

### ***Timeline: Year 1, Approximately 10 Month Duration***

The Santa Fe Watershed Association has a diverse array of partners, but this can be expanded to include perspectives from an even broader base of stakeholders. The outcome of GOAL 1, the full articulation of stakeholders throughout the watershed and organized by segments, will provide the basis for a stakeholder analysis in GOAL 2. We seek to systematically gather input from these stakeholders to set the stage for a forward-looking and inclusive watershed management plan. Stakeholder analysis is useful to understand the diverse range of potentially conflicting stakeholder interests and involves key people in decision-making processes<sup>1</sup>. This project's stakeholder analysis will: a) document perceived critical issues and concerns held by stakeholders throughout the watershed, both watershed-wide and for particular segments; b) assemble a set of priorities for the watershed across stakeholders; and c) facilitate a prioritization sorting process with stakeholders.

Step 1 in the stakeholder analysis will involve meeting individually with representatives of key stakeholder groups in the watershed. A facilitator with social science expertise will be hired to carry out this step. While GOAL 1 will hopefully identify a full array of stakeholders, we will seek to uncover any additional stakeholders as identified by representatives we meet with as the effort unfolds. Stakeholder representatives will be asked to: a) describe their position in the watershed; b) highlight and map their issues, concerns, and priorities for the watershed; and c) identify other stakeholders and their interests and influence in and on the watershed. Through this process, a more complete picture of the alignment and misalignment of the stakeholder interests and issues in the watershed will be assembled and mapped by watershed segment or at finer scales as relevant. This effort will expand the watershed association's potential partnerships and give voice to previously under-represented groups. Systematic qualitative analysis of interview data will result in a preliminary portrait of the watershed's stakeholders

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<sup>1</sup> Reed MS, Graves A, Dandy N, Posthumus H, Hubacek K, Morris J, Prell C, Quinn CH, Stringer LC. 2009. Who's in and why? A typology of stakeholder analysis methods for natural resource methods. *Journal of Environmental Management* 90:1933-1949.

and issues with a corresponding cumulative “map” highlighting commonalities and differences across perspectives and associated with the core watershed segments defined during GOAL 1. It will also produce a full list of potential priorities and an analysis of watershed issues and concerns. This step and outcomes will address the following tasks listed in Section C of the CWMP Request for Proposals:

- Task A2 – *Hiring a facilitator to assist with outreach to stakeholders.*
- Task A4 – *Gathering information about issues and needs related to water quality and quantity within the watershed.*
- Task B4 – *Interviewing watershed group members and stakeholders to gain an idea of projects that would improve the watershed.*
- Task B7 – *Developing general watershed management project concepts or performing an analysis of the watershed to identify and prioritize watershed management projects.*
- Task C1 – *Completing an analysis in order to prioritize watershed management projects and identify specific project locations.*

In Step 2 of the stakeholder analysis, a Q-sort procedure<sup>2</sup> will be conducted by returning to representatives of all identified stakeholder groups to have them sort the full set of statements representing the watershed priorities identified in Step 1. This gives everyone a chance to not only rate their own priorities but react to priorities raised by other stakeholders. In this method, people sort cards with statements representing the priorities according to the degree to which they agree or disagree with the statement (or priority). This results in a gridded output that will be quantitatively analyzed in order to understand the different groups sharing similar priority assemblages (**Figure 5**).

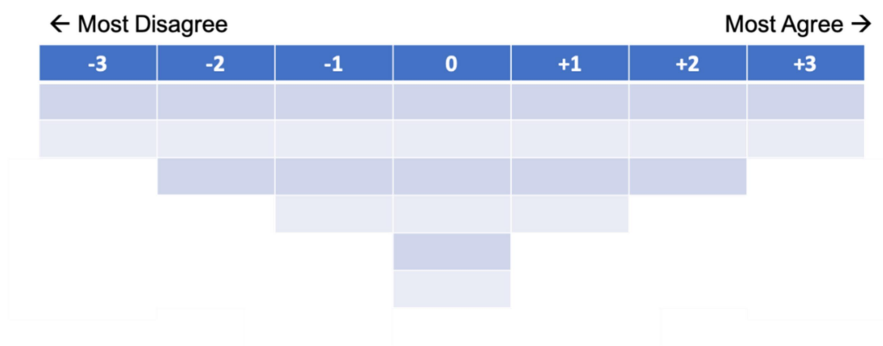


Figure 5. Example of Grid Output Generated Through the Q-Sort Procedure

<sup>2</sup> Watts S, Stenner P. 2012. *Doing Q Methodological Research: Theory, Method and Interpretation*. Los Angeles: Sage.

Results from this Q-Sort procedure will illustrate the degree to which stakeholder groups are aligned or misaligned in terms of priorities. The resulting assemblage of like-minded stakeholders is useful as stakeholders often don't realize that they have interests in common with others. Likewise, the output shows where there are striking difference of opinion on certain priorities that might have been assumed to be neutral. This can avert unanticipated and time-consuming conflicts later in the planning process.

A summary report will be produced from this process and analysis. The Q-sort procedure and analysis of watershed priorities will address the following tasks listed in Section C of the CWMP Request for Proposals:

- Task B4 – *Interviewing watershed group members and stakeholders to gain an idea of projects that would improve the watershed.*
- Task B5 – *Working with watershed group members, landowners, Federal agencies, and state or local governments to determine how the watershed can be improved.*
- Task B7 – *Developing general watershed management project concepts or performing an analysis of the watershed to identify and prioritize watershed management projects.*
- Task C1 – *Completing an analysis in order to prioritize watershed management projects and identify specific project locations.*

These two steps of our research-based stakeholder engagement strategy are designed to foster greater levels of participation in the watershed group, both in terms of the array of stakeholders represented as well as the issues and priorities articulated and “put on the table” for sorting and discussion. It will provide a strong foundation upon which to collaboratively articulate a watershed plan and reach consensus on the feasibility of associated projects. A report based on the output of these steps will be provided to all participants and interested parties and we will seek feedback to help interpret how the results can best inform further planning.

### **GOAL 3: Deliberation on Alignment Between Basin Plan Strategies and Stakeholder Priorities**

#### ***Timeline: Year 2, Approximately 5 Month Duration***

One of the primary goals of this project is to compare priorities emerging from the systematic stakeholder analysis outlined in GOAL 2 with the adaptive strategies of the 2015 Santa Fe Basin Study to identify alignments and misalignments. The Basin Study outlines a suite of portfolios or assemblages of various strategies for the watershed, including:

- direct/indirect reclaimed water reuse,
- water conservation,
- direct injection for aquifer storage and recovery,
- infiltration for aquifer storage and recovery in the Santa Fe River, and
- additional surface water rights.

Each of these strategies and combinations has a corresponding array of critical stakeholders, those affecting or affected by the processes and outcomes of such adaptations. GOAL 3 will be dedicated to integrating the synthesis of existing plans and reports and GIS data and stakeholder analysis findings with these adaptation strategies to identify gaps, points of synergy, and conflicts. We anticipate this process taking some back and forth effort between our project team and City and County water managers. It is also likely that discussions will need to be facilitated among various stakeholder groups to hone-in on particular issues and potential priorities to better understand the details involved. This goal is process-based and will create a path to get to GOAL 4 outlined below.

#### **GOAL 4: Create Initial Watershed Management Project Plan**

##### ***Timeline: Year 2, Approximately 5 Month Duration***

A final goal for the project overall is to document the procedures, results, and watershed management implications in a final project report. The final project report would include visual tools (e.g., maps, conceptual models, etc.) summarizing watershed priorities and associated assemblages of stakeholders, highlighting hot spots of competing interests as well as clear consensus priorities based on existing documentation and stakeholder articulation of issues and priorities. The watershed management implications section would apply outputs from GOALS 1 thru 3 to highlight where more work is needed to improve integration of stakeholder priorities and concerns with certain water management priorities highlighted in the Basin Study or related watershed management plans. This would serve as the roadmap for subsequent planning and implementation steps.

**Next Steps:** Given the broad distribution of stakeholders and the complex watershed management issues to be addressed by this proposal, we predict it will be necessary to follow this project with either a second Phase 1 CWMP planning grant or a Phase 2 CWMP implementation grant in the next funding cycle (FY 2021-2022). For example, our current planning grant would focus on the entire watershed to identify areas of alignment and misalignment between a broad-spectrum of stakeholders across the watershed with a myriad of adaptation strategies highlighted in the Basin Study. This will result in identifying “hot spots” requiring more targeted work to balance stakeholder needs and concerns about very specific watershed management actions. Accordingly, the logical next steps would involve tailoring outreach procedures (e.g., neighborhood surveys, focus groups) to drill-down further with discreet stakeholders and watershed managers to work through identified “hot-spots”. Whether this would be more appropriate for a Phase 1 or Phase 2 CWMP grant could be resolved with Reclamation when we arrive at this point.

## **5. Evaluation criteria**

### ***E.1.1. Evaluation Criterion A – Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope***

**Watershed Group and Geographic Diversity:** Since 1997 the SFWA has been engaging with a wide array of stakeholder groups including, but not limited to Santa Fe public schools, Santa Fe Indian School, various neighborhood associations, village councils, acequias, pueblos, non-profit

organizations, and many federal, state and regional government agencies. In the past year, the SFWA has facilitated collaboration among many of these stakeholders in urging the City of Santa Fe to restore its commitment to the Living River Ordinance passed in 2012 designed to protect river flows for a healthy river ecosystem. Our ongoing education and outreach programs with schools, and our Adopt-the-River/Adopt-an-Arroyo programs involving communities along different river segments ensures continuous contact with diverse citizen groups throughout the watershed.

There are undoubtedly additional stakeholders across the HUC 10 watershed boundaries that would more fully round out the complement of perspectives represented within different watershed segments, and identifying these stakeholders, especially under-represented groups, is a major focus of this proposal. A preliminary list of known Santa Fe Watershed stakeholders within different geographic segments of the watershed is provided in **Table 5**, and a map showing these segments across the HUC 10 watershed is provided above in **Figure 4**. This list in **Table 5** will be expanded through activities associated with GOALS 1 & 2. In particular, the stakeholder analysis will systematically invite participation by representatives of diverse stakeholder groups organized by the three (or more depending on outcome of GOAL 1, Step 1) segments of the watershed. Our methods, described under GOALS 1 and 2, are designed to maximize the potential for expanding the number and diversity of communities and stakeholders across the entire watershed.

Table 5. Known Stakeholders Across Upper, Middle and Lower Watershed Segments

Upper Watershed	Middle Watershed	Lower Watershed
Canyon Neighborhood Assoc.	Canyon Neighborhood Assoc.	Pueblo of Cochiti
Pueblo of Tesuque		Pueblo of Santo Domingo
Canyon Neighborhood Assoc.	Acequia Madre	Acequia de la Cienega
Acequia Madre	Acequia Cerro Gordo	Acequia El Guicu
Acequia Cerro Gordo	Acequia Muralla	Santa Fe River Traditional Communities Cooperative
Acequia Muralla	Acequia Llano	La Bajada Traditional Village Committee
Acequia Llano	Village of Agua Fria	La Cienega Valley Association
Forest Stewards Guild	Homeowners Associations	Village of La Cieneguilla
Santa Fe Forest Coalition		Village of La Cienega
		Village of La Bajada
		Caja del Rio Livestock Association
		Sandoval County
Non-Profits (The Nature Conservancy, Audubon NM, Sierra Club, Wild Earth Guardians, Amigos Bravos, SFWA)		
Federal Agencies (USFS, Bur of Rec, Dept of Ag, Bur of Land Mgmt)		
State of New Mexico		
County of Santa Fe		
City of Santa Fe		



### ***E.1.2. Evaluation Criterion B – Addressing Critical Watershed Needs***

#### ***Critical Watershed Needs or Issues:***

The overarching issue affecting the entire Santa Fe River watershed is the concern over future availability, sustainability and reliability of water supplies associated with finite supplies, expanding population and demand, and climate change. The City and County of Santa Fe partnered with Reclamation to develop the Santa Fe Basin Study which culminated in a series of adaptation strategies and management recommendations that should be implemented to address: direct/indirect reclaimed water reuse; water conservation; direct injection for aquifer storage and recovery, infiltration for aquifer storage and recovery in the Santa Fe River, and additional surface water rights. Embedded within each of these are a variety of individual issues and challenges that need to be solved with input from impacted stakeholders with often conflicting values and concerns.

Concerning reclaimed water reuse, for example, approximately 75% of water treated by the SF-WWTP is currently discharged into the Santa Fe River. Over time this has led to the formation of an extensive riparian and wetland ecosystem. There is strong interest by many stakeholders in both the ecological diversity and associated educational opportunities provided by these wetlands, while other community members are concerned about wetland water consumption and corresponding loss of irrigation water to downstream farm fields. Furthermore, per Basin Study recommendations, the City is currently considering piping much of this water to the Rio Grande to off-set groundwater pumping impacts from the Buckman Well Field. This is just one of many complex water management-stakeholder conflicts that need to be identified and systematically worked through. Accordingly, City and County water managers are interested in collaborating with the SFWA through this current grant opportunity to develop more comprehensive, inclusive and replicable community outreach processes so that stakeholder priorities, ideas and concerns can be more effectively integrated into their Basin Study implementation strategies.

***Strategies to Address Critical Watershed Needs or Issues:*** The stepwise process described in our *Approach* section (pp. 9-16) above describes the systematic procedures we intend to follow for addressing **Task B (Watershed Restoration Planning)** and specifically how we intend to address the need for better integrating stakeholder priorities and concerns into existing and proposed watershed management plans. To couple our steps with the FOA evaluation criteria, our multi-step process involves:

#### ***\*Steps to gather information regarding critical issues and needs:***

- Use GIS tools to stratify the HUC-10 watershed into discrete segments based on distribution of communities, watershed characteristics, land uses, etc.;
- Review and synthesize Basin Study recommendations and associated management plans and link specific watershed management projects/issues, where applicable, to these spatial watershed segments; and

- Reach out to our extensive list of contacts across each watershed segment to expand our list of stakeholders, with an eye to under-represented groups, in each area.

**\*Steps to identify and resolve conflicts:**

- Organize and implement stakeholder outreach efforts in each watershed segment to understand and map their watershed management priorities, interests, and concerns;
- Conduct follow-up outreach efforts to review, sort and prioritize the full range of topic perspectives gathered in the previous step to identify areas of common ground and areas of strong disagreement;
- Analyze results from stakeholder meetings and share and review results with City and County water managers to identify where community perspectives align or misalign with Basin Plan implementation ideas; and
- Produce a final project report that culminates in a suite of recommendations for addressing where more dialogue can be facilitated during subsequent efforts to seek common ground or resolution that allows planning to move forward productively.

**\*Complete an analysis to prioritize issues:**

- A Q-sort procedure (described previously in *Approach* section) will be conducted by returning to representatives of all identified stakeholder groups to have them sort a set of statements representing the full assemblage of watershed priorities identified during the first outreach event. In this method, people sort statements representing the priorities according to the degree to which they agree or disagree with the statement (or priority). This results in a gridded output that can be quantitatively analyzed using Q-factor analysis in order to understand the different groups sharing similar priority assemblages.<sup>3</sup> Interpretation of results will shed light on whether priorities are aligned or misaligned among stakeholders within watershed segments.

### ***E.1.3. Evaluation Criterion C – Implementation and Results***

**Understanding of and Ability to Meet Program Requirements:** As highlighted in the technical approach section, we have a timeline for the various goals and steps of our methods that will result in an initial watershed plan design based on priorities and issues articulated by stakeholders, and gaps revealed in the synthesis of existing plans and documents. For ease of review we summarize the timeline for each step below in **Table 6**. Costs associated with achieving each goal are provided in the **Project Budget and Budget Justification** sections below.

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<sup>3</sup> Watts S, Stenner P. 2005. Doing Q methodology: Theory, method and interpretation. *Qualitative Research in Psychology* 2:67-91.

Table 6. Project Timeline

Project Components	Year 1: 1 <sup>st</sup> 6 Month s	Year 1: 2 <sup>nd</sup> 6 Month s	Year 2: 1 <sup>st</sup> 6 Months	Year 2: 2 <sup>nd</sup> 6 Month s
<b>Goal 1. Synthesis of Watershed Issues and Stakeholders</b>				
Milestone: GIS Database Construction				
Milestone: Assemble Existing Reports & Plans				
Milestone: Stakeholder-Watershed Segment Linkage				
<b>Goal 2. Watershed Stakeholder Analysis</b>				
Milestone: Meetings with Key Stakeholders				
Milestone: Q-Sort of Watershed Priorities				
<b>Goal 3. Deliberation on Alignment Between Basin Plan Adaptation Strategy and Stakeholder Priorities</b>				
Milestone: Work with watershed managers and identify areas of stakeholder-watershed project alignment and misalignment				
Milestone: Identify watershed project next steps and process				
<b>Goal 4. Develop a Final Phase 1 Watershed Plan</b>				
Milestone: Document methods, results and specific stakeholder-project management recommendations				

**Building on Relevant Federal, State, or Regional Planning Efforts:**

This project builds primarily on the **Santa Fe Basin Study** developed jointly by the City, County and Reclamation. We will build on this by developing, implementing and documenting how diverse stakeholder priorities, issues and concerns align or misalign with Basin Study recommendations and implementation strategies. Our efforts will identify where more dialogue can be facilitated during subsequent efforts to seek common ground or resolution that allows planning to move forward productively. Our work will also complement a host of companion efforts connected to many of the Basin Study implementation strategies. Examples include:

- City of Santa Fe Nutrient Loading and Removal Optimization Study (2018)
- Living River Report (2016)

- La Cieneguilla Open Space Management Plan (2016)
- Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan (2015)
- City of Santa Fe Water Conservation and Drought Management Plan (2015)
- City of Santa Fe Reclaimed Wastewater Resource Plan (2013)
- Santa Fe County Conjunctive Management Plan for the Santa Fe Basin (2009)
- City of Santa Fe Long Range Water Supply Plan (2008)

#### ***E.1.4. Evaluation Criterion D – Department of the Interior Priorities***

This project will most directly address the following DOI priority:

- *3.a. Be a better neighbor with those closest to our resources by improving dialogue and relationships with persons and entities bordering our lands*

### **6. Project Budget**

#### ***Budget Proposal***

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMPUTATION			
	\$/Unit	Quantity	Quantity Type	TOTAL COST
<b>Salaries and Wages</b>				
Program Manager and Staff	\$50	200	Hours	\$10,000
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>				
	n/a			
<b>Travel</b>				
	n/a			
<b>Equipment</b>				
	n/a			
<b>Supplies and Materials</b>				
Outreach supplies	\$275	1	lump sum	\$275
<b>Contractual</b>				
Natural Resources Social Scientist	\$75	574	Hours	\$43,050
Sr. Conservation Scientist/Planner	\$125	337	Hours	\$42,125
GIS Specialist	\$95	10	Hours	\$950
Technician	\$15	240	Hours	\$3,600
<b>Other</b>				
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS</b>				<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Indirect Costs</b>				
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS</b>				<b>\$100,000</b>

## ***Budget Narrative***

### Salaries and Wages: Program Manager and Staff

Andy Otto - Executive Director: Over the past 35 years Andy has worked for a variety of non-profit organizations in areas ranging from promoting State Park solvency, public access to public waters, to environmental advocacy. Andy earned his B.S. in Watershed Management from the University of Arizona in 1973. Andy's experience creating collaborative efforts between diverse stakeholders will prove beneficial in this endeavor. His experience securing and implementing federal grants spans his twelve-year non-profit experience as a development director, program director and executive director.

Mori Hensley- Program Manager: For the past half year, Mori has been the Program Coordinator and Program Manager for the SFWA. For the two years prior, Mori was a program assistant for the Emory University Tibetan Study Program in India and Fulbright-Nehru student researcher with the Snow Leopard Conservancy-India Trust. She received a Master and a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Sciences from Emory University. Mori was born and raised in Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico.

Raquel Baca-Tompson, Office Administrator: After working in corporate Human Resources for over nine years Raquel came to work for the Santa Fe Watershed Association, and has been with us for the past thirteen years. In addition to a Human Resources background, Raquel worked as an assistant to the Director of Shidoni Foundry, Inc. She has worked as the administrative assistant and membership coordinator for SFWA for twelve years. Raquel's experience and record of administering and reporting for federal grants in these years is impeccable.

Fringe Benefits: not applicable

Travel: not applicable

Equipment: No equipment will be purchased for this project

Supplies and Materials: A modest budget is reserved for outreach activities including a flip chart, markers, index cards, etc.

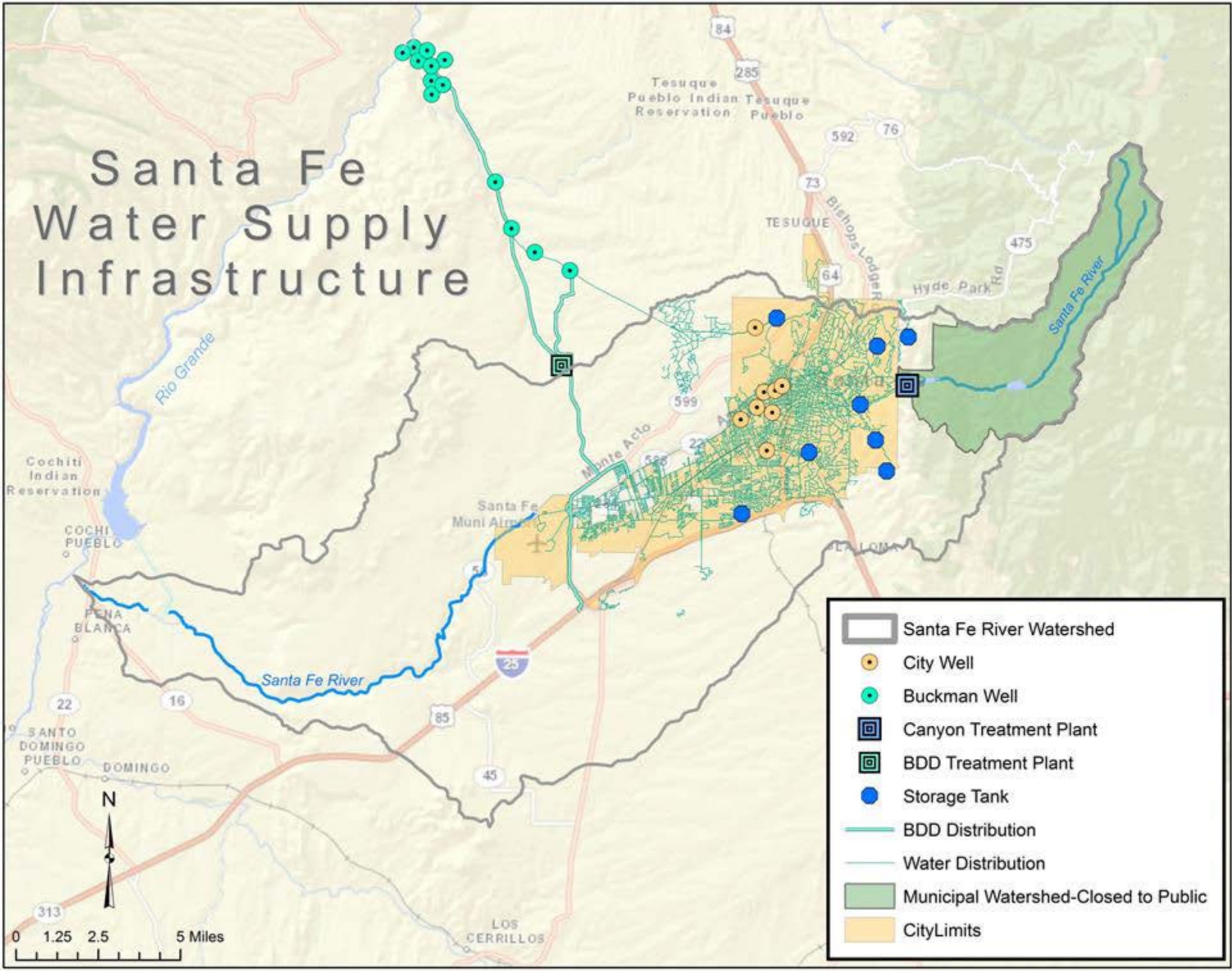
Contractual: SFWA will follow their standard protocol to identify and contact consultants whereby competitors' qualifications are evaluated and the most qualified competitor is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. Early on, SFWA will contract the technical work on this project to a qualified consulting firm with the expertise required to perform the tasks described in this proposal. The estimated hours broken down by GOAL are as follows:

- GOAL 1 (Spatial Context of Watershed Issues and Stakeholder Locations)



- Natural Resources Social Scientist – 24 hours
- Natural Resources Scientist/Planner – 32 hours
- GIS Specialist – 10 hours
  
- GOAL 2 (Stakeholder Meetings/Outreach)
  - Natural Resources Social Scientist – 350 hours
  - Sr. Conservation Scientist/Planner – 80 hours
  - Technician (for transcribing meeting results) – 240 hours
  
- Goal 3 (Collaborate with County and City watershed managers, identify next implementation steps/processes)
  - Natural Resources Social Scientist – 120 hours
  - Sr. Conservation Scientist/Planner – 120 hours
  
- Goal 4 (Develop Final Project Report)
  - Natural Resources Social Scientist – 80 hours
  - Sr. Conservation Scientist/Planner – 105 hours

# Santa Fe Water Supply Infrastructure



# CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

DELEGATION OFFICE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

(202) 224-8962

November 7th, 2019

Brenda Burman, Commissioner  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Commissioner Burman:

The New Mexico Congressional Delegation writes in support of the application submitted by the Santa Fe Watershed Association for a WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grant as funded by the Bureau of Reclamation. This grant, BOR-DO-19-F010, will allow the Santa Fe Watershed Association to engage a representative group of stakeholders in a collaborative discussion of watershed management priorities in order to inform future management plans for the Santa Fe River watershed.

The Santa Fe Watershed Association (SFWA) is a nonprofit organization that has worked to protect the health of the Santa Fe River in collaboration with water users since its founding in 1997. The current project, entitled “*Linking Stakeholder Priorities with Water Management & Adaptation Strategies in the Santa Fe River Watershed*”, seeks to develop a collaborative process between the many stakeholders who rely on the Santa Fe River watershed in order to identify community priorities that will inform a future watershed management plan.

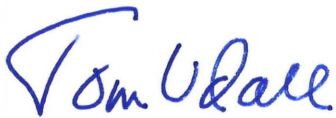
SFWA reports that the Santa Fe River watershed serves a diverse group of constituents across land owned by two federal agencies, two municipalities, and an array of private landowners. The proposed grant project is an opportunity to expand SFWA’s capacity to convene the varied

interests that rely on the Santa Fe River in order to develop a comprehensive plan that will inform future water management planning.

If approved, grant funds will enable SWFA to conduct a public outreach campaign to identify watershed management priorities in the communities that depend on the Santa Fe River watershed. We believe that these efforts will help inform future water use decisions and commend SFWA for their continued efforts to protect this vital natural resource.

The New Mexico Congressional Delegation proudly supports the application submitted by the Santa Fe Watershed Association for a WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grant as funded by the Bureau of Reclamation and we request that you give their application thorough consideration within your agency's guidelines.

Sincerely,



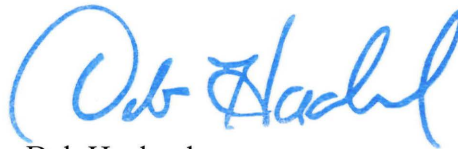
Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Ben Ray Luján  
United States Representative



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Deb Haaland  
United States Representative



Xochitl Torres Small  
United States Representative





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Santa Fe National Forest

Espanola Ranger District  
1710 North Riverside Drive  
Espanola, NM 87532  
505-753-7331  
Fax: 505-753-9411

File Code: 2500  
Date: November 5, 2019

Andy Otto  
Director  
Santa Fe Watershed Association  
Santa Fe, NM

Dear Andy,

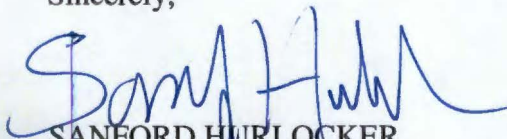
The Española Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest, strongly supports the proposal titled, ***Linking Stakeholder Priorities with Water Management & Adaptation Strategies in the Santa Fe River Watershed***, submitted by the Santa Fe Watershed Association to the Bureau of Reclamation WATERSMART FOA.

For more than 20 years, the Santa Fe Watershed Association has been a valued collaborator, demonstrating a commitment to local, stakeholder-driven processes. Experience tells us that in this part of the world, inclusive, stakeholder-driven processes prove the most successful. As a community organization, the Santa Fe Watershed Association has been a strong and willing partner in our efforts to secure a flowing river through the Santa Fe River communities. This flowing river is the very literal life blood of our agricultural heritage. Without it, communities and their cultures are at risk.

The cultural geography of the lower Santa Fe River watershed is complex. Land is owned and managed by two federal agencies, two municipalities, and by private landowners, who are in turn regulated by state agencies, such as the Office of the State Engineer and State Forestry. As these entities continue to participate in this complex venue, it is a testimonial to the work the Santa Fe Watershed Association has done during this time so we navigate the complexity for the betterment of communities and the watershed. Funding from your proposal would provide these communities specifically with much needed organizational capacity.

We remain confident that viable solutions are within reach. We have all been pursuing solutions with great vigor but little or no resources. It would be an extraordinary support to our communities and to the people who have worked so hard and so persistently, to finally receive funding for much needed community input and project management.

Sincerely,

  
SANFORD HURLOCKER  
District Ranger





**Henry Roybal**  
*Commissioner, District 1*

**Anna Hansen**  
*Commissioner, District 2*

**Rudy N. Garcia**  
*Commissioner, District 3*



**Anna T. Hamilton**  
*Commissioner, District 4*

**Ed Moreno**  
*Commissioner, District 5*

**Katherine Miller**  
*County Manager*

November 12, 2019

Andy Otto, Executive Director  
Santa Fe Watershed Association

Dear Mr. Otto:

Santa Fe County (County) strongly supports the Santa Fe Watershed Association's grant proposal to link stakeholder and resident priorities, especially from traditionally underrepresented communities, with local water management and adaptation strategies. If approved, the \$100,000 grant, submitted by the Santa Fe Watershed Association in response to the Bureau of Reclamation's WATERSMART Funding Opportunity Announcement, would be instrumental in giving voice and building organizational capacity to all residents and communities in the Santa Fe watershed.

The County understands the Santa Fe Watershed Association, a valued collaborator in the Santa Fe basin, is committed to local and participant driven processes. Additionally, the County recognizes that inclusive, stakeholder driven processes are necessary for successful outcomes. As a community organization, the Santa Fe Watershed Association has been a strong and willing partner in the County's efforts to support the watershed communities and to secure a flowing Santa Fe River. A flowing Santa Fe river is the literal lifeblood of our agricultural heritage; without it, our customs, our culture, and our communities perish.

The cultural geography and hydrology of the lower Santa Fe River watershed is complex. Land is owned and managed piecemeal by two federal agencies, two municipalities, and a myriad of private landowners; the pressure for growth persists. The water resources supply flow to the river, numerous springs, community water systems, private domestic wells, irrigated farmland, ranching operations, wetlands, and riparian ecosystems. The system has been changed by centuries of surface water use and decades of groundwater withdrawal - near and afar of the river and internal and external to the basin. Warming temperatures driving drying conditions from climate change adds yet another layer of complexity and necessitates holistic, resilient adaptation strategies.

Collaborators in the watershed have been pursuing aligned opportunities with great vigor and few resources. The continued partnership is a testimonial to the dedication to work together for the betterment of all of the communities in the watershed. The County remains confident that viable resilient solutions are within reach and that the requested funding is necessary to support a much needed community input process and action planning.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anna T. Hamilton, Chair, Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners



# City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

200 Lincoln Avenue, P.O. Box 909, Santa Fe, NM 87504-0909  
www.santafenm.gov

Alan Webber, Mayor

Councilors:

Signe I. Lindell, Mayor Pro Tem, District 1  
Renee Villarreal, District 1  
Peter N. Ives, District 2  
Carol Romero-Wirth, District 2  
Roman "Tiger" Abeyta, District 3  
Chris Rivera, District 3  
Mike Harris, District 4  
JoAnne Vigil Coppler, District 4

November 5, 2019

Andy Otto  
Executive Director  
Santa Fe Watershed Association

Dear Andy:

The City of Santa Fe (City) supports the proposal, *Linking Stakeholder Priorities with Water Management & Adaptation Strategies in the Santa Fe River Watershed*, submitted by the Santa Fe Watershed Association (SFWA) to the Bureau of Reclamation WATERSMART FOA. The City believes in the inclusive, stakeholder driven processes that have underpinned SFWA efforts since its inception. As a community organization, SFWA has been a strong and willing partner in our efforts to protect the flowing Santa Fe River that is vital to our sense of history, our customs, our culture, and our community.

The cultural geography of the Santa Fe River watershed is complex. Land is owned and managed piecemeal by multiple federal agencies, municipalities, and private landowners. SFWA is a key facilitator of conversations between these entities toward the betterment of all of the communities and the betterment of the watershed. As such, SFWA is in a unique position to elicit stakeholder priorities toward the ultimate goal of a comprehensive watershed plan.

The City supports your efforts to leverage funding in order to facilitate an inclusive, stakeholder driven process to develop a comprehensive watershed plan.

Sincerely,

Alan Webber  
Mayor



Santa Fe River Traditional Communities Collaborative  
PO Box 23554  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

November 7, 2019

Andy Otto  
Executive Director  
Santa Fe Watershed Association

Dear Andy:

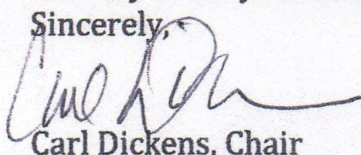
The Santa Fe River Traditional Communities Collaborative strongly supports the proposal, ***Linking Stakeholder Priorities with Water Management & Adaptation Strategies in the Santa Fe River Watershed***, submitted by the Santa Fe Watershed Association to the Bureau of Reclamation WATERSMART FOA. The Santa Fe Watershed Association has been a member of the Collaborative since its inception, representing its commitment to local, stakeholder driven processes. In this part of the world, it is inclusive, stakeholder driven processes that are the most successful. As a community organization, the Santa Fe Watershed Association has been a strong and willing partner in our efforts to secure a flowing river through the lower Santa Fe River traditional communities. This flowing river is the very literal life blood of our agricultural heritage. Without it, our customs, our culture, and our communities perish.

The cultural geography of the lower Santa Fe River watershed is complex. Land is owned and managed piecemeal by two federal agencies, two municipalities, and by private landowners. Our Collaborative is a testimonial to the dedication of these entities to work together for the betterment of the traditional communities and the betterment of the watershed. Funding from this proposal would provide these communities specifically, and the lower watershed more generally, with much needed organizational capacity.

Despite many setbacks over the last thirty years, we remain confident that viable solutions are within reach. We have been pursuing them with great vigor and little or no resources. It would be an extraordinary support to our communities and to the people who have worked so hard and so persistently, to finally receive funding for much needed project management.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Carl Dickens, Chair  
Santa Fe River Traditional Communities Collaborative



# **Agua Fria Village Association**

2073 Camino Samuel Montoya  
Santa Fe, NM 87507



November 5, 2019

Andy Otto  
Executive Director  
Santa Fe Watershed Association

Dear Andy:

The Agua Fria Village Association strongly supports the proposal: **Linking Stakeholder Priorities with Water Management & Adaptation Strategies in the Santa Fe River Watershed**, submitted by the Santa Fe Watershed Association to the Bureau of Reclamation WATERSMART FOA.

The Agua Fria Village Association (AFVA) on behalf of the Agua Fria Village Traditional Historic Community has been participating in the Santa Fe River Traditional Communities Collaborative (SRTCC) for over 7 years and regularly sees and appreciates the leadership of the Santa Fe Watershed Association in driving us to our goals.

The Santa Fe Watershed Association has been a valued collaborator since its inception, representing its commitment to local and stakeholder driven processes. In this part of the world, it is inclusive, stakeholder-driven processes that are the most successful. As a community organization, the Santa Fe Watershed Association has been a strong and willing partner in our efforts to secure a flowing river through the Santa Fe River communities and in understanding the water quality of our watershed. This flowing river is the very literal lifeblood of our agricultural heritage, which dates back to 1640 in European history, and back more than 5,000 years in our Native American history. Without a flowing river, our customs, our culture, and our communities perish. We are grateful to the Santa Fe Watershed Association for sponsoring the Santa Fe River Blessing since 2001 in conjunction with our Dia de San Isidro on May 15th (he is the patron saint of farmers).

The cultural geography of the lower Santa Fe River watershed is complex. Land is owned and managed piecemeal by two federal agencies, with jurisdictional control by three other federal agencies, a municipality, a county, two state agencies, a Land Grant, ditch associations (Acequias), and by private landowners. Our continued collaboration is a testimonial to the dedication of these entities to work together for the betterment of all of the communities and the betterment of the watershed. Funding from this proposal would provide these communities specifically with much needed organizational capacity.

We remain confident that viable solutions are within reach. We have all been pursuing them with great vigor, and little or no resources. It would be an extraordinary support to our communities and to the people who have worked so hard and so persistently; to finally receive funding for much needed community input and project management.

**We believe that this project may be the most significant historical and multi-jurisdictional project that can be funded.** If you have any questions about the AFVA and its support for this project, please don't hesitate to contact me at (505) 473-3160.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William H. Mee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'W' and 'M'.

William Henry Mee, President  
Agua Fria Village Association  
The Santa Fe County Designated Community Organization  
(505) 473-3160; WilliamHenryMee@gmail.com



Northern New Mexico Group  
Rio Grande Chapter

November 7, 2019

Andy Otto  
Executive Director  
Santa Fe Watershed Association

Dear Andy,

We appreciate the opportunity to write in support of the Santa Fe Watershed Association's proposal submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation WATERSMART FOA: **"Linking Stakeholder Priorities with Water Management and Adaptation Strategies in the Santa Fe Watershed."**

The Sierra Club was founded in 1892 and is America's largest grassroots environmental organization, with over 3.5 million members and supporters. The Northern New Mexico Group has 3,200 members; promotes public lands, clean water, and environmental justice legislation; conducts air, water and wildlife monitoring; and leads public outings throughout the year in northern New Mexico.

The Santa Fe Watershed Association is a strong and dedicated community partner in our efforts to maintain a living Santa Fe River. The Santa Fe Watershed is one of the first in the state to be proactively managed for maximum runoff and water source protection. Although federal, state, county and private ownership make up the watershed, ongoing collaboration between the entities has predominated. However, with growing pressures to allow further growth and development in Santa Fe, continued collaboration will require funding and organizational support to keep all communities informed, fairly represented and supplied.

Stewart Udall once proposed New Mexico should be governed by watersheds, not districts. Linking watershed health, stakeholder priorities, and collaborating on adaptation strategies are key steps to a successful water protection and management approach in the Santa Fe Watershed.

Very truly yours,

Teresa Seamster  
Chair, Northern New Mexico Group  
[ctc.seamster@gmail.com](mailto:ctc.seamster@gmail.com)

November 7, 2019

Andy Otto  
Executive Director  
Santa Fe Watershed Association

Dear Andy:

The Nature Conservancy's New Mexico Office (TNC) strongly supports the proposal, ***Linking Stakeholder Priorities with Water Management & Adaptation Strategies in the Santa Fe River Watershed***, submitted by the Santa Fe Watershed Association (SFWA) to the Bureau of Reclamation WATERSMART FOA. The SFWA has been a valued collaborator since its inception, representing its commitment to local and stakeholder driven processes. The SFWA has facilitated a stakeholder driven process in attempting to resolve water resource capacity and water security challenges the community faces.

The Santa Fe Watershed Association has partnered with TNC in restoring the channel of the Santa Fe River in the Santa Fe Canyon Preserve and we need their continued assistance in working with the City water utility and other partners in insuring this sole remnant riparian forest in the City receives water through the City's Living River Ordinance necessary to maintain a flowing river the Preserve as was the City's goal.

The cultural geography of the entire Santa Fe River watershed is complex. Land is owned and managed by both public and private landowners. Our continued collaboration to both forest health and water management is essential for the betterment of the community and the watershed. Funding from this proposal would provide these communities with much needed organizational capacity necessary to meet these challenging and at times conflicting goals.

We remain confident that viable solutions are achievable. We have all been pursuing them with great vigor and often inadequate resources. It would be an extraordinary support to our communities and to the people who have worked so hard and persistently, to finally receive funding for much needed community input and project management.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Terry Sullivan, New Mexico State Director  
The Nature Conservancy in New Mexico



November 6, 2019

Andy Otto  
Executive Director  
Santa Fe Watershed Association

Dear Andy:

WildEarth Guardians supports the proposal, ***Linking Stakeholder Priorities with Water Management & Adaptation Strategies in the Santa Fe River Watershed***, submitted by the Santa Fe Watershed Association to the Bureau of Reclamation WATERSMART FOA. The Santa Fe Watershed Association has been a valued collaborator in pursuit of a healthy Santa Fe River and is committed to local and stakeholder driven processes.

As a community organization, the Santa Fe Watershed Association has been a strong and willing partner in our efforts to secure a living, flowing Santa Fe River for the benefit of the environment and local communities. A healthy Santa Fe River watershed is the life blood of our community and culture and the backbone of biodiversity in the area.

The cultural geography of the lower Santa Fe River watershed is complex. Land is owned and managed piecemeal by two federal agencies, two municipalities, a tribe, and by private landowners. The Santa Fe Watershed Association, along with many of these groups, is dedicated to an ongoing collective effort to bolster the health of the river and the communities that rely on a healthy watershed. Funding from this proposal would provide these communities with much needed organizational capacity.

We are confident that viable solutions to the challenges confronting the watershed are within reach if there are resources and capacity to evaluate and implement them. Funding from the WATERSMART program would provide a major boon to efforts spearheaded by the Santa Fe Watershed Association to confront ongoing future challenges in the in the Santa Fe River watershed, and we feel that they are well suited to engage diverse communities in this process.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Sincerely,

John Horning  
Executive Director  
WildEarth Guardians

Jen Pelz  
Rivers Program Director  
WildEarth Guardians



November 7, 2019

Andy Otto  
Executive Director  
Santa Fe Watershed Association

Dear Andy:

The Puerta del Cañón Ranch strongly supports the proposal, ***Linking Stakeholder Priorities with Water Management & Adaptation Strategies in the Santa Fe River Watershed***, submitted by the Santa Fe Watershed Association to the Bureau of Reclamation WATERSMART FOA. The Santa Fe Watershed Association has been a valued collaborator since its inception, representing its commitment to local and stakeholder driven processes. In this part of the world, it is inclusive, stakeholder driven processes that are the most successful. As a community organization, the Santa Fe Watershed Association has been a strong and willing partner in our efforts to secure a flowing river through the Santa Fe River communities. This flowing river is the very literal life blood of our agricultural heritage. Without it, our customs, our culture, and our communities perish.

The cultural geography of the lower Santa Fe River watershed is complex. Land is owned and managed piecemeal by two federal agencies, two municipalities, and by private landowners. Our continued collaboration is a testimonial to the dedication of these entities to work together for the betterment of all of the communities and the betterment of the watershed. Funding from this proposal would provide these communities specifically with much needed organizational capacity.

We remain confident that viable solutions are within reach. We have all been pursuing them with great vigor and little or no resources. It would be an extraordinary support to our communities and to the people who have worked so hard and so persistently, to finally receive funding for much needed community input and project management.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jose J. Valdez", is written over a horizontal line.

Puerta del Cañón Ranch, President/Operating Manager