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SENATE MEMORIAL 80

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. Lopez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE COUNTIES OF BERNALILLO, SANDOVAL AND VALENCIA AND THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ALBUQUERQUE, BELEN, BERNALILLO, LOS LUNAS AND RIO RANCHO TO CONSIDER A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON NEW DEVELOPMENT DUE TO POTENTIAL WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGES.

WHEREAS, most available data indicate that the state continues to experience a drought of historic proportions; and

WHEREAS, the depletion of ground water resources since the 1950s presents a worsening long-term challenge and diminishes the overall resiliency of the water supply; and

WHEREAS, the extent of damage to ground water resources resulting from fuel spills at the Kirtland air force base and the prospects for successful remediation are unknown; and

WHEREAS, the Bernalillo county planning commission has given its approval to the proposed Santolina master plan that,

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1 if approved and implemented, will require an estimated fourteen
2 thousand acre-feet of water to serve ninety thousand additional
3 persons in the county; and

4 WHEREAS, additional development within a community will
5 likely result in an increased demand for water; and

6 WHEREAS, Bernalillo county, Sandoval county and Valencia
7 county, and the municipalities within those counties, may
8 experience water shortages due to drought, depletion and
9 contamination of ground water resources, which shortages would
10 be exacerbated with the additional demand for water resulting
11 from new development; and

12 WHEREAS, such water shortages may threaten the economy and
13 the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of
14 Bernalillo county, Sandoval county and Valencia county; and

15 WHEREAS, such water shortages may be beyond the capacity
16 of individual water authorities or local governments to
17 address;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
19 OF NEW MEXICO that Bernalillo county, Sandoval county and
20 Valencia county, and the municipalities of Albuquerque, Belen,
21 Bernalillo, Los Lunas and Rio Rancho, consider imposing a
22 temporary moratorium on the approval of new development with
23 more than five hundred dwelling units pending confirmation that
24 there will be a sufficient supply of water to serve the needs
25 of such new development; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Bernalillo county, Sandoval
2 county and Valencia county, and the municipalities of
3 Albuquerque, Belen, Bernalillo, Los Lunas and Rio Rancho,
4 provide for a comprehensive study of the water supply in their
5 jurisdictions, including the prospect for an adequate supply of
6 water to serve the needs of anticipated major new large-scale
7 development and of the impact of proposed major new large-scale
8 development on the health of the regional population; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the boards of county commissioners and county
11 managers of Bernalillo county, Sandoval county and Valencia
12 county; to the mayors and city councils of Albuquerque, Belen,
13 Bernalillo, Los Lunas and Rio Rancho; to the governors and
14 councils of the Pueblo of Acoma, Pueblo of Isleta, Pueblo of
15 Laguna, Pueblo of Sandia, Pueblo of Santa Ana and Pueblo of
16 Zia; and to the president of the To'hajiilee Chapter of the
17 Navajo Nation.