



---

Meeting Date: December 2, 2015

Staff Contact: Katherine Yuhas, Water Conservation Officer

**TITLE: R-15-17 - Authorizing the Water Utility Authority to Submit an Application for Funding to the Water Trust Board for Recharge Demonstration Project**

**ACTION: Recommend Approval**

**SUMMARY:**

This resolution authorizes the Water Authority to submit an application in the amount of \$5,561,731 to the Water Trust Board for the Recharge Demonstration Project which will recharge up to 5,000 acre-feet of treated water through injection wells located at the Drinking Water Treatment Plant. This project is part of the Water Authority's adopted 2007 Water Resources Management Strategy (WRMS) and complies with Policies B, C, F and G. Specifically, Policy C of the WRMS states that the "The Authority shall establish a groundwater drought reserve that maintains sufficient water in storage in the aquifer to provide water supply during a prolonged drought. Water levels in the aquifer shall be maintained so that a drought reserve shall be accessible without causing adverse, irreversible impacts to the aquifer."

The Water Authority has successfully implemented the Bear Canyon Recharge Project, the first and only initiative in New Mexico to store surface water in an underground aquifer for later use. Recently, the utility has begun to withdraw the stored water from this project for drinking water purposes.

For the Recharge Demonstration Project, purified San Juan-Chama water will be stored in the aquifer and then taken out of the aquifer during the summer months or during droughts. The project will include 1 ASR well, up to 10 vadose zone wells, and the associated conveyance infrastructure. Preserving and protecting the drinking water supplies in Albuquerque and Bernalillo County is an urgent need and is critical to the short and long-term economic and sustainability of the region.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Water Authority would provide a 20% match which would come from appropriated capital funds for this project.

# ALBUQUERQUE BERNALILLO COUNTY WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY

BILL NO. R-15-17

1 **RESOLUTION**

2 **AUTHORIZING THE WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION**  
3 **FOR FUNDING TO THE WATER TRUST BOARD FOR THE RECHARGE**  
4 **DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**

5 WHEREAS, the Recharge Demonstration Project will recharge up to 5,000 acre-  
6 feet of treated water through injection wells located at the Drinking Water Treatment  
7 Plant; and

8 WHEREAS, aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) is a water resources  
9 management tool that allows for conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water  
10 resources which can provide increased storage capacity to create a Ground-Water  
11 Drought Reserve; and

12 WHEREAS, the State Legislature found that "conjunctive use and administration  
13 of groundwater and surface water are essential to effective and efficient use of water  
14 supplies" and, further, that ASR can reduce declining groundwater levels, promote  
15 conservation of water, and lead to more efficient use of water; and

16 WHEREAS, this project is part of the Water Authority's adopted 2007 Water  
17 Resources Management Strategy (WRMS) and complies with Policies B, C, F and G.  
18 Policy C of the WRMS specifically states that the "The Authority shall establish a  
19 groundwater drought reserve that maintains sufficient water in storage in the aquifer to  
20 provide water supply during a prolonged drought. Water levels in the aquifer shall be  
21 maintained so that a drought reserve shall be accessible without causing adverse,  
22 irreversible impacts to the aquifer"; and

23 WHEREAS, Policy C of the WRMS states, "the Authority shall take all necessary  
24 steps to protect and enhance the ground water drought reserve".

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WATER AUTHORITY:

26 Section 1. That the Executive Director is authorized to submit an application to  
27 the Water Trust Board requesting funds for the Recharge Demonstration Project.