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Meeting Date: October 20, 2021

Staff Contact: Mark Kelly, Water Resources Manager

**TITLE: R-21-28 – Authorizing the Approval and Continued Support of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamations Supplemental Water Program and Allowing Said Water to be Stored in the Water Authority’s Space in Abiquiu Reservoir at the Discretion of the Executive Director**

**ACTION: Immediate Action Requested on October 20, 2021**

**SUMMARY:**

The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (Water Authority) is partnering with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to keep water in the Rio Grande River System to support endangered species, specifically the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow. USBR is requesting to store up to 10,000 acre-feet of water per year in Abiquiu Reservoir in the Water Authority’s space to support supplemental flows used to keep more water in the Rio Grande during irrigation season. In return, the USBR will provide the Water Authority with a waiver to store its annual allotment of San Juan-Chama water in Heron reservoir for an additional Federal fiscal year. This resolution allows the Executive Director to negotiate a storage agreement with USBR.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

**BILL NO. R-21-28**

**RESOLUTION**

**AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL AND CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE U.S. BUREAU  
OF RECLAMATIONS SUPPLEMENTAL WATER PROGRAM AND ALLOWING SAID  
WATER TO BE STORED IN THE WATER AUTHORITY'S SPACE IN ABIQUIU  
RESERVOIR**

WHEREAS, on August 24, 2016, the Water Authority and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) executed an agreement under which the Water Authority provided to Reclamation up to 10,000 acre-feet of their contracted storage space in Abiquiu Reservoir; and

WHEREAS, Reclamation has the need for 10,000 acre-feet of storage space each year, beginning in October 2021 through September 30, 2035, in Abiquiu Reservoir as part of its Supplemental Water Program; and

23 WHEREAS, upstream conservation storage is a specific commitment under the  
24 2016 BO to increase flexibility in water operations and for reducing negative impacts on  
25 species habitat; and

26 WHEREAS, in return for the ability to store Supplement Program Water in Abiquiu,  
27 Reclamation will provide one-year waivers for the Water Authority to store its San Juan-

1 Chama water in Heron Reservoir for an additional Federal fiscal year as long as this  
2 agreement is in place; and

3 WHEREAS, while Reclamation and its 2016 BO partners seek more permanent  
4 strategies for managing the existing limited water supply to meet the needs of the Middle  
5 Rio Grande water users, continued efforts need to be made to manage river flows to  
6 optimize minnow propagation and spawning as delineated in the 2016 BO.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WATER AUTHORITY THAT:

8 Section 1. The Executive Director requests and the Board grants the ability to  
9 confer with the Bureau of Reclamation to enter into new storage agreements similar to  
10 the expired 2016 agreement to provide Abiquiu Reservoir storage in support  
11 endangered species in the Rio Grande; and

12 Section 2. The Executive Director requests and the Board grants authority to act  
13 on behalf of the Water Authority to sign this agreement and similar subsequent  
14 agreements with Reclamation that provide for future requests for the storage of  
15 supplemental water.