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Commissioner, District 1

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Commissioner, District 2

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Commissioner, District 3

Kathy Holian
Commissioner, District 4

Liz Stefanics
Commissioner, District 5

Katherine Miller
County Manager

MEMORANDUM

Date: **August 27, 2012**

TO: **Buckman Direct Diversion Board**

From: **Patricio Guررerortiz, PE, County Water Utilities Director**

ITEM AND ISSUE:

PRESENTATION OF THE COUNTY'S INTENT TO USE EXISTING ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT TO PREPARE AND IMPLEMENT A PLAN THAT WOULD ENABLE THE BUCKMAN DIRECT DIVERSION (BDD) SYSTEM TO DIVERT AND DELIVER RAW (NON-POTABLE WATER) FROM THE RIO GRANDE, AND SERVE COUNTY WATER UTILITY CUSTOMERS, EVEN DURING PERIODS WHEN DRINKING BDD WATER PRODUCTION OPERATIONS ARE SUSPENDED

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY:

The Santa Fe County Utilities (SFCU) provides water supply services to approximately 3,200 residential equivalent customers, at delivery points outside the presumptive City Limits described by the 2008 Annexation Agreement. These water services are not limited to delivering water meeting the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, and SFCU delivers non-potable water to some customers that use the product for purposes other than human consumption, such as crop irrigation. The County is fully capable of providing such wide range of water supply services, thanks in part to the original BDD infrastructure capabilities, but also thanks to the additional improvements made to the system for this purposes.

As an independent water utility, Santa Fe County takes its water supply obligations very seriously, and it will never underestimate any efforts to make sure its customers receive the highest level of service. The County's mission is to deliver these services with minimum interruption. Along these lines, any unanticipated or prolonged suspension of service beyond the County's control will be addressed to minimize the impact it may have upon its customers, regardless of customer size or income. In some cases this may mean having to address infrastructural or operational deficiencies that may exist in the BDD system.

As a partner to the BDD enterprise, the County will only pursue improvements to the infrastructure and operations of the BDD facilities that will result in better service to County customers, without compromising the integrity of the system, or the quality of the services provided by the BDD to City customers. One such change was successfully implemented last year, with the addition of new pumps and pipeline that convey raw water from Booster Station 2A to Lake 14 at The Club

at Las Campanas (TCLC). In addition, any costs resulting from pursuing improvements to BDD for the benefit of County customers will be paid for in full by the County.

At the beginning of July of this year, the BDD system's operations were suspended in response to undesirable conditions in the Rio Grande at the BDD's point of diversion. The subsequent downtime lasted for more than a month, and the County's ability to serve its customers was severely impacted. The BDD system's level of production, as of the date of this memorandum, continues to be below average.

In response to these events, and in full compliance with City-County agreements in effect today (i.e. Water Resources agreement, 2005, Annexation Agreement, 2008), the County requested the City to allow the use of one the alternative source of water supply, such as the Buckman Well Field, to fill the service gap being caused by the extraordinary conditions and prolonged BDD downtime. The request was only partially granted, in a way that would not address the most critical issues, and the potential for irreparable harm caused to at least one of the County's customers is very high. Incidentally, in the opinion of County management, the solution the County had requested would cause no reduction in the level of service to any City or County water customer.

SFCU fully understands and agrees with the concept of maximizing the reuse of water for non-potable purposes, in a sustainable way that is also promoting the well being of the entire community. To that end, the County has suggested several viable options on which the City and the County can work together. The County has put forward proposals for the City to consider, as part of the implementation of the 2008 Annexation Agreement.

Santa Fe County intends to use the existing engineering services agreement BDD has with CDM-Smith, to have these engineers assess the options, develop and implementation a plan that, when executed, will allow the County to divert Rio Grande water to the Booster Pump Station 2A (BS2A), and be pumped form it to Las Campanas Lake 14, even during periods when no water is diverted to the BDD Treatment Plant. The work will be closely coordinated with the City's and Las Campanas' staffs, who share the ownership the BDD diversionary facilities through BS2A. The County's goal is to have all necessary improvements in place and ready to operate on or before May 1, 2013. Santa Fe County will be fully responsible for the costs associated with the planning, design and execution of the improvements, plus any differential OM&R costs that the new facilities may represent.

REQUESTED ACTION

This is an information item, and no action is required by the Buckman Direct Diversion Board.