



A joint regional project of the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County to build a reliable and sustainable water supply.

June 7, 2019

Senator Tom Udall
Senator Martin Heinrich
Representative Ben Ray Lujan
Representative Xochitl Torres Small
Representative Debra Haaland

via email

Subject: Buckman Direct Diversion Project Water Quality and LANL Cleanup Priorities

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The Buckman Direct Diversion Project (the “BDD”) is a joint water supply project of the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County. The BDD diverts its share of San Juan-Chama Project water and native pre-1907 New Mexico water rights from the Rio Grande and treats it to drinking water standards for delivery to the Santa Fe regional water customers. Physically, the BDD is located at the end of Buckman Road on the Rio Grande below Otowi gage, and is downstream of the cities of Espanola and Los Alamos as well as a portion of Los Alamos National Laboratory that is in the LA/Pueblo canyon watershed. Due to its location on the Rio Grande the BDD has unique concerns regarding the water quality of the Rio Grande and runoff coming from the Pajarito Plateau, where the City of Los Alamos and the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) are located.

Currently, the BDD relies on a combination of mechanisms to monitor and ensure the safety of the water quality of the surface waters of the Rio Grande and the water that is diverted by the BDD for production of drinking water. Among these mechanisms are the Order on Consent between Los Alamos National Laboratory and the New Mexico Environment Department, a Memorandum of Understanding between the BDD Board and Los Alamos National Laboratories (“BDDDB-LANL MOU”) to monitor surface water flows from the LA/Pueblo canyon watershed which is known to contain legacy wastes; and Rio Grande water quality monitoring under the State’s water quality criteria for this stretch of the Rio Grande. With this combination the BDD has been able to operate safely, and has consistently produced



high quality drinking water for its customers. Under the Early Notification System (ENS) as described by the BDDDB-LANL MOU the BDD has had to cease diversions when it received notification that potentially contaminated surface water from the Pajarito Plateau canyons would reach the Rio Grande upstream of the BDD.

To protect the BDD, and its ability to divert its share of San Juan-Chama Project water from the Rio Grande we request that you seek additional funding, and identify additional cleanup priorities at LANL that will prevent contaminated runoff from LANL legacy waste from reaching the Rio Grande.

Sincerely,

/s/ Anna Hamilton

Anna Hamilton, Santa Fe County Commissioner
Chair, Buckman Direct Diversion Board

On behalf of the Buckman Direct Diversion Board:

Michael Harris, Santa Fe City Councilor
Vice Chair, Buckman Direct Diversion Board

Anna Hansen, Santa Fe County Commissioner
Buckman Direct Diversion Board

Peter Ives, Santa Fe City Councilor
Buckman Direct Diversion Board

Denise Fort, Citizen At-Large BDDDB Member
Buckman Direct Diversion Board