



## Agenda

**Regular Meeting of the  
Buckman Direct Diversion  
Board  
March 6, 2025 at 4:00 PM  
Council Chambers  
City Hall  
200 Lincoln Avenue**

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### **Procedures for Buckman Direct Diversion Board Meeting**

The agenda and packet for the meeting will be posted at <https://santafenm.portal.civicclerk.com/>.

A Zoom link is available for this meeting:  
<https://santafenm-gov.zoom.us/j/85068470377>.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Approval of the Minutes from the February 6, 2025 Buckman Direct Diversion Board Meeting.
5. Presentations and Informational Items
  - a. Monthly Update on BDD Operations. (Matt Sandoval, BDD Operations Superintendent, mgsandoval@santafenm.gov, 505-955-4501).
  - b. Report from the BDD Facilities Manager. (Bradley Prada, BDD Facilities Manager, bxprada@santafenm.gov, 505-955-4507).
6. Action Items: Discussion Agenda
  - a. Consideration and Request for Approval of Buckman Direct Diversion Board Comments on Los Alamos National Laboratory Draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). (Jay Lazarus, BDDDB Consultant/Glorieta Geoscience Inc., jay.lazarus@gza.com, 505-983-1625).
  - b. Proposed Buckman Direct Diversion Board Policy for Tapping Transmission Lines. (Jesse Roach, City of Santa Fe Interim Public Utilities Department Director, jdroach@santafenm.gov).

7. Matters from the Public
8. Matters from the Board
9. Next Meeting: Thursday, April 4, 2025, at 4:00PM
10. Adjourn

Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations, contact the City Clerk's office at 955-6521, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.

**MINUTES OF THE  
CITY OF SANTA FE & SANTA FE COUNTY  
BUCKMAN DIRECT DIVERSION BOARD MEETING**

**February 6, 2025**

**1. Call to Order**

This meeting of the Santa Fe County & City Buckman Direct Diversion Board meeting was called to order by Carol Romero-Wirth, BDD Board Chair, at 4:04 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**2. Roll Call:** Roll was called and a quorum was present as shown:

**BDD Board Members Present:**

Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth, Chair  
Councilor Jamie Cassutt  
Commissioner Justin Greene  
Commissioner Hank Hughes  
Rolf Schmidt-Petersen, Citizen Member

**Member(s) Excused:**

T. Egelhoff, The Club at Las Campanas [non-voting member]

**Alternates Present:**

Commissioner Adam Johnson, County Alternate

**Others Present:**

Bradley Prada, Facilities Manager  
Nancy Long, BDD Legal Counsel  
Kyle Harwood, BDD Legal Counsel  
Jesse Roach, City PUD Water Division Director  
Delfin Peterson, BDD Administrative Assistant  
Bernardine Padilla, BDD Public Relations Coordinator  
Matt Sandoval, BDD Operations Superintendent  
Walker Boyd, County Attorney  
Jay Lazarus, Glorieta Geoscience, Inc.  
Peter Hunt, Glorieta Geoscience, Inc.

[Chair Romero-Wirth read the agenda captions throughout the meeting.]

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Greene moved to approve the agenda as published. Councilor Cassutt

seconded and the motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**a. January 9, 2025 Buckman Direct Diversion Board Meeting**

Councilor Cassutt moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Greene seconded and the motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

**5. Presentations and Information Items**

**a. Monthly Update on BDD Operations**

MATT SANDOVAL (BDD Operations Superintendent): Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the Board. I'll be presenting the BDD operations report for the month of January, 2025.

Raw water diversions were 3.43 million gallons per day. Drinking water deliveries through Booster Station 4A/5A were 3.09 million gallons per day. Raw water delivery to Las Campanas at Booster Station 2A was .15 million gallons per day.

The BDD provided approximately 48 percent of the water supply to the City and the County for the month of January 2025. And you'll also note, I added two – page number 2 is new, it's an addition at the request of the Board from the last meeting and that is total potable production for the previous four years and also a projection for each month for 2025. The other addition that was added is the ENSO summary for La Niña conditions that are currently present. And with that, I'll stand for questions.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Any questions from the Board? Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you for putting some historical points in here. I'll learn to figure it out as best as possible.

MR. SANDOVAL: You're welcome.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Any other questions? Mr. Rolf Schmidt-Petersen.

BOARD MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to thank you for including the El Niño and La Niña information. Adding that is good and kind of looks forward to what the likely climate situation is for New Mexico and also specifically for the Santa Fe area and it helps you or us if we know the snowpack numbers which from my experience right now are less than half of what we would want them to be for a La Niña year in Santa Fe. So it's really poor, probably as bad as the top three baddest/worse years in water supply that I have experienced in over 25 years of working. And so having the snowpack number and the El Niño information allows us and/or you to say, given what the National Weather Service is predicting or NRCS for snowpack, if you look at the drier side of it you get a better feel for what you're likely to experience. And so, I want to thank you for putting that in here but also to suggest, and I can talk to you later about looking at the NRCS forecast and interpreting that piece because I think it can help you in your planning for the coming year. And my concern really is Nichols and McClure are not likely to have much snow runoff at all and I'm not sure how much of that is tied into your projections into the upcoming months. So I'll leave it at that.

MR. SANDOVAL: Thank you.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Okay; anything else? Thank you for being here.

**b. Report from BDD Facilities Manager**

BRADLEY PRADA (Facilities Manager): Madam Chair, Board members, thank you. There were no major changes to the report on the MRR Fund. Talks have started about the membrane module replacement project. Moving on to the rebuild project, the initial RFP, base effort to obtain an owner's representation through the design-build process was unsuccessful. Staff are now investigating the possibility that one or more of the engineering firms on contract with the City might be suitable and willing to serve as BDD owner's representative. We hope to bring a staff recommendation on this possibility to the Board next month.

Moving on to City staff or BDD staff in that context, BDD and City staff continue to work on filling vacancies. We are making this one of our top priorities. This past week was filled with interview and we are hopeful to fill some positions. That concludes my report.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Questions from the Board? Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Madam Chair. As I mentioned at the last meeting, you know, I get really nervous if we start making decisions about contractors when we don't have an owner's rep. And even if there's not – the ideal would be a permanent owner's rep from the beginning before you even write your RFP but we're – that car has left. So getting even just a minor consultant contract to make sure that we have that with support from Public Works, even support from Santa Fe County, if necessary, whatever we can do to make sure that we are looking at this way before so that we don't get too far down a contract and have somebody come in and – no continuity, some issues of, you know, you shouldn't have put that language in there and so on. So somebody who has done this before should be on our team already.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: So, just if I could maybe provide some context and you and I could talk about this some more. We do actually have outside consultants that are helping us; both an engineering firm and the lawyer who helped with the litigation. So while I think in a normal circumstance you're probably right but our interests are well represented with those two consultants as we're moving towards the design-build.

And I think this is good news that we may be able to piggyback on the procurement that has already been done in Finance to get somebody on faster so that we don't have to reissue again because I think we're getting to a place where we're going to, I'm hoping finally, really soon be able to bring on both of these things – the contractor for the design-build and have the owner's rep and have them in proximity to each other so that they can move forward together with one helping the other. We are well represented by other controls.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I appreciate the creative thinking. Don't let perfect be the enemy of the good but we've got to keep it moving.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Yes, I totally agree.

BOARD MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Can I follow up on that?

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Yes, please.

BOARD MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: I wonder if there's a possibility of an executive session or some other session that's really just talking about that entire

process we need – the design-build and where the decision points and what the Board can talk about in open session and what we can't know about and then kind of the intermediate piece of that. The process here seems a little different from my experience but I'd like to understand it better.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: We can look into that. I defer to our attorney. We are in an active procurement, an RFQ and RFP, and as such until the bids have been made and there is an evaluation committee. And until they meet and select we don't get involved in that part. I know this is frustrating and it has been frustrating for me too because I know you all know that this has been going on and there's been stops and starts around it but there hasn't been anything that we can bring to the public because it's still part of both of these processes. I don't know if you have anything to add..

NANCY LONG (BDD Counsel): Madam Chair, that is correct. The process for the design-build procurement is still underway and it is confidential so there is nothing that we can talk about and there is nothing that we can bring to the Board unless and until we get to that negotiation stage on that. In terms of the process of procurement, we can always have some presentation on that, on how procurement works so long as we're not talking about a specific procurement that's ongoing now.

BOARD MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: And, Madam Chair, I would say on that, I would really at this point in time I am not concerned so much about the specifics but the process because it is different than some of my experiences in state government and I would just like to understand that so I know what is coming up and I want to be in a place and understand where the Board members will be able to engage in order to have enough information to make good decisions, policy decisions.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: And I think you can probably speak to this a little bit and we do follow the state procurement process, so we're not making up our own little process and game here. Just so you know.

BOARD MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: I'm not trying to imply that. It just seems a little different.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: It's an RFQ on the design so –

BOARD MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: And an RFP –

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: -- on the owner's rep. And I had never been through an RFQ either since this process which has been going on now for a couple of years. Ms. Long, do you want to add something?

MS. LONG: Perhaps we can include some aspect of procurement and the procurement procedures during our orientation.

BOARD MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: That would be wonderful.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: For your comfort/knowledge, once there is a firm selected, the Board will approve that contract; correct?

MS. LONG: It will come to the Board for award of the contract.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Can you talk a little bit more about that or should –

MS. LONG: It may unfold in a number of ways but certainly if there's some negotiating points that we need to discuss with the Board and of course you can take best and final offers to a board, but in this case I would suspect we would be able to work through the contract terms and negotiations and then we would bring it to the Board for award of the contract.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: I just want to put you at ease; you're not going to be blinded. When the time comes, when we get there, that will be the time to really brief everybody. But right now there is nothing that we can say about it and I know it is awkward and I hate it.

BOARD MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Thank you.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you. Just as a question, what is our timeline for this? What do we expect? What's the fastest we could get an owner's rep and what is –

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Two days before that. [laughter]

MS. LONG: Yes, Madam Chair and Commissioner Greene, phase 2 of the design-build RFP has recently been finalized and is being delivered as part of that procurement. The proposers are allowed up to 90 days to submit a submittal as to what is required in that phase 2. And that still does not result in a contract and that starts the next phase of negotiation and a discussion about what is proposed. But at this point we're looking at a period of about 90 days for them to come up with technical solutions and perhaps a contract could be finalized in close proximity to that. We just don't know until we see what is submitted and it may be that it is not acceptable and that it never can become acceptable and then we have to start all over. But we all of course are hoping that that is not the case since we have already been through phase 1 and we do have qualified proposers.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: And that's one of those reasons like an owner's rep can sort of coach us. And so having whether the technical expertise in-house in whatever is useful to help, you know, fill the gaps of any proposal and make sure that they're like we wish that this was in the proposal – you're close but not quite perfect.

MS. LONG: Sure, and that's our goal to have an owner's rep before those submittals are made.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Great.

BOARD MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Madam Chair, just one other question and I don't want to belabor things. But for Mr. Prada, I was wondering about the membrane module in the GAC replacement projects. And more specifically are those just replacements given the end of life expectancy or are they replacements in upgrades? Just a little bit more on this project.

MR. PRADA: Madam Chair and Board Member Schmidt-Petersen, they're on a cyclical replacement plan. So it's just part of the maintenance of the facility.

BOARD MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Thank you.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Any other questions on this?

**c. Los Alamos National Laboratory Sitewide Environmental Impact Statement**

JAY LAZARUS (Glorieta Geoscience): Thank you, Madam Chair, Board. When we first were anticipating this Sitewide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) we were going to be focusing on Los Alamos and Pueblo impacts and how they were going to be addressing contamination in Los Alamos and Pueblo canyons. When the SWEIS came out last month, it's a very broad far range document without specifics for Los Alamos or Pueblo canyon. And for the next item that Kyle and I will be presenting on our 2025 Water Quality

Impact Plan, the Sitewide Environmental Impact Statement is item #6 under tier 2 and really our recommendations are to continue review of this and if the Board chooses to submit comments. Comments are due March 11<sup>th</sup>. That would give us time to prepare comments and submit them to the Board at the next Board meeting for the Board's approval, should you want to submit comments. But basically, what we're going to be doing is pretty much the same things that we're doing in our Water Quality Workplan for 2025 and that's looking at the hexavalent chromium plume, PFAS contamination, water rights and groundwater discharges to the Rio Grande. That was a page document, something like that. But our Los Alamos and Pueblo canyons weren't specifically addressed but our hexavalent chromium plume, water rights, PFAS and groundwater discharge to the Rio Grande broadly were addressed and we suggest that we comment on that and limit our comments to that if the Board chooses for us to present comments.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Okay, when is the opportunity for the Board to decide whether they want to make comments? I am assuming that that will be a recommendation from you all and even at our next meeting is early March, March 6<sup>th</sup> –

MR. LAZARUS: Madam Chair, your comments are due on the 11<sup>th</sup>. If the Board chooses to today to direct us to prepare comments, we'll prepare comments but we will limit them to the items that we have here actually in item 6 of our 2025 Water Quality Workplan that Kyle will talk about in the next item on the agenda.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Okay, and I don't know any reason why we wouldn't want comments on those matters.

BOARD MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: I can think of reasons why we would.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Yes, it seems like this is a given and we should be doing this.

MR. LAZARUS: I agree but we don't take steps like this without Board approval.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Mr. Schmidt-Petersen, do you want to articulate why this is an important thing for us to comment on.

BOARD MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Madam Chair, if a motion is necessary, I would make that also. From my experience dealing with NEPA related activities that engagement at all of the appropriate steps could become critically important if you're challenging something at the end.

So coming in now and making LANL quite aware of and document what our issues are, I think is very important.

MR. LAZARUS: And, Madam Chair, I want to throw this over to Kyle briefly.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: And I want to go back to where we were really quickly on this. We were trying to get – we, mean you all – were trying to get this in place at the end of last year before the current one expired which maybe you can back us up on – and then we thought that maybe you guys would have something in the early part of the year and that's not happening so –

MR. LAZARUS: Different item.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Oh, different item, okay.

KYLE HARWOOD (BDD Counsel): Let me clarify, Madam Chair. Sorry, these things all have similar acronyms. The Sitewide Environmental Impact Statement has



been delayed for many, many years. It is literally an all campus environmental impact statement and they were supposed to be prepared every 10 years. LANL hasn't done one in 18, I think it is. So this is something that we have been after the lab's point person for the SWEIS, when is it going to be released? When is it going to be released? And as Jay said, it was only just released last month. This is independent of the MOU that I think you're referring to. So I certainly agree with Member Schmidt-Petersen's comments and yours I believe as well, that if you don't participate in the process it's hard to – if you have issues you should participate through the process and I think it is fair to say the Board has earnest issues with the lab.

All of that being said, this is not on the agenda as an action item. Typically, for something like this we would just take the Board's direction now which is why it is here and then the Board action item would be at March to approve the submittal of the draft we bring in March. I hope that is consistent with your understanding.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Thank you. That is very helpful. And you're right, I was confusing it with the memorandum of understanding. Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are public meetings for this. Sadly we have a County Commission meeting next Tuesday that conflicts with the Santa Fe presentation of this but I would encourage all of us that are interested in this to go on Tuesday and if you can't make Tuesday, I think Wednesday is in Española and Thursday is in Los Alamos. This is for the long overdue sitewide impact presentation. That's all, I just wanted to make people aware of that. And I hope that some of us can go.

MR. LAZARUS: Madam Chair, Commissioner Greene, we will attend.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Great.

MR. LAZARUS: The royal we.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Our consultants do attend even if the Board members can't. Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I just want to add that I think it is very important that we submit comments on this in terms of direction.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Yes, I agree. So you have direction. We do want to submit comments. So it sounds like you'll bring comments back at our March Board meeting for us to approve and then they'll be submitted in time for the deadline which is the 11<sup>th</sup>.

MR. LAZARUS: Madam Chair, that is correct. This is one of the few times that comments are due and it matches our meeting schedules.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Okay, anything else on this? We'll move on then.

**d. Presentation of Rio Grande Water Quality Calendar Year 2025  
Workplan pursuant to BDDB Resolution No. 2022-2**

MR. LAZARUS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Kyle will start.

MR. HARWOOD: Yeah, we're going to do a tag team presentation, Madam Chair, if that's okay. As I think many of you on the Board know if you've been through this process in prior years and I know we do have some new folks so I will just spend one moment noting that back in 2022, mostly at City Councilor Romero-Wirth's inspiration we

did prepare and the Board adopted the resolution, which is in your packet, which directs the preparation of this annual workplan.

I'm going to speak to the first two items and Jay's going to take the rest. Any questions of how we get to this plan before I go through this year's plan? Very good. Councilor, do you want to add anything else? Very good.

As many of you know and Councilor Romero-Wirth was just summarizing we are past due on a new memorandum of understanding with LANL. This Board did vote to extend that and actually, Councilor Romero-Wirth, I do have that extension document for you to sign today. We'll be bringing you an update at the March meeting. We do have a technical meeting with LANL that needs to be scheduled and we continue to work with our counterparts at LANL on getting through to a new MOU that we can recommend to this Board.

I would like to just say that the staff up at LANL have been responsive and good to work with. We have had a little bit of delay with the holidays and we hope to be back on track quickly. Should I wait for questions on that, Madam Chair?

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Let's do an overview of the whole thing and then we can take any items that are of an interest to the Board.

MR. HARWOOD: Very good. Item #2 on the workplan is a summary of a water right protest that this Board and separately Santa Fe County filed in response to a permit request to support the Chromium VI mitigation effort. The State Engineer's Office did grant an emergency application for this project and in the legal notice on a regular permit to support this project the Board and Santa Fe County independently both expressed concerns about the water right accounting that was being proposed under this project and we have been trying to work with the State Engineer's Office on the appropriate next step. The matter has not been set for hearing and we have discussed with the State Engineer and LANL on how to address this issue. As those of you who know and follow the hexavalent chromium topic, the actual proposed next steps in managing the plume have gone back and forth. They were moving forward and then they were stopped by an order of NMED. They have now been allowed to partially proceed again and some of that uncertainty that has made settling this matter a challenge because what they're actually going to be doing going forward is still a little unclear. So that item is sort of hanging out waiting for a little more information on exactly what the lab is going to be doing going forward. And I would certainly hope that in calendar year 2025 we could bring this mostly dormant item to rest. But it often – just to be honest – it often goes lower on the workplan for us and other agencies given this back and forth between the lab and NMED about what they're actually doing with the plume. I think I'll stop there and let Jay talk about the next item.

MR. LAZARUS: The one thing I'd like to add to what Kyle said about the hexavalent chromium plume protest is that right now their current application is for the 689 acre-feet. Their proposed change to increase the efficiency of the remediation takes it up to over 1,600 in the diversion. Previously, they had been injecting the same amount that they were withdrawing so we had Peter look at all the numbers per the bar graphs and show that it is in balance with injection and withdrawal. We don't know where they're going to get the water rights for the 1,600 acre-feet. There's San Juan-Chama waters currently leased, Los Alamos County San Juan-Chama water is currently leased to the Rio Chama Acequia Association. I don't know how many years that is going to do but I think the water rights under this thing is going to be the challenge in addition to the fact they really don't have the

boundaries of the plume defined well enough for either us, the Environment Department or the independent technical review team.

One of their options for taking the treated water is to land-apply it meaning sprinkle irrigate with it and even though that was in one of their alternatives, they said, that that's one of the alternatives but we're not going to do it. So if they go to land application it will be 100 percent consumptive use rather than a balance between injection and extraction.

PFAS, number 3 in tier 1, we've been talking with Brad, Matt and Danny about expanding the scope of the sampling at the intake to include PFAS sampling; also, on the rising and falling limits of the hydrographs on the river and the hydrographs that we're seeing in Los Alamos Canyon. But I think it's really for the Board and I'm reiterating what we explained to the Board last year was that the GAC that we have, granulated activated carbon, that we have as part of the treatment at the Buckman Diversion can handle the PFAS and remove it from any of the water that moves through it.

NPDES Primacy, this is a hot topic at the Roundhouse right now. The Environment Department has put – actually Senator Wirth and another co-sponsor have put forth Senate Bills 21 and 22 to both amend the Water Quality Act and then create an NPDES permitting program for the State of New Mexico. My crystal ball says it is probably going to pass, maybe not with the funding that they're asking for but that's my interpretation on it. But we need to pay attention to see where it goes, watch how regulations then get promulgated, developed at the Water Quality Control Commission because that will affect permitting at LANL and our current NPDES permits were sediment return to the Rio Grande. The double-edge sword for the state taking over NPDES permitting is financial. Right now with all the NPDES permitting being handled by the Region 6 EPA in Dallas no NPDES permittees in the State of New Mexico pay a permit fee. Once the state takes over the permitting program then everybody with an NPDES permit will be paying a fee and if it's going to be analogous to how they permit groundwater discharges the fees will be likely based on the amount of discharge, how many thousands of gallons a day or hundreds of thousands of gallons a day or millions of gallons a day facility discharges. But that will be down the line. It has to pass and be approved by the governor and then it goes to the Water Quality Control Commission for promulgation of the regulations.

Tier 2 issues, LANL pollutants and NPDES permits. EPA did make a determination even after Sackett that Los Alamos Canyon is a water of the U.S. and falls under NPDES jurisdiction. So our recommendation for this calendar year are to monitor these and other LANL permits. And then conjunctively follow this and see how it dovetails with NPDES – and I am sorry for all the acronyms, it's even getting to me – and see how it dovetails with NMED's quest for primacy.

Number 6, we talked about, Sitewide Environmental Impact Statement. The Consent Order has two or three issues. NMED and LANL actually entered into a settlement agreement on the Consent Order and what we're going to be doing is working with NMED to track the progress and we will be meeting with Brad, Kyle, Peter and myself to meet with the NMED lead of the Hazardous Waste Bureau to see how we can have the department help keep us current on what's going on with the Consent Order as it affects us and hopefully not have to scratch and crawl to get the information but set up a mechanism where they can get information to Brad and us.

Section 303(d)/305(b), Impaired Waters, for 2024 there was no action required. The next draft of the integrated report for 2026 and 2028 will be released for public comment late

this year. We were requesting that the report include Los Alamos Canyon be classified as municipal drinking water supply which we got very strong push back from NMED on because we are not directly diverting from Los Alamos Canyon. We would like to be treated that way. I don't feel a whole sense of optimism that it will be but we will continue to assess this and make our public comment in 2025 but meet with the Surface Water Quality Bureau while they're going through this process.

Number 9, municipal stormwater/sewer permit for Los Alamos County. We will be prepared to develop draft comment on a permit if released for the consideration. And then the Triennial Review, we provided comments to NMED on the 2024/2026 Surface Water Quality Standards and this process will begin again in 2025 and this sort of dovetails with the – integrated with the number 8 and 9 which could almost be thought of as one item as all of these items are integrated. But we'll work with NMED and their Surface Water Quality Bureau on the standards for the Pajarito Plateau and the Rio Grande as appropriate.

And Kyle and I will be happy to stand for any questions.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Thank you. Questions from the Board. Yes, Board Member Schmidt-Petersen.

BOARD MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Madam Chair, thank you. I just have a couple of questions. First with regards to the hexavalent chromium, I think that aspects that they were historically doing the treating and then reinjecting and I'm not sure about commenting on anything like that but that seems to me to be a pretty good approach. I don't know if reinjecting right in the middle of the plume is the right thing but some type of reinjection so we're not depleting that much water. It's a very significant amount of water. It obviously needs to be cleaned up. But I think, at least from my perspective on that weighing in specifically maybe through the EIS process but also with the protest on this change in potential increase and the way that that is dealt with is pretty important for that entire area.

And then I would just also mention that I think with the sitewide EIS from some of my previous experience there with LANL and Pueblo Canyon and LA Canyon, some activities that looking at stabilization of banks which historically the sediment that has bound CCO and other types of radionuclides – and LANL is doing more work to try and maintain those in place and not allow them to be moved in large storm events –

MR. LAZARUS: Madam Chair, Member Schmidt-Petersen, we agree. The heavy metals in radionuclides bind to the fine grain sediment particles in the canyons. We've mapped a lot of this many years ago and it binds the fine grain particles. This is one reason why in the MOU the replacement of E-110.7 is really critical to us and not so much replacement but placing another gauge above it where it wouldn't get inundated by main stem Rio Grande flows like it did last year or in 2023. And what we want to do – what we've done is we review LANL's sediment sampling reports and then their plans for the next coming year. We use LANL's own language in our discussions with them where they want to look at sampling of water and sediment on the rising limb of the hydrograph, the peak of the hydrograph and the declining one of the hydrograph. And we're asking that the gauge as part of our MOU, we want the new gauge to be set up to sample the exact same way that they're talking about sampling the gauges they have in the other canyons for both sediment and water quality, Member Schmidt-Petersen. So, therefore, and to be consistent with how they're approaching it scientifically and then give guidance. A lot of this is really going to give guidance to Brad and Matt and their staff on how long the diversion is shutdown when

there are flows above 5 cfs in Los Alamos Canyon. So we're trying to get the lab to develop this monitoring system to help guide our operations. Did I get that right, Brad? Okay.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So in terms of the hexavalent chromium water rights protest, Santa Fe County may be unfamiliar to the folks here that are focused on BDD but it all gets – it's all water that is all going to mix at some point. Santa Fe County has the Aamodt Settlement Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System that will come on line sometimes, hopefully within our lifetimes. And there is talk and we are potentially building an interconnection between the systems. So what this means is that our system which is not a surface water diversion but is a groundwater thing – my question goes, since it is a groundwater extraction and if the hexavalent chromium is going to reinject and the water is going to be reinjected and it could migrate, do we have any impact – do we know the impact that it could have on the wellfields at the point that we're going to be doing stuff for Santa Fe County but then if it has an interconnection with the BDD and the City's system and it's wheeled around is there – I just want us to understand the risks based on those interconnections because all of the mix of water. I think there is an understanding of the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System might want to come to this Board to understand those impacts to the system in the next few sessions so that we can understand how that mix might happen and specifically to how the hexavalent chromium and other contaminants might impact that.

MR. LAZARUS: Madam Chair, Commissioner Greene, if the Board wants us to interact with the folks for the regional water – the Pojoaque Regional Water System and try and look at potential sources, we'll be happy to do that. If LANL does implement – wait, let me just backup. They weren't cleaning up the plume: they were extracting. But it also appeared to us that they were smearing it around by reinjecting it in the middle of the plume and don't have contaminate control at the edge of the plume especially by San I.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Which is weird. The Pojoaque Basin is going to extracting and even though it is right at the river, it still once it gets to and if it's under the river and it is groundwater and potentially we could be –

MR. LAZARUS: We have to look to see what the groundwater discharge is from the body of the Pajarito Plateau right there by the intake for the regional water system.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Correct.

MR. LAZARUS: And then in terms of the groundwater connection to surface water, we don't have enough time in the next few meetings to go through that.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: No, no. But it's groundwater, right? And the interconnections of the system especially for us here that might not understand what the County is doing with that whole big project there and how those systems might be interconnecting. There are definitely some impacts there that we should be aware of as the BDD Board. We are somewhat aware of it. At least it's in my district so I understand a lot more of it up in District 1 for Santa Fe County but everybody at the City should start to be aware of that resource and risk at the same time.

MR. LAZARUS: Okay, thank you.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: And then the second question is that for the New Mexico for the stuff at the legislature, I'm wondering if we could be briefed about it at the next meeting because those will be the closing two weeks when the rubber hits the road and it would be great if we had a position on it now to say give them more money, we

support this. I know it may be a big topic at the Roundhouse and I know there is somebody else's house that is in the room that it's a big topic of too. But we should definitely be advocating for whatever we think is the right thing. Whether it's more money to stand up that department or division at NMED but also to make sure that that bill goes through and gets signed by the governor.

MR. LAZARUS: Okay.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Next meeting I guess is the next chance we have to hear that.

MR. LAZARUS: So at the next meeting you'd like an update on where SB 21 and SB 22 stand?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: And potentially at least a letter from us to endorse, you know, either we love it, we hate it or we want more money, whatever. The BDD recommends that this should be passed and funded fully.

MR. LAZARUS: Madam Chair, Member Greene, I am trying to think through the timing and the logistics of this and I'm not a Roundhouse regular but bills get introduced they get amended, they go to committee, they get amended, they go to committee, they get amended so I think the best we can do is whenever the Board packets are due we could include that in the packet of where they stand at the time. But this isn't an action item per se. I'm trying to figure out how to accommodate your request to support it and I think more goes to Nancy and Kyle in terms of the timing and how this goes. I am not trying to kick the can but –

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: I think we probably need to have a conversation about this and about how historically this Board either has or hasn't gotten involved in legislation at the Roundhouse and again the nexus of these bills to us and our operation as wholesalers, I think we need to pull in our lawyers about this. I don't know want to put this all on you, Jay. I hear you and I think it can be something that we can talk about as to whether it's appropriate and how we could do it because I haven't seen us endorse legislation in the time I've been here which there are people in this room who precede me by many, many years. And that's a good thing.

MR. HARWOOD: Madam Chair, in the past we have brought you specific permitting steps like we did this evening and a summary to recommend Board involvement in something like the Sitewide EIS. On things of much more general nature like a general bill about primacy, what we've generally done in past decades is we have either informed City Councilors and County Commissioners for you all to work with your lobbyist at the Roundhouse on those really big topics. Not that it has to be done that way going forward but just to give you all a little sense of how we have done it in the past for your consideration.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: And I think that's an interesting point because the City and County may – I don't know where the County stands on this legislation, I don't know where the City stands on this legislation. So I don't know what our respective houses are going to think about that. So that's another consideration. Yes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I think we passed a motion in favor of it.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I don't think we actually got – we didn't know enough about it. But we have been updated about it and then we were waiting to see where it was going. And I think at our next meeting we will be probably taking unless – the insight from this body will come to us in May 5<sup>th</sup> [sic] and then the Santa Fe County's next meeting –

BOARD MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: March 6<sup>th</sup>.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: March 6<sup>th</sup> sorry. And then Santa Fe County's next meeting will be like a week later or so and that's, you know, great there is still time to chime in on this. But I think that primacy is pretty important. There's very little legislation that goes through the legislature that actually matters to this body so it doesn't seem like it's that often that that would come up but this seems like it would be one that we should at least be prepared to support. And if we decide to stay quiet, that's our position as well.

MR. LAZARUS: Madam Chair, Commissioner Greene, the one thing I can share with you and several of the Board members and some staff know Abby Guidry of our staff who works with Peter and me, and she and I reviewed SB 21 and SB 22 for another client and there is specific language in 22 that matches the federal NPDES permitting program word for word and then there is additional language that doesn't match it. That's what I can say.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Okay. I think this is to be continued, flag this. This is something that we need to continue talking about.

Anything else on this memo? And I would just comment that when I first joined this Board, all of this stuff used to come at us separately and it was really hard to get a 30,000-foot view over the things that we were interested in. And I think it is also something that as you spend some time with this Board we have a good story and there are lots of people who want to pull us into things and I think we, as a Board, I think we need to be careful where we use our influence or what things we care about not only from a staff perspective and from a budget perspective about how we use our resources but just also if we're always commenting on every single thing that flies through, it's like, oh year, there's that BDD Board again. I think we need to be strategic about where we weight in. And that has nothing to do with what you were talking about earlier but I just want you to know, sort of, what my thinking was in the resolution and in this memo. And I think, especially if you're new and we do have one member who is here who is brand new, the Commissioners have spent some time on this Board before, but I know when I was brand new and I was looking at all of this stuff that was coming independently, it was really hard. It's complex. Anyone of these things is complex but then to have it come one at a time and try to understand what it was or what it wasn't and why it was important, it just seemed to me that it is nice to have it all in one memo at the beginning of the year. It helps to outline where we're going to focus, what we care about, and what is important to the operations of the BDD which I think is a really important litmus test so that we don't get pulled into things and use our resources in places perhaps where we shouldn't just because we are a good story. We are, obviously, an important facility for this region and I just want us to use our influence carefully.

That was the thinking behind this work and I am delighted to see it again. So thank you everybody who brought this forward. And I think it helps give us a good picture of the water quality work that is going on and that is important to this operation.

All right; anything else on this? Thank you.

## **6. Action Items**

### **a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Buckman Direct Diversion Board**

**Chair:** CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: And for anybody who doesn't know, somebody who may be looking at these minutes later, our agreements between the City and County with

the Chair and the Vice Chair switch back and forth between City and County. Since I'm a City Councilor so I have been chair and this coming year it will move to the County side. So we just kind of trade off back and forth.

With that, I think what we do here is we take nominations; am I correct?

MS. LONG: Yes, Madam Chair. You would ask for nominations for a chairperson and a vice chair after the chair has been elected.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: So if we could entertain nominations for a Chair.

BOARD MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Madam Chair, I'd like to make such a nomination but I would first like to thank you for your service to the Board. I think you've done a wonderful job.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Thank you.

BOARD MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: And I very much appreciate it over the last eight months or so. But with that and with the required change, I wanted to make a nomination for Commissioner Greene. And I'd like to just explain that briefly. In the engagement over the last eight months I've been impressed with his just dedication to the Board and also his understanding of construction projects and design-related issues that I think will be very important going forward. But also he knows what the issues of the Board are right now so it can be very seamless. So that's why I would like to make that nomination.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: And I will second.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: And do we need seconds on nominations?

MS. LONG: We typically do.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Okay.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: You probably need an acceptance and I'll accept.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: And typically you would say, are there any other nominations but we're just a small board I don't know where another nomination would come from.

We will then, I'm assuming we need a roll call vote on this.

MS. LONG: yes, Madam Chair.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: We have a motion and a second. Is there any more comment on this nomination for chair for the coming year? If not, let's have a roll call please.

The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as shown:

Councilor Jamie Cassutt	Yes
Commissioner Justin Greene	Yes
Commissioner Hank Hughes	Yes
Rolf Schmidt-Petersen	Yes
Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth	Yes

**Vice Chair** CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Congratulations. We'll go on now to vice chair.

COUNCILOR CASSUTT: Thank you, Madam Chair. I actually would like to nominate you to stay in the chair arena as vice chair. You're knowledge of this is very deep and Commissioner Greene, obviously does have an in-depth knowledge of these water issues as well but I think that given the newness of the Board, I know I would appreciate you



continuing in these leadership roles. So if you will accept, I would like to nominate you to that position.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: And if a second is necessary, I will second it.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: And I will accept. All right, this is all very congenial. Any other comments on that; can we have a roll call?

The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as shown:

Councilor Jamie Cassutt	Yes
Commissioner Justin Greene	Yes
Commissioner Hank Hughes	Yes
Rolf Schmidt-Petersen	Yes
Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth	Yes

7. **Matters from the Public** – None were brought forward

8. **Matters from the Board**

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Yes, Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you very much. In the back row or at least in the back of the room here we have our new County Attorney here, Walker Boyd. He is – actually I don't know enough to not butcher your resume but in all of our interactions he has been very knowledgeable of a lot of things and I'm sure that the lawyers in the room probably know him better than I do. So we're excited to have him at Santa Fe County and very happy to see him here and paying attention to this Board. So thank you for attending this today. If the Chair will allow him to introduce himself, that would be great. Sorry to put you on the spot.

WALKER BOYD: Sure, happy to speak. Hi, everyone. I'm Walker Boyd. I worked with Nancy before in my previous role at the State Ethics Commission as its general counsel. I'm excited to be here and working with all in my capacity as County Attorney for the County of Santa Fe. Water law is something that has always interested me and it's really great to get a chance to gain some firsthand exposure to it and see how this very important body works and attends to its business.

I will be working with Commissioner Hughes on issues related to the Sitewide Environmental Impact Statement at Los Alamos. I'm looking forward to meeting you all and getting to know you all. You will see more of me in these coming months.

I appreciate the introduction, Commissioner Greene, and I'll be here and happy to meet anyone here who wants to talk about BDD work. Thank you.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you. If I may continue? Two more items, actually, one was already covered in the previous item. The second item is that this is not Santa Fe County's specific realm and it's probably not even BDD realm although it relates to water. As we've seen in the fires in California and as we've seen here in Santa Fe with low snowpack and then thirdly drawing down of our reservoirs at McClure and Two Mile Pond and Nichols, I'm wondering if there's a discussion to be had if, you know, the pros and cons of allowing those City assets to recharge themselves this year and not draw them down any further. I don't think that – we're getting a prediction of almost no runoff from the snowpack I would almost hope that we would recharge. Most specifically for, god forbid, for firefighting resources. And

so if we draw down those to the point where we can't use them for that, I think that that would be a loss to our community, both City and County.

I think this is probably something that is a conversation at the City, but I really want to encourage the City to think about that resource as a regional resource for us in the case of a fire.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Any other matters from the Board? We can't get into, Commissioner, because it is not on the agenda.

I should have started here and I apologize, this is my last meeting as chair. But as you all know, now I'll be vice chair. I look forward to working with Commissioner Greene. But we do have new members and we should have introduced them at the front.

Commissioner Greene was an alternate and he is now the chair. Look what happens when you hang out long enough, suddenly you're in the hot seat.

Commissioner Hughes, welcome back. He was on the Board and then I think you became County Chair of the County Commission and you stepped away for a bit. So you haven't been with us for a bit but prior to being the Chair of the County Commission, you had been here and attending these meetings. So this isn't completely foreign to you.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: And I was an alternate two years ago.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: Right, so welcome back.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Thank you.

CHAIR ROMERO-WIRTH: And then brand new commissioners, brand new member, we have with us in Commissioner Johnson, Adam Johnson. Welcome. He is an alternate to the County membership and on the City side we all stay the same. So we're the same two here and of course City Councilor Cassutt, myself and alternate who is Pilar Faulkner, Councilor Faulkner. So our side didn't change at all but your side changed quite a bit. I just wanted to point that out and welcome everybody.

9. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

10. **Adjourn**

Chair Romero-Wirth adjourned this meeting at approximately 5:06 p.m.

Approved by:

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Justin Greene, Board Chair

Respectfully submitted:

Wordswork

**ATTEST TO**

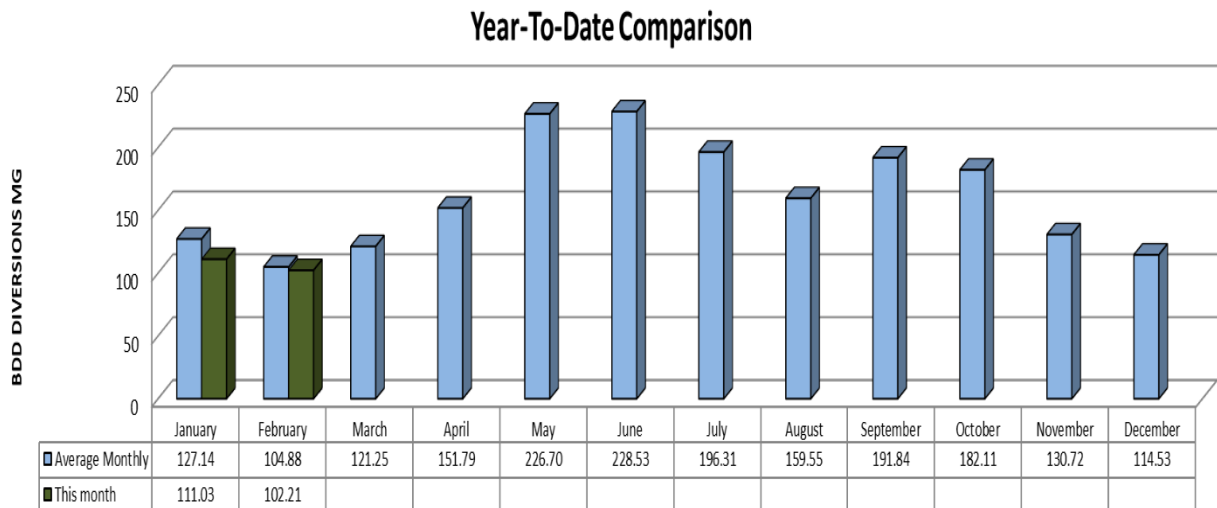
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KATHARINE E. CLARK  
SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK

**Date:** March 6, 2025  
**To:** Buckman Direct Diversion Board  
**From:** Matthew Sandoval, BDD Operations Superintendent  
**Subject:** Update on BDD Operations for the Month of February 2025

**ITEM:**

1. This memorandum is to update the Buckman Direct Diversion Board (BDDDB) on BDD operations during the month of February 2025. The BDD diversions and deliveries have averaged, in Million Gallons Per Day (MGD), as follows:
  - a. Raw water diversions: 3.65 MGD
  - b. Drinking water deliveries through Booster Station 4A/5A: 3.41 MGD
  - c. Raw water delivery to Las Campanas at BS2A: 0.12 MGD
2. The BDD provided approximately 48% of the water supply to the City and County for the month.
3. The BDD year-to-date diversions are depicted below:

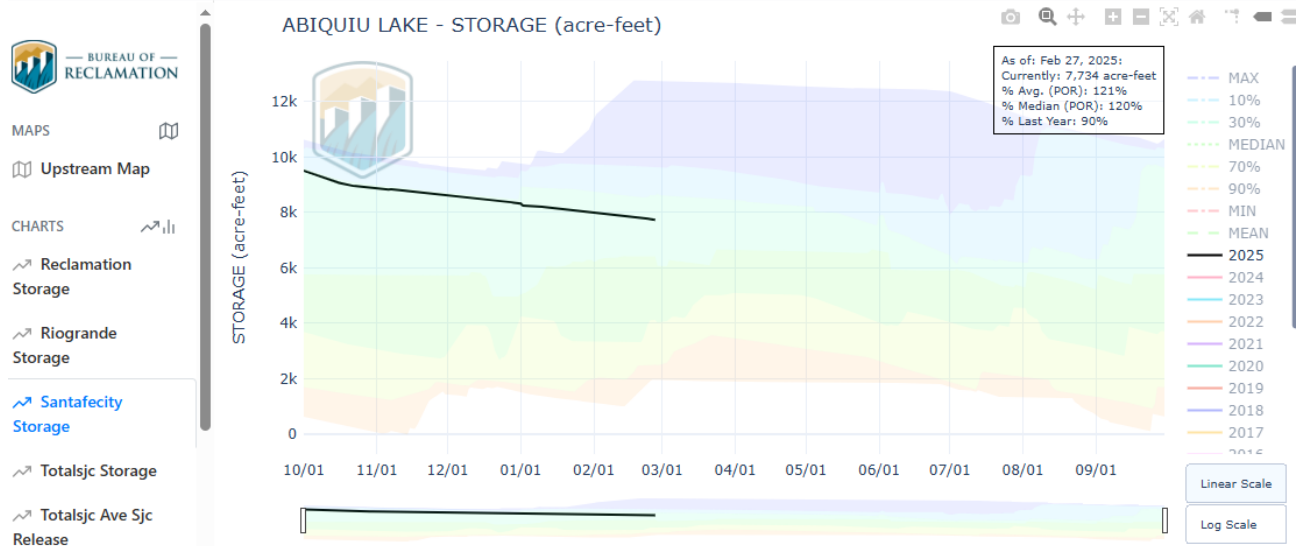


## Regional Water Overview

Daily metered regional water demand for the month of February 2025 was approximately: 6.2 MGD

Rio Grande flows for February 2025 averaged approximately 692 CFS (cubic feet per second).

City/County/Las Campanas Storage- as updated by partners. As of January 30, 2025 City of SF Abiquiu SJC storage is at about 7,734 AF.



As of January 1, 2025, the allocable volume in Heron Reservoir was zero acre-feet. There has been no significant inflow into Heron Reservoir for 2025.

## Regional Water Supply

CRWTP reservoir storage: Nichols: 0% McClure: 36.80% Watershed Inflow: 0.65 MGD

- Santa Fe SNOTEL
  - Cumulative snow Water/Equiv. Inches 5.1
  - Cumulative Snow in Depth in Inches 17.0

### Current Watershed Snowpack Storage Data:

The Current Upper Rio Grande Basin Index is 62% of the historic median value for Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) and 68% of the historic median value for precipitation meaning that snow storage in this basin is historically low. BDD will need to be strategic with how it diverts and stores water as flows in the Rio Grande are anticipated to be quite low.

Source: <https://wcc.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

## Current El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Status Summary

As of February 2025, La Niña conditions are present in the tropical Pacific Ocean. Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are near-to-below average in the central and east-central Pacific, with above-average SSTs in the eastern Pacific. These conditions are expected to persist in the near term, with a 66% chance of transitioning to ENSO-neutral during March-May 2025.

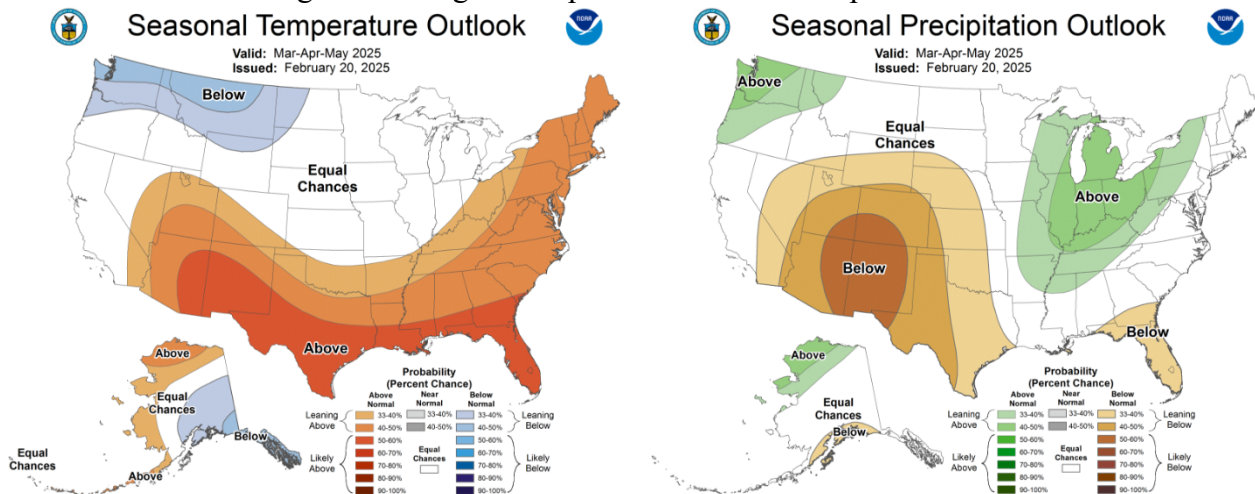
Source: [cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](https://cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

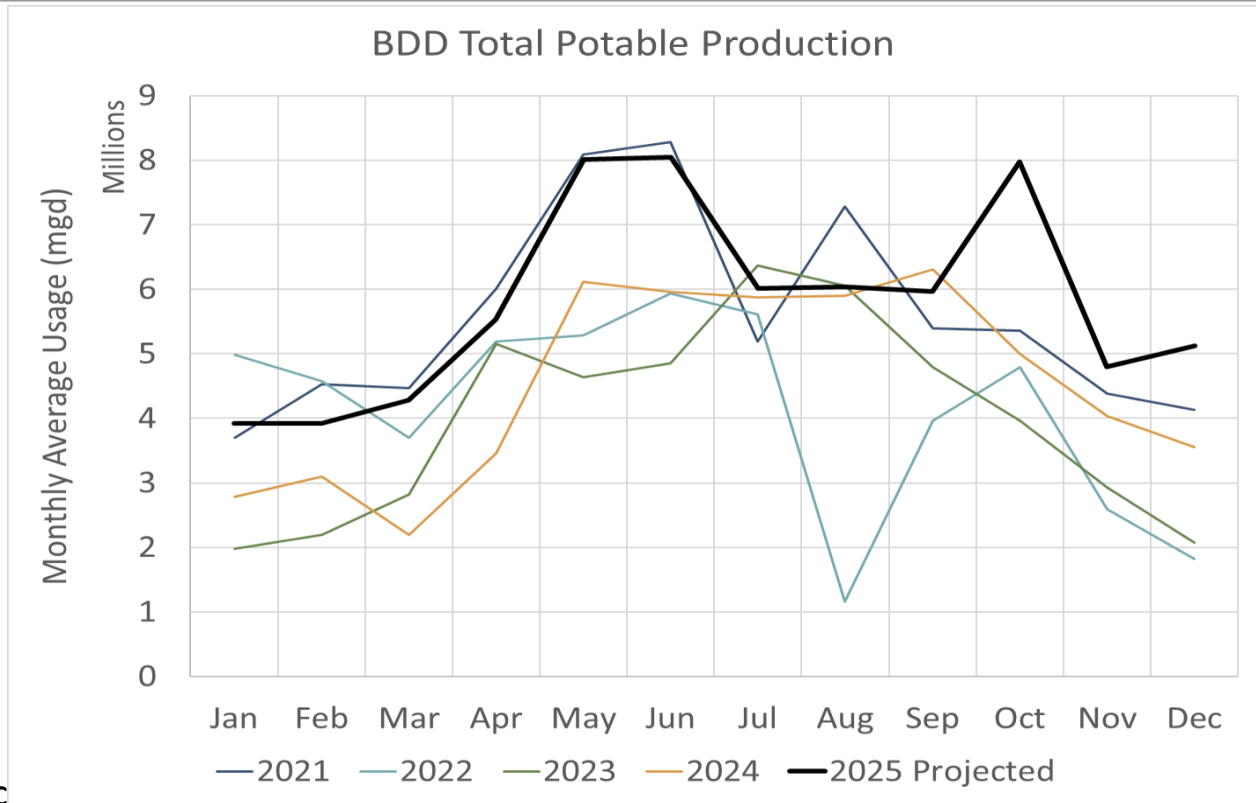
It's important to note that while La Niña conditions are currently weak, the atmospheric components are relatively strong, leading to typical La Niña impacts on temperature and precipitation in various regions.

In 75% (12 of 16) of years from 1966-2019 with El Nino conditions Jan – Mar, there was above average runoff Mar - Jun. In 80% (16 of 20) of those years with La Nina conditions in Jan - Mar there was below average runoff Mar

### Seasonal Precipitation and Temperature Outlooks:

The current precipitation outlook is below average for the region while the current temperature outlook is above average for the region. Maps of this forecast are pictured below.





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Million Gallons per Day (MGD)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total	2025 Projected
Jan	3.70	4.98	1.98	2.78	13.45	3.92
Feb	4.53	4.57	2.20	3.10	14.40	3.92
Mar	4.47	3.70	2.82	2.20	13.19	4.28
Apr	6.01	5.19	5.16	3.46	19.82	5.53
May	8.09	5.28	4.63	6.12	24.12	8.01
Jun	8.28	5.94	4.85	5.96	25.03	8.05
Jul	5.19	5.61	6.37	5.87	23.03	6.01
Aug	7.28	1.16	6.06	5.90	20.40	6.04
Sep	5.39	3.96	4.80	6.31	20.46	5.97
Oct	5.36	4.79	3.97	5.00	19.11	7.98
Nov	4.38	2.59	2.93	4.03	13.94	4.79
Dec	4.13	1.83	2.07	3.56	11.58	5.13
Grand Total	66.80	49.62	47.82	54.29	218.54	



## Buckman Direct Diversion Monthly SJC and Native Diversions

Feb-25

In Acre-Feet

Month	Total SJC + Native Rights	SP-4842 RG Native COUNTY	SD-04842-A RG Native VIA SFC LAS CAMPANAS	SJC Call Total	SP-2847-E SJC Call CITY	SP-2847-N-A SJC Call LAS CAMPANAS	SP-2847-E SJC Undiverted CITY	All Partners Conveyance Losses
JAN	328.672	113.650	0.000	215.022	215.022	0.000	0.000	2.007
FEB	329.124	30.602	0.000	298.522	298.522	0.000	0.000	2.877
MAR	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
APR	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
MAY	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
JUN	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
JUL	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
AUG	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
SEP	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
OCT	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
NOV	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
DEC	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>657.796</b>	<b>144.252</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>513.544</b>	<b>513.544</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>4.884</b>

## In Million Gallons

Month	Native COUNTY	SFC Native Las Campanas	SJC TOTAL	SJC CITY	SJC Las Campanas	SJC Undiverted CITY	All Partners Diversions
JAN	37.020	0.000	69.287	69.287	0.000	0.000	106.307
FEB	9.968	0.000	92.172	92.172	0.000	0.000	102.140
MAR	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
APR	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
MAY	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
JUN	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
JUL	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
AUG	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
SEP	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
OCT	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
NOV	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
DEC	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46.988</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>161.459</b>	<b>161.459</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>208.447</b>





Buckman Direct Diversion Monthly SJC and Native Diversions								
Dec-24		In Acre-Feet						
Month	Total SJC + Native Rights	SP-4842 RG Native COUNTY	SD-04842-A RG Native VIA SFC LAS CAMPANAS	SJC Call Total	SP-2847-E SJC Call CITY	SP-2847-N-A SJC Call LAS CAMPANAS	SP-2847-E SJC Undiverted CITY	All Partners Conveyance Losses
JAN	283.691	91.173	0.000	192.518	192.518	0.000	0.000	1.986
FEB	293.064	112.967	0.000	180.097	180.097	0.000	0.000	1.858
MAR	217.014	95.914	0.000	121.100	121.100	0.000	0.000	1.475
APR	396.998	255.245	67.230	74.523	74.523	0.000	0.000	1.004
MAY	750.899	395.038	123.438	232.423	232.423	0.000	0.000	1.347
JUN	642.136	371.118	7.114	263.905	263.905	0.000	0.000	1.743
JUL	652.169	320.362	74.513	257.295	257.295	0.000	0.000	1.166
AUG	647.277	0.000	0.000	659.885	659.885	0.000	12.608	3.210
SEP	666.797	0.000	0.000	776.587	776.587	0.000	109.791	3.604
OCT	612.559	0.000	0.000	631.170	631.170	0.000	18.612	5.811
NOV	385.574	154.074	0.000	231.501	231.501	0.000	0.000	1.755
DEC	353.083	214.183	0.000	138.900	138.900	0.000	0.000	1.053
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,901.261</b>	<b>2,010.073</b>	<b>272.294</b>	<b>3,759.904</b>	<b>3,759.904</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>141.010</b>	<b>26.014</b>

In Million Gallons								
Month	Native COUNTY	SFC Native Las Campanas	SJC TOTAL	SJC CITY	SJC Las Campanas	SJC Undiverted CITY	All Partners Diversions	
JAN	29.698	0.000	61.974	61.974	0.000	0.000	91.672	
FEB	36.797	0.000	57.976	57.976	0.000	0.000	94.773	
MAR	31.242	0.000	38.910	38.910	0.000	0.000	70.153	
APR	83.142	21.899	23.913	23.913	0.000	0.000	128.954	
MAY	128.677	40.208	74.921	74.921	0.000	0.000	243.805	
JUN	120.885	2.317	84.961	84.961	0.000	0.000	208.164	
JUL	104.352	24.271	82.879	82.879	0.000	0.000	211.503	
AUG	0.000	0.000	208.462	208.462	0.000	4.107	208.462	
SEP	0.000	0.000	214.522	214.522	0.000	35.762	214.522	
OCT	0.000	0.000	197.347	197.347	0.000	6.062	197.347	
NOV	50.187	0.000	74.729	74.729	0.000	0.000	124.916	
DEC	69.766	0.000	44.837	44.837	0.000	0.000	114.604	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>654.747</b>	<b>88.695</b>	<b>1,165.432</b>	<b>1,165.432</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>45.932</b>	<b>1,908.874</b>	



**Date:** March 1, 2025  
**To:** BDD Board  
**From:** Bradley Prada, BDD Facilities Manager  
**Re:** BDD Facilities Manager Monthly Update to the BDD Board

This report provides an update on key facility projects, procurement progress, and staffing updates for March 2025. Significant progress has been made on the Major Repair and Replacement (MR&R) projects and the Re-Build Project. Hiring efforts continue with several key positions being posted.

- **Major Repair and Replacement (MR&R) Fund.**  
BDD in collaboration with City Procurement is currently processing Purchase Orders (POs) for the Membrane Rack Replacement and Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Replacement projects. To optimize cost-effectiveness of these projects two Membrane Racks and three GAC vessels will be replaced concurrently this fiscal year. These projects received prior Board approval within the current fiscal year's budgetary process
- **BDD Re-Build Project Progress.**  
Phase II Design-Build procurement documents have been finalized and distributed to offerors. Responses, including technical solutions, schedules, and cost ranges, are due in early May.

BDD and City Procurement are leveraging the City's established on-call engineering contracts to streamline the process for securing our owner's representative. We are actively negotiating with candidates and expect to finalize the agreement in the coming months.

- **Current Job Vacancy Updates**  
BDD personnel are continuing to work diligently with City personnel to address and fill existing BDD vacancies

<u>Title</u>	<u>Status</u>
Equipment Repairman Intermediate	Filled, Started March 1st
Equipment Repair Ladder	Interviews completed, Processing selected candidates
Water Operator Advanced	Candidates selected, Processing selected candidates
Contracts Administrator	Three applicants, Pending Interviews
Journeyman Electrician	Closed, Waiting on LOE
Accounting Supervisor	Interviews completed, Processing selected candidate
Water Operator Ladder	Interviews completed, Processing selected candidates
Environmental Compliance Officer	Posted 2/25/25-3/09/25
Automation & Security Admin.	Pending Posting







**341 Caja del Rio Santa Fe, NM 87506**

March 6, 2025

Mr. Stephen Hoffman  
LANL SWEIS Document Manager, DOE/NNSA  
3747 W. Jemez Road  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

VIA USPS and EMAIL TO: [LANLSWEIS@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:LANLSWEIS@nnsa.doe.gov)

**RE: LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY DRAFT SITE-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (SWEIS) FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY**

**COMMENTS FROM BUCKMAN DIRECT DIVERSION BOARD**

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

**Background**

The Buckman Direct Diversion Board (the Board) is the governing body for the Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD), a single diversion point on the Rio Grande that the City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, and their limited partner, Las Campanas, share to divert their San Juan-Chama and native Rio Grande water rights. Diverted water is treated and introduced into the regional water system.

The BDD intake is on the Rio Grande approximately 3 miles downstream of Otowi Bridge. The BDD is in a unique position by deriving drinking water from the Rio Grande downstream of the Los Alamos National Laboratory ("LANL") and delivering it safely and effectively to its regional customers, many of which are LANL employees and contractors. Waters from the Pajarito Plateau that flow to Los Alamos Canyon and its tributaries enter the Rio Grande at their confluence approximately three miles upstream of the BDD intake structure and are of particular concern to the Board. The Board is therefore understandably concerned about water quality and quantity in the Rio Grande and water quality in Los Alamos Canyon and its tributaries.

The SWEIS broadly addresses the hexavalent chromium plume, PFAS contamination and water rights. The Board considers the hexavalent chromium plume, PFAS, and all activities associated with these contaminants, to be of significant environmental impact and concern. LANL needs to more aggressively pursue remediation of these contaminants and other contaminants in ground water, surface water, and soil. The Board provides the following specific comments.

**Comments**

The draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for Continued Operation of Los Alamos National Laboratory (SWEIS) addresses three (3) alternatives: 1) No Action Alternative, 2) Modernized Operations Alternative; and 3) Expanded Operations Alternative. The Board's primary concerns are contaminants originating from Los Alamos and Pueblo Canyons and their tributaries and groundwater discharge to the Rio Grande upstream of the BDD intake. The SWEIS, however, does not specifically address Los Alamos and Pueblo Canyons but presents a

wide range of issues that LANL is proposing to address. The Board's comments on the Draft SWEIS apply to all three alternatives and are presented topically below. The Board's comments are primarily focused on the Hexavalent Chromium plume (water quality and water rights), PFAS contamination, groundwater discharge to the Rio Grande, and fire suppression.

## **HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM PLUME**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (DOE-EM-LA) is responsible for oversight of the prime contractors implementing the investigation and cleanup of the Chromium Plume, including interim measures (IM) that were taken to mitigate plume migration until a final remedy is implemented. In March 2023 during IM operations, increases in chromium concentrations in two monitoring wells, as well as the discovery of contamination deeper than planned (but not unexpected given well construction deficiencies) resulted in NMED issuing an order to stop injection until DOE-EM-LA could ensure that chromium was not migrating beyond hydraulic control at concentrations above the 50 ppb standard. The BDD considers the Chromium Plume to be a significant negative environmental impact to ground water resources and potentially, surface water quality and must be remediated.

To address the deficiencies in the IM plan, and to come up with realistic remediation techniques, NMED and DOE-EM-LA agreed to form an Independent Review Team (IRT) to review data, perform analyses and make recommendations for future plume control, containment and remediation (REFERNCE). The IRT report was published in December 2024 and recommends *the single most important recommendation of the IRT is to restart the IM*—using a portion of the original system—while other studies and field investigations move forward. BDD agrees that the plume needs to be controlled as soon as possible, and the SWEIS' Proposed Action would increase groundwater extraction and injection rates from 150,000,000 gallons per year (gpy; 460 acre-ft/yr) to a maximum rate of 550,000,000 gpy (1687 acre-ft/year).

Remediation of the Hexavalent Chromium Plume is inextricably intertwined with water rights owned by Los Alamos County and the US Department of Energy (DOE). The DRAFT Environmental Assessment (EA) propose pumping 679 acre-ft/year. For Options 1 and 2, however, LANL proposes to divert 550,000,000 gallons per year (1688 ac-ft/yr). This volume significantly exceeds the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (OSE) pending and protested emergency application for a diversion of 679 ac-ft/yr. Both Options 1 and 2 require a new application to the OSE that must be publicly noticed for a diversion of 1688 ac-ft/yr and any Rio Grande surface water depletions resulting from the Chromium Plume remediation must be offset with wastewater treatment plant return flows, DOE surface water rights or releases of Los Alamos County's San Juan Chama contract water.

The Board encourages LANL to restart the IM program incorporating recommendations from the IRT. The remediation process should concurrently pump and treat contaminated ground water and drill additional monitoring/plume characterization wells to assess the currently undefined horizontal and vertical extent of the Chromium plume.

## **PFAS CONTAMINATION**

LANL monitors ground water, surface water and springs for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) related compounds. Figure 1 below ([Search Data - Intellus New Mexico Environmental Data](#)) shows detectable PFAS in 30 ground water and surface water/spring monitoring locations. Alluvial Well PAO-5N and intermediate wells POI-4 and R-3i in Pueblo Canyon have results above the NMED tap water screening level of 70 nanograms per liter for (PFAS). In 2021, results were 107.61, 89.7, and 75.8 nanograms per liter, respectively. In 2020, concentrations were slightly higher, at 179.4, 107.6, and 84.7 nanograms per liter, respectively. Alluvial Well LAUZ-1 in Los Alamos Canyon showed a result of 520 nanograms per liter in 2021. LAUZ-1 was not sampled in 2020. In 2022, alluvial wells PAO-5n and LAUZ-1 and intermediate wells POI-4 and R-3i in Pueblo Canyon showed results above the NMED tap water screening level of 70 nanograms per liter for PFAS; the results were 195.9, 339.6, 136.7, and 86.4 nanograms per liter, respectively. As a new emerging contaminant, this was the third sampling event for PFAS. LANL proposes to continue to monitor for PFAS at these locations (LANL 2024b). These monitoring points are upstream/upgradient from the BDD intake structure on the Rio Grande.

Alluvial monitoring wells with detectable PFAS concentrations are in direct hydrologic connection to Rio Grande surface flows. Proposed continued monitoring without plume control does not adequately address the potential environmental impacts of PFAS on BDD source-water quality and Rio Grande flows. The SWEIS should include concrete proposals for additional immediate characterization and remediation of the PFAS plume.

## **WILDFIRE**

The BDD intake on the Rio Grande is especially vulnerable to the effects of post-fire floods and debris flows that will cause BDD to cease diversions from the Rio Grande during these catastrophic events. The Board encourages LANL to aggressively plan and implement programs to reduce fire risk and have emergency contingency plans to control catastrophic flooding and debris flows similar to the catastrophic flooding and debris flows Las Vegas, New Mexico is currently experiencing in the aftermath of the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire. The Board supports the Expanded Operations Alternative which includes changes in operations, revised wildland fire risk reduction treatments and management of feral cattle.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments and look forward to your response.

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Commissioner Justin Greene  
Santa Fe County Commission District 1  
BDD Board Chairperson

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Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth  
Santa Fe City Council District 2  
BDD Board Vice Chairperson

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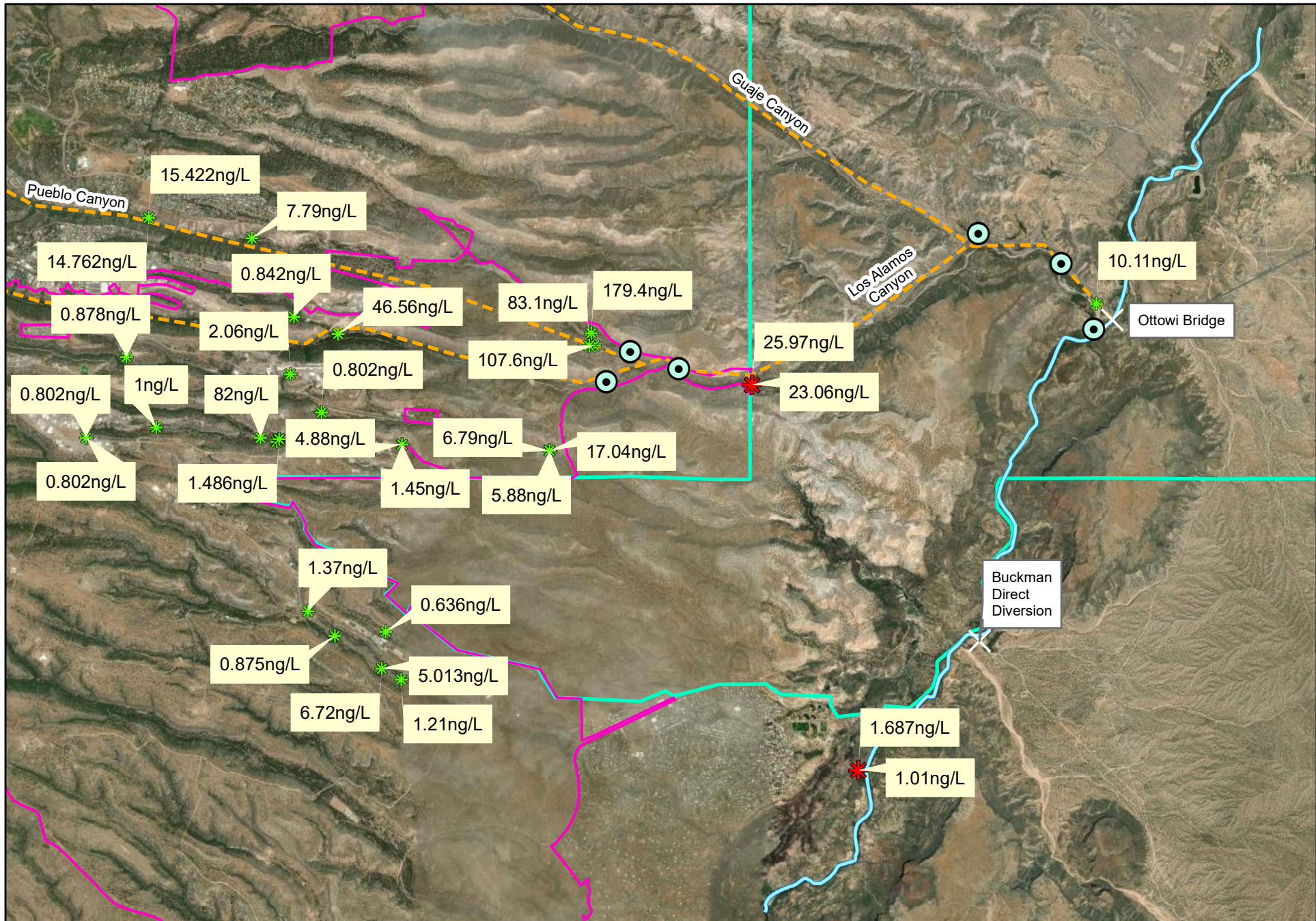
Commissioner Hank Hughes  
Santa Fe County Commission District 5  
BDD Board Member

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Councilor Jamie Cassutt  
City of Santa Fe Council District 4  
BDD Board Member

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Rolf Schmid-Peterson  
Citizen Member  
BDD Board Member



**PFAS Detections from LANL sampling in GW and Springs**

-  Early Notification System
-  LANL Boundary
-  PFAS Detection in Springs/Surface Water
-  Pueblo de San Ildefonso Boundary
-  PFAS Detection in Groundwater
-  Rio Grande





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**BUCKMAN DIRECT DIVERSION BOARD POLICY  
TAPPING TRANSMISSION LINES**

**Effective Date: March 6, 2025**

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**PURPOSE**

The Buckman Direct Diversion ("BDD") Board, in planning for future connections to its system, provided ten (10) Blind Tees to the BDD 5A Transmission Line at the time of construction of the BDD Project. Using only the Blind Tees for water line connections provides proper and safe connections to the BDD Transmission Lines. Allowing the Transmission Lines to be tapped outside of the Blind Tees may result in leaks and could otherwise negatively impact the Project. Additionally, utilizing only the Blind Tees for water line connections creates a Distribution Line where outages, if they occur, will be more localized.

Tapping a Transmission Line outside the Blind Tees may also have the following consequences:

1. Difficulty with long term planning;
2. Degradation of the integrity of the lines;
3. Creation of dead-end lines;
4. Addition of meters and resultant complexity which can lead to possible inaccuracies in BDD's water accounting system; and
5. Increased likelihood of line leaks.

**Policy Definitions**

"BDD Project" or "Project" means the Buckman Direct Diversion Project which diverts surface water from the Rio Grande, and includes diversion, treatment, transmission and related infrastructure used to deliver water to the respective independent water systems of the City of Santa Fe ("City"), Santa Fe County ("County"), and the Club at Las Campanas.

"BDD 4A and 5A Finished Water Pipelines" means the Transmission Lines described as follows:

BDD 4A Transmission Line:

- Beginning at the BDDWTP Booster Pump Station 4A (BS4A) the BDD 4A Transmission Line delivers finished water to City Booster Station 3 (BS3) and City Booster Station 4 (BS4) and includes:
  - Approximately 4.3 miles of 30-inch ductile iron (DI) pipeline from BS4A at the BDDWTP to BS3.



- Approximately 3.6 miles of 24-inch DI pipeline from BS3 to BS4, parallel to the City owned pipeline between BS3 and BS4 originally constructed to convey water from the Buckman Wellfield to the City.

"BDDWTP" means the Buckman Direct Diversion Water Treatment Plant.

BDD 5A Transmission Line:

- Beginning at the BDDWTP Booster Pump Station 5A (BS5A), the BDD 5A Transmission Line delivers finished water through the Caja Del Rio Transmission Line to three connection points in the distribution system: (1) South Meadows Rd, (2) Airport Rd and Paseo De River Street, and (3) the Santa Fe County Water Line south of I-25 and includes:
  - Approximately 3.9 miles of 24-inch DI pipeline from Booster Station BS5A along Caja Del Rio.
  - Approximately 1.2 miles of 24-inch DI pipeline from the end of the Caja Del Rio potable water pipeline to the South Meadows Road potable water pipeline connection.
  - Approximately 4.9 miles of 16-inch DI pipeline from the end of the Caja Del Rio potable water pipeline to the Santa Fe County Water Line south of I-25.

"Blind Tees" means a "T" shaped section of pipe and valve within a BDD finished water Transmission Line that was installed specifically on the BDD 5A Transmission Line for future expansion of the City or County water distribution systems, as listed below:

**BDD Finished Water Transmission Line Blind Tee Locations**

	<b>Description</b>	<b>Sheet#*</b>
1	Caja del Rio @ WTP Access Road	39
2	Caja del Rio @ Casa Del Rio (County Road 69)	45
3	Caja del Rio @ Wildlife Way	47
4	Caja del Rio @ Archaeology Building	50
5	Caja del Rio @ Animal Shelter	51
6	Caja del Rio@ 599 (Just North of Caja del Rio)	103
7	NM 599@ County Public Works Complex	82
8	NM 599 @ Jaguar Drive	89
9	NM 599 @ South of Jaguar Drive	89
10	NM 599 @ Los Pinos Drive	100

\*BDDWTP Raw Water and Finished Water Pipeline record drawings

"Distribution Line," (including individual customer connections and distribution mains) means any line conveying water to customers and fire protection systems from a common source.

"Transmission Line" means any pipeline conveying treated water from the BDDWTP to existing City or County Transmission or Distribution Lines.

"Tapping a Transmission Line" means connecting a new distribution line to an existing Transmission Line by applying a tapping sleeve and drilling a hole through the water line.

**POLICY**

No connections will be allowed to the BDD 4A Transmission Line. All future connections to the BDD 5A Transmission Line will be solely through the use of the existing Blind Tees. Any connection proposing to tap the BDD 4A Transmission Line, or BDD 5A Transmission Line without using an existing Blind Tee is prohibited.

Connection to the BDD 5A Transmission Line at a Blind Tee will require BDD Board approval of the connection, adherence to BDD connection specifications, and installation of a master meter to BDD specifications. Once the connection and master meter have been inspected and accepted by the BDD Facilities Manager, the master meter will be dedicated to, and become part of, the BDD Project. BDD connection specifications and master meter specifications are included as a drawing with notes for either 6” or 8” master meters as an attachment to this policy.

**APPROVAL**

The BDD Board has adopted this Policy on the date set forth above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Justin Greene  
BDD Board Chair


\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

**ATTEST:**

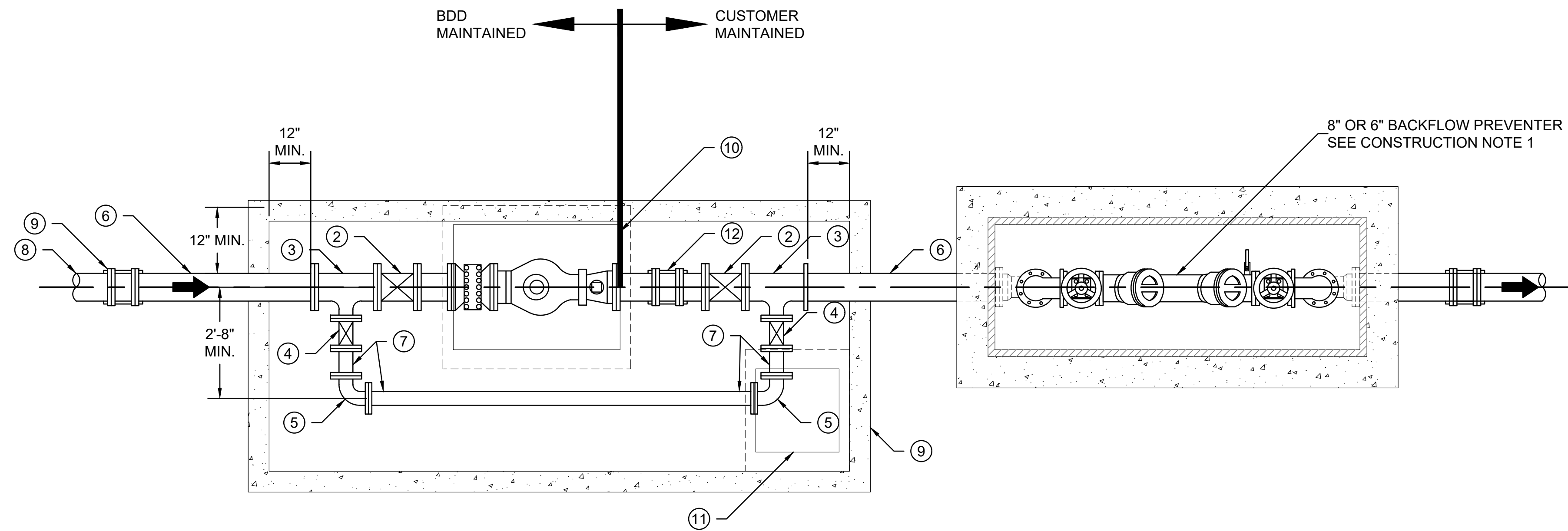
\_\_\_\_\_  
Katharine E. Clark  
Santa Fe County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

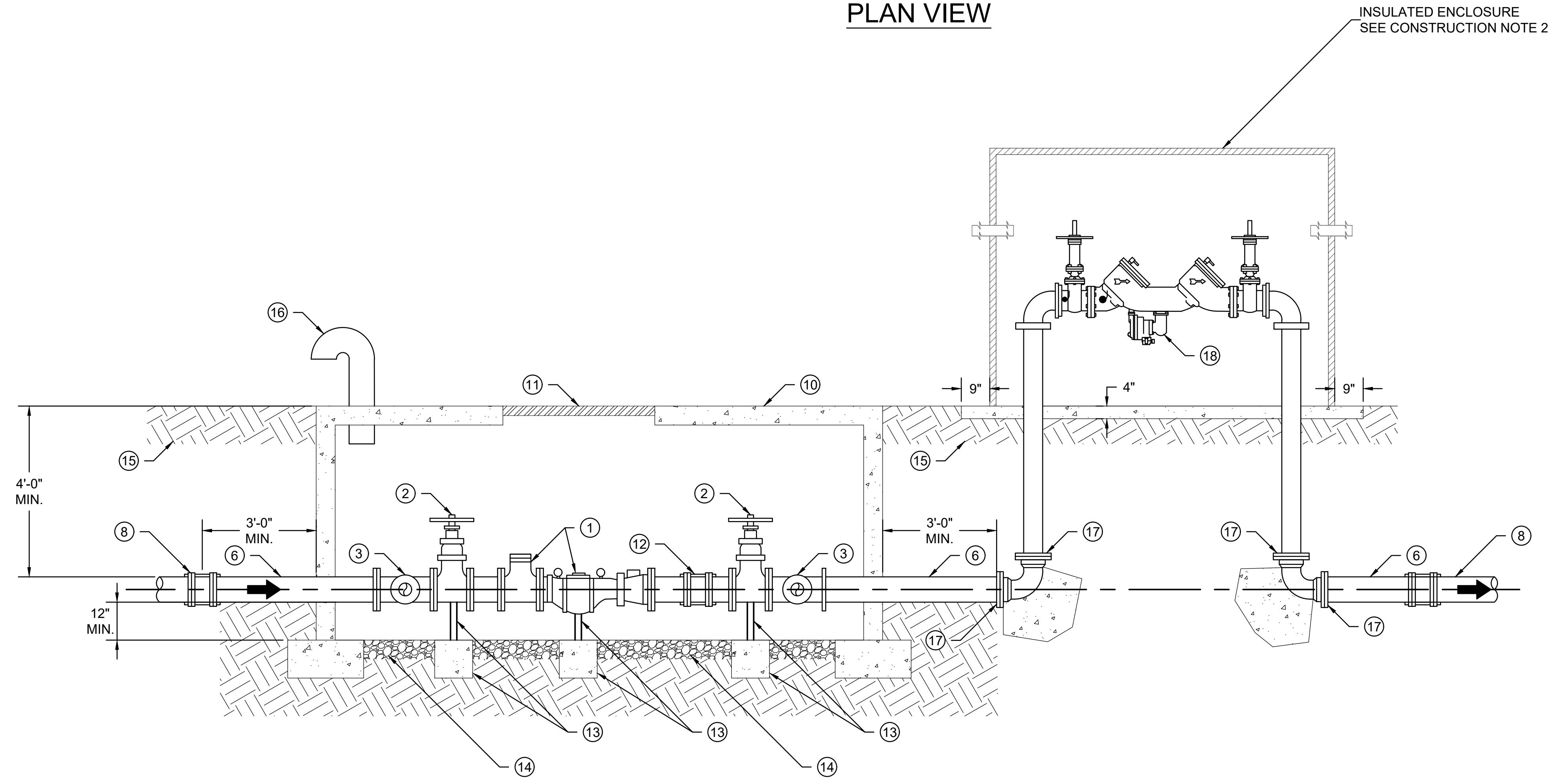
**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
Nancy Long (Feb 20, 2025 15:53 MST)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy R. Long  
Agency Attorney

**Feb 20, 2025**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:



**PLAN VIEW**



**SECTION VIEW**

**KEYNOTES**

- ① INSTALL 8" OR 6" WATER METER ASSEMBLY WITH 8" OR 6" STRAINER BOTH FURNISHED, INSTALLED AND MAINTAINED BY BDD.
- ② INSTALL 8" OR 6" GATE VALVE DI FLxFL
- ③ INSTALL 8" OR 6" x 4" TEE DI FLxFL
- ④ INSTALL 4" GATE VALVE DI FLxFL
- ⑤ INSTALL 4" 90 DEG. BEND DI FLxFL
- ⑥ INSTALL 8" OR 6" DI PIPE
- ⑦ INSTALL 4" DI PIPE
- ⑧ INSTALL SOLID SLEEVE WITH THRUST RESTRAINTS CONNECTION BETWEEN 8" OR 6" DI AND 8" OR 6" PVC PIPE.
- ⑨ INSTALL PREFABRICATION VAULT WITH FOOTINGS. CONTRACTOR SHALL SUBMIT SHOP DRAWINGS AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING CALCULATIONS FOR APPROVAL PRIOR TO FABRICATION OF VAULT.
- ⑩ INSTALL 36" x 48" TO BE ENGINEER APPROVED.
- ⑪ INSTALL 24" x 24" TO BE ENGINEER APPROVED.
- ⑫ INSTALL 8" OR 6" DISMANTLING JOINT TO BE ENGINEER APPROVED.
- ⑬ INSTALL ADJUSTABLE PIPE SUPPORT WITH SADDLE TO MATCH PIPE SIZE WITH 12" x 12" x 12" CONCRETE SUPPORTS (TYP)
- ⑭ GRAVEL FLOOR 3/4" CRUSHED - 6" THICK
- ⑮ COMPACTED BACKFILL IN ACCORDANCE WITH BDD STANDARDS.
- ⑯ INSTALL 8" VENT WITH SCREEN.
- ⑰ INSTALL THRUST RESTRAINT.
- ⑱ RELIEF VALVE ASSEMBLY

**CONSTRUCTION NOTES**

- 1. BACKFLOW PREVENTER MODEL TO BE APPROVED BY ENGINEER. BACKFLOW PREVENTER SHALL BE INSTALLED ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER'S SPECIFICATIONS.
- 2. HOT BOX SHALL BE A HEAVY DUTY, HEATED AND SECURE. INSTALL HOT BOX ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURER'S SPECIFICATIONS.

	8" OR 6" MASTER METER	
	DRAWN BY:	DATE:
CHECKED:	SCALE: N/A	01
APPROVED:		