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Bruce M. Thomson, P.E., Director

Kevin W. Troutman
Executive Director



**Albuquerque
Metropolitan
Arroyo
Flood
Control
Authority**

2600 Prospect N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87107
Phone: (505) 884-2215 Fax: (505) 884-0214
Website: www.amafca.org

Dear Chair and Members of the Commission,

As an elected member of the Albuquerque Metropolitan Flood Control Authority, I am charged with protecting our communities, infrastructure, and environment from the growing risks of flooding and water scarcity. While our mission focuses on flood control, we cannot ignore the larger reality — water management in New Mexico now demands that we think beyond just moving water out of harm's way. We must also plan for how to preserve and supplement our dwindling supplies.

The Rio Grande, the lifeline of our region, is facing some of its lowest flows in recorded history. In recent years, large sections south of Albuquerque have run dry for months at a time, leaving riparian ecosystems stressed and reducing recharge to aquifers. These conditions, worsened by climate change, place extraordinary pressure on both flood control and water supply infrastructure.

For these reasons, I support the Water Access, Treatment & Reuse Alliance petition for rulemaking. The proposal sets rigorous, science-based standards for the reuse of treated produced water for non-consumptive purposes, including comprehensive water testing, whole effluent toxicity analysis, strict engineering and waste management plans, and financial assurance requirements. Just as importantly, it prohibits direct potable use, food crop irrigation, and other consumptive applications that could endanger public health.

By safely reusing treated produced water for industrial, ecological restoration, and dust control projects, we can reduce demand on our limited freshwater supplies. This can help maintain critical flows in the Rio Grande and provide resilience in times of drought. It also aligns with the goals of New Mexico's 50-Year Water Action Plan to diversify our water portfolio and invest in long-term infrastructure solutions.

I urge the Commission to advance this petition, hold the proposed hearing in Jal to hear from impacted communities, and ensure that New Mexico leads the nation in responsible water innovation. Our infrastructure planning depends on it.

Sincerely,
Orlando Martinez
Elected Board Member
Albuquerque Metropolitan Flood Control Authority