

## **NEWS RELEASE**

April 9, 2013

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### **Grant County Democratic Party Unanimously Approves Non-Diversion AWSA Water Project**

Silver City, NM - Delegates to the April 6, 2013, Grant County Democratic Party Convention unanimously approved a resolution declaring support for the Grant County Water Commission's (GCWC) AWSA Regional Water Project proposal. This proposal is one of 16 proposed southwest New Mexico projects now being evaluated by the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission under the Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA).

Under the AWSA, the state of New Mexico may elect to use \$66 million of a guaranteed federal subsidy for meeting non-diversion water supply demands in Catron, Luna, Hidalgo, and Grant counties.

The GCWC's proposal includes the development of a new water well field in the vicinity of Grant County Airport and a water pipeline from the well field to the Town of Hurley, which does not have its own supply of water. Hurley currently gets its water from the Freeport-McMoRan mine, but the contract with the mine will expire in about six years.

In addition, the Grant County Democratic Party resolution supports using Grant County's share of the \$66 million AWSA subsidy to help pay for the infrastructure construction of an inter-community pipeline that would link the public water supplies of Hurley, Bayard, Santa Clara, Silver City, and public water delivery systems in adjacent unincorporated areas. The resolution also supports the equitable expenditure among the counties of Catron, Grant, Hidalgo and Luna of the \$66 million AWSA subsidy for non-diversion water projects that meet these county's critical long-term water needs.

"We use resolutions sparingly," Mary Hotvedt, re-elected GCDP Chair, said. "That the resolution passed unanimously was a show of unity over a critical issue to the region's vitality: The safety of a future water supply for our county's communities. It was a no-brainer for convention delegates to support the use of the \$66 million AWSA subsidy for Grant County Water Commission's non-diversion project."

"Because the project would rely on existing water sources to support a regional water distribution system and would be paid for at least in part by the guaranteed federal AWSA subsidy if it's funded, it is clearly the best way to go," Walter "Ski" Szymanski, the resolution's author said. "Hopefully, the ISC commissioners will also see the value of this project. The Grant County Democratic Party calls on the Interstate Stream Commissioners to approve the \$15 million in AWSA funds that the Grant County Water Commission project asks for."

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## **GRANT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

### **A RESOLUTION DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE GRANT COUNTY WATER COMMISSION AWSA REGIONAL WATER PROJECT PROPOSAL**

**Whereas**, the Town of Hurley, the City of Bayard, the Village of Santa Clara, the Town of Silver City, and the County of Grant have come together under a Joint Powers Agreement as the the Grant County Water Commission to formally develop a Regional Water Supply and Distribution System to meet existing and future demand for drinking water for the municipalities of Grant County and adjacent unincorporated areas<sup>1</sup>; and

**Whereas**, the Grant County Water Commission's Regional Water Project Proposal under consideration for funding by the Interstate Stream Commission under the Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA) includes the development of a new water well field in the vicinity of Grant County Airport; and

**Whereas**, construction of this well field would include three wells, a treatment facility, other necessary infrastructure, and a water pipeline from the well field to Hurley; and

**Whereas**, the Town of Hurley does not have its own supply of water; and

**Whereas**, the development of this well field would make 193 acre feet of water from existing water rights immediately available to Hurley; and

**Whereas**, the Grant County Water Commission Regional Water Project Proposal<sup>2</sup> also includes infrastructure construction of an inter-community pipeline that would link the public water supplies of Hurley, Bayard, Santa Clara, Silver City, and public water delivery systems in adjacent unincorporated areas; and

**Whereas**, this inter-community pipeline would deliver water as needed by the participating entities to supplement their own water supplies; and

**Whereas**, the Grant County Water Commission's Regional Water Project will develop a total of 943 acre feet of water rights for Silver City and the mining district; and

**Whereas**, the Grant County Water Commission's Regional Water Project Proposal is intended to improve and augment access to public water supplies that currently serve 26,000 people in central Grant County; and

**Whereas**, under the Arizona Water Settlements Act<sup>3</sup> the southwest New Mexico counties of Catron, Grant, Hidalgo and Luna may elect to share a \$66 million federal subsidy for non-diversion water projects that meet a water supply demand; and

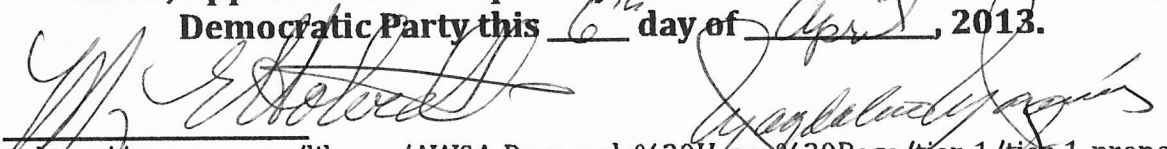
**Whereas**, the development of the new well field in the vicinity of Grant County Airport and the construction of the inter-community pipeline meet the definition of a water project that meets a water supply demand; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Grant County Democratic Party supports the equitable expenditure among the counties of Catron, Grant, Hidalgo and Luna of the \$66 million AWSA subsidy for non-diversion water projects that meet these county's critical long-term water needs; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Grant County Democratic Party supports using Grant County's share of the \$66 million AWSA subsidy to help pay for the development of a new water well field in the vicinity of Grant County Airport, which would provide the Town of Hurley with its own supply of water; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Grant County Democratic Party supports using Grant County's share of the \$66 million AWSA subsidy to help pay for the infrastructure construction of an inter-community pipeline that would link the public water supplies of Hurley, Bayard, Santa Clara, Silver City, and public water delivery systems in adjacent unincorporated areas.

**Passed, Approved and Adopted by the Members of the Grant County Democratic Party this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013.**

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1. [http://nmawsa.org/library/AWSA-Proposals%20Home%20Page/tier-1/tier-1-proposals/awsa-tier-1-grant-county-water-commission-regional-supply/AWSA-Tier-1-Grant-County-Water-Commission-Regional-Supply.pdf/at\\_download/file](http://nmawsa.org/library/AWSA-Proposals%20Home%20Page/tier-1/tier-1-proposals/awsa-tier-1-grant-county-water-commission-regional-supply/AWSA-Tier-1-Grant-County-Water-Commission-Regional-Supply.pdf/at_download/file)
  2. [http://nmawsa.org/library/AWSA-Proposals%20Home%20Page/tier-2-final-proposals/tier-2-final-proposals/grant-county-water-commission-infrastructure-proposal/gcwc-infrastructure-and-reuse-proposal/at\\_download/file](http://nmawsa.org/library/AWSA-Proposals%20Home%20Page/tier-2-final-proposals/tier-2-final-proposals/grant-county-water-commission-infrastructure-proposal/gcwc-infrastructure-and-reuse-proposal/at_download/file)
  3. <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-108publ451/pdf/PLAW-108publ451.pdf>

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