

## CITY OF HOBBS

RESOLUTION NO. 7684A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE  
RESPONSIBLE REUSE OF PRODUCED WATER

**WHEREAS**, water is the foundation of life in New Mexico, sustaining families, communities, agriculture, businesses, and ecosystems across our state; and in Hobbs we know that without reliable water supplies, our ability to grow food, sustain communities, and build a stable economy is immediately at risk; and

**WHEREAS**, communities in New Mexico have faced persistent drought, declining river flows, receding aquifer levels, and catastrophic wildfires that have destroyed watersheds and highlighted the fragility of our resources, and local governments in regions such as ours are the ones who bear the responsibility of managing these crises when they strike, whether through emergency restrictions, difficult planning decisions, or direct communication with affected constituents; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of Hobbs understand the urgency of protecting, conserving, and diversifying water resources for current and future generations, and recognize that while conservation remains vital, conservation alone is not enough to solve the magnitude of water challenges facing New Mexico, and in particular Southeast New Mexico, in the years to come; and

**WHEREAS**, produced water — the water that comes to the surface during oil and gas development — has historically been treated as a waste product and injected back underground, but responsible treatment and reuse of this water presents a significant opportunity to reduce demand on fresh water supplies while creating a new pathway for innovation and economic diversification in our region; and

**WHEREAS**, responsibly treating and reusing produced water has the potential to reduce pressure on aquifers, preserve river flows, and provide additional resources for industrial processes and compact compliance, all while ensuring that clean, fresh water is prioritized for drinking, agriculture, and ecosystems that depend on it; and

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico cannot rely on the discovery of new water resources and must instead look to innovative, science-based solutions such as produced water reuse and brackish water treatment to strengthen resilience and ensure sustainable growth, and failure to act will only result in higher costs and greater hardships for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, states such as Texas are already advancing projects to clean and reuse produced water, and New Mexico is missing opportunities by transporting produced water across our borders for disposal or beneficial reuse rather than developing facilities here in Southeast New Mexico that could provide services, jobs, and water for the citizens of Hobbs; and

**WHEREAS**, building treatment and reuse infrastructure in New Mexico can create good-paying jobs, foster new industries, and diversify local economies, particularly in rural and energy-producing regions like ours where every new opportunity for employment and growth has an outsized impact on families, schools, and small businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the responsible reuse of produced water must be done in partnership with communities, local governments, research institutions, industry, and conservation groups, with transparency, strong environmental safeguards, and oversight to ensure trust, and the people of our region are prepared to work collaboratively with all parties to ensure these standards are met; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Hobbs deserve to have their voices heard in policy discussions that directly affect them, and hearings of the Water Quality Control Commission related to the reuse of treated produced water should be conducted in the regions where activity and development would take place, so that those most impacted can participate directly in shaping the policies that affect their daily lives; and

**WHEREAS**, delaying or stifling hearings because of political pressure, media narratives, or public outcry from communities far removed from the areas of activity does a disservice to the people who live with the realities of water scarcity, drought planning, and wildfire recovery, and local governments in regions like ours should not be sidelined in favor of distant voices that are not held accountable for providing water to households, enforcing restrictions, or responding to constituents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Commission of the City of Hobbs, New Mexico:

1. That the City of Hobbs supports the continued study, pilot projects, and responsible development of produced water treatment and reuse as a tool to protect freshwater resources, meet compact obligations, and strengthen local economies.
2. That the City of Hobbs calls on the State of New Mexico and federal agencies to work in genuine partnership with local governments, water districts, landowners, industry, and community stakeholders to ensure that all produced water reuse projects are conducted transparently, with science-based safeguards, rigorous monitoring, and strong environmental protections.

3. That the City of Hobbs affirms that policy should not be dictated by distant interests or narratives from communities where this activity will not occur but must instead be shaped through constructive engagement with the communities that are and will manage the real-world consequences of water scarcity and development.
4. That the City of Hobbs strongly urges the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission to hold hearings and public meetings in Hobbs, as there is no other region more directly affected by produced water activity. Holding these hearings and meetings in Hobbs ensures that the voices of local communities are placed at the forefront of decision-making.
5. That the City of Hobbs strongly opposes holding hearings in Santa Fe or any other unaffected or marginally affected community on the matter of reusing treated produced water. Holding hearings in Santa Fe or any other unaffected or marginally affected community on the matter of reusing treated produced water would be an affront to the principles of representative democracy and due process and an affront to the people of Southeast New Mexico.
6. That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the New Mexico Environment Department, the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission, and the legislative delegation representing the City of Hobbs.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025.

  
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SAM D. COBB, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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JAN FLETCHER, City Clerk

