

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
BEFORE THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS to 20.6.8 NMAC –
Ground and Surface Water Protection –
Supplemental Requirements
For Reuse of Treated Produced Water

No. WQCC 25-34 (R)

Water Access Treatment & Reuse Alliance,
Petitioner.

**VILLEGAS PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE NEW MEXICO HOUSE REPUBLICAN
CAUCUS RESPONSE IN THEIR SUPPORT OF ADVANCING THE RESPONSIBLE
TREATMENT AND REUSE OF PRODUCED WATER UNDER DOCKET NO. 25-34**

El Valle De La Cieneguilla Land Grant, located in Santa Fe County, respectfully submits this statement in opposition to the advancement of produced water reuse initiatives in New Mexico. The opposition is grounded in substantial environmental justice concerns and the documented history of groundwater contamination affecting indigenous and low-income communities.

The undersigned asserts the state and local authorities have failed to adequately address ongoing risks posed by industrial chemical pollutants and distribution of dangerous chemicals by the Gas and Oil Industry.

Furthermore, the reuse of produced water does not constitute legitimate reclamation or remediation under applicable legal and regulatory standards. The matter transcends an unequal partisan consideration and is fundamentally a question of protecting the public health and safety of all residents of New Mexico.

In conclusion, it is for this legitimate reason the advancement of produce water reuse in New Mexico should be denied due to significant environmental justice concerns and documented history of groundwater contamination that has been directly connected to the New Mexico Gas and Oil Industry. The precious water supply in New Mexico by no means is being protected by the state and local authorities who claim they are responsible to ensure the natural resources of our water supply is not being abused by the New Mexico Gas and Oil Industry ill-advised plan to advancement of produced water reuse initiatives. It is a false notion and broken promises that members of the New Mexico House Republican Caucus continue to exhibit in their October 10, 2025, letter to the Water Quality Control Commission.

The undersigned does not perceive the threat to the environment and its inhabitants as part of the dismissal mindset that our state legislature leadership continues to exhibit relating to this matter. The threat of elimination and adverse impact on our precious water resource is “real” and we must live with the consequences and negative ramifications if this advancement of produced water reuse initiatives is approved by the Water Quality Control Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,

By: /s/ Jose Anguamea Lorenzo Villegas, Sr.
Jose Anguamea Lorenzo Villegas, Sr.
10 Camino Torcido Loop
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507
Telephone: 505-470-7046
Email: caselda2010@hotmail.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of my entry of appearance was served by electronic mail on
____ October 22, 2025 _____, to the persons listed below:

Pamela Jones
Commission Administrator
1190 Saint Francis Drive, Suite S2102
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Pamela.jones@state.nm.us

Felicia Orth
Commission Administrator
1190 Saint Francis Drive, Suite S2102
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Felicia.l.orth@gmail.com

Eduardo Ugarte, II
Assistant Attorney General
New Mexico Department of Justice
P.O. Box 1508
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504
eugarte@nmdoj.gov

Jennifer Bradfute
Matthias Sayer
Bradfute Consulting & Legal Services d/b/a
Bradfute Sayer P.C.
P.O. Box 90233

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87199
jennifer@bradfutelaw.com
matthias@bradfutelaw.com

Colin Cox
Gail Evans
The Center for Biological Diversity
1025 ½ Lomas NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
ccox@biologicaldiversity.org
gevans@biologicaldiversity.org

Mariel Nanasi
Senior Attorney and Executive Director
New Energy Economy
422 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87501
MNanasi@NewEnergyEconomy.org

Tannis Fox
Senior Attorney
Western Environmental Law Center
409 East Palace Avenue, Suite 2
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
505.629.0732 fox@westernlaw.org
Mario Atencio mpatencio@gmail.com
Daniel Tso detso49@gmail.com

Bruce Wetherbee
60 Thoreau Street # 103
Concord, Massachusetts 01742
editor@thecandlepublishing.com

Nicholas Maxwell
P.O. Box 1064
Hobbs, New Mexico 88241
inspector@sunshineaudit.com

Adam Rankin
Cristina Mulcahy
Lila C. Jones
Holland and Hart, LLP
110 North Guadalupe, Suite 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
AGRRankin@hollandhart.com
CAMulcahy@hollandhart.com
LCJones@hollandhart.com

Jolene L. McCaleb
Elizabeth Newlin Taylor
Taylor & McCaleb, P.A.
P.O. Box 2540
Corrales, New Mexico 87048-2540
jmccaleb@taylormccaleb.com
etaylor@taylormccaleb.com

Jeffrey J. Wechsler
Kari E. Olson
Sharon T. Shaheen
Spencer Fane, LLP
P.O. Box 2307
Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87504
jwechsler@spencerfane.com
kaolson@spencerfane.com
sshaheen@spencerfane.com

Tim Davis
WildEarth Guardians
301 North Guadalupe St.
Ste. 201
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(205) 913-6425
tdavis@wildearthguardians.org

Jose Anguamea Lorenzo Villegas, Sr.
El Valle De La Cieneguilla Land Grant
10 Camino Torcido Loop
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507
caselda2010@hotmail.com

Tannis Fox
Senior Attorney
Western Environmental Law Center
409 East Palace Avenue, Suite 2
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
505.629.0732
fox@westernlaw.org
Attorney for Amigos Bravos, Citizens
Caring for the Future, Sierra Club, and
Western Environmental Law Center

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