

*Pamela Jones*

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
COUNTY OF LEA  
RESOLUTION NO. 25-OCT-248R

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RESPONSIBLE REUSE OF TREATED PRODUCED WATER IN  
LEA COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Lea County powers New Mexico's energy economy, hosting dense networks of wells, gathering systems, and midstream assets, which gives residents the most to gain and lose from how produced water is managed; *and*

**WHEREAS**, persistent drought and declining aquifer levels have pushed ranches, small water systems, and rural subdivisions in Lea County to the brink during dry cycles; *and*

**WHEREAS**, a significant share of the produced water generated in Lea County that could be safely treated for non-potable uses is going to Texas. Unless New Mexico clears the way for reuse, Lea County will continue exporting this resource, along with the jobs and economic upside that come with it; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Lea County's workforce and service sector are uniquely positioned to staff and monitor treatment facilities with rigorous, transparent safeguards.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Lea County:

1. That Lea County supports the reuse of treated produced water for non-potable uses as these projects will reduce reliance on our scarce freshwater resources, yet still attract increased and diverse investment in Lea County;
2. That any reuse project in Lea County must meet applicable regulatory standards established on the basis of credible science;
3. That the Water Quality Control Commission must hold hearings on this issue in Lea County to focus on and consider local impacts and expertise;
4. That Lea County opposes the Water Quality Control Commission selecting Santa Fe or any other unaffected community as a venue for the hearing on the petition pending before the Commission. Holding hearings on this issue in an unaffected community deliberately sidelines impacted communities;
5. That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor, the New Mexico Environment Department, the Water Quality Control Commission, and Lea County's legislative delegation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission Chair and/or County Manager may finalize and sign any documents consistent with the terms of this resolution.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October 2025 by the Lea County Board of County Commissioners in an open meeting in Lovington, New Mexico.

LEA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Gary G. Eidson*

Gary G. Eidson (District 3), Chair  
Voted:  Yes No Abstain

*Bradley Weber*

Brad Weber (District 2), Vice Chair  
Voted:  Yes No Abstain

*Dee Ann Kimbro*

Dee Ann Kimbro (District 1), Member  
Voted:  Yes No Abstain

*Tyson Pierce*

Tyson Pierce (District 4), Member  
Voted:  Yes No Abstain

*Pat Sims*

Pat Sims (District 5), Member  
Voted:  Yes No Abstain

ATTEST: Carrie Sandoval  
Lea County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: *Cynthia Ramirez*  
Cynthia Ramirez, Deputy Clerk

*John W. Caldwell*  
John W. Caldwell, County Attorney

