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**CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-\_\_**

**INTRODUCED BY:**

**A RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe recognizes the ecological, cultural, and aesthetic benefits of a healthy and vibrant riparian corridor along the historic Santa Fe River channel; and

**WHEREAS**, the goal of the City of Santa Fe is to re-establish a continuous and functional riparian corridor through the historic Santa Fe River channel; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe desires to establish the Santa Fe River as a free-flowing watercourse through its historic channel to enhance ecological function, augment conveyance efficiencies, improve water quality, and provide community benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, informed decision-making regarding infrastructure modifications is crucial to achieving a free-flowing river while ensuring public safety and responsible resource management;

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WHEREAS, the City is committed to restoring the Santa Fe River as a living river and has formalized this commitment through **Article 25-13 SFCC 1987**, known as the **Santa Fe River Target Flow Ordinance**, and its corresponding **Administrative Procedures adopted by Resolution 2012-28**, which guide the implementation of target flows and adaptive river management:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SANTA FE shall direct the River Commission and the City Manager to work with staff to:**

1. **OUTLINE THE PROCESS AND REQUIRED DATA GATHERING TO ESTABLISH THE SANTA FE RIVER THROUGH THE HISTORIC CHANNEL:** The City of Santa Fe hereby declares its commitment to establishing the Santa Fe River as the primary watercourse through its historic channel, to the extent feasible and consistent with sound engineering practices and legal requirements. This effort shall remain consistent with the Santa Fe River Target Flow Ordinance and its administrative framework, including the use of up to 1,000 acre-feet per year for bypass flows below Nichols Reservoir to support ecological and community objectives
2. **ENGAGE A COMPREHENSIVE ENGINEERING ANALYSIS OF THE TWO MILE POND COMPLEX AND RIPARIAN CORRIDOR:** The City of Santa Fe shall, through its Public Works Department or a qualified consultant, conduct a comprehensive engineering analysis of the Two Mile Pond complex and the entire riparian corridor located between Nichols Reservoir and the confluence of the existing bypass channel and the Santa Fe River. This analysis shall include, but not be limited to:
  - Hydrology and hydraulic modeling to understand flow dynamics and potential impacts of channel modifications.
  - Geotechnical investigations to assess soil stability and foundation conditions.

- 1           ○ Sediment transport analysis to understand current and potential sediment
- 2           movement.
- 3           ○ Ecological assessments to evaluate existing riparian habitat and potential
- 4           benefits of a re-established channel.

5 These analyses will be integrated with the hydrologic benchmarks and adaptive strategies  
6 outlined in the Administrative Procedures for Santa Fe River Target Flows.

7 **3. EVALUATION OF EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE:** The engineering  
8 analysis shall include a thorough evaluation of all existing infrastructure within  
9 the Two Mile Pond complex and the defined riparian corridor. This evaluation  
10 will determine the purpose and current need for each structure, assess its  
11 condition, and identify any impediments it poses to achieving a free-flowing river  
12 through the historic channel.

13 **4. DESIGN AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW INFRASTRUCTURE:** Where  
14 feasible and deemed necessary based on the engineering analysis, the City of  
15 Santa Fe shall design and establish new infrastructure to facilitate a free-flowing  
16 Santa Fe River through the historic river channel. This may include, but not be  
17 limited to:

- 18           ○ Modifications or removal of existing structures that impede flow.
- 19           ○ Construction of culverts, bridges, or other crossings to accommodate
- 20           natural flow regimes and Living River adaptive management goals.
- 21           ○ Implementation of bank stabilization measures to protect infrastructure
- 22           and enhance riparian habitat.

23 **5. FEASIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY:** All engineering analysis,  
24 infrastructure evaluation, and new infrastructure design shall prioritize the  
25 feasibility and long-term sustainability of a free-flowing Santa Fe River through  
26 the historic channel, taking into account ecological benefits, water resource  
27 management, public safety, and financial considerations.

28 **6. COLLABORATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:** The City of  
29 Santa Fe shall actively engage with relevant stakeholders, including but not  
30 limited to The Nature Conservancy, Audubon, the County of Santa Fe, and the  
31 community, throughout the process of engineering analysis, infrastructure  
32 evaluation, and design. Engagement efforts shall also include public education  
33 about the Santa Fe River Target Flow Ordinance and its role in supporting a living  
34 river.

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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ANDRÉA SALAZAR, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

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*Legislation/2025/Resolutions/*

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