

To: Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth
From: Bill Carey, Chair, Santa Fe River Commission
Re: Draft Resolution “DRAFT 2MP Resolution 2025.06.24.docx”

2 July 2025

Dear Councilor,

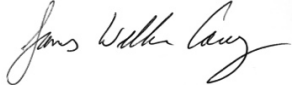
Thank you for your presentation to the River Commission (12 June 2025) of the as-yet untitled Resolution concerning the restoration of the Santa Fe River to a free-flowing continuous and functional riparian system between Nichols Dam and Cerro Gordo Road. The River Commission appreciates the efforts you have made to address our comments as reflected in the latest version “DRAFT 2MP Resolution 2025.06.24.docx”. The River Commission has not had the opportunity to formally review and vote on a final version of the Resolution. I am writing here, on behalf of the River Commission, to communicate what I understand to be broad support for the conceptual framework outlined in the Resolution.

The following River Commission perspectives on the Resolution were shared with the Chair:

1. There is broad support for the restoration of a free-flowing river from Nichols Dam to below Cerro Gordo Road that makes its way through the lowest elevations of Santa Fe Canyon.
2. A free-flowing river would allow the natural development of a healthy riparian system having great ecological value as well as creating an attractive environment for citizens of Santa Fe to enjoy.
3. Commission members, consistent with our charter to restore a Living River via development of Santa Fe River Target flows, insist that there be negligible impact from any reconfiguration of the river on the volume of water delivered downstream.
4. Commission members also expect that any reconfiguration of the river would have negligible impact on water delivery obligations to the acequias.
5. Commission members recognize that the Resolution may lead to changes in the character of Two-Mile Pond and surrounding wetland including the removal of the remains of Two Mile Dam and the possible loss of a distinct pond as the river re-establishes a riparian corridor.
6. Commission members recognize that the possibility of creating a free-flowing river as well as the particulars of its configuration are contingent upon the outcome of a comprehensive analysis of engineering, ecology, hydrology (notably flood risk), hydraulics and geotechnical issues. The processes outlined in the Resolution should be flexible and responsive to this analysis.
7. Commission members also expect that there is robust community engagement as specific ideas for the reconfigured river are developed.
8. Some commission members suggest that a more robust description of the undesirable features of the existing Santa Fe River configuration is advisable.
9. Some commission members suggest that a discussion of relationship of the Resolution to mitigation of flood risks would be helpful. For example, establishment of a riparian system has the potential of reducing flood impacts as does the redesign of the bridges/

culverts on Cerro Gordo to accommodate flows of the Santa Fe River through topographic low points.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Walker Carey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Bill Carey
Chair, Santa Fe River Commission