



**Agenda**      **Regular Meeting of the Santa Fe  
River Commission**  
**April 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM**  
**City of Santa Fe Transit Center,**  
**Room #117**  
**2931 Rufina St., Santa Fe**

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**Procedures for Santa Fe River Commission Meeting**

Join on Zoom: <https://santafenm.gov.zoom.us/j/84309864154>

The agenda and packet for the meeting will be posted at  
<https://santafenm.portal.civicclerk.com/>

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Approval of the December 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes
  - b. Approval of the February 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes
5. Communications from Other Agencies/Committees
  - a. Santa Fe Watershed Association Adopt Programs Update (Mori Hensley, Executive Director Santa Fe Watershed Association, [Mori@santafewatershed.org](mailto:Mori@santafewatershed.org))
  - b. Update on LCLC PER Study for Water and Wastewater Masterplan (Andrew Harnden, Santa Fe County Water Planner, [aharnden@santafecountynm.gov](mailto:aharnden@santafecountynm.gov))
  - c. Update on WPAC Work Plans and Activities (Peter Gowen, Board of Directors President, Santa Fe Watershed Association, [pjgowen@gmail.com](mailto:pjgowen@gmail.com))
6. Informational Items
  - a. Santa Fe River Commission Election Results (Zoe Isaacson, Staff Liaison [zrisaacson@santafenm.gov](mailto:zrisaacson@santafenm.gov))
  - b. Introduction of Commissioner Karen Jackson (Zoe Isaacson, Staff Liaison, [zrisaacson@santafenm.gov](mailto:zrisaacson@santafenm.gov))

7. Discussion and Action Items
  - a. 2025-2026 NRCS Snowpack Prediction and Target Flow Hydrograph Implications (Alan Hook, Water Resource Coordinator, City of Santa Fe, [aghook@santafenm.gov](mailto:aghook@santafenm.gov))
  - b. Approval of the 2025- 2026 Target Flow Hydrograph (Heidi Klingel, River Commissioner, [heidiklingel@hotmail.com](mailto:heidiklingel@hotmail.com))
8. Matters from Staff
9. Matters from the Public
10. Matters from the Commission
  - a. Matters From the Chair (Zoe Isaacson, Staff Liaison, [zisaacson@santafenm.gov](mailto:zisaacson@santafenm.gov))
  - b. Subcommittee Updates (Subcommittee Chairs, Santa Fe River Commissioners)
11. Next Meeting:
  - a. June 12, 2025, 6:00 PM
12. Adjourn

Persons with disabilities in need of additional accommodations, contact the City Clerk's office at 505-955-6521, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.

**Regular Meeting of the Santa Fe River Commission  
December 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM  
City of Santa Fe Transit Center, Room #117  
2931 Rufina St., Santa Fe  
MINUTES**

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1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Body was called to order by Chair Heidi Klingel at 6:02 PM, on Thursday, February 13, 2025, 2931 Rufina St, Santa Fe, NM 87507, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Staff Liaison, Zoe Isaacson. City of Santa Fe, Water Division Water Resource Coordinator. The following members of the public were also in attendance: Bob Findling, Neil Williams, Jerry Jacobi, Mike Gonzales, Pricilla Romero.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Lauren Price  
Eric Montoya  
Jacob Lyon  
Heidi Klingel  
William Hutchinson  
Anna Hansen  
Bill Carey  
Jim Reisterer

3. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION** A motion was made by Carey, seconded by Lyon, to Approve.

**VOTE** The motion Passed on a voice vote.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the August 8th, 2024 Minutes

- a. Approve the Amended August 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes (Zoe Isaacson, Santa Fe River Commission Liaison, [zisaacson@santafe.gov](mailto:zisaacson@santafe.gov)) - ,

**MOTION** A motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Reisterer, to Approve.

**VOTE** The motion Passed on a voice vote.

- b. Approval of the October 10, 2024, Meeting Minutes (Zoe Isaacson, Santa Fe River Commission Liaison, [zisaacson@santafenm.gov](mailto:zisaacson@santafenm.gov)) - ,

**MOTION** A motion was made by Reisterer, seconded by Carey, to Approve.

**VOTE** The motion Passed on a voice vote.

5. Communications from Other Agencies/Committees

- a. Update from Santa Fe Watershed Association (Amara May, Director of Stewardship and Outreach, Santa Fe Watershed Association, [amara@santafewatershed.org](mailto:amara@santafewatershed.org)) - ,

Mori Hensley, Executive Director of the Santa Fe Watershed Association, gave a brief update on the Watershed's activities. Cleanups continue, as does the recruitment of volunteers. The coffee and cleanup campaigns are proving successful. The group is gearing up for the Love Your Watershed Day, planned for sometime in May.

6. Informational Items

- a. Thoughts on Restoration of the River Above Cerro Gordo Road (Neil Williams, PE, Watershed West, [nwilliams@watershedwest.com](mailto:nwilliams@watershedwest.com)) - ,

Neil Williams gave a presentation on the Two-Mile Pond area and potential management options for the upper watershed. Mr. Williams shared his ideas on acequia storage at Two Mile and the importance of the removal of the soon-to-be abandoned pipes between Nichols Reservoir and Old Stone Dam. His presentation can be provided upon request.

7. Discussion and Action Items

- a. Formation of Sub-Committees (Heidi Klingel, Commission Chair, [heidiklingel@hotmail.com](mailto:heidiklingel@hotmail.com)) - ,

Working off the spreadsheet of subcommittee topics, the group landed on three main categories: Public Education and Outreach, Stormwater, and River Stewardship. Members elected to sign-up for groups via email once they've had a chance to think about the options.

- b. Approval of the 2025 Santa Fe River Commission Meeting Calendar

**MOTION** A motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Lyon, to Approve.

**VOTE** The motion Passed on a voice vote.

8. Matters from Staff

9. Matters from the Public

10. Matters from the Commission

- a. Recognition of Community Members' Efforts Towards River Restoration (Bill Carey, River Commissioner, [billcarey.tellus@gmail.com](mailto:billcarey.tellus@gmail.com)) - ,

Commissioner Carey gave thanks to local volunteers who clean our waterways and dispose of trash. Discussion ensued on how, as a Commission, these efforts can be better supported. One idea is to include this in one of the potential subcommittees.

11. Next Meeting: February 13, 2025

12. Adjourn

Adjourn at 8:03 pm.

*Zoe Isaacson*  
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Zoe Isaacson, Staff Liaison

Attested To By:

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Heidi Klingel, Commission Chair

**Regular Meeting of the Santa Fe River Commission  
February 13, 2025 at 6:00 PM  
City of Santa Fe Transit Center, Room #117  
2931 Rufina St., Santa Fe  
MINUTES**

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1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Body was called to order by Chair Heidi Klingel at 6:07 PM, on Thursday, December 12, 2024, 2931 Rufina St, Santa Fe, NM 87507, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Staff Liaison, Zoe Isaacson. City of Santa Fe, Water Division Water Resource Coordinator, Alan Hook participated in this meeting online.

3. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION** A motion was made by Chair Klingel, seconded by Hansen, to Approve.

**VOTE** The motion Passed on a voice vote.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. Tabled to Next Meeting (April 10th, 2025) due to Software Migration

5. Communications from Other Agencies/Committees

John Delmar, Engineer from the City of Santa Fe Water Division, provided updates on the work happening at Nichols Reservoir:

Construction contractor, CF Padilla, provided a quote on the potential removal of the existing surface piping between Nichols and Old Stone Dam. They advised that this work could be completed by 3-5 people in 3-4 weeks for a cost of \$100-\$200k.

However, Mr. Delmar cautioned that this was a very rough estimate.

Mr. Delmar also discussed other conditions that would need to be addressed in order to get this work completed, including,

- Does this need a contract amendment
- Is it covered under an Army Corp of Engineers Nationwide Permit
- Can this be issued under an On-Call task order
- Will this require aquatic ecological restoration

- a. Santa Fe Watershed Association Update (Amara May, Director of Stewardship and Outreach, amara@santafewatershed.org)

Mori Hensley from the Santa Fe Watershed Association provided an update on:

On Wednesday April 2nd a green stormwater workshop will take place from 9am – 4pm at the state library located at 1209 Camino Carlos Rey. Instructed by Aaron Kauffman, a hydrologist. A suggested donation of \$25 would be graciously accepted.

On Saturday May 10th will be “Love your Watershed Day” Zoe Isaacson suggested 1-2

commission members should volunteer for May 10th: Commissioners Hansen and Price volunteered.

There will be a ribbon cutting for a garden that was previously established alongside the Kiwanis Club; this will take place sometime in early April before Earth Day.

(In reference to "Love your Watershed Day")

Chair suggested that Commissioners brainstorm activities and games for their table

Commissioner Hansen suggested "Swag" (gifts) for those who participate

6. Informational Items

7. Discussion and Action Items

a. River Commission Elections (Heidi Klingel, Chair, [heidiklingel@hotmail.com](mailto:heidiklingel@hotmail.com))

Chair, Heidi Klingel, initiated discussion regarding the River Commission election by asking fellow Commissioner who may be interested in becoming the new chair.

Commissioners Hansen and Carey voiced their decision to run for chair.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Price, to amend the Agenda to table the election at this meeting.

**VOTE** The motion Passed on a voice vote.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Lyon, to instead hold the election via email through Staff Liaison Ms. Isaacason.

**VOTE** The motion Passed on a voice vote.

b. Santa Fe River Commission SubCommittee Updates (Subcommittee Chairs, Santa Fe River Commission)

The education and outreach subcommittee updated the group on the number of educational signs along the river and made it a goal of three new signs to be made and placed. The subcommittee chose the top three educational themes: "Living river", "Restoration" and "Vegetation". Commissioner Hansen mentioned potential signage at the Water History Park and cautioned against duplicating this work.

The Erosion Control subcommittee updated the group on possible erosion control measures and what volunteer groups they have been in contact with for execution of this work.

The Grants subcommittee discussed their potential application to remove the Upper Watershed pipes with Mr Delmar.

8. Matters from Staff

9. Matters from the Public

10. Matters from the Commission

- a. Subcommittee Breakout Session (Zoe Isaacson, Staff Liaison, [zisaacson@santafenm.gov](mailto:zisaacson@santafenm.gov))

**MOTION** A motion was made by Klingel, and seconded by Hansen to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm to accommodate committee break-out sessions.

**VOTE** The motion Passed on a voice vote.

11. Next Meeting:

- a. April 10th, 2025

12. Adjourn

Adjourn at 7:24 pm

*Zoe Isaacson*

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Zoe Isaacson, Staff Liaison

Attested To By:

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Heidi Klingel, Commission Chair



# THE SANTA FE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION “ADOPT” REPORT FEBRUARY 2025

## RE: ADOPT-THE-RIVER/ADOPT-AN-ARROYO PROGRAM

*Manage the Adopt-the-River/Adopt-an-Arroyo Program (the “Program”) to bring community investment and awareness, volunteer efforts, toward caring for the Santa Fe River Watershed within the City limits.*

### ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR FY 2024-2025:

	Reaches	Volunteers	Hours	Bags	In Kind Value (\$33.49/hr)*	Est. Weight (15lbs/bag)	Staff Hours
<b>Through JANUARY</b>							<b>925</b>
River	51	345	606	837	\$20,294.94	12,555	
Arroyos	17	189	307	768	\$10,281.42	11,520	
Workshops	6	546	582		\$19,491.18		
<b>PRIOR TOTALS</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>1080</b>	<b>1,495</b>	<b>1,605</b>	<b>\$50,067.54</b>	<b>24,075 LBS (12.04 TONS)</b>	<b>925</b>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>							<b>100</b>
River	7	44	63	101	\$3,382.49	1,515	
Arroyos	6	81	150	469	\$15,706.81	7,035	
Animal Tracking Workshop		25					
<b>NEW TOTALS</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>1,708</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>\$69,156.84</b>	<b>31,110 LBS (15.56 TONS)</b>	<b>1025</b>

\* [WWW.INDEPENDENTSECTOR.ORG/VOLUNTEER\\_TIME](http://WWW.INDEPENDENTSECTOR.ORG/VOLUNTEER_TIME)

**Additional garbage removed:** Three shopping carts, 85 pounds of metal, wet blankets and cardboard. Previous: 175 pounds of metal taken for recycling, elm thinning along reach 16 & Arroyo de los Pinos (3 different reaches), 3 shopping carts, 3 mattresses, 20 plastic pallets, random wood and cardboard, a car bumper, and air compressor, and a lot of wet bedding and clothing. **(est. Total: 1092lbs/.55 TONS)**



## FEBRUARY

- 2/8/25, SFHS Honor Society cleaned Arroyo de los Pinos behind LaFarge Library
- 2/10/25, SF Prep cleaned Arroyo de los Pinos near St. Francis
- 2/11/25, Rebecca Brackett cleaned Arroyo de los Chamisos near Santa Fe High
- 2/12/25, Ras Rody cleaned River Reach 10
- 2/15/25, Amma Center of NM cleaned Reach 16
- 2/20/25, El Castillo cleaned River Reach 9
- 2/22/25, Trash Pandas cleaned around Walgreens at Zia/St. Francis
- 2/23/25, NM State Land Office cleaned River Reach 11
- 2/23/25, NM State Supreme Court cleaned River Reach 12
- 2/25/25, SFWA Coffee & Cleanup at Arroyo Mascaras across from Home Goods
- 2/27/25, National Forest Foundation cleaned De Vargas Park area
- 2/28/25, Lovin' the River cleaned near Frenchy's Park
- 2/28/25, The Masters Program cleaned Arroyo de los Chamisos behind Sam's

## MONTHLY CLEANUPS

We host monthly "Coffee and Cleanup" events (weather permitting) to address areas of specific concern. We choose locations based on input from our City partners, steward teams, volunteers, and the public.

These have consistently attracted new volunteers and allowed us to broaden our reach and visibility. The last effort removed 40 35-gallon bags of trash from Arroyo Mascaras.



## THREE ANNUAL EVENTS

Organize, publicize and coordinate three (3) community clean-up events annually.

- Love Your Watershed Day is planned for May, 10 2025 at DeVargas Park
- A stewardship event is planned for Summer 2025
- Watershed Fest is planned for September 2025



## MARKETING AND OUTREACH

- Social Media Audiences remain strong
- E-Newsletter Readership has high open rates and is holding steady
- SFWA is mentioned regularly in other local publications and online resources including the following:

Heather Karlson's March 5, 2025 New Mexico Climate Action newsletter

Santa Fe County's March 2025 Sustainability Newsletter

University of New Mexico's ARID website and newsletter



## SPONSOR AND STEWARD UPDATES



- See map of all reaches/sponsors/stewards [here](#).
- We are continually assessing recruitment and retention strategies for both sponsors and stewards.
- SFWA just formed a Development Committee that will assist with sponsor cultivation.
- Director of Stewardship and Outreach, Amara May, sends out sponsor invoices and renewal letters and continues approaching potential Sponsors.
- Stewardship and Outreach Coordinator, Lorraine Chow, is tracking Steward renewals, approaching new potential Stewards and “Angel” Volunteers, and encouraging current steward teams to clean their reaches and, occasionally, other reaches in need of a cleanup.

## SIGNAGE

- The windy season always results in fallen signs. We will keep up with reinstalls as quickly as we can and appreciate notice of downed signs.
- We recently updated all signs and will continue regularly checking signs for wear and tear. Signs are from Cerro Gordo Road to Siler Bridge.
- SFWA is not planning to install new signage in distant and arroyo reaches that don't provide ample visibility.
- We plan to do a full signage redesign and replacement next year.

## COORDINATE WITH CITY STAFF TO ENSURE ALIGNMENT WITH GOALS

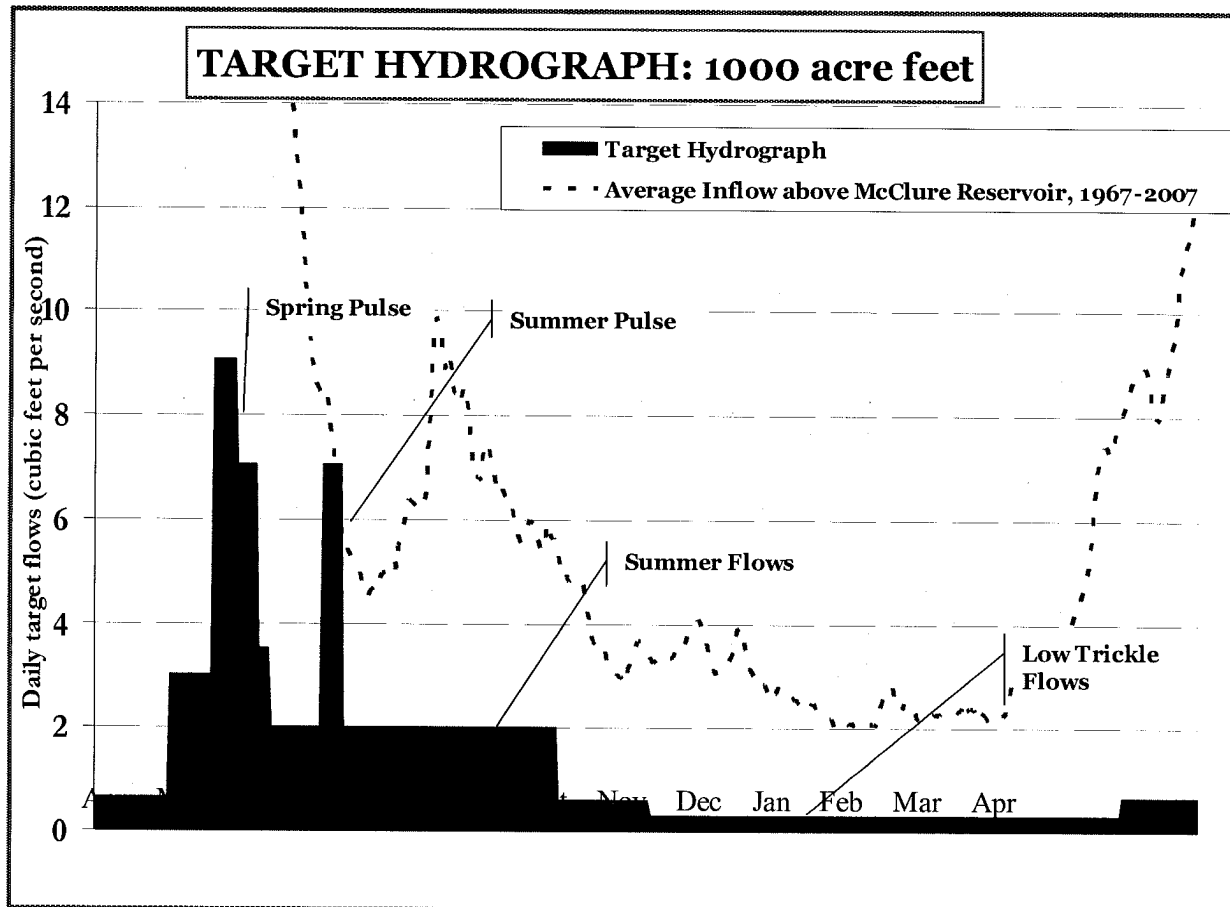
- SFWA staff met with Zoe Isaacson and her staff to plan for Love Your Watershed Day 2025 and plan to continue meeting regularly.
- Amara May and Lorraine Chow notify Zoe Isaacson about cleanups to schedule trash collection. They also relay observations received from stewards.

## MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

*Provide at a minimum, one monthly training and/or educational opportunity for the volunteers of the program and the community. Provide training and or workshops to educate volunteers on watershed infrastructure issues such as rain garden maintenance, vegetation management (pruning and thinning), invasive species removal; introductions to basic water conservation practices and responsible stormwater management; and issues pertaining to persons who are unhoused such as hazardous waste handling and available resources.*

- Upcoming offerings include Rooftop to Raingardens workshop on April 2, Raingarden maintenance workshops on May 17 and June 28, and "Clothes the Loop" Trash Talk partnership with We Grow Eco in July.
- Ongoing steward workshop topics include The Problem with Dog Poop, Elm Thinning, Litter Auditing, and Simple Erosion Control.
- We started "Trash Talk," an informational campaign letting folks know how to dispose of different kinds of waste.
- During cleanups Amara and Lorraine attend, they speak to the volunteers about water conservation and water challenges in the Southwest.

Figure 1



### 4.3 Dry and Critical-Dry Year Target Flow Reductions

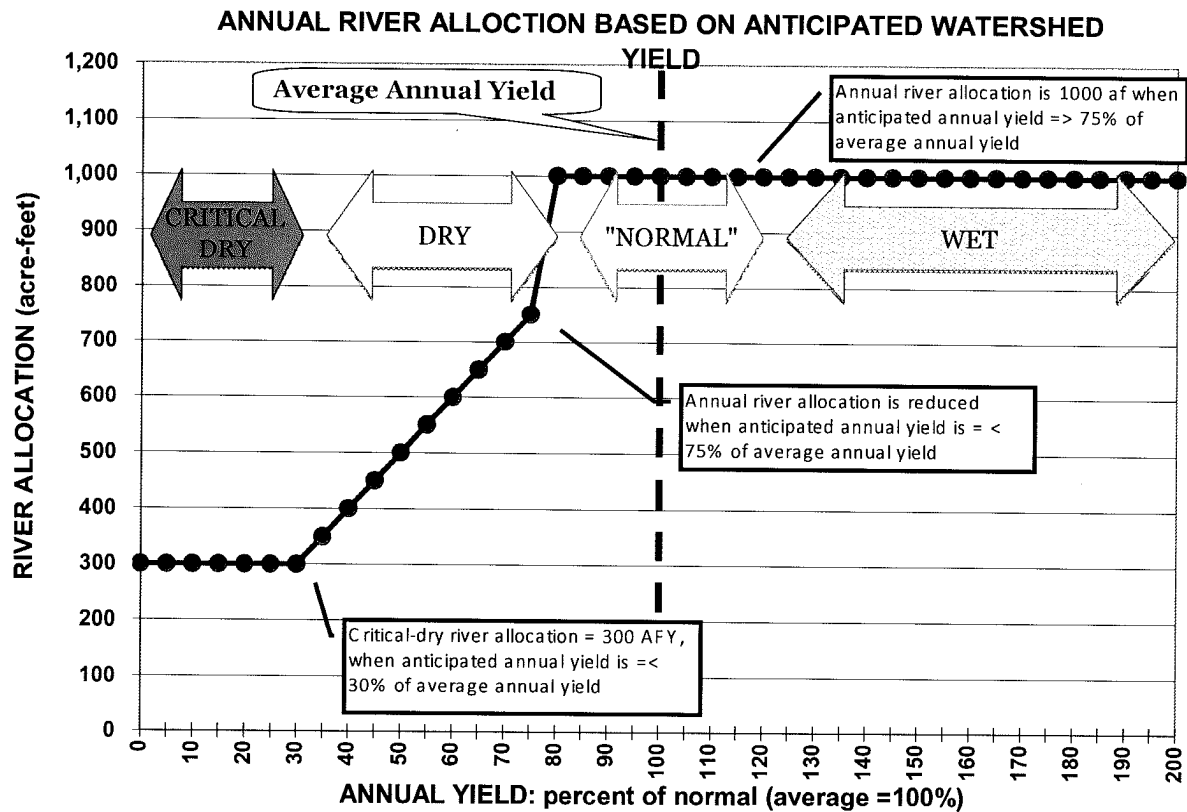
#### 4.3.1 Reduction of Target Flows in Dry and Critically Dry Years

A dry year is defined as a year in which the anticipated watershed yield is equal to or less than 75% but greater than 30% of historical average. A critical-dry year is a year in which the anticipated watershed yield is equal or less than 30% of the historical average. In dry and critical-dry years, the total volume of the target hydrograph (1,000 af) will be reduced, by multiplying 1,000 by the percentage of the anticipated watershed yield:

$$\text{TargetHydrograph} \times \text{AnticipatedWatershedYield}_{\text{yearX}} = \text{target flows}_{\text{yearX}}$$

For example, in a year where the anticipated watershed yield is 65% of average, the target flow for the target year is calculated by 1,000 afy x 65% = 650 af. The reduction calculation is depicted graphically in Figure 2.

Figure 2



#### 4.3.2 Dry Year Hydrographs

In dry years, the flow manager will allot the timing and magnitude of the daily target flows in a manner consistent with the following guidelines:

- (a) reduction in summer flows,
- (b) scaling-down – but not eliminating – the spring pulse and,
- (c) reduction in low flows from 0.30 cfs to 0.15 cfs.

The timing and magnitude of dry year target flows for 700 af, 600 afy, 500 afy, and 400 afy are described in the Dry Year Hydrographs in Appendix A.

While scaling back the quantity of the annual target flow in dry years, the priority is to provide for spring and summer pulses to fulfill the purposes of the pulses as outlined for the 1000 afy target flow in section 4.2.1 above.

#### 4.3.3 Critical-Dry Year Hydrograph

In critical-dry years, in which the total target flows equal 300 af per target year, the daily target flows will be managed in a manner consistent with the following guidelines and as illustrated by Figure 3:

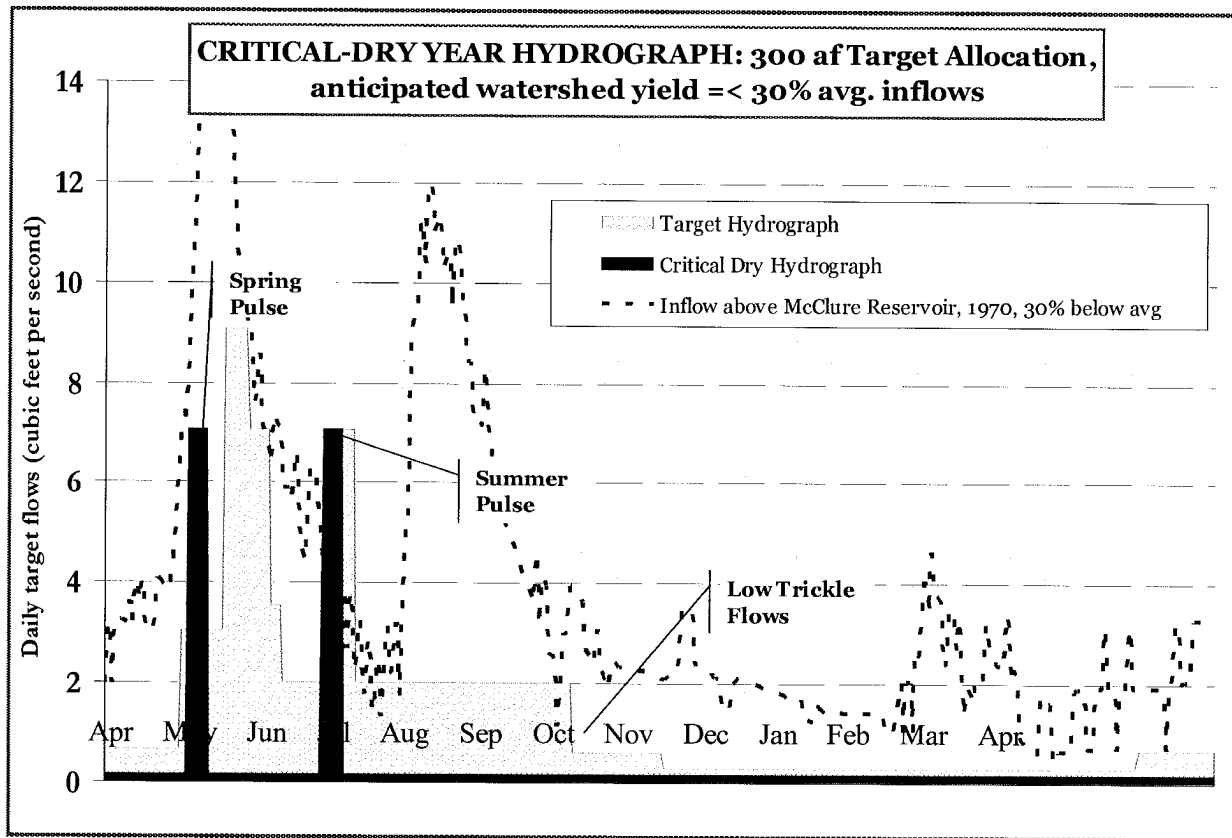
- a) sustained low flows of 0.15 cfs,
- (b) one spring and one summer pulse, each of approximately 100 afy.

The schedule of the pulses shall generally follow the timing of the pulses in the target

hydrograph. The magnitude of the pulses shall be approximately 7 cfs, provided that the daily target flows are within the bypass constraint. The river shall retain flows of at least 300 afy barring an emergency or unforeseen infrastructure constraint (e.g., failure of Nichols’s Reservoir outfall structure). The purpose of the critically dry year hydrograph is to maintain a wet corridor in the upper river for riverine and riparian ecological benefit while providing two downstream pulses for the purposes of the pulses as outlined for the 1000 afy target flow in section 4.2.1 above.

In critical-dry years, since the daily target flows for the Fishing Derby cannot be reliably met, the Fishing Derby will be suspended.

Figure 3



#### 4.4 Wet Year Flows

During wet years, defined as when the anticipated watershed yield is greater than the historical average, the river will be allocated water according to the target hydrograph (e.g., 1,000 afy) in the target year. In wet years, the actual daily flows will likely be greater because of flow contributions from reservoir flood management, and because of greater flows within the urban watershed. These greater daily flows will meet many of the objectives described in Article 4.1. Furthermore, the irrigation needs of the river corridor will be supplemented by the above-average spring precipitation. By not increasing the target hydrograph in a wet year, in wet years the City may be able to put the full amount of the City’s Santa Fe River water rights under License 1677 to beneficial use and thus rest the City’s well fields and use of local groundwater resources.

## Stormwater Subcommittee Update for 10 April 2025 River Commission Meeting

After discussion, the subcommittee decide to focus on erosion control as an initial effort. A good deal of the most obvious degradation of the river, river bank, and surrounding riparian area is due to incision, gully formation, and addition of sediment eroded into the river system. We decided to start with rills and other incipient erosion features degrading the steep banks to the river. These rills wash sediment into the river bed, uproot vegetation, and create scars in the landscape. We conducted some research and asked experienced folks on how to address these and found that we could make improvements with fairly simple structures like media luna (arcuate arrangement of stone to deflect runoff and limit further incision and rock check dams along the length of a rill). We also agreed that we would try to do this as volunteer community work facilitated by the existing community efforts.

15 February 2025: We met with Lisa Ferrand to identify possible sites for a first round of erosion control work. Lisa is the river steward for the Frenchy's to Siler stretch of the river and who has organized many river restoration activities including trash pickup, weeding, invasive species removal and re-seeding. We developed a plan for work and with Lisa's leadership organized for a work day on 15 March 2025.

15 March 2025: Combination weeding, reseeding and erosion control volunteer event, 10am-2pm. There is great synergy between these efforts as weeding reveals erosion problems and reseeding in combination with media luna and rock check dams can create more permanent, natural vegetation slope stabilization. Here are the highlights from the volunteer effort:

- We had 21 volunteers that included a group of 6 or 7 very energetic AmeriCorps volunteers who are stationed up in Abiquiu and heard about the event from SF Watershed. We worked downriver starting from Frenchy's bridge for about a 1/4 mile.
- We cleared about 500' of thick tumbleweeds that were choking a raised bank on the other side of the sidewalk from the river (against walls for some horse farms). We also cleared a lesser amount of weeds in this same stretch from the river-side of the sidewalk. We filled an entire large trailer with crushed weeds, a really big load.
- We raked and put seed down on this elevated bank and spread mushroom compost.
- Upstream from the tumbleweed weeding area, we worked to stabilize the steep slope below the sheep farm by creating a mid-slope slot/trench, placing rock in the trench and spreading seed and compost into the trench.
- Just a bit further upstream from the sheep farm on this same embankment, there were two deep, erosion gashes (bigger than rills) which we stabilized with rock, scattering seed and mulch between rows of rock anchors.
- Near Frenchy's bridge, we stabilized the lower slope adjacent to a footpath by spreading seed and compost and filling with a rock layer.
- Downstream from this location, we blocked off a footpath down to the riverbed that was deeply eroded and defined an alternative route with rock outline.
- Further downstream, we created media luna and rock fill with seed and compost in two side-by-side rills.
- We used about 4 lbs of seed in this work.
- Among the volunteers were 3 River commissioners (Bill C, Jim R. and Bill H.).
- Photos:



We encourage all Commission members to join these volunteer events. They are fun and it is great to make physical improvements to the river.

4 March 2025: Bill Carey attended a community meeting on planned city work to restore river bed grade controls in the stretch of river between Ricardo Street and Camino Alire. This damage resulted from storm flooding in 2018. A suggestion made during the meeting was for the contractor to remove Siberian elms as part of the restoration. It would be good idea to pursue this possibility. (Zoë can speak to this as she is running or is one of the leads on the project.) Here are some photos of some of the damage that I took showing how the existing structures were undercut:



The plan is to create grouted boulder ramps similar to those installed further downstream which were installed in 2020 and 2022. These have been found to be much more stable than the ungrouted, gabion-style structures supported by geotextiles. Grade of 0.4% will be established between the boulder ramps. This will help raise and restore the river bed.