



Native Plant Society of New Mexico  
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March 10, 2014

Scott A. Verhines, P.E.  
State engineer of New Mexico  
P.O. Box 25102  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102

Gary King, Esq.  
Attorney General of New Mexico  
P.O. Box 25102  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102

Re: Application for Massive Transfer of Water Rights Out of the San Agustin Basin

Dear Messrs. Verhines and King:

During this interlude while the courts consider the State Engineer's denial of the application for the unconscionable transfer of many thousands of acre feet of water from the San Agustin basin for speculative, undefined end use elsewhere, the Native Plant Society of New Mexico wants to applaud the State Engineer's Office, as well as the Attorney General for providing attorneys to the SEO to protect New Mexico's interests in defeating this destructive boondoggle.

The Native Plant Society of New Mexico is a non-profit established in 1976 to preserve native plants and their habitats, foster research and educate the public about their appropriate use in conserving water. We have six chapters within New Mexico and one

in El Paso, Texas and another in southwestern Colorado. Our members include professional botanists as well as interested amateurs. See for more about our purpose and activities.

In this unprecedented drought, the stresses on all communities-human, plant and wildlife-have caused untold disruptions and losses. Depleting the aquifer at the extraordinary rate applied for cannot help but have an horrendous effect on the water resources that sustain a major part of our state, especially the Gila River watershed, the habitat for many highly valued native plants. Depriving that region of its essential basis for life would be the very opposite of the beneficial use our state's waters are dedicated.

We thank you and all concerned for your dedication and perserverance in opposing this un-principled water grab. Protecting the public interest in ensuring a rational and principled water law administration benefits us all.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Fix". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Barbara" written in a cursive-like script and the last name "Fix" written in a more blocky, capital-letter style.

Barbara Fix  
Vice-President

cc: Hon. Susanna Martinez, Governor  
Bruce Frederick, NM Environmental Law Center