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HOUSE MEMORIAL 57

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

James E. Smith

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEE TO
EXPLORE OPTIONS ON HOW BEST TO COORDINATE FLOOD CONTROL
INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES IN EASTERN SANDOVAL COUNTY.

WHEREAS, in 2007, the eastern Sandoval county arroyo flood
control authority was created to address flooding concerns in
the communities of Algodones, Bernalillo and Placitas; and

WHEREAS, directors of the authority were appointed, and
the authority began the process of identifying flood control
infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, well over one hundred million dollars
(\$100,000,000) in flood control projects have been identified
by the authority; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the authority imposed property taxes at
the rate of approximately three and four hundred forty-five

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1 thousandths mills on the property within the authority and yet
2 raised only three million dollars (\$3,000,000) in revenue; and

3 WHEREAS, the sharp increase in property tax rates caused
4 considerable hardship and concern among taxpayers in the
5 authority, and yet the revenue from that tax increase is still
6 grossly insufficient for the purposes of flood control
7 infrastructure; and

8 WHEREAS, it has become clear that flood control cannot be
9 accomplished in eastern Sandoval county without the cooperation
10 and financial partnership of Sandoval county, the town of
11 Bernalillo, the Middle Rio Grande conservancy district and the
12 federal government; and

13 WHEREAS, in the current challenging economic climate, the
14 authority has not been able to secure financial commitments or
15 cooperation from, or form partnerships with, the other local
16 governments or the federal government; and

17 WHEREAS, the systemic concerns that have come to light
18 regarding the viability of the authority, its governance and
19 whether there is a sufficient property tax base in the
20 authority to realistically support infrastructure and flood
21 control projects require additional study;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the appropriate
24 interim legislative committee be requested to explore options
25 on how best to resolve the conflicts and concerns that have

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1 arisen regarding the eastern Sandoval county arroyo flood
2 control authority and how best to equitably address flood
3 control issues in eastern Sandoval county; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee seek testimony
5 from Sandoval county, the town of Bernalillo, the communities
6 of Algodones and Placitas, the Middle Rio Grande conservancy
7 district and other interested parties and report its findings
8 to the second session of the fiftieth legislature; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the board of directors of the eastern Sandoval
11 county arroyo flood control authority, the board of county
12 commissioners of Sandoval county, the Bernalillo town council
13 and the Middle Rio Grande conservancy district.