

**New Mexico Acequia Association**  
Protect Water as a Community Resource  
Resolution 2007-05

Whereas, water is the lifeblood of our communities,

Whereas, unprecedented demands for water are driving a market in water rights that threatens to transfer water rights out of acequias and rural communities to regions and entities with greater economic power,

Whereas, acequias and mutual domestic water consumer associations are companion organizations in rural communities that have the duty of providing water for their members for historic agricultural uses as well as basic domestic water uses,

Whereas, acequias and mutual domestic water consumer associations have a common interest in retaining local ownership and control of water rights to meet all of our local community needs,

Whereas, in addition to collaborating on meeting local needs for water rights, acequias, mutual domestics, other governmental entities, and even local businesses should work to create policy protections to prevent the transfer of water rights out of certain protected areas to ensure long-term water security,

Whereas, interstate water compacts are a form of protection that keeps wealthier states such as California and Texas from transferring water out of New Mexico,

Whereas, a form of intrastate policy of protecting rural and semi-rural regions from having their water rights transferred to wealthier regions would also be appropriate and consistent with the same principle,

Whereas, this type of policy has sometimes been referred to as area-of-origin policy which creates certain protections for areas that are vulnerable to losing their water rights base through market mechanisms,

Therefore be it resolved by the Congreso de las Acequias that local, county, and state policymakers support policies that protect areas vulnerable to forces in the water market that can threaten their long term water security.

Be it further resolved that the Congreso de las Acequias will strive to develop policy strategies that will effectively protect water as a community resource.