

**New Mexico Acequia Association**  
Opposition to Expedited Water Markets  
Resolution 2007-06

Whereas, unprecedented water demands are driving a water rights market that threatens to move water rights out of agriculture and irrevocably unravel our acequia systems,

Whereas, state policy makers, including the State Engineer, are enacting policies to expedite water markets thereby accelerating and intensifying the threats to acequias,

Whereas, these policies are being promoted as a solution to the chronic water scarcity in New Mexico but may actually only contribute to unsustainable growth patterns,

Whereas, expediting markets through regulation or statute is proposed to be done at the expense of due process in the water transfer process,

Whereas, many policymakers, including the State Engineer, proclaim that water transfers through expedited markets are “voluntary,”

Whereas, water transfers have always been “voluntary” but recent trends are toward eroding the statutory water transfer process through “expedited markets” and “emergency transfers” that circumvent the statutory water transfer process,

Whereas, such circumventions of state law are violations of fundamental rights to due process and the protections afforded in the water transfers statutes including the right to protest water transfers if they are detrimental to the public welfare, contrary to conservation of water, or causing impairment of existing water rights,

Whereas, these circumventions may also undermine recent reforms to state water law that authorize acequias to make a decision over water transfers,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Congreso de las Acequias opposes any form of expedited markets, including those touted as being “voluntary,” which violate protections in state statutes such as the right of acequias to regulate transfers and the right to protest such water transfers,

Therefore, be it resolved that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Bill Richardson, the Office of the State Engineer, and the New Mexico State Legislature.