



**VALENCIA COUNTY
RESOLUTION 2020- 061**

**CALLING FOR LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FARMING
COMMUNITY SITS ON THE MRGCD BOARD OR THAT THE MRGCD BE DIVIDED INTO TWO
DISTRICTS**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners met at a duly noticed and advertised meeting on October 7, 2020 at 5:00 PM in the Valencia County Administration Building located at 444 Luna Avenue, Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031; and,

WHEREAS, NMSA 1978, Sections 4-37-1 *et seq.* provides that counties may adopt those resolutions and ordinances, not inconsistent with statutory or constitutional limitations place on counties, to discharge those powers necessary and proper to provide for the safety, convenience of the county and its inhabitants; and,

WHEREAS, the Valencia County Board of County Commissioners is the duly authorized governing body of Valencia County, a New Mexico political subdivision; and

WHEREAS, the legislature of 1923 enacted Ch. 140 entitled: "An Act to Provide for the Organization of Conservancy Districts for the Purpose of Co-operating With the Government of the United States Under the Terms of the Federal Reclamation Law and Other Federal Laws, and to Define the Purposes and Powers Thereof," for which was substituted Ch. 45, N.M.L.1927, entitled: "An Act to Provide for the Organization of Conservancy Districts, to Define the Purposes and Powers Thereof and to Repeal Chapter 140 of the Session Laws of New Mexico, 1923, and All Acts or Parts of Acts in Conflict With Any Provision of This Act."; and,

WHEREAS, The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (hereinafter called "The MRGCD") was organized under the act of 1923 and its existence continued under the act of 1927 and amendments thereto. Ch. 50, N.M.L. 1931; Ch. 80, N.M.L.1933, and Chs. 37 and 150, N.M.L.1935; and,

WHEREAS, NMSA 1978, Section 73-14-4 (1927) allows conservancy districts to be established for the following purposes: (1) preventing floods; (2) regulating stream channels by changing, widening or deepening the same; (3) regulating the flow of streams; (4) diverting, controlling or in whole or in part eliminating watercourses;

(5) reclaiming, draining or filling wet and overflowed lands; (6) of providing for irrigation where it may be needed and otherwise benefiting and developing agricultural lands or lands susceptible of irrigation or agricultural development; (7) protecting public and private property from inundation.; and,

WHEREAS, the MRGCD states that its purpose is to offer irrigation, river flood control and responsible water conservation services to irrigators and farmers in the middle agricultural region of the state; and,

WHEREAS, without farming in the District, not only would the essential work of feeding the inhabitants of New Mexico and the world be curtailed, but conservation, flood control and environmental preservation would not be possible; and,

WHEREAS, farmers in the MRGCD not only pay for water service charges but also are assessed a higher tax rate than residential property owners; and,

WHEREAS, due to the urbanization of the District and the fact that the majority of voters in the district are not farmers it is foreseeable & plausible that, in the future, no farmers will be elected to serve on the MRGCD Board to represent the interests of the people that the District was established to serve; and,

WHEREAS, without a representative from the farming community the green belt of the valley and the agricultural community are at risk of being overshadowed and replaced by only the voices of urban residences; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Valencia County has determined that without representation from the farming community the MRGCD does not adequately provide its established purpose.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Valencia County Board of County Commissioners requests that the New Mexico Legislature amend NMSA 1978, Section 73-14-19 (1996) to require one board member be a representative of the farming community. Alternatively, that the MRGCD be divided into two districts, one district comprising of those lands within the municipal boundaries of the City of Albuquerque and one comprising all lands outside of the municipal boundaries of the City of Albuquerque.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Valencia County Board of County Commissioners invites the MRGCD and all elected bodies covered by the District to support this legislation and to work together to define the term "farmer" to effectuate the stated purpose of this resolution.

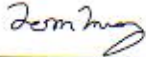
PASSED, AND APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF OCTOBER 2020.
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.



Jhonathan Aragon
Chair, District V



Gerard Saiz
Vice-Chair, District I



Tom Mraz
Commissioner, District II

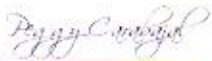


David A. Hyder
Commissioner, District III



Charles D. Eaton
Commissioner, District IV

Attest:



Peggy Carabajal, County Clerk