

SYNOPSIS OF SAN AUGUSTIN PLAINS RANCH PROPOSED APPLICATIONS FOR WATER PUMPING TO SELL WATER IN OTHER GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

I, Michael Loya, am submitting this document to the New Mexico Legislature, House of Representatives Standing Committee, **AGRICULTURE, WATER & WILDLIFE** to put forth the adverse effects of the St. Augustine Plains Ranch applications to pump water from the St. Augustine Plains Basin and sell in other geographic areas. I further state that as an original protestant, I am not doing this for my own financial gain but to help keep secure the natural infrastructure of this water resource in this part of the State of New Mexico.

Item 1 Over pumping: Examples of what happens when you over pump a water basin is the Phoenix Valley. When it was excessively over pumped, it caused cavitation therefore they had to minimize the amount of water that they were pumping henceforth. This cavitation also restricts the limits of recharge because the storage capacity is shrunken. Cavitation will affect the whole region in a very strategic way because the San Augustin Basin is interlinked to the Continental Divide, and over pumping will diminish all perched aquifers due to pressure release, which keeps these aquifers perched, and the Gila River. Also because of strategic geographic location, it is our firm belief that this will affect and break the back of all the possible deliverable water on both the Eastern and Western side of the Continental Divide. As these perched and regular aquifers are used to water, crops and cattle, and to supply homes this will be devastating to the people that live in this part of New Mexico.

Item 2 Water Dating: Back over seven years ago when I filed my original protest against this water application I stated to other Protestants that this water must be dated. Now over seven years later the water was finally dated and one of the samples taken shows that the water is 22,900 years old. This shows unequivocally that the basin and region has virtually no water recharge to the aquifer.

Item 3 Extent of Regional Aquifer: we offer this opinion: that the extent or reach of this aquifer and or interconnecting water aquifers flow underneath the Rio Grande River, over pumping water from the basin will therefore adversely affecting downstream deliverables. That being the case, the extent of all possible requests for drilling permits has to be studied on larger modeling scale for possible geographic impacted areas.

In conclusion, it is our firm belief that no permits should be issued for any drilling and pumping of water for sale or shipment to other geographic areas previously applied for, other than the local use for planted crops and or livestock.

I stand ready to answer any questions and further explain this submitted document.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael R. Loya d/s