



April 23, 2007

Dear Santa Fe Community Member:

The City of Santa Fe is pleased to introduce the Santa Fe River Fund. This is one of several measures the city is taking to restore and revive the Santa Fe River. One day, the fund will allow more frequent flows by helping the city to acquire water rights for the River.

For a 13.5 mile stretch between the dam at our second municipal reservoir - Nichols Reservoir - and the Waste Water Treatment Plant near the airport, the River is dry for much of the year. When snow-pack runoff from the mountains above Santa Fe is greater than the capacity of the municipal water treatment plant, we see flows in the River. Snow and rain storms also send intense, brief pulses of water through the River since our storm water system directs much of the city's storm runoff to the River. For example, on the south side of town, storm runoff flows in the Arroyo de los Chamisos will eventually flow into the Santa Fe River.

According to New Mexico's state water laws, municipalities and individual landowners must own water rights in order to use water. The City of Santa Fe uses the water rights it owns to provide for the community's needs. The city gets about 40% of its supply from the clean mountain water flowing into its two municipal reservoirs from the headwaters of the Santa Fe River. The rest of the city's supply comes from wells either along the Santa Fe River west of St. Francis Drive or from the Buckman Wells along the Rio Grande.

Our municipal water needs have left a large section of the Santa Fe River dry most of the year. This trend has had drastic effects on the plants and animals that once lived along the River, and the River has now been designated America's Most Endangered Waterway in 2007 by the national advocacy group American Rivers. But when there is water in the River, it becomes the community's favorite natural area for children, dog walkers, fishermen, tourists and even kayakers.

As we plan ahead to meet the needs of our community, one of the ways Santa Fe may be able to bring life back to the River is through purchasing or leasing water rights for the River. If our community joins together and sets aside regular donations for the River, we will be able to provide water to keep our River healthy. Through the Santa Fe River Fund, you can make a difference and help bring a healthy, living Santa Fe River to our community.

Mayor David Coss

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Coss".