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## **New Mexico Acequia Commission**

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**RALPH VIGIL**  
CHAIRMAN  
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March 16th, 2022

New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission  
1190 Saint Francis Drive  
Suite # South 2102  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505  
[Pamela.Jones@state.nm.us](mailto:Pamela.Jones@state.nm.us)

Re: Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW) Designations in New Mexico

Dear Water Quality Control Commissioners,

ONRW designation for New Mexico's precious water resources will support and protect existing community uses, such as ranching and farming, while prohibiting new pollution from impacting our watersheds. For centuries local acequia, and traditional use communities have depended on clean water in New Mexico's rivers to feed our crops, livestock, and livelihood. Traditional use communities are dependent on the water flowing through our rivers, and the quality of that water allowing us to continue our traditions, and survival of our way of life and our culture.

ONRW designations ensure that clean water will continue to flow downstream to the farmers, ranchers, and communities that depend on acequias to water their crops, gardens, and livestock. These protections will protect these traditional users from degraded water quality associated with new development and impacts.

For all the reasons listed above, the New Mexico Acequia Commission supports ONRW designations in New Mexico. We urge the Water Quality Control Commission to use their authority to designate waters as ONRWs when nominated waters meet the required criteria.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ralph Vigil".

Ralph Vigil, Chairman  
New Mexico Acequia Commission