

Taos County Chamber of Commerce

Dear Water Quality Control Commissioners, Taos County Chamber of Commerce supports protecting the Rio Hondo, Lake Fork of the Rio Hondo, Upper Rio Grande, and Jemez River Headwaters (Rio San Antonio, East Fork Jemez River, and Redondo Creek) as Outstanding Waters (ONRWs). Protecting these waters will ensure that water quality is protected for generations to come. Outstanding Waters designation for these ecologically and recreationally significant waters will support and protect existing community uses, such as ranching and farming, while prohibiting new pollution from impacting our watershed. For generations the local community has depended on clean water in the Rio Hondo, Upper Rio Grande, and Jemez watersheds to water livestock and feed acequia systems. This designation will ensure that clean water continues to flow downstream to these critical watershed stakeholders and protect these traditional uses from new development and impacts. These waters are rich with ecological resources, and they also provide significant recreational opportunities for both New Mexicans and visitors alike. In addition, Outstanding Water protections will help draw much needed attention for restoration, and water and fuel management projects throughout these watersheds. XXX supports the efforts to ensure the Rio Hondo, Lake Fork of the Rio Hondo, Upper Rio Grande, and Jemez River Headwaters (Rio San Antonio, East Fork Jemez River, and Redondo Creek) will continue to provide clean water to downstream communities and wildlife. We urge the Commission to designate these waters as ONRWs.

Sincerely, Lindsey Pfaff Bain
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