

June 16, 2026

Pamela Jones, WQCC Administrator
New Mexico Environment Department
Santa Fe, NM 87502

RE: Public Comment by Sarah Wood in the Matter of NMED Proposed Surface Water Quality State Permitting Program, Docketed Matter WQCC 25-74R

To Chairman Brancard and members of the commission:

I strongly support incorporating a streamlined general permit for voluntary restoration projects into the Surface Water State Permitting rule.

I speak as an enthusiastic volunteer for restoration projects and also as a retired director of the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps. Many restoration projects rely on seasonal youth labor within a restricted timeframe. A general permit would allow these projects to be planned with reasonable confidence of coming to fruition.

New Mexico has a wealth of talented restoration specialists who have developed a variety of low-tech methods that rapidly and effectively raise the water table and increase riparian vegetation in the state's numerous degraded waterways and wetlands. The streamlined permit will ensure they can continue their work and increase the amount of clean surface water in New Mexico.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah Wood