

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-32

ADOPTION OF TOWN OF SILVER CITY WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

Sponsored by Councilor Pauline N. Hassler-Cook.

WHEREAS, water is a valuable resource that should be used wisely and as efficiently as possible; and

WHEREAS, water resources within the Town limits and within the Town's water utility service areas should be managed to ensure a permanent adequate supply, and a water conservation program is an effective component of sustainable water resource management; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive water conservation program is a prerequisite for state funding under NMSA 1978, Section 72-14-3.2 (2003) of water and wastewater infrastructure projects effective December 31, 2005; and

WHEREAS, protecting water supply and maximizing efficient water use strategies are regional issues complimentary to the State of New Mexico Regional Water Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Silver City supplies water to about 10,000 residents within the Town and sells water to five water associations (the Arenas Valley Water Association, Pinos Altos Mutual Domestic Water Consumers' Association [MDWCA], Rosedale MDWCA, Tyrone Property Owners Association (TPOA), and Tyrone MDWCA), resulting in a total population receiving water from the system of about 20,000; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Silver City was funded by a grant from the New Mexico Finance Authority to complete a water conservation planning process that evaluates ways to sustain and conserve its municipal groundwater supply; and

WHEREAS, the planning process identified issues unique to Silver City that affect the goals and design of the conservation program that include a large groundwater supply, the need for a revenue-neutral conservation program, and the ongoing application for return-flow credit where wastewater discharge is recharging the aquifer; and

WHEREAS, the resulting Town of Silver City Water Conservation Plan contains a water audit of existing water use patterns that identifies where conservation can be most beneficial, a set of water conservation goals, and recommends a variety of water use efficiency projects and programs. Water conservation goals include reducing outdoor water use, water waste, peak summer demand, pumping and treatment costs; ensuring a revenue-neutral program that can be financed by the Town; strengthening ordinances and policies relating to water conservation; minimizing nonpoint source pollution by integrating storm water management into the water conservation program; educating the public about water conservation; and incentivizing conservation behavior; and

WHEREAS, the water conservation plan provides a model for discussion with local water associations and the broader regional area of Grant County to develop water conservation programs and strategies for their own communities voluntarily at their discretion, and that the Town recognizes the associations are independent and are not bound by the recommendations presented in the Water Conservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town can lead by example by implementing conservation pilot studies, demonstration projects, and water saving technologies within Town owned buildings, landscapes and parks;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Town of Silver City:

THAT, the Town of Silver City Water Conservation Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit “A” is hereby adopted.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 27th day of August, 2013.

TOWN OF SILVER CITY

/s/

(Seal)

James R. Marshall, Mayor

Attest:

/s/

Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk