

RESOLUTION - TORRANCE COUNTY COMMISSION  
OPPOSES INEQUITABLE INCREASE IN HYDROELECTRIC POWER

# 91-24

WHEREAS, jobs in New Mexico's smaller communities have been cut by almost half over the last decade, reflecting problems in the oil and gas, mining and timber industries, according to the August 1991 New Mexico Business Journal. Farming and ranching interests are also economically depressed, and

WHEREAS, rural New Mexico, including Torrance County, are trying to improve their economic position, create jobs, and enhance their standard of living, and

WHEREAS, rural New Mexicans, including Torrance County citizens, served by electric cooperatives receive 1/3 of their electricity from the Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River, and

WHEREAS, rural electric cooperatives have estimated that higher power costs associated with the United States Department of Interior's "interim" flow control measure will cost them an additional \$4 million or more, and

WHEREAS, interim flow controls on the Colorado River are costs passed on to small municipal and rural power users and are not equitably spread among all users of the Colorado River, and

WHEREAS, among the large users of cooperative power are the rural school districts, commerce and industry, town and village governments, and hospitals. All of these organizations could expect an immediate increase in their operating expenses. And all of these organizations are major employers in their respective areas, and

WHEREAS, residential and homeowners continue to struggle to make ends meet and cannot afford additional costs imposed by the federal government, and

WHEREAS, most Torrance County citizens obtain their electric power from the rural electric cooperative systems, and

WHEREAS, Torrance County believes in a balance between environmental and economic needs and that the balance has gone against the economic needs of its citizens.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Torrance County Commission opposes inequitable increases in the cost of hydroelectric power passed on to rural New Mexicans because of flow controls on the Colorado River. Torrance County requests the Secretary of Interior to adopt the flow control recommendations of the Western Area Power Administration which would provide environmental protection and at the same time reduce the economic impact on rural New Mexicans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this County strongly requests that New Mexico's Congressional Delegation, Senator Domenici, Senator Bingaman, Representative Skeen, Representative Schiff, Representative Richardson, oppose legislation in the Congress that would impose flow control on the Colorado River and thereby increase the cost of hydroelectric power to the rural electric cooperatives serving New Mexico, and to the good citizens of Torrance County, New Mexico.

Adron Brown 10-16-91  
Adron Brown, Chairman - Date

Alfred Larranaga  
Alfred Larranaga, Member

Chester Riley, Jr.  
Chester Riley, Jr., Member

Carla Clayton  
Carla Clayton, Clerk of the Board