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PECOS VALLEY ARTESIAN CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

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PECOS VALLEY ARTESIAN CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

POSITION PAPER

On Tuesday, April 2, 2013, the CID Board of Directors passed a resolution demanding a call for administration of priorities on the Pecos River Stream System with the State Engineer.

The PVACD is strongly opposed to a priority call by the Carlsbad Irrigation District because if successful, the area would suffer historic and crippling economic, cultural and social injury which would take decades to repair. At risk is over 110,000 thousand acres of irrigated farm land along with municipal and industrial water supplies. Agriculture, oil and gas, manufacturing, large and small businesses and municipalities contribute approximately one billion dollars annually to the area economy. The economic impact of a priority call will devastate the entire Pecos Valley, and will not selectively ignore any user of water. Over ten years ago, the PVACD entered into a settlement with the Carlsbad Irrigation District, the State of New Mexico and the Bureau of Reclamation to ensure that New Mexico met its obligations to Texas and to provide water to the Carlsbad Irrigation District in times of shortage. The PVACD has fulfilled its part of the settlement without hesitation, and now the Pecos Valley is once again faced with more demands.

The ongoing drought which has hit the southeast part of New Mexico extremely hard has reduced the flow of the Pecos River and has caused the aquifer to decline to 1970 levels. Despite the difficulties associated with the drought, the PVACD has worked with the Interstate Stream Commission and the Carlsbad Irrigation District to provide water for irrigation and for Pecos River Compact compliance.

For over 80 years the PVACD has worked to conserve and protect the waters of the Pecos River Stream System. The demands for priority administration will not provide water to the CID. Only precipitation will solve the demands for water by all the residents of New Mexico. PVACD will not succumb to the futile call by the CID, and it will vigorously contest the priority call while continuing its stated mission of conserving the water of the Pecos Valley.