



STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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March 15, 2016

CV-96-888

The Honorable James J. Wechsler
c/o Christopher J. Vigil
Administrative Office of the Courts
237 Don Gaspar Ave. #25
Santa Fe., NM 87501-2178
aoccjv@nmcourts.gov

By e-mail only

Re: Proceeding on Pre-Project Rights in the Lower Rio Grande Adjudication

Dear Judge Wechsler:

Pursuant to the Court's directive in its telephone conference on February 15, 2016, and its follow-up letter of February 22, 2016, the parties conferred by telephone on March 7, 2016, on the appropriate format for addressing the matter of pre-Project rights in the Lower Rio Grande. Participating in the March 7 telephone call were Laurel Knowles, Sonny Swazo and Jama Fisk for the State of New Mexico, Steven Hernandez and Lisa Henne for Elephant Butte Irrigation District, Jay Stein for the City of Las Cruces, Lee Leininger, Christopher Rich and Bella Wolitz for the United States, Adam Rankin for El Paso Natural Gas Co., Blair Dunn for certain individual claimants, Rebecca Dempsey for the City of El Paso, Robert Simon, assisted by James Scott Boyd, for the Pre-1906 Claimants and certain individual claimants, and Maria O'Brien and James Speer for Amicus El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1.

There was discussion by some parties that the outcome of this proceeding could impact other issues now before the Court, but it was ultimately agreed that the fate, or status, of pre-Project rights in the Lower Rio Grande should be litigated as an independent stream system issue. It was also agreed that by March 28, 2016, one or more parties would file a motion to designate the issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laurel A. Knowles".

Laurel A. Knowles
Counsel for the State of New Mexico