

RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 2

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF LA JARA, COLORADO, IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSAL OF RENEWABLE WATER RESOURCES TO EXPORT UNDERGROUND WATER FROM THE SAN LUIS VALLEY TO THE FRONT RANGE.

WHEREAS, the Town of La Jara in Conejos County located in the southern part of the San Luis Valley in Colorado, is totally dependent on underground water for its municipal supply which, in turn, supplies water not only to its residents and businesses but to local schools and a hospital. The Town also needs a dependable supply of underground water for fire prevention, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of La Jara (hereinafter the “Board”) has vigorously opposed in the past efforts by other developers to export water out of the San Luis Valley for the benefit of Front Range users, which efforts proved to be successful, and

WHEREAS, the Board is now very much aware of present efforts by Renewable Water Resources backed by a former Colorado Governor, Bill Owners, and a Denver water developer and other Front Range real estate interests, to export millions gallons of water out of the San Luis Valley to “end users” in Douglas County, Colorado, and

WHEREAS, it is well known that the supplies of water, surface as well and underground, are already over-appropriated on every river system in the Valley, and that the underground water aquifers have been over-pumped over the years and have not been able to refill themselves for decades, thus requiring by law, the implementation of sub-districts to mitigate such withdrawals, such to be accomplished at considerable expense and consequences to under-ground water users, and,

WHEREAS, the Town of La Jara will have to join a sub-district in order to supplement its withdrawal of underground water at considerable annual expense,

WHEREAS, the Board is very much fearful that any plan to export huge quantities underground water out of the Valley on a continuing annual basis will have a very injurious effect on present and future underground water supplies to the detriment of the Valley’s farmers and ranchers, residents, and business that rely heavily on a reliable and continuing supply of water, and

WHEREAS, the economy of the Valley, as well as of that the La Jara Community and its surrounding areas are heavily dependent on the agricultural and ranching industries and businesses and any damages or diminution to their water supplies will have a damaging and permanent effect with no recharge whatsoever to the underground aquifer from exported water.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Trustees of the Town of La Jara wishes to go record that its wholeheartedly supports any and all efforts being made now or in the future by concerned water users, governmental entities and municipalities, residents, businesses, property owners and tax-payers in opposition to the water export proposal as contemplated by Renewable Water Resources.

INTRODUCED, READ, AND PASSED AS A RESOLUTION at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Town of La Jara, held on the 12th day of March, 2020, at which a quorum was present.