

**LUNA COUNTY COMMISSION, DEMING, NEW MEXICO**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 22-31**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DEMING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT LETTER OPPOSING THE REMOVAL OF THE FIVE EARTHEN DAMS IN  
STARVATION DRAW**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Luna County, met in regular session on April 27, 2022, at 10:00 A.M. in the Luna County Courthouse, located at 700 S. Silver Ave., Deming, New Mexico 88030; and,

**WHEREAS**, Section 3-18-1-F, NMSA 1978 provides that municipalities have the power to, "protect generally the property of its municipality and its inhabitants"; and,

**WHEREAS**, the five dams constructed in Starvation Draw north of Deming, New Mexico 70 years ago have protected the municipality and inhabitants of Deming from flooding; and,

**WHEREAS**, there have been floods from Starvation Draw over the past decades, and in spite of those dams the flood waters still reached the City of Deming, and there were residents who were personally affected by that flooding; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Las Cruces, New Mexico is currently drawing up designs to significantly reduce the size of the five dams in Starvation Draw; and,

**WHEREAS**, no data has been provided to the inhabitants downstream of these dams to show the consequences which would occur after a major storm event with the dams in the proposed, reduced state; and,

**WHEREAS**, the proposed reduction of the five dams once undertaken would place the City of Deming in a permanent state of risk of flooding from a major storm event; and,

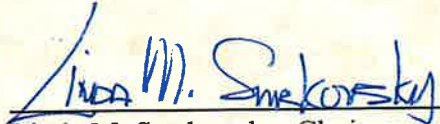
**WHEREAS**, government officials, to include those in federal government, should be accountable to the inhabitants who they expose to greater risk; and,

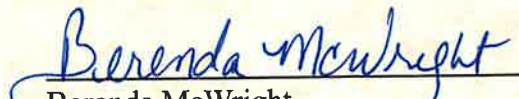
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of County Commissioners of Luna County in Deming, recognizing that the changes which Las Cruces BLM is undertaking will place the downstream portion of Luna County at greater risk to flooding in a major storm event, expresses its concern for the well-being of the of the inhabitants, insists the federal government officials who undertake the risky changes to the dams accept the liability of damages to the citizens, private companies, and government infrastructure which they place at risk, and calls upon state and federal legislative delegation to require that Las Cruces BLM leave the dams in Starvation Draw in their existing condition.

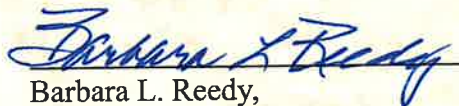
**DONE THIS 27<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2021**


by the Board of County Commissioners of Luna County

**ATTEST:**

  
Linda M. Smrkovsky, Chairperson  
Commissioner, District 2

  
Berenda McWright,  
County Clerk

  
Barbara L. Reedy,  
Commissioner, District 2

  
John S. Sweetser,  
Commissioner, District 3

