

Greetings!

The Fall and Winter have seen a number of developments for the Association.

The Buckman Monitoring Agreement was finalized, and issued as an Order from the District Court. Our lawsuit was dismissed *with prejudice*, which means that there are conditions that have to be satisfied. Those conditions include the monitoring agreement itself. You can see the agreement and the implementing Order, and other legal documents on our website. The long and the short of it are that the City of Santa Fe must set up a program of monitoring wells in the area of the Buckman Wells, report their data on a publicly accessible website, and interpret those data to determine any impact on domestic wells in the general area. We have been working with homeowners to get all the wells in the area listed, and to identify a location for another Monitoring Well. The City was supposed to implement their plan by January, but the Settlement dragged on in the Fall, making that deadline all but impossible. We have met with City officials, and are satisfied that things are now moving at the right pace, and expect the website data to be available to us this Spring. Winter is typically a low-water-usage time, so this delay is not likely to cause any problem. We will keep everyone up to date as the Monitoring Program is implemented.

Last year Eldorado applied to the State Engineer to drill a new well that will allow them to pump 240 afy more than they have ever pumped. SFBWA was joined by the Galisteo Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association, El Vadito de los Cerrillos, and others in protesting their application. Those groups, along with residents of the southern part of the County, have responded with support for our protest. A Pre-Hearing Scheduling Conference was held at the State Capitol in early November. Our Attorneys have submitted questions and witness lists, and we've met with some of the Parties to first try to resolve this without going through the full decision process. However we will continue to fight this new depletion of the aquifer if we can't reach an accommodation.

Last March Santa Fe County abruptly submitted eight applications to extract 110 acre-feet per year (afy) of water from 19 well sites in the county. The Association coordinated the largest response the State Engineer has ever seen – over 200 protests were filed. The State Engineer has been verifying the protestants and the rights to be transferred, and is now about ready to schedule Conferences and Hearings. We have just sent a letter to all the protestants, offering to represent them at the hearings. Once we have received the Consolidation Requests, we will coordinate with them in the hearings.

Finally late in 2007, with \$100/bbl oil looming, wildcatters looked again at Santa Fe County as a possible source of oil and/or natural gas. Since the last time exploration was done, the population of the southern part of the County has grown, with more communities planned, and they all get their drinking water from underground aquifers. The quantity and quality of that resource must be protected absolutely. In November 2007, Santa Fe County drafted a new ordinance to regulate oil and gas facilities. SFBWA responded to this draft with a number of water-related concerns along with recommendations toward resolving them. In January 2008, Santa Fe County issued a revised draft of the ordinance that adopted some of the recommendations from SFBWA (particularly with respect to pollution monitoring of groundwater), but not all. As a result, SFBWA remains concerned about the revised draft and is preparing a further response. We will continue to track the ordinance and work with the County to protect the quality of our drinking water.

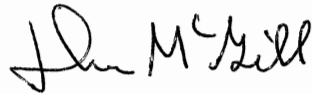
In 2008 three County Commissioner Seats will be filled. In one of them the incumbent, Virginia Vigil, will stand for reelection, while the other two are being vacated by term limits. The

Association is planning Candidates' Forums for discussion of water issues, and other issues for voter education. The critical dates are the candidates' Filing Deadline March 18, and the Democratic Primary June 3. There are no declared Republican candidates.

Announcements and newsletters will be sent out for all these issues, to keep the membership posted on our activities. In addition you should watch for updates on our website at www.nmwaterinfo.org. It has improved recently, thanks to Jim Dulaney and John Miles Smith. Both these guys have worked hard to make the website more accessible and informative. It is still a work in progress, but it is a whole lot better!

We will have our annual Membership meeting early in March. Please fill out the form below to be sure of your membership. The Board has decided not to assess any dues this year, so that we can reach the largest number of people in the area. But if you can, please make a contribution so that we can continue our efforts. Professional fees, mailing costs, printing costs, maintenance of the website ... all of these are paid for by dues and other donations. But whether you can contribute or not, please fill out the membership form so that you can vote at the Annual Meeting, and receive the mailings and updates. We will send an announcement of the Meeting soon.

Sincerely, John McGill, President SFBWA



Santa Fe Basin Water Association Membership Application:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

email address: (Important for updates, and to keep our mailing costs down!)

_____.

Are you an Individual [] or Organization []?

Do you use a Well [], Acequia [], or Other non-city water source []?

Well Number (if you know it) RG-_____.

Contribution: [] \$25 [] \$50 [] \$75 [] \$100 [] Other: \$ _____

SFBWA is a 501(c)4 organization. Donations to SFBWA may be deductible as a business expense, but are not tax-deductible as charitable contributions.