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Dear member of our beloved Santa Fe Watershed community,

What if, in the face of scarcity and uncertainty, water could become the precious gift we unite over?

We are living through a period of rapid change on every scale, and thanks to your support, the **Santa Fe Watershed Association is focused on *BUILDING RESILIENCE***. Now more than ever, we need your help to nurture our common home as we face the future. The Santa Fe River Watershed is the landscape on which we all stand and depend. It's not only the physical foundation for our lives but the literal and metaphorical force that connects us and holds our shared past, present, and future together. It's the reason we are here, that we can continue to be here, and the reason I am writing to you today. It is the common ground that motivates and depends on us to build community resilience.



Since 1997, your contributions have helped the Santa Fe Watershed Association work toward this dream by centering healing, connection, and collaboration in our programming and community relationships. **Everyone has a story about the Santa Fe River or one of its tributary arroyos, and every one of those stories relates in some way to work that the Santa Fe Watershed Association has been a part of.** Because of you, all of SFWA's diverse work centers on the goal of a hydrologically, ecologically, and communally healthy and resilient watershed. We are shifting the paradigm from the river being a dying storm drain to being the vibrant community lifeblood that we work together to care for and love.

Because of your involvement, the Santa Fe Watershed Association has developed a hyper-local, watershed-wide perspective as well as a 26-year history of community collaboration. We have become an established community convener and systems-oriented bridge figure. For example, while we offer 5th grade field trips and adult tours into the municipal watershed, we also hold leadership roles in collaborative planning conversations such as quarterly municipal watershed stakeholder meetings, the Greater Santa Fe Watershed Coalition, the Santa Fe Outdoor Education Collaborative, ProjectWET, and the

Community Educators' Network. While we partner with hundreds of volunteers in the urban watershed to remove trash, manage vegetation, and maintain rain gardens, we also participate in collaborative planning conversations through the Water Conservation Committee, the River Commission, and the Land Development Code Citizens' Advisory Group. In the lower watershed, we play a leadership role in the Santa Fe River Traditional Communities Collaborative and Santa Fe County's lower watershed planning process. Throughout the watershed, our ability to connect issues, interests, and people is unique and essential.



Support from partners like you helps to sustain our mission and to nimbly engage with topics that lie beyond our regular programming. As new challenges arise—such as climate chaos and land conversion, water quality issues and planning for Paseo Real Water Reclamation Facility upgrades, the threat of mining in our neighboring upper Pecos watershed, ongoing wetland degradation in the lower watershed, and the need for new solutions for Two Mile Pond—community members and stakeholders from many geographies and sectors look to us to help develop solutions in a timely, balanced, and collaborative manner. Your donations also help SFWA strengthen our organizational resilience by staying current in our governance and operational structure, supporting current staff, and being an inviting and accessible employer for future staff members and contractors.

Your gift today enables us to build resilience by deepening connections between people and our home watershed, starting with the water and the soil, the history, and the healing yet to be done. When you give to SFWA you are sustaining foundational work in our community, like the mortar and framing that hold a building together.

As we enter the final weeks of 2023, I invite you to maximize your positive impact by donating to SFWA's *BUILDING RESILIENCE* campaign. With your help and trust, we can better respond to the numerous challenges and opportunities we face and help our watershed community become more resilient in the process. I look forward to continuing our partnership.

With much gratitude and a shared commitment,

Handwritten signature of Morika Vorenberg Hensley in blue ink.

Morika Vorenberg Hensley
Executive Director



P.S. Donating to the Santa Fe Watershed Association is easy! Simply enclose your tax-deductible gift in the return envelope provided, make a gift online at santafewatershed.org, or scan the QR code on this page. Thank you for investing in our shared future!