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February 24, 2025

New Mexico Water Trust Board
810 West San Mateo
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

RE: Proposed Amendments to Water Project Fund

Dear Chair Anderson, Vice Chair Forte, and Members of the Water Trust Board,

On behalf of ARCISA International, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed amendments to the Water Project Fund pursuant to the Water Project Finance Act. Founded over thirty years ago, ARCISA's mission is to provide resources and information on rainwater and stormwater collection, collaborating with governmental entities at all levels to promote responsible water usage. By promoting the adoption of rainwater harvesting systems, ARCISA aims to support sustainable solutions that reduce reliance on traditional water supplies.

We commend the Board's efforts to expand the definitions of qualifying water projects outlined in 19.25.10.7(N). While we acknowledge that rainwater harvesting could be considered under existing categories, **we strongly recommend that rainwater harvesting be explicitly listed as an eligible qualifying water project.** Expressly including rainwater harvesting as a qualifying water project would provide much-needed clarity and encouragement for entities seeking to develop and implement these systems across New Mexico.

ARCISA is committed to advancing rainwater harvesting solutions that align with New Mexico's water conservation priorities. Recognizing rainwater harvesting within the Water Project Fund would not only align with New Mexico's broader water conservation goals but also encourage more applicants to pursue funding for these projects. **We respectfully urge the Board to amend the definition of a "qualifying water project" to expressly include rainwater harvesting.**

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our recommendations on this important regulation. We are available as a technical resource and encourage you to reach out if we can offer additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

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