

Mountain & Mesa Construction

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Authorized Builder Metallic Steel Buildings * Residential & Commercial Construction
Distributor of Water Storage Tanks and Water Purification Systems for Rainwater Collection
American Rainwater Catchments Systems Association (ARCSA) Accredited Professional
ASSE International Certified Rainwater Catchment Systems Installer and Designer #44614

March 14, 2025

RE: Proposed Amendments to Water Project Fund

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

As a licensed General Contractor in the state of New Mexico since 1991 who has specialized in water storage tank and rainwater catchment tanks installations since 1994, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed amendments to the Water Project Fund pursuant to the Water Project Finance Act. I became aware of this through my long-time association with ARCSA, the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association. I have served on the ARCSA Board of Directors from 2013 through 2017 and am one of the contributing authors to the Rainwater Harvesting Manual that is used across North America to certify rainwater system installers. By promoting the adoption of rainwater harvesting systems, ARCSA aims to support sustainable solutions that reduce reliance on traditional water supplies. This dovetails with my own company's focus on providing rainwater harvesting systems across much of New Mexico as well as southern Colorado and northeastern Arizona. In fact, both my home and business locations here in western Taos County are primarily supplied by rainwater for all of our needs, including potable water.

In conjunction with ARCSA, I commend the Board's efforts to expand the definitions of qualifying water projects outlined in 19.25.10.7(N). While it is possible that rainwater harvesting could be considered under existing categories, **it is highly recommended 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.

ARCSA 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 directly include rainwater harvesting.** Additionally, I would like to point out that our state has one of the highest percentage of households who use rainwater as a source of domestic water of any of the 50 states and adding this phrasing to your document will help secure rainwater as an acceptable source for future project

Along with ARCSA, I 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,



Charlee Myers

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