

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mined water isn't in water utility's plan

SCOTT TURNER'S June 17 story "War Over Old Water" mentions that Augustin Plains Ranch LLC has listed the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority as a "potential user" of ancient groundwater that the company wishes to draw from the San Augustin Basin.

Albuquerque's Water Authority has stated for the record and wishes to reiterate that it does not wish to purchase water from APR, even if that water should become available. We have been clear on this matter since the inception of the project.

The Water Authority's recently adopted resource management strategy, Water 2120, looks at a 100-year planning horizon and focuses on the responsible use of resources already available. Under this plan, we examined numerous alternatives to meet our needs in the future, and these did not include piping mined groundwater. They did, however, include investing in a greatly expanded re-use program, stockpiling excess surface water underground via aquifer storage and recovery, and continuing our focus on conservation.

The Water 2120 plan takes various climate change and population growth scenarios into account, and does not call for the acquisition of additional native water rights from farmers in the Middle Rio Grande. By following the plan and carefully managing our existing groundwater and surface water supplies, we are confident we will be able to meet demand even as the community grows in coming decades.

A video about Water 2120 is available for viewing on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/sYhINqjtDuc>.

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