

**CIUDAD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-06

A RESOLUTION DESCRIBING A PROPOSAL OF THE CIUDAD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO IMPOSE AN ANNUAL LEVY UP TO 0.25 MILLS FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION, WATER PROTECTION, WILDFIRE REDUCTION, WILDLIFE PRESERVATION, EQUITABLE ACCESS TO THE OUTDOORS, AND THE GENERAL WELFARE OF DISTRICT RESIDENTS; CALLING AN ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024, FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF SUCH PROPOSAL; SETTING THE BALLOT TITLE AND BALLOT QUESTION FOR THE ELECTION; AND PROVIDING ADDITIONAL DETAILS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

WHEREAS, upon approval by a majority of voters in the Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District (“District”), New Mexico, Section 73-20-46, New Mexico Statutes Annotated authorizes the District’s Board of Supervisors to assess an annual district wide property tax on real property in the District;

WHEREAS, the District’s duly elected Board of Supervisors has determined that a property tax levy of up to 0.25 mills is necessary for the District to fulfill its duties to conserve natural resources, prevent soil erosion and floodwater damages, preserve wildlife, encourage healthy agricultural practices, promote the health and general welfare of District residents, and provide ongoing operations and maintenance for the District’s activities and programs;

WHEREAS, improving stormwater and floodplain management, protecting drinking water sources, improving forest health to reduce the risk of wildfire, preserving agricultural lands, providing natural resources education to community members, and ensuring equitable access enables the District to fulfill its duties for the benefit of District residents;

WHEREAS, to fully promote the health and general welfare of District residents, activities and annual budgets approved by the Board must reflect and be responsive to the diverse needs of communities in the region, and must ensure that expenditures also benefit underserved residents who are most vulnerable to environmental stressors caused by the improper use and deterioration of land, water, and other natural resources;

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has considered the proposed ballot question to be considered by voter referendum at the November 5, 2024, election;

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors will submit this resolution for consideration by the New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission who must approve this resolution in order for the referendum to be authorized, as required by Section 73-20-46(B), NMSA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District, New Mexico:

1. THAT the following ballot title and ballot question shall be submitted to the registered and qualified voters of the District at the general election to be held on the November 5, 2024:

Ballot Title: Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District Mill Levy for land, water, and natural resources conservation

Ballot Question: Shall the duly elected Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors establish a levy of up to 0.25 mills to: protect drinking water sources and the health of rivers and streams by improving stormwater and floodplain management; reduce the risk of wildfire for our communities by improving the health of our forests, including the Sandia and Manzano Forests; restore wildlife habitat, including along the Rio Grande; preserve agricultural land by partnering with local farmers to promote healthy soil practices; restore and conserve natural areas and open spaces to provide equitable access to the outdoors; and provide natural resources education for youth and adults, with all revenues and expenditures subject to an independent annual audit?

YES _____

NO _____

2. THAT if the mill levy is approved by a majority of the voters, the District, acting through the Board of Supervisors, shall be authorized to impose an annual levy of up to 0.25 mills (\$0.25) on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value, as that term is defined in the Property Tax Code (Articles 35 to 38, Chapter 7, NMSA), of real property within the District.

3. THAT in order to become effective, this resolution must also be approved by the New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission, as required by Section 73-20-46(B), NMSA.

4. THAT the Board of Supervisors will engage community-based organizations, local businesses, residents, and municipal, county, and state agencies within the District to develop a plan for how the mill levy proceeds will be used by (a) providing information about the District's existing programs, (b) gathering input on strategies and best practices for creating participatory, community-driven processes and soliciting community recommendations, and/or

(c) establishing a plan for ensuring that District investments also benefit historically under resourced areas and communities within the District.

5. THAT the revenue generated by the mill levy, including any interest, shall remain inviolate and expended solely for the purposes set forth herein.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2024.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Name, Chair