

PRESS RELEASE

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TO: *Albuquerque Journal Mountainview Telegraph*  
*The Independent,*  
*The Santa Fe New Mexican*

FROM: ESTANCA BASIN RESOURCE ASSOCIATION (EBRA)  
Contact: Peggy Schwebach, 384-5139 [pschwebach@aol.com](mailto:pschwebach@aol.com)

DATE: January 9, 2005

RE: ERBA INITIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING to be held January 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM,  
County Fair Grounds Exhibit Building, Estancia New Mexico

**ORGANIZATION FORMED TO FIGHT WATER EXPORTATION**

Alarmed Estancia Valley residents, farmers, and community leaders gathered Sunday afternoon in Estancia to organize a non-profit organization whose purpose is to protect existing water resources in the Estancia Basin. Recent reports of a proposed sale of Estancia Basin water by Sierra Waterworks to The City of Santa Fe was the primary motivation to form the organization. Sierra Waterworks, a Limited Liability Company listing Cyle Sharp, Delores Jones and Merrill A. Otis as officers has a current proposal being considered by the Santa Fe City Council.

A temporary organizational board was elected to draw up articles of incorporation, develop a mission statement, draft bylaws, and propose membership qualifications. Art Swenka was elected chairman of the organizational board.

The proposed name of the new organization is "The Estancia Basin Resource Association, (EBRA)" The organization intends to fund legal aid to fight the current

exportation proposal and then will propose and pursue legislation at state and local levels to protect the Estancia Water Basin from future attack.

An initial membership meeting to approve bylaws and to solicit active membership will be held Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM at the Torrance County Fairground building in Estancia. Charles Dumar, Professor Emeritus, UNM Law School. will be a featured speaker.

All interested in preserving the vital resource of water for the public welfare and economic well being of the Estancia Valley Region are invited to attend and become involved.