

BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF MELODY RANCH)
WATER COMPANY LLC'S WATER SYSTEM)
BREAKDOWN AND DISRUPTION OF)
SERVICE)**

Docket No. 25-00054-UT

**ORDER # 6 SETTING STATUS CONFERENCE
AND REQUIRING TOWN HALL MEETING**

THIS MATTER comes before Patrick C. Schaefer, Hearing Examiner for the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (“Commission”), upon the above-captioned matter involving Melody Ranch Water Company, L.L.C., (“Melody Ranch”) and the Commission’s Order Appointing Hearing Examiner and Order to Show Cause, issued on August 21, 2025.

Being duly informed, the Hearing Examiner **FINDS** and **CONCLUDES** that:

1. On Tuesday, May 5, 2026, the Hearing Examiner, Melody Ranch, and Commission Staff (“Staff”) participated in a status conference. At the status conference, among other topics, the parties discussed the potential transfer of Melody Ranch to Estancia, Moriarity, Willard, and Torrance County Regional Water Association (“EMWT”).

2. As indicated in Staff’s Status Report, filed on May 1, 2026, Staff states it met with the New Mexico Environment Department (“NMED”) and EMWT on April 30, 2026.¹ At the meeting, EMWT asserted it was nearing completion of its due diligence period and expects a technical memorandum to be submitted by the end of May 2026.² With the submission of the technical memorandum, EMWT should be in a position to vote on commencing the transfer of Melody Ranch to EMWT shortly thereafter.³ Staff states that it and NMED indicated their commitment to supporting EMWT throughout and after the transfer process.⁴

¹ Status Report (May 1, 2026) at 1.

² *Id.* at 1-2.

³ *Id.* at 2.

⁴ *Id.*

3. Additionally, during the status conference, the parties discussed the importance of public engagement. It is essential for all parties involved with and impacted by the current circumstances to work to maintain situational awareness of quantity and quality of current water resources as well as any potential engagement or support from other utility entities. Public engagement is not only an opportunity for all parties involved to share information and ask questions, but an essential element to building trust, shared purpose, and restoring full service. This public engagement must be constructive and avoid personal criticism. The Hearing Examiner stated that a town hall should be held by Melody Ranch both to provide updates and responses to those in attendance, such as Melody Ranch customers, state and local officials, and others.

4. The Hearing Examiner encourages Melody Ranch to work with its legal counsel to set the date, time, forum, and moderation of the town hall meeting, and to reach out to Staff for additional needs, if necessary.

5. The scheduled status conferences should continue so that the Hearing Examiner can receive updates from the parties on the status of Melody Ranch.

6. The next status conference should occur on **Tuesday, June 23, 2026**.

The Hearing Examiner therefore **ORDERS** as follows:

A. **No later than June 16, 2026**, before the next scheduled status conference, Melody Ranch shall host a town hall meeting for the purpose of providing a public forum to communicate relevant updates to Melody Ranch customers.

B. The town hall meeting may be hosted virtually, and should be recorded and available to review by Melody Ranch customers who are unable to attend at the scheduled time.

C. The next status conference in this matter will be held beginning at **9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 23, 2026**.

D. At the next status conference, the parties should be prepared to discuss any updates on the status of the potential transfer of Melody Ranch to EMWT, provide the Hearing Examiner with a summary of the town hall hosted by Melody Ranch, and offer any other relevant communications or updates.

E. The next status conference will be held via the Zoom videoconferencing platform. An invitation to the Zoom videoconference shall be sent by separate e-mail to all persons on the docket's service list.

ISSUED under the seal of the Commission at Santa Fe, New Mexico, this 27th day of **May**, 2026.



NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Patrick Schaefer", written over a horizontal line.

Patrick Schaefer
Hearing Examiner