
25-00054-UT- 2025.10.30- STAFF- Staff's Sixth Status Report

From Ramirez, Elizabeth, PRC <Elizabeth.Ramirez@prc.nm.gov>

Date Thu 10/30/2025 9:14 AM

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 1 attachment (4 MB)

25-00054-UT - 2025.10.30 - Staff - Staff's Sixth Status Report.pdf;

Good morning,

Attached is ***Staff's Sixth Status Report Pursuant to the Commission's September 8, 2025, Order Setting Prehearing Conference and Related Duties*** for Case No. 25-00054-UT, electronically filed today.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Ramirez
Paralegal

BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF MELODY RANCH	)	
WATER COMPANY LLC’S WATER SYSTEM	)	Case No. 25-00054-UT
BREAKDOWN AND DISRUPTION OF SERVICE	)	
	)	

**STAFF’S SIXTH STATUS REPORT PURSUANT TO THE COMMISSION’S
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, ORDER SETTING PREHEARING
CONFERENCE AND RELATED DUTIES**

The Utility Division Staff (“Staff”) of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (“Commission”, “NMPRC” or “PRC”) hereby submits Staff’s Sixth Status Report Pursuant to the Commission’s September 8, 2025, Order Setting Prehearing Conference and Related Duties, and would show the Commission as follows:

The September 8, 2025, Order specified in pertinent part that:

Staff shall file with the Commission a weekly report on the Thursday following each status conference providing updates on the current status of water service, the outlook for its restoration, developments with potential partners to restore service, and any other matters they believe to be of importance to this proceeding.¹

Recent and Significant Developments

On October 27, 2025, the Torrance County Board of County Commissioners issued Torrance County Resolution No. 2025-45, entitled “A Resolution Proclaiming a Disaster Declaration for the Melody Ranch Water System Failure.”² Shortly afterwards, Governor Lujan Grisham issued Executive Order 2025-373, which creates a path towards and allows for funding and facilitation of the provision of water service to the Melody Ranch Community in the interim

¹ Order Setting Prehearing Conference and Related Duties (Sept. 8, 2025) at 2.

² See Torrance County Resolution No. 2025-45 (Oct. 27, 2025) (attached as Exhibit A).

period leading to the institution of a permanent solution to the water system breakdown and failure.³ Advocacy Staff is actively working to capitalize on these significant developments and carry forward the aims regarding the interim provision of water service that have been discussed in earlier status reports to the Commission.

Current Status of Water Service

The water service remains below acceptable performance standards. The sole well used to provide water to the system continues to produce at diminished capacity – currently at approximately 4.7 gallons per minute versus the levels enjoyed historically. Service to the tap remains pressure-deficient and time-limited in availability to allow for the storage tank to attain and retain appropriate levels. During the period October 19th through October 25th one resident reports the following water system performance stats:

Sun Oct 19 th	Water from 5pm - 9pm
Mon Oct 20 th	Water from 9am - 5pm
Tues Oct 21 st	Water from 5pm - 9pm
Wed Oct 22 nd	Water from 5pm - 9pm
Thu Oct 23 rd	No Water
Fri Oct 24 th	Water 10am - 6pm
Sat Oct 25 th	Water from 10am - 2pm

This amounts to a total of 32 hours of water availability during the specified time-period.

³ See Executive Order No. 2025-373 (Oct. 28, 2025) (attached as Exhibit B).

The Outlook for Restoration of Water Service

EMWT Regional Water Association continues with its engineering due diligence review of the Melody Ranch system along with its effort, in conjunction with NMED, to address the economic (funding) component via the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (“DWSRF”) pre-application process. Melody Ranch continues its facilitation of this process via the provision of documents and information to inform EMWT’s analysis and due diligence. Torrance County is supportive of EMWT’s goals regarding Melody Ranch and has been instrumental in furtherance of the same. Staff continues to monitor these efforts and stands ready to assist as needed in the realization of the shared goal of water service restoration.

Developments with Potential Partners to Restore Service

Please see the “Recent and Significant Developments” section set forth above and the attached documents detailing the same.

Conclusion (for the Moment)

Torrance County Resolution No. 2025-45 and Executive Order 2025-373 stand to significantly enhance the efforts that have been undertaken to mitigate and ultimately rectify the breakdown and disruption of water service to the Melody Ranch community. Advocacy Staff will act accordingly to capitalize on and realize the potential of these developments in the realization of interim and permanent solutions to the emergency that has afflicted the community. Moreover, efforts and evaluations regarding the economic and technical requirements of what is contemplated towards the ultimate restoration of water service remain underway. Staff remains informed and will otherwise continue to inquire of and interact with Melody Ranch, EMWT, NMED, Torrance County, and others towards supporting and realizing these objectives.

Dated this 30th day of October, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ John Bogatko

John Bogatko, NMPRC Legal Division
John Kreienkamp, NMPRC Legal Division
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
P.O. Box 1269 | Santa Fe, NM 87504-1269
Email – John.Bogatko@prc.nm.gov
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TORRANCE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 45

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING A DISASTER DECLARATION FOR THE MELODY RANCH WATER SYSTEM FAILURE

WHEREAS, Melody Ranch is a subdivision located in the northwestern, unincorporated portion of Torrance County; and

WHEREAS, the Melody Ranch subdivision is made up of approximately 77 residential dwelling units, which house approximately 193 Torrance County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Melody Ranch Subdivision is serviced by a single well and single water utility provider, the Melody Ranch Water Company; and

WHEREAS, on or about June 30, 2025, the well that services Melody Ranch began to fail resulting in intermittent water availability for residents; and

WHEREAS, since this point in time, the residents of the Melody Ranch Subdivision have had significant periods with no water access, and as such, have been unable to take care of their basic needs; and

WHEREAS, the lack of water services has resulted in residents' inability to take care of their personal hygiene, properly dispose of human waste, properly manage their health, or to meet their basic water needs; and

WHEREAS, these situations have impacted the entire subdivision, including families with children, the elderly, residents with medical conditions and residents with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this declaration, the lack of water resources and resident's ability to meet their basic water needs still exist, creating a prolonged and continual emergency for the residents of the Melody Ranch Subdivision; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this declaration, a definitive solution to repair or replace the failing water system has not been solidified; and

WHEREAS, this area of Torrance County was so severely impacted as to issue a local disaster declaration for the Melody Ranch water system failure; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission further recognizes an imminent and prominent threat to public health from a failure of the community water system; and

WHEREAS, the disaster requires immediate action to protect public health and safety;
and

WHEREAS, due to the nature of this disaster, the disaster is beyond local control and requires the resources of the State of New Mexico to minimize economic or physical harm and to take action necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

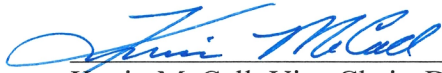
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF TORRANCE COUNTY, by virtue of the authority provided in the All Hazard Emergency Management Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 12-10-1 to -10, as well as NMSA 1978, Sections 12-11-24 to -25, does hereby declare a state of disaster in the County of Torrance for the purposes of exercising necessary emergency powers, expending available resources, and requesting aid, assistance, and relief programs and funds available from the State of New Mexico for the purpose of providing emergency water access for the Melody Ranch Water System Failure.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 27 DAY OF OCTOBER, 2025.

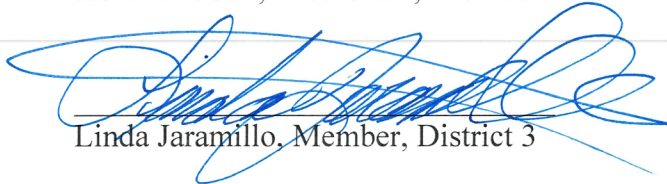
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF TORRANCE COUNTY:



Ryan Schwebach, Chair, District 2



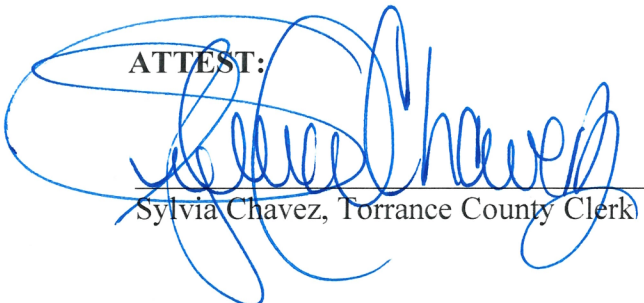
Kevin McCall, Vice Chair, District 1



Linda Jaramillo, Member, District 3



ATTEST:



Sylvia Chavez, Torrance County Clerk

10/27/2025
Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Michael Garcia, Torrance County Attorney



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2025-373

DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN TORRANCE COUNTY DUE TO MULTIPLE WELL OUTAGES AND AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, Torrance County overlies the Estancia Basin, a closed groundwater basin that supplies most domestic and agricultural use in the area;

WHEREAS, long-term studies have documented substantial declines in groundwater levels due to pumping in excess of natural recharge;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Geological Survey reported that between about 1950 and 1985 groundwater levels in parts of the Estancia Basin declined approximately 50 to 60 feet, reflecting sustained drawdown from large-scale withdrawals;

WHEREAS, current hydrologic assessments for the Estancia Basin note that groundwater levels continue to be vulnerable because extraction and evapotranspiration have historically exceeded recharge, creating water-supply risks for rural communities;

WHEREAS, periodic drought conditions in Torrance County further reduce recharge and increase pressure on groundwater supplies, heightening the risk of well failures and water shortages across the county;

WHEREAS, multiple communities in northern Torrance County have experienced loss of service and well production problems;

WHEREAS, reported well failures and low-yield conditions across the County have required emergency water deliveries and conservation measures to protect public health and safety;

WHEREAS, these well failures prompted the Torrance Board of County Commissioners to issue an emergency resolution declaring a disaster on October 27, 2025;

WHEREAS, the local disaster declaration issued by Torrance County states that all available local resources are insufficient to address this emergency and requests financial aid and material assistance from the State of New Mexico;

WHEREAS, this disaster requires immediate actions to protect public peace, health, and safety; and

WHEREAS, this disaster is of such magnitude as to be beyond local control and requires the resources of the State of New Mexico to minimize economic and physical harm and to take actions necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Howie Morales, Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Mexico and acting Governor pursuant to Article V, Section 7 of the New Mexico Constitution, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of New Mexico do hereby **DECLARE** a state of emergency to exist in Torrance County due to multiple well outages, and **ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. The Department of Finance and Administration shall make available emergency financial resources in an amount not to exceed two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) to the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in accordance with NMSA 1978, Sections 12-11-23 to -25, and NMSA 1978, Sections 12-10-14 to -15. The funds shall be expended for the resources and services necessary to, on a temporary, emergency basis, provide water supply to residents, support water quality testing by the

Department of Environment on the water provided to residents, and for any other action necessary to protect the public health, safety, welfare, and property. The funds shall be expended in accordance with the policy and procedures of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, as approved by the Governor or her Authorized Representative.

2. The Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management shall coordinate all requests for assistance and responses to such requests under the authority of and as determined by the Governor or her Authorized Representative. In addition to such other eligibility criteria as may be established by the Governor or her Authorized Representative, applicants requesting financial assistance from the State for necessary action taken in response to the emergency shall be required to demonstrate that the cost of the necessary action exceeds their available resources, as determined based upon criteria developed in conjunction with the State agencies, if any, with financial and budgetary oversight responsibilities for the applicant.

3. Water provided in response to the emergency shall meet standards appropriate for residential use. The Department of Environment shall perform water quality testing as necessary to ensure residents have water that meets safe drinking water standards.

4. The Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management shall coordinate with the Public Regulation Commission on assistance provided in response to the emergency. The Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management shall, upon delivering any water to residents, provide detailed information as to its quantity and cost to the Public Regulation Commission as needed and in a manner which facilitates appropriate regulatory action. This information shall be provided to the staff of the Public Regulation Commission as expeditiously as possible.

5. All Cabinet Departments and agencies under gubernatorial control shall provide any assistance that may be required by the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management or by the State Emergency Operations Center under the authority of the Governor's Authorized Representative, including, as consistent with applicable law, expediting all regulatory approval processes necessary to secure a long-term resolution to the emergency.

I FURTHER ORDER and DIRECT as follows:

1. This Order supersedes any previous orders, proclamations, or directives to the extent they are in conflict.
2. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until all authorized funds are expended or no longer necessary to provide emergency assistance.

ATTEST:



MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 28TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2025

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO



HOWIE MORALES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF MELODY RANCH WATER)
COMPANY LLC'S WATER SYSTEM BREADOWN) Docket No. 25-00054-UT
AND DISRUPTION OF SERVICE)
_____)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I CERTIFY that on this date I sent a true and correct copy of the *Staff's Sixth Status Report Pursuant to the Commission's September 8, 2025, Order Setting Prehearing Conference and Related Duties*, to the following:

Echo and Melody Ranch Water Co.	
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DATED October 30, 2025.

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

/s/Elizabeth Ramirez (electronically signed)

Elizabeth Ramirez, Paralegal