

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-47
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE DAIRY RULE**

WHEREAS, in 2009 the New Mexico Legislature passed Senate Bill 206 that required the Water Quality Control Commission (hereinafter "WQCC") to adopt regulations for the dairy industry specifying the methods to be used to prevent groundwater pollution and for monitoring, allowing variations in requirements based on site-specific factors; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 the WQCC adopted the required rules proposed by the New Mexico Environment Department (hereinafter "NMED") which were appealed by the dairy industry; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 the WQCC adopted certain amendments to the dairy rules and since 2012, NMED has issued draft and final permits to dairies based upon the rules adopted by the WQCC; and

WHEREAS, the draft and final permits issued by NMED have imposed costly new requirements for monitoring and changes to existing facilities, many of which were not contemplated when the dairy rules were adopted, and that may impose unreasonable burdens on the dairies such that many dairies either have or will seek variances from the WQCC; and

WHEREAS, the dairy industry has petitioned the WQCC to consider amendments to the dairy rules that will provide some flexibility from the prescriptive requirements of the dairy rules, allowing NMED to consider and approve alternative methods when warranted by site-specific circumstances, but without the need for variances; and

WHEREAS, a hearing before the WQCC has been scheduled in December 2014, to consider the dairy rule amendments proposed by the dairy industry as well as testimony and other input by other interested parties, including NMED, the Department of Agriculture and the public; and

WHEREAS, the dairy industry is vital to the economic growth, stability and vitality of rural counties and municipalities, ninety five percent of the dairies in New Mexico are family owned and the industry provides over 4,200 jobs statewide; and

WHEREAS, the direct economic impact of the dairy industry in New Mexico is approximately 1.02 billion dollars and the total economic impact, when you consider ancillary industries, is approximately 2.6 billion dollars. New Mexico dairies are one of the largest producers of agricultural products in the state; and

WHEREAS, the dairy producers recognize that it is essential to protect water quality, but the methods required for such protection must be reasonable and take into account site-specific factors such as depth and distance to groundwater and geological and hydrological conditions; and

WHEREAS, a balanced, predictable and flexible regulatory environment is essential to develop and sustain the dairy industry in New Mexico and we are convinced that the industry proposed amendments to the dairy rules accomplish these goals in a manner that will protect water quality and ensure that the dairy industry will thrive and help energize our state economy into the future; and

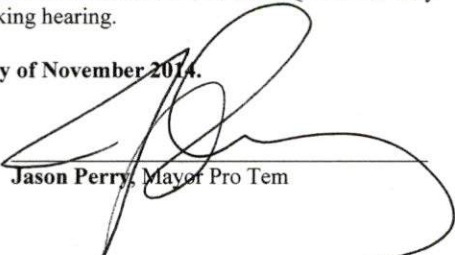
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Roswell supports the industry proposed amendments to the dairy rule and it is in the public interest to promote a healthy, reasonable and protective regulatory environment for the dairy industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the WQCC when they reconvene as part of the public comment for the rulemaking hearing.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of November 2014.

CITY SEAL
ATTEST:


Sharon Coll, City Clerk


Jason Perry, Mayor Pro Tem