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Comments: Mr. Duran,

As a child I grew up on a property in Taos that sat along the banks of the Rio Fernando the stream that flows through Fred Baca park. When I was vary young I believe five years old the stream dried up for the first time in my families history. They had watched this stream flow scenes around 1890 and around 1998 I watched it go dry. This is one my first memories my father bought plastic kids pools and we scooped fish out of puddles of mud and into them to save their lives. The fish were able to be transported to the Rio Grand and I remember the excitement of saving life. However that excitement quickly faded to sadness as year after year the stream goes dry for longer and longer periods only running water past my family's home during the early spring run off. A creek I had fond memories of playing in as a child is now a dry ditch and when it does run is a stream of trash filled with plastic bottles and diapers. It takes a toll on my heart knowing my son and nieces will never have the joy of playing in this once beautiful stream. The more development up stream the more the Rio Fernando suffers I have witnessed this first hand. A flourishing stream of fish to a dry pile of garbage this stark vision brings to light the need for us to think deeply about what is most important to our community. We must take into account the price nature pays for or monetary gain and decide if further development is worth the actual cost our community will pay.

As a teenager I recall Kayaking the Rio Hondo in the ski valley canyon and the section in the Rio Grande gorge canyon just before it merges. However over the past 14 years we have no longer seen stream flows that accommodate this recreational activity I was able to enjoy as a teenager. I worry that further development and further diversion, collection(leading to evaporation) or use of water in the Rio Hondo water shed may lead to even lower flows.

I hope these stories bring to light the need to closely evaluate any development in the Rio Hondo water shed and prevent yet another beautiful stream from drying up and becoming a trash pile.