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First name: Maria

Last name: Garcia

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Mr. James Duran

I am writing to in reference to the proposed work the Taos Ski Valley wants to do. Before I get into this I want to introduce myself. My name is Maria Garcia. I live in the heart of Valdez. My ancestors have lived here in Valdez for many generations. I am proud to call Valdez my home. My grandfather was Ralph Garcia. I remember him since I was very young always working in the fields and gardens and providing for his family. We still have cattle because that is something that he also showed us on how to provide beef for our family. Ever since I could remember, water from the acequia would always provide what we needed to live off the land. My grandfather was also the Mayordomo of the Acequia de San Antonio for as long as I could remember and until he passed away in 2014. Since then my dad stepped in and became a commissioner of the same acequia. My dad (Lloyd Garcia) is now the Mayordomo of the San Antonio Acequia. He has also showed me the importance of water from the Acequia, the Rio Hondo River, the Land Grants and the agricultural life. I've learned so much cultural traditions that I am now so deeply concerned about and want to protect.

I have recently learned all about the Taos Ski Valley's project to grow bigger, expand into a bigger resort and all the construction that they want to do. After all the studying I have done, I feel this is wrong. In the recent years our water Quality and Quantity has gone down. The Rio Hondo River is nowhere from what it used to be. The water seems polluted, slimy and you can see an algae growing in the river that has never been there before. My dad is very concerned about this quality and is constantly telling us he is very worried it is affecting all our crops that we use for our cattle. Even our gardens don't seem to be the same anymore. This has to do with how dirty the water is. There is not even the same amount of water in the late summer like there used to be. I remember in the past when we didn't get that much snow in the mountains there was still enough water in the Rio Hondo to make it through the summer. Now the Taos Ski Valley expanding over the recent years, it has affected the amount of water and we are unable to work and produce crops off our land in the summer.

I am deeply concerned with the proposed plan the Taos Ski Valley has and pray that you can help stop production and letting the Taos Ski Valley do any further construction. We are the younger generation, the youth of today that is concerned for our future. Please help us protect our future. I want to continue the legacy in which my relatives have passed on to us and we need our culture and traditions protected. With the Taos Ski Valley trying to do what they are proposing, this will only make things worse. We need your help.....

Please help protect our future. ??????

Respectfully,

Maria Garcia