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Comments: I strongly support Alternative 2 of the Ski Santa Fe Snowmaking Modernization Project. The proposed upgrades will improve snowmaking efficiency, expand reliable snow coverage to terrain served by Chair 7, and help maintain critical ski run connections during low-snow periods. Alternative 2 would improve terrain consistency, skier circulation, snow retention, grooming efficiency, and skier safety on the Sunrise ski run. It would also provide earlier and more reliable terrain openings while remaining within existing water rights and annual water-use limits. These improvements will help sustain one of northern New Mexico's most important outdoor recreation resources and benefit residents, visitors, and local businesses.

I support Alternative 2 because it modernizes existing infrastructure without requiring additional water rights or increasing Ski Santa Fe's authorized annual water use. The Environmental Assessment states that the project would remain within existing water allocations and that the majority of diverted water returns to the watershed as snowmelt. The new 4.6-million-gallon storage tank would improve operational efficiency and provide additional on-site water storage that could support emergency wildfire suppression efforts. In an era of increasing climate variability and wildfire risk, Alternative 2 represents a responsible investment in both recreation and public safety.

I support Alternative 2 because it strikes a good balance between improving Ski Santa Fe and protecting the environment. After reading the Environmental Assessment, I was encouraged to see that the project would not require additional water rights or increase annual water use. The analysis also found no effects on federally listed species, no long-term impacts to water quality, and no adverse effects on historic or cultural resources. The project includes measures to protect streams and wetlands, prevent erosion, control invasive weeds, and restore disturbed areas with native vegetation after construction. It is clear that the Forest Service and Ski Santa Fe have put significant thought into minimizing environmental impacts while helping the ski area adapt to changing winter conditions and continue serving the community.