AMAFCA RESOLUTION NO. 2026-20

WILDLIFE CONSIDERATIONS POLICY

WHEREAS, N.M. Stat. Ann. § 72-16-14 grants the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority ("AMAFCA") power to make and pass resolutions necessary or proper for the governance and management of the affairs of AMAFCA; and

WHEREAS, protection of life and property, public safety, and the proper operation and maintenance of flood control and stormwater quality infrastructure are AMAFCA's primary responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, AMAFCA facilities exist in locations where infrastructure, utilities, developed areas, open space, public use, and wildlife may intersect; and

WHEREAS, the AMAFCA Board of Directors desires to establish a practical and consistent framework for incorporating wildlife considerations into planning and field activities while fulfilling AMAFCA's primary responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed policy was made available for public review, and revisions were developed in consideration of Board direction and public comments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ALBUQUERQUE METROPOLITAN ARROYO FLOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY, BERNALILLO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Policy and Responsibilities. AMAFCA hereby establishes this Wildlife Considerations Policy. Protection of life and property, public safety, and the proper operation of AMAFCA infrastructure are paramount. AMAFCA shall comply with all applicable state and federal wildlife and environmental protection laws.

2. Scope. This policy applies to AMAFCA's planning, construction, operation, and maintenance activities and to work performed by others on AMAFCA facilities under AMAFCA authorization. It addresses wildlife considerations associated with those activities, including potential effects on wildlife and habitat.

3. Planning and Field Activities. AMAFCA shall incorporate wildlife considerations into the activities covered by this policy using a practical, risk-based approach appropriate to the location, type of work, site conditions, seasonal conditions, and known or observed wildlife activity. The level of review shall reflect the conditions and potential concerns associated with the particular facility or activity.

4. Strategic Review. AMAFCA shall evaluate its facilities and activities with qualified biological professionals to identify locations, conditions, activities, or seasons where additional wildlife consideration may be appropriate. The review shall establish a documented schedule for subsequent evaluations based on facility conditions and professional recommendations. Earlier review shall occur when significant changes in conditions or new information warrant it.

5. Observations and Public Reports. Wildlife considerations shall take into account staff observations, available biological information, and credible reports from the public. Observations and reports of potential wildlife concerns shall be documented and evaluated by the Executive Engineer or designee, in consultation with qualified biological professionals when appropriate, to determine whether additional review or response is required or warranted.

6. Professional Consultation. AMAFCA shall consult qualified biological professionals or appropriate agencies when observed conditions or credible reports identify a potential wildlife concern not addressed by established procedures, when staff are uncertain about the appropriate response, or when consultation is required by facility-specific guidance. Routine activities may proceed under procedures developed with qualified biological professionals when those procedures address the conditions encountered.

7. Staff Responsibilities and Training. AMAFCA shall provide appropriate wildlife-awareness training, including recognition of conditions warranting professional review and receipt and referral of public concerns. AMAFCA personnel shall not capture, handle, transport, or relocate wildlife and are not expected to perform biological surveys or make formal determinations regarding species, habitat, or regulatory status. Wildlife handling and specialized biological determinations shall be performed by qualified professionals or appropriate agencies.

8. Third-Party Activities. Contractors, consultants, utilities, permittees, and other entities performing authorized work on AMAFCA facilities shall comply with applicable AMAFCA requirements and project-specific biological or environmental conditions.

9. Implementation and Supporting Documents. The Executive Engineer or designee is authorized and directed to implement this policy through the Wildlife Field Guide, facility-specific field directives, staff training materials, professional biological services, and interagency coordination. The Field Guide, field directives, and training materials shall provide detailed procedures and precautions consistent with this policy. Field directives shall identify when staff may proceed under established procedures, when affected work must pause pending review, and when professional or agency assistance is required. Supporting documents may be updated as conditions, available information, operational needs, and professional recommendations change.

10. Conflicting Provisions. This resolution supersedes prior resolutions or policies to the extent they conflict with its provisions.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND SIGNED this 19th day of November 2026.

ALBUQUERQUE METROPOLITAN ARROYO FLOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY

By: _____
Elizabeth Newlin Taylor, Chair
Board of Directors

Attest:

_____
Tim Eichenberg, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Board of Directors