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Contact: Julia Bernal, Executive Director, Pueblo Action Alliance,
(505) 220-0051, julia@puebloactionalliance.org

Alejandria Lyons, New Mexico No False Solutions
Coalition, (505) 903-3383, nmnofalsesolutions@gmail.com

Ennedith Lopez, Youth United for Climate Crisis Action,
(505) 226-4994, ennedith@earthcarenm.org



Advocates Denounce Lujan Grisham’s Strategic Water Supply

and call Press Conference for the release of a scathing report Monday

SANTA FE, NM — Indigenous, frontline, youth and environmental groups responded with outcry today after receiving the Governor’s press release and Request For Information release for the Governor’s proposed “Strategic Water Supply” (SWS).

The administration released a call for industry to “spur the private sector to turn an untapped resource into water that we can use without asking taxpayers to front the cost.” Frontline groups and environmental advocates are calling the Governor’s plan what it is: a plan to bail out the oil and gas industry and give away \$500 million in public funds to private companies looking to commodify and repackage their radioactive, toxic waste and sell it back to New Mexicans. The SWS is also a way that the administration is using public funding to pursue a hydrogen economy pipe dream – a dream that has no basis in science. The idea is that the state will purchase treated brackish and treated produced water from the oil and gas industry and use it for hydrogen production, despite widespread opposition to hydrogen investment.

“The governor is continuing to push a hydrogen agenda that the broader environmental community has opposed and wasting \$500 million dollars for a proposal that pushes us away from investments in real climate and water resiliency solutions that are safe,” said Julia Bernal, the Executive Director of Pueblo Action Alliance. “The New Mexico No False Solutions Coalition has made several attempts to hold conversations with Governor Lujan-Grisham about our concerns relating to false solutions like hydrogen energy production that either use fossil fuels or unproven technologies like “treated” toxic wastewater and exacerbate the climate crisis.”

A broad coalition of critics and alarmed community groups, led by the No False Solutions Coalition is calling a **press conference for Monday at 12PM at the Roundhouse** to release a report titled “Bleeding New Mexico Dry: The Truth Behind Governor Lujan Grisham’s Strategic Water Supply” that chronicles the relationship between this proposal and a public policy agenda and economic vision for our state being codesigned by industry and Democratic leadership.

Additional Statements in response to Governor's Announcement:

"Fracking waste disposal is a problem without a solution. While financial pressure from the O&G industry is mounting to find opportunities for the conversion of toxic and radioactive fracking waste there is NO scientifically proven beneficial re-use. The Lujan Grisham administration is playing Russian Roulette with our lives."

- **Mariel Nanansi, Executive Director, New Energy Economy**

"A true climate leader does not co-opt a Just Transition and divert public funds to prolong an extractive economy and incentivize the use of oil and gas waste for false solutions like green hydrogen. Michelle Lujan Grisham plans on requesting 500 million dollars of New Mexican tax dollars to secure private investments for corporate interest, not for what the people need. She was elected to actively work on the issues that impact our frontline and overburdened communities, not to secure another market for the same corporations responsible for polluting our scarce water resources in the first place."

- **Ennedith Lopez, Policy Manager, Youth United for Climate Crisis Action**

"The governor is providing false information by believing produced water will help the people, it will not. It will poison the public for profits, not for the public's best interest"

- **Cheyenne Antonio, Energy Organizer, Diné C.A.R.E**

"We can not continue to have our leaders misguide our people to the tomb by dirty greenwashed investment that proceeds in the commodification of the sacred. We recommend the MLG Administration uphold and value the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and codify Free, Prior, & Informed Consent proceedings to ensure Indigenous people of New Mexico have just decision making power when creating solutions to climate change. The use of toxic produced water and brackish water for green hydrogen will have detrimental impacts to our waterways, land, air and wellbeing. This is not a solution to our climate crisis."

- **Krystal Curley, Executive Director, Indigenous Lifeways**

"Instead of spending half a billion dollars on expensive and unproven treatment of oil and gas "produced water" waste to attract and subsidize water-intensive industries, leadership should be incentivizing efforts that are actually appropriate for New Mexico's water scarcity."

- **Rebecca Sobel, Organizing Director, WildEarth Guardians**