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## PRESS RELEASE

### Retired Farmington Fire Fighters Volunteer Assist San Juan County Emergency Management with Water Distribution To Harvest Gold Subdivision

Aztec – Residents of Harvest Gold Subdivision East of Bloomfield have spent the last year boiling water or hauling water for drinking and cooking due to issues with the Harvest Gold Water System, a private for profit utility.

Today Farmington Fire Dept. – Retired Firefighters group, gathered at Harvest Gold Subdivision. Loading side by side's with cases of bottled water, they buzzed through the streets delivering water to residents in need this busy 4<sup>th</sup> of July Weekend.

*"These guys are my brothers, and I don't want the training and knowledge they have accumulated in over 20-30 years of fire service to go unused. I want to involve them in a lot of ways, during disaster emergencies and in staffing the County Emergency Operations Center when the time comes or if there is a need." Advised Mike Mestas, San Juan County Emergency Manager and retired Farmington Firefighter.*

Recently, the for profit utility was transfer to the public Apple Orchard Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (Apple Orchard MDWCA) an nonprofit utility giving Local and State Government the ability to assist the newly formed Association.

San Juan County Office of Emergency Management initiated a Water Pallet Challenge (#waterpalletchallenge) on social media to assist residents while construction begins to hook the system up to a City of Bloomfield Water line.

Pallets and cases of bottled water being delivered to McGee Park, have been distributed to residents by neighbors and the Apple Orchard MDWCA Board of Directors. Water fill stations continue to be available to residents of Harvest Gold Subdivision at the City of Aztec RV Fill Station – Aztec City Hall, Bloomfield Fire Station, and McGee Park. Showers are available at McGee Park.

\*\*\*A reminder to residents from the NM Environment Department, the **"BOIL WATER" ORDER REMAINS IN AFFECT.** \*\*\*

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