

Appendix C
Public Involvement
Information

Appendix C1
Meeting Notes

SOCORRO-SIERRA

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

August 19, 2003 Meeting Summary

The final steering committee meeting for the Socorro-Sierra Regional Water Plan took place on August 19, 2003, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in the Socorro City Hall. Fourteen people attended.

Approval Process

Project Manager Joanne Hilton, of Daniel B. Stephens and Associates, first outlined the process for completing the final report. A draft report will be produced by the end of September and the executive summary distributed to Steering Committee members and elected officials; the complete plan will be placed in several locations available to the public in each county. Comments will be due by the end of October. Mary Helen Follingstad of the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) noted that it was important for the ISC to know which local governments supported the regional water plan and advised that they approve a resolution of support. Such local support aids in obtaining project funds from the State Water Trust Board. Regions do not have to resolve every issue but can state individual conflicts in the “acceptance criteria.” The endorsed plan would be submitted to the ISC in December for its final approval.

Public Welfare Issues

The first question to surface from the attendees dealt with the issue of people selling their water rights yet continuing to irrigate. John Carangelo, co-chair of the steering committee from Socorro County, answered that such residents are either 1) selling their water rights and leasing them back, 2) selling their rights and leasing water from the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) water bank, or 3) stealing water. He advocated a policy be placed in the regional plan stating that those who retain their old water rights would have the first right to irrigation water.

Ms. Hilton then brought up the issue of public welfare. State water law allows the sale or transfer of a water right unless it is contrary to “public welfare” or conservation or causes impairment of senior water rights. She asked whether the group wanted to include a statement addressing public welfare in the regional water plan.

Some attendees advocated including a public welfare statement that would protect the region from water transfers out of the basin. If selling water rights would harm the culture or economy of a region, it shouldn't be allowed. Others disagreed, saying that a water right is private property. Mary Helen Follingstad mentioned a court case in the Chama Valley that halted transfer of water rights from an acequia due to the public welfare. After further debate, the consensus was to have a simple public welfare statement in the plan.

Ms. Hilton said she would work on the language and email it to attendees for their comments.

The meeting then moved to consider comments on specific alternatives, actions recommended to carry them out, and the parties designated to implement them. Comments were recorded by Barbara Herrington of Sites Southwest and are detailed in the keyword database, which is attached. Below are summaries:

1d) Storing Elephant Butte water at higher elevations: Participants felt they were being overridden by larger players in the state, such as the ISC, and would like more input into decisions.

2a) Adopt local water conservation plans: Participants feel they can't dictate conservation policy to municipalities and that each system must develop their own plan. Nevertheless, they agreed they could provide their conservation plan to local governments as a model.

3h) Promote use of low-water-use crops: Participants were dubious about this, given recent attempts to grow onions and lettuce in the region. They did, however, support the identification of commercially feasible low-water-use crops that could be sold for as much money as alfalfa, the crop commonly grown in the area.

3I) Improve on-farm irrigation efficiency: People support this, but don't have the funds to implement.

4d) Remove exotic vegetation and 5a) Identify, protect and monitor areas vulnerable to contamination: One participant questioned whether spraying salt cedar to eradicate it was safe for humans. He noted that they were warned not to spray when minnows were passing by. It was noted that certain herbicides can be used near water. Nevertheless, the group added requirements for monitoring the effects on public health as actions to carry out both alternatives.

6e) Ensure public involvement by...disseminating information: The group discussed hiring a public involvement coordinator to disseminate information on water planning, given that John Carangelo has been doing much of the work as a volunteer for the past few years. Grants are available for such coordination. The action was revised to say "assign" a coordinator rather than "hire."

7b) Encourage retention of water within the planning region: Most participants supported this. One possibility would include selling water rights to the county for later development.

7c) Develop a water banking system...: Most participants felt a regional water bank should be investigated. Programs and funding to research the ways and means are available.

7e) Identify, quantify and adjudicate all water rights...Ms. Follingstad noted that this not not being supported by residents in northern New Mexico. They instead support legislative efforts to determine water rights allocations.

7f) Make water rights non-condemnable: The group added an action to support legislative efforts to make this law.

7h) Preserve deep well water for drinking only: The Bosque del Apache uses well water in dry periods. Santa Fe limits domestic wells where there is city utility service. Others said people should be able to water their gardens with well water. Consensus was to change the alternative to “Preserve and protect deep well water.”

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

April 17 and 22, 2003 Meeting Summaries

The final round of public meetings for the Socorro-Sierra Regional Water Planning process got underway at 6 p.m. in the evening on April 17, 2003, in Truth or Consequences and April 22, 2003, in Socorro. Once again the first part of the evenings consisted of a “Dutch treat” dinner at K-Bob’s Restaurant starting at 5 p.m.

At both these meetings, Joanne Hilton, project manager from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates, presented a slide show that reviewed the alternative selection and evaluation process. She also described which alternatives would receive a full evaluation, based on a public ranking process, and which would receive a limited evaluation or be addressed elsewhere in the plan, and she presented preliminary results of feasibility analyses for the priority alternatives. Barbara Herrington from Sites Southwest recorded comments as participants were asked about and discussed the social or public welfare implications of each alternative, the political feasibility, the potential environmental impacts, and implementation issues. Participants then had the opportunity to discuss and remove from mention in the plan any alternatives that received lower scores.

Truth or Consequences Meeting

Only two persons attended this meeting; both were county planning commissioners and one owned a business in T or C. The low attendance was likely due to a conflict with a hastily called meeting on Governor Richardson’s proposal to deliver more water to Texas, providing that New Mexico could store more water at higher elevations. They carefully reviewed and commented on the proposed alternatives, however.

Generally they favored controlling non-residential surface water evaporation, getting rid of salt cedar, and encouraging all orchards to install drip irrigation. They advised that the plan promote voluntary as opposed to mandatory actions, such as requiring increased building densities and infill development. They generally supported disincentives to both export water from or import water to the region, but did not want to restrict an individual’s ability to control his or her own water rights. A water bank might be acceptable if it operated only within the region. Similarly, conservation methods would be acceptable if the conserver would have the ability to sell or lease the water conserved. (Ms. Hilton pointed out that conservation alone would also have benefits in times when farmers did not receive their full water allotments.)

Other ideas discussed included: 1) it doesn’t make sense to increase the water supply requirements for new subdivisions beyond the current 40-year supply, and 1) they opposed a sliding scale water rate that would force businesses to pay more than their share for water. A fixed rate that was high enough to encourage economic development but discourage over-use would be preferable. They favored using potable water for domestic consumption and graywater for the landscape.

Socorro Meeting

The Socorro meeting focused primarily on discussion of the top-scoring alternatives, which had been analyzed by consultants.

1d. Store Elephant Butte Reservoir water at existing higher-elevation/latitude reservoirs

The more than thirteen participants at the Socorro meeting discussed this issue at length. Benefits they saw included saving more acre-feet (as less is lost to evaporation), creating a constant water level (beneficial to fish spawning), and potentially stretching the irrigation season. Obstacles mentioned included the scarcity of available holding places upstream, the need for a continuous release or smaller storage places between El Vado and Socorro to avoid “dead spots,” the economic effects on Elephant Butte and Socorro, and the legal requirement of “use it or lose it” regarding water rights. Two participants called for an analysis of the impact on fishing, a several million dollar a year operation. The consensus was that more information was needed, but that the alternative was worth exploring further.

1e. Control non-reservoir surface water evaporation by reducing surface water areas in engineered and natural locations.

A permanently lower level of the pool at Elephant Butte reservoir will result in an enlarged delta area with increased evapotranspiration loss (although less than the loss from the surface water). The meeting consensus seemed to be that the low-flow conveyance had to be improved and the evapotranspiration reduced in order to deliver sufficient water to Texas.

3e. Improve efficiency of surface water irrigation conveyance systems

Regarding improvement of water irrigation conveyance systems, most seemed in favor provided there was money available to line ditches with concrete and it wouldn't alter water rights in future years. In general, the acequias prefer more efficient conveyance over reduced diversions. While reduced diversions could help endangered species, it might be less efficient if the diversion didn't have enough “head.” La Joya already has off-farm metering and others will have in a few years. Tax credits would offer more incentive for this.

4b. Control brush and weeds along water distribution systems and drains

The meeting consensus was to continue controlling the canal-side brush and weeds even though it did not produce huge water savings.

3i. Improve on-farm irrigation efficiency

To improve on-farm efficiency, participants agreed that drip irrigation would be economically feasible for groundwater if the OSE would approve low-volume wells, but not for river diversions due to the expense of pumps and filters. Orchards are prime candidates for drip irrigation. Agricultural land needs to be flood-irrigated periodically to flush out the salts. Farmers also need to be able to sell or lease water saved through

conservation. Regarding laser leveling, participants agreed this is a well-known state-of-the-art practice that is already occurring.

4d. Remove exotic vegetation (ie, salt cedar, Russian olive) on a wide scale

Removing exotic vegetation, particularly salt cedar, garnered a lot of support from meeting attendees. Socorro is already treating 5,000 acres in September through aerial spraying. There are Federal matching funds available for re-vegetation, and participants questioned when more state funds would be made available for this.

4g. Delay start-up of irrigation season

This alternative received mixed reviews. One participant said it could be done depending on the crop; alfalfa, for example, requires water three weeks later. Another participant asked it be removed as an option.

7b. Encourage retention of water within the planning region

Participants seemed divided over the issue of retaining water rights in the region. While they saw the economic value in keeping water in the region, many were hesitant to restrict an individual's control of his own water rights. A new state statute that goes into effect in March 2004 allows acequias to adopt provisions, if they choose, that would require acequia approval of transfers into or out of an acequia or community ditch. Participants seemed open to exploring the option of a water bank to help manage this issue.

6f. Require proof of sustainable water supply for approval of new development.

Socorro County currently relies on the Office of the State Engineer to evaluate whether a proposed subdivision can furnish the required 40-year supply of water. While meeting participants had a distaste for regulations in general, several felt better rules were needed to protect people who purchased homes as well as to prevent later repercussions to the County.

7j. Restrict installation of new domestic wells

The remaining alternative that generated a lot of debate was that calling for restrictions of new domestic wells. Participants opposed the fact that landowners can sell water rights to a parcel of property, then still subdivide it and use 3 ac/ft a year for each dwelling unit as a domestic well. They said domestic wells can impair senior water rights because they don't require a water right. Municipalities can require developers to deed their water rights in exchange for municipal water service. The consensus seemed to be that the report needed to address this inequity; some thought domestic wells should be restricted only where they infringed on farmers and ranchers.

Meeting attendees agreed that the remainder of the alternatives should be included in the report as well. General comments included a recommendation that the report not emphasize alternatives over which the region has little control. Another opinion was that

too many entities now have control over water and that after the regional plans are completed, the state has to consolidate all these interests into a coherent plan.

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

October 24, 2002 Meeting Summary

The third Steering Committee meeting for Year 2 of the Socorro-Sierra Regional Water Plan got underway at 6:15 p.m. after dinner at K-Bob's Restaurant in Socorro. More than 20 persons from both counties participated in ranking more than 40 alternatives to how water is currently used in the region according to a decision matrix. The matrix was designed to score the alternatives numerically. The alternatives with the top scores would then be compared with those that scored the highest during multi-voting (by dots) at the previous meeting.

Project manager and hydrologist Joanne Hilton, of Daniel B. Stephens and Associates, presented a short summary of the regional water planning project. She explained that the focus of the project was to find alternative ways to use existing or new supplies of water in the region so that they would meet the demand projected for 2040. At previous meetings, attendees had brainstormed a list of alternatives, clarified and refined them, and decided upon nine criteria by which to evaluate them. Those ranked highest by the group will be researched in depth by the project team.

Since the last meeting, the technical project team and S.S. Papadopoulos and Assoc. had scored the alternatives according to how well they met 7 of the 9 criteria based on a scale of 1 to 5 that was designed to move those with the highest scores to the top of the priority list. For example, the fairly costly alternative of "Reclamation, treatment and use of saline water" scored 1 on *local capital costs*, 2 on *local operating and maintenance costs*, 2 on *feasibility of state funding*, 3 on *feasibility of federal funding*, 5 on *physically possible*, 3 on *legal impediments*, and 4 on *saves or produces more water* (broken into three scores: during *diversion*, during *consumption*, *timing* or how soon the effects would be felt).

On October 24, participants first decided on the weights to give each criterion based on a scale of 1 to 5. The criteria scores would later be multiplied by each weight to arrive at a final score for each alternative. After determining weights, the participants moved on to score each alternative on the remaining two criteria: *impairment/public welfare* and *support by political leaders*. Due to time constraints, the group agreed not to score to postpone evaluation of eight alternatives that involved water conservation as Jim McCord, hydrologist and team member, is preparing a separate report on this. Also, two alternatives addressed elsewhere in the plan were also not scored.

Following that, Ms. Hilton totaled the scores on her laptop spreadsheet and Barbara Herrington, meeting facilitator, recorded the alternatives with scores of 160 or more on flip charts for the audience to view and compare with the top-ranked alternatives chosen by dot voting at the last meeting, which were posted on the wall on printed sheets. Participants then had a chance to add other alternatives from the remaining list or delete those they did not wish to pursue. Both lists are attached. These alternatives will be researched in more depth and results presented to the Steering Committee and public at the next meeting. The meeting adjourned approximately 9:15 p.m.

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

June 20, 2002 Meeting Summary

The second Steering Committee meeting for Year 2 of the Socorro-Sierra Regional Water Plan got underway after a “dutch treat” dinner at K-Bob’s in Truth or Consequences. More than 15 persons from both regions joined in several exercises designed to begin clarifying and prioritizing water use alternatives that will be included in the final plan.

Project consultants Joanne Hilton, project manager, of Daniel B. Stephens and Associates; Jim McCord, a hydrologist with Hydrosphere, and Barbara Herrington, a planner and meeting facilitator with Sites Southwest, reviewed the percentage of current water use in the region by user and reported on progress made between the first and second steering committee meetings.

During that interim, the Alternatives Subcommittee of the Steering Committee—Rob Bowman, Jane Farmer, and Peggy Johnson—had clarified and reorganized the alternatives suggested at the previous meeting into seven categories (see attached list) and deleted a few that were “unrealistic,” such as repealing NAFTA. They also added a number of potential alternatives derived from other regions that were proposed by John Carangelo, co-chair of the Steering Committee. In addition, Joanne Hilton had discussed with S.S. Papadopoulos and Assoc. (SSPA) which alternatives could be analyzed by a water budget model they developed under a contract with the state and the U.S. Army Core of Engineers. A second list of these was constructed. The SSPA group has proposed to perform a quick analysis of all these alternatives to estimate the amount of water each might save or produce and to spend more time on the top choices.

Both sets of alternatives were listed on wall posters and in handouts. The meeting first broke into several groups of from four to five persons to review the list, seek clarifications and make any additions. They then reported results to the entire group and corrections and additions were made to the wall posters.

The group then had a chance to indicate their top choices for each list. Individuals first ranked the alternatives to be analyzed by SSPA. They each received three green dots to place on the alternatives they favored the most and two red dots to place on alternatives they did not want to explore further. The top three choices, with six votes apiece, were (3e) Improve the efficiency of surface water conveyance systems to agricultural land; (4d) Remove exotic vegetation (i.e. salt cedar, Russian olive) on a wide-scale; and 7c) Develop a viable water banking system to facilitate the transfer of water within the planning region. The group consensus was to remove (1g) Dredging and deepening of Elephant Butte Reservoir.

To set initial priorities from the full alternatives list for Daniel B. Stephens and Associates to analyze, participants were given eight green dots and three red dots. The top nine are underscored on the attached list. Following this exercise, participants selected a preliminary list of criteria from lists used by the Colfax and Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Planning groups to be used to evaluate the Socorro-Sierra alternatives. The next Steering Committee meeting will be scheduled for fall.

Questions and Comments Received During the Public Meeting for
The Socorro/Sierra Regional Water Plan
Sarracino Middle School
March 3, 2001
2:00 PM

DBSA:

Is there a state framework water plan? No.
If the residents adopt this plan, does it supercede the state plan? No, it becomes part of the state plan.

Goals:

What do you do in this plan when you discover there is not enough water?
This issue is address in the alternatives section, which has not been done yet.
Occasionally, there are wet years. The plan is nice, but...
Not enough water for population growth.
Rivers are over-appropriated-more water rights than water.
Mining from aquifers.
Important to have a plan that states we do not have enough water today. We do not want Albuquerque and Las Cruces to take water from Socorro and Sierra.
Moratorium-stop development.
If all regions say they need water, how do you make a state plan? The state will then come into play and make policies. Las Cruces cannot plan for water in Socorro or Sierra. Inter-regional planning. Alternatives.
Is there a plan to treat water that is unusable (San Augustin Plains)? Find water quantity, quality, and then claim water.
Lots of salty water east of the Rio Grande.

Groundwater:

1200' depth is saline.
Need a more in depth study-quality and development
Is water on Federal land available for use? Apply to state engineer for water right then it could be leased or contracted.
Could the water plan make a claim to the San Augustin Plains through the County Commission? Can make a plan for future use, under alternatives. Address needs of farmers/agricultural use/population centers.
Who makes decision that 'entity' made claim? Contracts JPA's.
Is the water on Federal land a change in point of diversion? Dealt with by State Engineer.
After the state plan is done, can the Federal government supercede this? Policy on this is coming out of litigation over silvery minnow. The Endangered Species Act trumps state law. Litigation-Feds need to pay a fair market value for the water. Domenici is backing state law-work ESA through state law.
NEPA/EIS for any major federal action.

EIS required for Bureau of Reclamation. Judge reprimanded EIS back to US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Is there any way citizens can make statements to court? Contact MRGCD, City of Socorro. Sign and affidavit-could become part of record.

Erroneous premise-beginning with this on silvery minnow issue. Answered by Court.

Surface water point of diversion-ask State Engineer not to change points of diversion. Advertise the change in point in diversion and then citizens can protest that change.

Depletion of compact delivery.

Water demand:

Salt cedar has greatly increased since 1975, is there a significant riparian increase?

Projected industrial demand. Younger people leaving. If industry was in our area, people would stay. Leave this open as a possibility

The amount of water moved out of the Socorro area will be looked at in next year's scope.

Will regions have any power or authority?

Estimated that 90% of salt cedar is on private land. Provide an incentive for removal of this.

Save Our Bosque Task Force, BLM office, First Tuesday of each month, 9:30 am.

ESA-willow flycatcher

Need defensible regional water plan.

Work with economic development entities.

SOCORRO-SIERRA REGIONAL WATER PLAN SEPTEMBER 11, 2000 MEETING SUMMARY

I. Population Estimates and Projections:

Barbara Herrington, planner with Sites Southwest in Albuquerque, presented a preliminary report on the assumptions, estimates and projections of populations in Socorro and Sierra Counties from 1990 to 2040. Preliminary data from the cohort-component computer model yielded 2040 population projections of 17,147 for Sierra County and 30,481 for Socorro County. These figures are higher than the BBER projections but lower than those in the 1994 update prepared by Gregg White. She also distributed a package of tables and explained how the firm was trying to verify or cast doubt on the 1990 Census counts for population and housing.

Richard Ramsey questioned the exclusion of the Elephant Butte zip code on the population map. John Carrangelo suggested contacting the Department or Chamber of Commerce for economic projections. Jim Shaffner agreed to try to get school enrollment data from the Belen School District.

II. Historical and Current Water Use

Jim McCord, a hydrologist from Hydrosphere, solicited comments on his draft report of Historical and Current Water Use. He noted that they still have not received a response to the survey from the T or C water system. Al promised to help. He also pointed out that water categories have changed over the years, complicating comparisons of the amount of use in each category. Following is a summary of comments:

- The Steering Committee wishes to use “consumptive use” rather than “depletion” to indicate water that is used and not returned to the river. Depletion from the committee’s point of view is only from an aquifer. “Diversion” means the total amount of water diverted. State these definitions in the report.
- Jim noted that they obtained the numbers for self-supplied domestic use by subtracting the population served by the various water utilities from the 1990 Census. The problem in Sierra County is that the water utility population is larger than the Census population. This may be because seasonal winter visitors would be counted in the water utility populations but not in the Census.
- Livestock may be undercounted. Department of Agriculture reports do not include horses and pigs. The assessor charges a tax for livestock, so they often are unreported. Figures obtained from local agricultural agencies, however, were thought to be fairly accurate.
- What daily per capita use should the plan use for projections? Use is approximately 60 gallons per capita per day for both the rural areas and Socorro City. Use in other cities ranges from 152 in Texas to 290 for Las Vegas. Are Socorro and Sierra counties selling themselves short? Brian Wilson from the SEO suggests using 100 gallons per capita per day. Some reasons may be that water from the Mutual Domestic Water Associations is restricted to domestic use (inside the house plus 2 dogs, 1 cow, 1 horse) but the rest and landscaping are to be supplied from individual wells. Larger cities have parks, golf courses, and hotels, which increase the per capita water use rate. Should different numbers be used for the county and city?
- Albuquerque is also counting evaporation of water from Elephant Butte.

III. Water Rights Law

Dominique Carton, an attorney with Daniel B. Stephens and Assoc. in Albuquerque, reviewed water rights law in New Mexico. Some issues that arose during the discussion included:

- The La Jolla Acequia Association may have to go to court at some point to fight a charge that it abandoned certain water rights after its ditch washed out.
- Mutual Domestic Water Associations need to make sure that potential sellers have valid water rights before they purchase them.
- Pre-basin wells are a category of water rights that needs to be quantified.
- Adjudicating a basin is a \$10 million process for the state (Mary Helen).

Socorro/Sierra Regional Water Planning Steering Committee
103 Neel Ave., Socorro, NM 87801 (505) 835-1710 ext. 5
2101 S. Broadway, T or C, NM 87901 (505) 894-2232

February 2, 2000
6:00 PM

Present: See attached list.

- I. Introductions-Jim McCord, Hydrosphere; Joanne Hilton-DBSA; Barbara Herrington and Phyllis Taylor-Sites SW introduced themselves to the Steering Committee.
- II. Project Background and Year 1 tasks-Joanne Hilton gave a summary of the water planning to date and also summarized their tasks for this year. Attached is the Critical Path chart listing the deliverables that they will be completing this year. Water planning began in 1987 in the State of NM to protect the water resources by answering the following questions: how much water is available, how much water is needed, and what alternatives can be implemented to meet the needs. There are sixteen planning regions within the State of NM. These plans will be placed with in the statewide plan. This has originated from litigation with Texas. NM must show its need for more water, not just say it needs the water. The original plan was completed in 1994. The ISC released its template for regional water planning in late 1994. This region received another grant to revise the 1994 plan to concur with this template. The remainder of work to be done with this plan, based on future funding from the ISC, includes: water budget tool for alternatives analysis, water conservation plan, drought vulnerability assessment and contingency plan, and water quality assessment. There is a bill before the legislature for another \$1,000,000 to continue water planning. Jim McCord recommended talking with Ben Altimirano, Joe Fidel, Max Coll, and Lucky Varela-members of the Senate and House Finance committees about the importance of regional water planning and the need for the \$1,000,000. Attached is a fact sheet about regional water planning that you can use when talking to people about the importance of this that Jim McCord and John Carangelo handed out at the meeting.
- III. Public Involvement Plan-see attachment-Phyllis Taylor facilitated this discussion. Some items suggested are: Enchantment newspaper (newspaper that goes out once per month to COOP subscribers), Voter registration list, District Newsletters, Socorro Electric Coop Channel 86, Utility bills, FSA newsletter, newspaper articles. It was decided that legal notices were not needed. One copy of mailings could be distributed to each big stakeholder instead of numerous copies. Attached is a Mailing list and a Contact list-add anyone to these that you can think of and return to Nyleen or Merry Jo. Nyleen and Merry Jo will be the collection points of information. They will get these to Phyllis, Barbara, Joanne, and Jim as needed. There is a copy of

the ongoing public involvement plan in the Socorro and Sierra SWCD offices. These are notebooks that we will be adding information to as the plan progresses. Anyone may come to the office and review it. It will contain the minutes, press releases, newspaper articles, technical reports, etc.

Nyleen and Merry Jo then discussed signing the Steering Committee up as NRCS Earth Team Volunteers. The Steering Committee volunteers their time to serve the community. The Socorro and Sierra NRCS field offices need to sign up these volunteers as part of their program. This will look good for the NRCS offices and it will also keep track of in-kind service provided by the Steering Committee that can be reported in our water plan to the ISC.

Attached is the sign up form and a time keeping sheet (make copies of this or come by the office and we can give you more). If you have not signed up, please do so and return the form to Nyleen or Merry Jo. Thanks.

- IV. Goals and Objectives-Phyllis facilitated this discussion and Barbara recorded the comments on the goals and objectives. Attached is sheet listing the goals and objectives from the 1994 water plan. These were discussed. Attached is list of everyone's comments. Please review and comment on the goals and objectives. If you have any suggestions, please get these to Nyleen or Merry Jo. Phyllis and Barbara will be preparing a list of the goals and objectives with some language options. This will go out to the Steering Committee for review.
- V. Adjourn.

SOCORRO-SIERRA REGIONAL WATER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING FEB. 2, 2000

NOTES ON PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (Consensus is in bold)

4aii Mailing List

- ◆ Voter registration? (too many)
- ◆ Utility bills (Socorro water and gas)
- ◆ Channel 86
- ◆ Enchantment –published by the electric coop
- ◆ S&W newsletters, FSA monthly
- ◆ **Limited Mailing list**
- ◆ Legal ads? Probably not necessary

4b Public Comment

- ◆ Report on progress in ads

4d Documents

- ◆ 100 copies prior—RCND
- ◆ Steering Committee has final update (98)
- ◆ Soil and Water can copy drafts
--Need 2 originals, clipped not bound

4d Interim report to Steering Committee

- ◆ Soil and Water to copy
- ◆ NRCS Earth team volunteers, can count as in-kind service on contract

Water Plan

- ◆ At Soil and Water monthly meetings will be a conference call between Steering committee and S&WCD

Appendix C2
**Sample Press Releases/
Newspaper Articles**

SOCORRO-SIERRA

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2003

CONTACTS

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Merry Jo Fahl (505) 894-2212

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SOCORRO AND SIERRA COUNTIES CHOOSE OTHER WAYS TO USE AND SUPPLY WATER

Socorro and Sierra County representatives and residents will make final choices about the future ways water should be used and supplied in the region during the last round of public meetings to be held in Socorro and Truth or Consequences in April. The meetings will begin to wrap up the regional water planning process in the two counties.

The public is invited to the meetings to be held Thursday evening, April 17 at K-Bob's Steakhouse in Truth or Consequences, 2260 N. Date St., and Tuesday evening, April 22, in Socorro at K-Bob's Steakhouse, 1123 Frontage Road, NW. Both evenings will begin with a "buy-your-own" dinner at 5 p.m. and follow with the meeting at 6 p.m.

Consultants for the project will summarize the pros and cons of alternative ways to use or save water so that enough exists to meet future needs. Alternative methods were proposed and ranked by the public at previous public meetings. Top choices included such ideas as replacing exotic vegetation such as salt cedar and Russian olive with native vegetation, raising water rates, improving water reservoir management, and developing a viable water banking system.

The public meetings are the last to be held in the two-county area as part of the process to develop a regional water plan. At the kick-off meeting in April 2002, participants developed a list of potential alternatives to current water use and demand. At subsequent meetings participants refined the list and determined which alternatives held the most promise for ensuring a future water supply for the region and should be studied further. In the future, county residents will have a chance to review and comment on a draft plan before it is finalized.

The Socorro and Sierra Soil and Water Conservation Districts are undertaking the water planning process with a grant from the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. The SWCDs have contracted with Daniel B. Stephens, a hydrology and engineering firm from

(More)

Socorro-Sierra Water Plan 2

Albuquerque, to develop the plan. Aiding them are Hydrosphere, a policy analysis and engineering firm with an office in Socorro, and Sites Southwest, a planning and landscape design firm in Albuquerque.

Guiding the process is a volunteer Water Plan Steering Committee composed of a range of interested persons in both counties. These include representatives from local government, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, New Mexico Tech, the mutual domestic water users associations, the Bosque del Apache, and Elephant Butte.

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SOCORRO-SIERRA

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10, 2002

CONTACTS

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SOCORRO AND SIERRA COUNTIES EVALUATE POSSIBLE CHANGES TO CURRENT WATER USE AND SUPPLY

Socorro and Sierra County residents will have another opportunity on October 24 to consider possible changes in how water is used and supplied in the two-county area.

The regional water planning project is moving forward with the third of four public meetings this year to be held at 6 p.m., Thursday, October 24 at K-Bob's Restaurant, 123 NW Frontage Road in Socorro.

At the previous meeting in June, participants refined a list of potential alternatives designed to meet the future demand for water in the region where, in average years, water supplies barely exceed demands. Favored alternatives included removing exotic vegetation—salt cedar, Russian olive—along the Bosque, improving the efficiency of the agricultural ditch delivery system, and creating a viable water banking system to make it easier to transfer water within the planning region. Attendees also proposed criteria for evaluating alternatives, such as how much water would be saved, whether it would impair the public welfare, and whether the method would be physically possible.

On Thursday evening, participants will evaluate the list of more than 45 alternatives by the selected criteria and choose the most viable ones for in-depth study by hydrology consultants Daniel B. Stephens and Associates and Hydrosphere. Aiding them will be estimates from state consultants on how much water each alternative could be expected to save or produce.

Studies produced for the project show that 80 percent of water consumed in the region evaporates from Elephant Butte and other reservoirs or is consumed by plants along the river or in shallow water tables. The next largest water user is irrigated agriculture, which consumes about 18 percent of the total supply. Domestic use supplied by public and private water systems as well as individual wells, accounts for only 0.6 percent, the same percentage as livestock. The remaining categories of commercial, industrial, mining activities combined use less than 0.5 percent of water in the region.

(More)

The Socorro and Sierra Soil and Water Conservation Districts undertook the water planning process with a grant from the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. The SWCDs have contracted with Daniel B. Stephens, a hydrology and engineering firm from Albuquerque, to develop the plan. Aiding them are Hydrosphere, a policy analysis and engineering firm with an office in Socorro, and Sites Southwest, a planning and landscape design firm from Albuquerque.

Guiding the process is a volunteer Water Plan Steering Committee composed of a range of interested persons in both counties. These include representatives from local government, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, New Mexico Tech, the mutual domestic water users associations, the Bosque del Apache, and Elephant Butte.

The plan, along with water plans from other regions in the state, is anticipated to contribute information to a statewide water plan, which will guide interstate water management decisions.

###

SOCORRO-SIERRA

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 10, 2002

CONTACTS

Nyleen Stowe (505) 835-1710

Merry Jo Fahl (505) 894-2232

Joanne Hilton (505) 822-9400

SOCORRO AND SIERRA COUNTIES EXPLORE ALTERNATIVES TO CURRENT WATER USE AND SUPPLY

How should Socorro and Sierra Counties change the way water is supplied and used in the region? Should salt cedar be removed and replaced with native plants? Should farmers change to drip irrigation? Should water rates be increased? Should wastewater be reclaimed and reused?

County residents will have the opportunity to suggest additional alternatives to meet the future demand for water and to prioritize alternatives such as these for further investigation on Thursday, June 20, at 6 p.m. The meeting will take place at K-Bobs Restaurant in Truth or Consequences, 2260 N. Date St. A “dutch treat” dinner at K-Bobs will be held before the meeting at 5 p.m.

The public meeting is the second of four that will be held this year in the two-county area as part of the process to develop a regional water plan. At the kick-off meeting in April, participants developed a list of potential alternatives to current water use and demand. The next step is to refine the list and determine which alternatives hold the most promise for ensuring a future water supply for the region and should be studied further.

The Socorro and Sierra Soil and Water Conservation Districts are undertaking the water planning process with a grant from the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. The SWCDs have contracted with Daniel B. Stephens, a hydrology and engineering firm from Albuquerque, to develop the plan. Aiding them are Hydrosphere, a policy analysis and engineering firm with an office in Socorro, and Sites Southwest, a planning and landscape design firm from Albuquerque.

Guiding the process is a volunteer Water Plan Steering Committee composed of a range of interested persons in both counties. These include representatives from local government, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, New Mexico Tech, the mutual domestic water users associations, the Bosque del Apache, and Elephant Butte.

(More)

Socorro-Sierra--2

The plan, along with water plans from other regions in the state, is anticipated to contribute information to a statewide water plan, which will guide interstate water management decisions.

###

SOCORRO-SIERRA

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2002

CONTACTS

Nyleen Stowe (505) 835-1710

Merry Jo Fahl (505) 894-2232

Joanne Hilton (505) 822-9400

SOCORRO AND SIERRA COUNTIES LOOK FOR ALTERNATIVES TO CURRENT WATER USE

How can Socorro and Sierra Counties make sure they have enough water for future prosperity of the region? Come help think of potential alternatives to the way water is supplied and used in the region on Friday, April 19, 6:30 p.m., at the Ranchers Steakhouse in Socorro.

This public meeting will kick off the second year of the regional water planning process in the two-county area. Consultants for the project will report information learned from the first year's investigation and then encourage meeting participants to develop creative ways of addressing the region's water concerns. Ranchers Steakhouse is located at 606 N. California Street in Socorro.

The Socorro and Sierra Soil and Water Conservation Districts are undertaking the water planning process with a grant from the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. The SWCDs have contracted with Daniel B. Stephens, a hydrology and engineering firm from Albuquerque, to develop the plan. Aiding them are Hydrosphere, a policy analysis and engineering firm with an office in Socorro, and Sites Southwest, a planning and landscape design firm from Albuquerque.

Guiding the process is a volunteer Water Plan Steering Committee composed of a range of interested persons in both counties. These include representatives from local government, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, New Mexico Tech, the mutual domestic water users associations, the wildlife refuges, and Elephant Butte reservoir.

The plan, along with water plans from other regions in the state, is anticipated to form the framework for a statewide water plan, which will guide interstate water management decisions.

###

Socorro SWCD News

Date: 4/9	# Of Pages: 1	QUICK FAX™ OfficeMax®	
To: JOANNE HILTON	From: J. CARANGELO		
Co./Dept: DB STEPHENS	Co./Dept: SSWCD		
Fax: 822-8877	Fax: 864-5904		
Phone:	Phone: 864-5904		
Note:	E-Mail: jhilton@flash.net		

Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District

March 2002

Volume 4 Issue 1

Facts about Water:

Socorro/Sierra Regional Water Plan

The Socorro SWCD is pleased to announce the startup of the second half of our regional water plan for Socorro and Sierra Counties. The contractors for this half are Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Hydro-sphere, and Sites SW. Our first meeting will be held April 19, 2002 at 6:30 pm at the Ranchers Steakhouse, 606 N. California St., Socorro. The Contractors will review the goals and objectives for the regional water plan. The Contractors will also be compiling a list of initial alternatives for meeting future demand. We would like to solicit your ideas for these alternatives. All ideas will be compiled. Comments and suggestions from participants will be included in the initial list of alternatives. This is a chance for you to express your priorities for our limited water resources.

- ◆ About 800,000 water wells are drilled each year in the United States for domestic, farming, commercial, and water testing purposes.
- ◆ Sixty-one percent of Americans rely on lakes, rivers, and streams as their source of drinking water. The other thirty-nine percent rely on groundwater-water located underground in aquifers and wells.

Later, the evaluation and decision criteria will be developed for these Alternatives. A list of alternatives will then be given to S.S. Papadopoulos & Associates for a feasibility analysis. They will be taking the alternatives and modeling the effects of each alternative, concerning the Middle Rio Grande basin

Elements that will be calculated for each of alternatives are: financial, legal, and technical. The Socorro/Sierra Regional Water Planning Steering Committee will be reviewing the alternatives for political feasibility and social acceptance.

Other tasks for our Regional Water Plan include the development of a water conservation plan and a water quality assessment. By the middle of 2003, we anticipate having the Socorro/Sierra Regional Water Plan completed and ready for distribution. The plan will be presented to the Interstate Stream Commission for acceptance.

We look forward to seeing you and hearing your ideas on April 19, 2002 at the Ranchers Steakhouse. Please call our office at (505) 835-1710 x 101 if you have any questions.

Ways to conserve water in your home:

- Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables. Rinse your vegetables instead in a bowl or sinkful of clean water.
- When you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing. Rinse quickly with a spray device or a pan of water.

Socorro SWCD Website: <http://www.socorroswcd.com>

Sierra & Socorro Counties choose other ways to use & supply water

Socorro and Sierra County representatives and residents will make final choices about the future ways water should be used and supplied in the region during the last round of public meetings to be held in Socorro and Truth or Consequences in April.

The meetings will begin to wrap up the regional water planning process in the two counties.

The public is invited to the meetings to be held Thursday evening, April 17, at K-Bob's Steakhouse in Truth or Consequences, 2260 N. Date St., and Tuesday evening, April 22, in Socorro at K-Bob's Steakhouse, 1123 Frontage Road, NW.

Both evenings will begin with a "buy-your-own" dinner at 5 p.m. and follow with the meeting at 6 p.m.

Consultants for the project will summarize the pros and cons of alternative ways to use or save water so that enough exists to meet fu-

ture needs.

Alternative methods were proposed and ranked by the public at previous public meetings. Top choices included such ideas as replacing exotic vegetation such as salt cedar and Russian olive with native vegetation, raising water rates, improving water reservoir management, and developing a viable water banking system.

The public meetings are the last to be held in the two-county area as part of the process to develop a regional water plan.

At the kick-off meeting in April 2002, participants developed a list of potential alternatives to current water use and demand.

At subsequent meetings participants refined the list and determined which alternatives held the most promise for ensuring a future water supply for the region. In the future, county residents will have a chance to review and comment on a draft

plan before it is finalized.

The Socorro and Sierra Soil and Water Conservation Districts are undertaking the water planning process with a grant from the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. The SWCDs have contracted with Daniel B. Stephens, a hydrology and engineering firm from Albuquerque, to develop the plan.

Aiding them are Hydrosphere, a policy analysis and engineering firm with an office in Socorro, and Sites Southwest, a planning and landscape design firm in Albuquerque.

Guiding the process is a volunteer Water Plan Steering Committee composed of a range of interested persons in both counties. These include representatives from local government, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, New Mexico Tech, the mutual domestic water users associations, the Bosque del Apache and Elephant Butte.

<<< >>>

NOTICE

Magdalena Municipal Schools' Board of Education Will Hold
Their Regular Programmatic Meeting on

Thursday, April 22, 2003 at 6:30 p.m.

(rescheduled from April 15)

at the Magdalena Municipal Schools' Library

Individuals with disabilities who need any form of auxiliary aid to
participate in this meeting, please contact the Central Office at
854-2241 prior to the meeting.

The greenhouse is in bloom!

Bedding Plants and Hanging Baskets - Tomatoes, Chile &
Peppers - New Selection of Herbs - Lots of
Perennials - Garden Mums - Ever Bearing
Strawberries - Trees - Shrubs - Natives -
Ornamental Grasses.

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FINAL PUBLIC MEETINGS SOCORRO-SIERRA REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Tell us how you think water should be used and saved
in Socorro and Sierra Counties

Thursday, April 17, TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES,
K-Bob's Steakhouse, 2260 N. Date St.
BYO dinner at 5 p.m., Meeting at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, April 22, SOCORRO
K-Bob's Steakhouse, 1123 Frontage Rd. NW
BYO dinner at 5 p.m., Meeting at 6 p.m.

For more information call
Socorro SWCD 835-1710, Sierra SWCD 894-2212,
or Sites Southwest 822-8200
Website: www.socorroswcd.com

Free!

City of
Socorro



Mayor Ravi Bhasker & City Council
Would Like to Invite You To An

Easter EGG Hunt!

**April 19, 2003
(Saturday)**

**Sedillo
Park**

Ages: 0-3
10:00 AM - Field 1

Ages 7-10
10:30 AM - Field 3

~~~~~  
Ages 4-6  
10:15 AM - Field 2

~~~~~  
Ages 11-13
10:45 AM - Behind
Concession

**Pictures With
Easter Bunny Available!**

Free!

SCOREBOARD

High School Sports

Baseball

Tuesday, April 8

Belen 7 Santa Teresa 5
 Santa Teresa 18 Belen 7
 Alamogordo 11 Los Lunas 8
 Alamogordo 7 Los Lunas 3

Tuesday, April 15

Los Lunas at Las Cruces Mayfield (DH), 5 p.m.

Thursday, April 17

Las Cruces Oñate at Belen (DH), 3 p.m.
 Los Lunas at Anthony Gadsden (DH), 3 p.m.

Golf

Tuesday, April 8

Leroy Gooch Invitational (at Ruidoso)

Boys team scores—1. Clovis 632 2. NMMI 645 3. Las Cruces High 646
 Also: 20. Los Lunas 707 27. Belen 786

Boys individual results (Class 4A-5A)—1. Travis Reid (Clovis) 73, 75—148 2. Jaime Martos (Mayfield) 79, 75—154 3. Guillermo Chavez (Clovis) 76, 79—155

Also: Zach Gallegos (LL) 83, 89—172, Darryn Fleming (LL) 92, 80—172, JD Wright (LL) 88, 85—173, Daniel Garley (B) 97, 84—181, Jaron Andrews (B) 97, 90—187, Clinton Tabet (LL) 97, 94—191, Ed Hernandez (LL) 96, 98—194, Kevin Carillo (B) 100, 98—198, Oscar Hoselton (B) 120, 100—220, Robert Alguire (B) 126, 122—243

Girls team scores—1. Alamogordo 688 2. Carlsbad 757 3. Hobbs 763
 Also: 14. Belen 977 15. Los Lunas 978

Girls individual results (Class 4A-5A)—1. Destini Esquero (Alamo) 77, 86—163 2. (tie) Jodi Hitchcock (Alamo) 86, 84—170, Tamara Robbins (Las Cruces) 84, 86—170

Also: Jamie Pacheco (B) 95, 84—189, Isabel Archuleta (LL) 102, 103—205, Talia Singletary (LL) 108, 131—237, Danielle Griego (B) 131, 117—248, Debbie Gale (B) 134, 120—254, Laura Burnham (LL) 146, 121—267, Kori Bell (LL) 135, 134—269, Denise Garley (B) 144, 135—286, Jean Herendeen (LL) 156, 151—307

Monday, April 14

Belen and Los Lunas at Marty Sanchez Invite (at Santa Fe), 9 a.m.

Wednesday, April 16

Belen at Los Alamos Invite, 9 a.m.

Softball

Tuesday, April 8

Belen 13 Santa Teresa 2
 Belen 18 Santa Teresa 1 (3)
 Anthony Gadsden 10 Los Lunas 3
 Los Lunas 9 Anthony Gadsden 3

Tuesday, April 15

Los Lunas at Las Cruces High (DH), 5 p.m.

Thursday, April 17

Los Lunas at Alamogordo (DH), 4 p.m.
 Las Cruces Oñate at Belen (DH), 3 p.m.

Tennis

Tuesday, April 8

Boys: Belen 5 Highland 0
 Singles—Derek Lynch (B) def. Josh Effer 6-0, 6-2; Charles Montoya (B) def. Kevin DuClos 6-4, 6-2; Flo Sacherer (B) def. Corbin Plugge 6-0, 6-1
 Doubles—Nick Rodriguez-Jerry Carew (B) def. Luke Lagattuta, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; Abe Anderson-Ray Feldbusch (B) def. Jon Cardenas-Dominic Pettine 6-0, 6-1
 Records: Belen 2-1, Highland 2-2

Girls: Belen 3 Highland 2

Singles—Jennifer Chavez (B) def. Danille Books 6-2, 6-3; Kaycee Kloeppel (H) def. Katrina Sanchez 7-6, 6-1; Agnes Wjers (H) def. Nicole

On Deck

Lady Eagles start off-season practices

Beginning Monday, April 14, the Belen High School girls soccer team will hold off-season conditioning practices at 3 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the high school fields. Girls in grades 7 through 12 are invited. Also, sign-ups are being held for C-team girls soccer. For more information, contact Nettie Salas at 864-6786 or junior varsity coach Celina Rivera at Belen Middle School.

LLHS girls soccer

The Los Lunas High School girls soccer team holds off-season practices at 4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the high school field. Interested girls in grades 7 through 12 are welcome; no experience is necessary. For more information, contact Coach Powers at 681-9882 or 869-1208, or call Coach Shoemaker at 869-6382.

Stingray registration

The Los Lunas Stingrays swimming team will conduct registration from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 3, at Village Day School on Highway 47. For more information, contact Tony Lovato at 861-0112.

BMX racing

The Los Lunas Badlands BMX track holds racing every Tuesday and Thursday night. Race registration is held from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., and racing begins as soon afterwards as possible. The entry fee is \$4, and winners are awarded ribbons.

FINAL PUBLIC MEETINGS SOCORRO-SIERRA REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Tell us how you think water should be used and saved in Socorro and Sierra Counties.

- Thursday, April 17, TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, K-Bob's Steakhouse, 2260 N. Date St. BYO dinner at 5p.m., Meeting at 6p.m.
- Tuesday, April 22, SOCORRO K-Bob's Steakhouse, 1123 Frontage Rd. NW. BYO dinner at 5p.m., Meeting at 6p.m.

For more information call Socorro SWCD 835-1710, Sierra SWCD 894-2212, or Sites Southwest 822-8200. Website: www.socorroswcd.com

02058

Believe me, I know.

Take for example my computer I paid with Sears Charge Plus starting at about 16% interest but which has grown to 24% interest over the years because the interest rates are "variable" (but only if it's an increase, never a decrease to the consumer's benefit) and this supposedly gives them the God given right to charge increased predatory rates.

In other words, I paid \$2,400 to Sears for a computer in 1996 that I quit using around 1999 and I not only owe a \$2,400 balance now, but this debt has climbed to \$2,600 and the only thing I ever put on that Sears Charge Plus card was the computer I can no longer use.

The monthly payment they request guarantees that this debt will grow ten fold and eventually become a million dollar debt before I retire so that after I retire I can work, work, work my butt off to pay, pay, pay for an outlandish credit agreement that favors only the credit card company and not the consumer, me.

But I've learned and since then I've paid for three new computers with cash at only a hundredth of the cost that I'll end up paying Sears Charge Plus, and these NO CREDIT CARD computers still work! And I owe not one cent for them. Sears Charge Plus can come pick up their computer - what a pile of junk.

Economic revolution, you bet. If you can't afford it, don't buy it. Get out of debt no matter how bad you have to suffer. Save up for the things you want to purchase.

Keep credit for the big things in life - a house payment at the least amount of interest - and don't let mortgage lenders or loan sharks talk you into settling debt with one of their phony get-out-of-debt schemes. There are plenty of non-profits out there to help homeowners consolidate debt and pay less interest rates while erasing debt paying off the actual principle.

Let's take our home's refinancing as an example to steer away from. We were eight years into paying off a low 8% annual interest, 15-year VA loan when in walked a mortgage company that in ads today still falsely claims to erase credit card debt with their refinancing schemes. What we got was a 30-year loan at higher 10% interest and we're paying a higher monthly installment than we were on the 15-year loan and only one of the six debts that were supposed to get erased was actually settled, and even that one credit card company slips up and asks for its money that it supposedly already accepted in full.

What I'm saying is that we need freedom from leaches, roaches and predators who have both of their hands in our pockets at the expense of our loved ones. America's economy has gone all to hell and it's time we help each other in our time of need.

Hey, I've got a rope if you got a forklift to help me put a noose around the necks of our own Saddam-like statues in America.

"God is silent, now if only we can get Man to shut up." - Woody Allen

"I'm called away by particular business - but I leave my character behind me." - Richard Brinsley Sheridan

venture.

The medical team of men were prompt, most professional and caring in their attendance. My heartfelt thanks to them all in reaffirming this senior's faith in humanity - God bless you all.

Patrick J. Hurley

Truth or Consequences, NM

<<< >>>

Amateur poetry contest opens

The Bards of Burbank is offering a \$1,000 grand prize in their current open poetry contest, free to everyone. The deadline for entering is May 10.

To enter, send one poem 21 lines or less: Free Poetry Contest, PMB250, 2219 W Olive Ave, Burbank, CA 91506, you may enter online at www.bardsofburbank.com.

"Poets deserve opportunities to exhibit their work and find recognition," says Dr John Cusack, the organization's Contest Director. "We're especially keen on inspiring amateur poets and we think this competition will achieve that. New Mexico has produced many wonderful poets over the years and I'd like to discover new ones from among the Truth or Consequences-area grassroots poets."

Peace walks every Friday

PeaceAware meets every Friday at noon at the Peace Garden on Main Street in downtown T or C for peace walks.

On Saturday, April 12, the walkers for peace will assemble at the gazebo in Ralph Edwards Park.

Jesus Christ's birthday.

I plan to visit my family in Clovis and Portales. I will first go to my dad's and stay a couple of nights with him.

After a couple of days I'll go with my mom and go to my great-grandmother's house and spend Christmas Eve there and open presents.

After all that I'll go back to my dad's and go to sleep. The next morning I'll open presents with my dad and his side of the family.

After all the Christmas fun I'll go to midnight mass with my dad. We will probably go to Lubbock and go shopping.

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FINAL PUBLIC MEETINGS

SOCORRO-SIERRA REGIONAL WATER PLAN

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BYO dinner at 5 p.m., Meeting at 6 p.m.

For more information call Socorro SWCD 835-1710, Sierra SWCD 894-2212, or Sites Southwest 882-8200. Website: www.socorroswcd.com

AWARD-WORTHY

Profiles of Socorro's three Chamber of Commerce honorees.

Page 8,9A



TIPS AND TRICKS

Need some super spooky ideas for this All Hallows Eve? EDC has some ideas!

B Section

El Defensor Chieftain

SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO • OCTOBER 30, 2002

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6 • NO. 85

NEWS

LINE

**bomb-like devices
 found at Sarracino**

bomb-like devices were found from Sarracino Middle School late Tuesday morning, according to Socorro Police Officer Roy Herrera said. Herrera said he and Assistant Police Officer Cynthia Freeman were called to Sarracino Middle School right before lunch, where two small devices were found. Herrera said he didn't actually see the devices, but they were described as being like fire crackers to the resource officer, who is a Police Department officer at the middle school, and a student and the two

State panel: No change on water usage

PEPITA RIDGEWAY
FOR EL DEFENSOR CHIEFTAIN

Water usage priorities for the Socorro area will remain the same — at this point, according to participants at the Socorro Soil Water Conservation meeting.

A conflict of interest between participants resulted in heated discussion at a third recent public meeting, recently held in Socorro, to consider possible changes in how water

is used and supplied in the region.

At the previous meeting, held in Truth or Consequence in June, participants refined a list of potential alternatives designed to meet the future demand for water in the region.

Because Elephant Butte is responsible for 80 percent of water consumption in the area, due to evaporation, the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) wanted to

offer ways to reduce the evaporation problem.

A suggestion was made to dredge and deepen the reservoir, but the meeting consisted of many residents of Truth or Consequence and the suggestion was widely opposed.

It was expected that in Socorro, where there is less tourism and more agriculture, priorities about the use of water would be different. The second largest amount of water is used for irrigation,

which consumes about 18 percent of the supply, according to SWCD documents.

At the Socorro meeting, held at K-Bobs Steak House last week, the suggestion about dredging was raised once again. Sierra County Manager, Adam Polley, was quick to point out that the people of his county rely on tourism derived from Elephant Butte and that he would hear no such suggestion.

After some debate, he

agreed that preventing evaporation was a high priority but it might be better to concentrate on areas of heavy infestation by Salt Cedar, especially an area just north of Elephant Butte. This would also allow more water to flow directly into the Reservoir.

Nyleen Stowe, program manager of Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District and joint-organizer for the

■ See **Water**, Page 3A

LEARNING IS THEIR ART



Magdalena gets a new

Deputy: Chili cook-off on Nov. 6

continued from page 1A

The trustees decided to table appointing her replacement until the Nov. 11 meeting until Torres said she simply doesn't have the time to devote to being a municipal judge.

Torres served as municipal judge for six months; she was appointed by the village board in April 2002.

"I started a master's program and I'm taking both satellite classes and attending classes at the University of New Mexico Albuquerque," Torres said. She is working on a master's degree in educational administration.

She said she usually holds court on Wednesday evenings with her classes being held most every night of the week, she would hardly have much time to perform her duties as a judge.

"It's all so overwhelming," Torres said, who is a high school Spanish and history teacher at Magdalena High School.

"The role of municipal judge is an important one and I felt if

I couldn't give everything I had to it, then I should hand the position over to someone who could," she said. "It was a tough decision and I don't like not finishing something I started, but unfortunately, I just don't have the time."

Torres also served as municipal judge two years ago for a one-year term.

"Carmen's picking up a lot of hours at the school and she's working on her master's degree and she's getting overloaded," Wolfe said.

Torres' last day will be Nov. 1.

Wolfe said Bill Gallaher, owner of Gallaher Realty in Magdalena, has said he is interested in the judge's position.

Trustee John Barnitz said Magdalena Librarian Lucy Pino has also expressed some interest in the position.

"We should table the issue until we receive some letters of intent (from interested people) until the next meeting," Wolfe said. "We'll drum up some interest before we make a decision."

Trustee Bradley Cass said it was a good idea to allow all

those interested to have time to contact the village board.

In other business, Lori Scholes, treasurer for the Magdalena Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber will be hosting the 2nd Annual Chili Cook-off on Nov. 6. The event will be held at the High Country Lodge in Magdalena.

"Anything with red or green chili goes," Scholes said.

There is no entry fee and there will be prizes. Donations will be accepted from anyone who wants to eat.

Scholes also said on Nov. 14, she and her husband, Lee, who is also coordinating the Magdalena Stockyards renovation project, are meeting with New Mexico State University officials and people from Catron County.

The group will discuss and exchange histories on the stockyards and cattle drives.

"This project's going to be a huge tourist attraction," Lee Scholes said.

The group will meet at the Magdalena Village Hall on North Main Street at 1 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

Water: Plan also covers efficiency

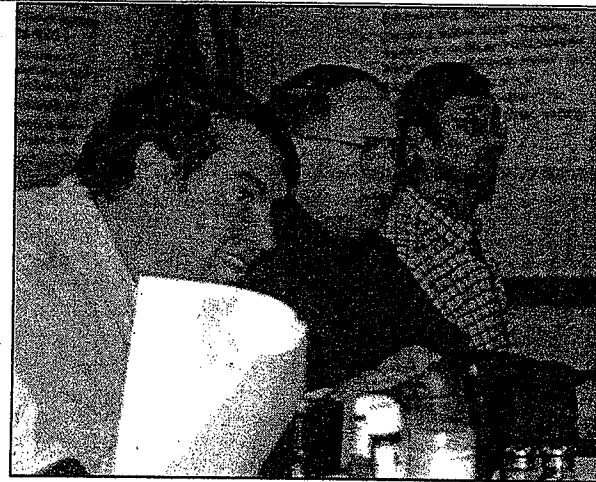
continued from page 1A

regional water plan pointed out that Socorro also relies heavily on transient tourists passing through on their way to Elephant Butte, with boats and jet skis that need fueling.

The removal of exotic vegetation such as Salt Cedar and Russian Olive was conclusively voted one of the most important actions to be taken at all three regional water planning meetings so far.

Other important factors which carried through all three meetings as priorities were to manage watersheds to increase yields; improve efficiency of surface water conveyance systems to agricultural land; implement conveyance alternatives, such as concrete lined ditches and pipelines; improve irrigation scheduling; meter and manage surface water diversions.

The Socorro meeting con-



PEPITA RIDGEWAY/FOR EL DEFENSOR CHIEFTAIN

A thirsty topic. Adam Polley (left) Sierra County manager, along with Bosque del Apache manager Jim Savery, listens to a report on water usage during a recent meeting held in Socorro. A panel decided that usage will remain as is, for the time being.

sisted of representatives from local government, board members, managers, engineers and hydrology consultants from a number of water related organizations, as well as members of the SWCD and the Bosque del Apache.

The plan, along with water plans from other regions in the state, is anticipated to contribute information to a statewide water plan which will guide interstate water management decisions.

Teach-In: Several speakers focus on Middle East situation

continued from page 1A

just defied and rejected them (the resolutions)," she said. "It

"Desperate people do desperate things," she said.

RADIO, RADIO



Sierra, Socorro Group to Examine Alternatives to Water Use, Supply

How should Sierra and Socorro counties change the way water is supplied and used in the region? Should salt cedar be removed and replaced with native plants? Should farmers change to drip irrigation? Should wastewater be reclaimed and reused?

County residents will have the opportunity to suggest additional alternatives to meet the future demand for water and to prioritize alternatives such as these for further investigation on Thursday, June 20, at 6 p.m. The meeting takes place at K-Bob's Restaurant in TorC, 2260 N. Date Street. A "Dutch treat" dinner at K-Bob's will be held before the meeting at 5 p.m.

The public meeting is the second of four that will be held

this year in the two-county area as part of the process to develop a regional water plan. At the kickoff meeting in April, participants developed a list of potential alternatives to current water use and demand. The next step is to refine the list of potential alternatives hold the most promise for ensuring a future water supply for the region and should be studied further.

The Socorro and Sierra Soil and Water Conservation Districts are undertaking the water planning process with a grant from the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. The SWCD's have contracted with Daniel B. Stephens, a hydrology and engineering firm from Albuquerque, to develop the plan. Aiding them are Hydro-

sphere, a policy analysis and engineering firm with an office in Socorro, and Sites Southwest, a planning and landscape design firm from Albuquerque.

Guiding the process is a volunteer Water Plan Steering Committee composed of a range of interested persons in both counties. These include representatives from local government, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, New Mexico Tech, the mutual domestic water users associations, the Bosque del Apache and Elephant Butte,

The plan, along with water plans from other regions in the state, is expected to contribute information to a statewide water plan, which will guide interstate water management decisions.

County Exploring Alternatives To Current Water Use And Supply

*By Nyleen Stowe,
Merry Jo Fahl
and Joanne Hilton*

How should Socorro and Sierra counties change the way water is supplied and used in the region? Should salt cedar be removed and replaced with native plants? Should farmers change to drip irrigation? Should water rates be increased? Should wastewater be reclaimed and reused?

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The plan, along with water plans from other regions in the State, is anticipated to contribute information to a State-wide water plan, which will guide interstate water management decisions.

Regional Water Meeting In T or C

Residents of Socorro and Sierra counties may suggest alternatives to current water use at a meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 20, at K-Bobs in Truth or Consequences.

The meeting is the second of four public meetings as part of the process to develop a regional water plan.

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Magdalena, New Mexico • Monday, June 17, 2002

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832
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Regional water plan presented to city council

JENNIFER ATKINSON
EL DEFENSOR CHIEFTAIN

The Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District announced its kick-off meeting for the regional water plan, which will be held April 19 at Ranchers Steakhouse and Roadrunner Lounge, located at 606 N. California St., starting at 6:30 p.m.

Larry Whitefield, vice presi-

dent of the Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District, emphasized the importance of water issues at Monday's Socorro City Council meeting.

"I hope you all (city councilors) know the importance of water in our area," Whitefield said.

Whitefield gave examples of neighboring communities who will in the near future be looking at the county of Socorro

for help with their own water depletion.

He spoke of El Paso's aquifer, which is drying up, and Mexico's lack of water sources and how these particular communities might soon be wanting New Mexico's Rio Grande Valley water.

Whitefield said he moved to Socorro because it wasn't a big metropolis and because Socorro has its own water source

away from bigger cities.

Now, with the crucial statewide water issues, being a smaller town is "hurting us because we are the little fish in the big pond" trying to maintain and preserve our water sources, he said.

The Regional Water Plan includes both Socorro and Sierra counties.

Councilman Gordy Hicks noted how critical water

sources were to the county, especially to farmers who depend on water for crops.

With little or no water sources, there would be no crops and with no crops, there would be no way for farmers and the county as a whole to "survive and thrive," he added.

District Program Manager Nyleen Stowe told the council

■ See Water, Page 3

Water: Second half of action plan deals with drought issues

continued from page 1

that there are cities north of Socorro County who want to use the county's water.

"We (Socorro and Sierra counties) didn't want to be lumped in and lost in the big city Albuquerque's water plan," Stowe said.

The April 19 Regional Water Plan meeting will actually be the second half of the Regional Water Plan, Stowe said.

"Unfortunately, our Regional Water Plan has split (into two plans of action)," Stowe said.

The first half of the plan, which was mostly the collection of data, has been completed; it began in March 2000 and concluded in April 2001, she said.

Groundwater analysis, historical and future use analysis and population projections were conducted during the first half of the plan's initiative.

"The second half (of the Regional Water Plan) will deal with drought issues and alternatives to make sure the water we have will last and we don't want to drain our water sources; we

want to ensure there will be water sources for the current and future citizens of our counties," Stowe said.

"The second portion of the Regional Water Plan is a chance for the public to voice their opinions and affect what will happen with our water and how our water resources should be used, conserved and saved for future use."

The water budgeting and estimated availability for the first half of the plan was completed by the district and hydrology subcontractors

Daniel B. Stephens & Assoc. and Hydrosphere, both of Socorro.

Sites SW conducted the population projections and public affairs issues for the plan, she said.

The plan is being funded by the Interstate Stream Commission, which contracted with the SWCD to carry out the Regional Water Plan.

The commission funded the SWCD with \$106,000 for the first half of the water plan with state money from the New Mexico Legislature; the district has

been allocated \$150,000 from the Commission for the second portion of the water plan.

"We want the public to come and participate in developing our alternatives this year," Stowe said. "We are in dire straights and we are on a rapid track to develop alternatives along with the public's help."

After alternatives are analyzed within the year, the Regional Water Plan can actually be put into action, Stowe said.

Appendix C3
Database of Public Comments
Regarding Alternatives

alternative collection

Key ID Number 1

Alternative	Comment
General Comments	Don't emphasize alternatives over which the region has little control (4-22)
General Comments	Too many entities control water. After regional water planning, the State has to pull together (4-22)

Key ID Number 1a

Alternative	Comment
Reclaim/reuse saline water	All the other alternatives should be written into the plan (4-22)
Reclaim/reuse saline water	Add: Support pilot projects where feasible--some are going on in other places (8-19)

Key ID Number 1b

Alternative	Comment
Treat/reuse wastewater	A city could force new subdivisions to only use potable water for homes & second line effluent to water yards, gardens (4-17)
Treat/reuse wastewater	T or C pumps effluent to golf courses. Water at night and let dry 4 hours. Because don't get return flow credits. (4-17)
Treat/reuse wastewater	T or C is already doing. Got a large grant to do. (4-17)
Treat/reuse wastewater	Is money available for this? Ans: Water Trust Board is most significant source (8-19)
Treat/reuse wastewater	Gray water bill passed state legislature this year. Now with simple filtering system can reuse shower/laundry to water lawn (4-17)

Key ID Number 1d

Alternative	Comment
Store Elephant Butte water upstream	It takes 5 days from El Vado to Socorro--need continuous release or have dead spot. Benefit from smaller storage between (4-22)
Store Elephant Butte water upstream	Is this the same as the recent SEO proposal? (Ans. No, SEO proposal is temporary measure) (4-22)
Store Elephant Butte water upstream	Fishing is a several million \$ a year industry. Need to get everyone in the same room to decide what to do (4-22)
Store Elephant Butte water upstream	But there are few holding places upstream/ Cochiti can't even store a one or two day supply now (4-22)
Store Elephant Butte water upstream	Better to have a constant level for the fish to spawn, but for this issue: if you don't use it, you lose it next year (4-22)
Store Elephant Butte water upstream	Need a change in the law for beneficial use (4-22)
Store Elephant Butte water upstream	Add Sierra County to list of responsible parties (8-19)
Store Elephant Butte water upstream	Change implementation priority to 1 (8-19)
Store Elephant Butte water upstream	At a certain point, save more acre feet by storing water upstream (4-22)
Store Elephant Butte water upstream	There still may be a benefit to holding more water upstream (4-22)

Store Elephant Butte water upstream	Need more information about. How to mitigate effects downstream (4-17)
Store Elephant Butte water upstream	Other people are overriding us.(8-19)
Store Elephant Butte water upstream	Question: could this stretch the season if water is stored upstream? (4-22)
Store Elephant Butte water upstream	Recognize reservoir's economic benefit to EB and Socorro. They need to have a say in this. (4-22)
Store Elephant Butte water upstream	Recommend minimum recreation pool at Elephant Butte/ more cushion in wetter years (4-22)
Store Elephant Butte water upstream	Should there be a recommendation for regional coordination? (8-19)
Store Elephant Butte water upstream	Talking to Albuquerque about detention dams. Water leaves after 96 hours. Need several places to make up lag time (4-22)
Store Elephant Butte water upstream	Better to have a steady pool, with caveats? (4-22)
Store Elephant Butte water upstream	Need a fishing analysis of reducing EB reservoir (4-22)

Key ID Number 1e

Alternative	Comment
Reduce non-reservoir surface area	As population grows, have to contain the river (4-22)
Reduce non-reservoir surface area	Add Bosque del Apache to list of responsible parties (8-19)
Reduce non-reservoir surface area	Low-flow channel above Elephant Butte has been done by ISC (8-19)
Reduce non-reservoir surface area	May not be able to in refuges--own water rights. T or C benefits from Bosque del Apache tourism. (4-17)
Reduce non-reservoir surface area	Permanent lower level at Elephant Butte increases the evapotranspiration loss, sediment issue (4-22)
Reduce non-reservoir surface area	Got to reduce evapotranspiration loss and improve low-flow conveyance or be in deficit to Texas (4-22)
Reduce non-reservoir surface area	Socorro indirectly benefits by increase in water reliability/ now over-delivery goes to EB (4-22)
Reduce non-reservoir surface area	The compact comes first (4-22)
Reduce non-reservoir surface area	This issue is important to Sierra County (4-22)
Reduce non-reservoir surface area	Positive for community, people not aware such projects going on (reduce evap in EB channel) (4-17)

Key ID Number 1f

Alternative	Comment
Aquifer storage and recovery	Add NM Tech to list of responsible parties (8-19)

Key ID Number 2a

Alternative	Comment
Adopt local water conservation plans	There is no responsible party for conservation, it's weak (8-19) (MH)
Adopt local water conservation plans	Each system should develop its own plan (8-19)

Adopt local water conservation plans	Add SWCDs to all #2 alternatives under list of responsible parties (8-19)
Adopt local water conservation plans	We can't dictate policy to municipalities (8-19)
Adopt local water conservation plans	The conservation plan could be provided to local governments as a model (8-19)
Adopt local water conservation plans	T or C has recommending a watering schedule (8-19)
Adopt local water conservation plans	Add EBID, MRGCD, and acequias to list of responsible parties (8-19)
Adopt local water conservation plans	More information is in the conservation plan (8-19)

Key ID Number 2d

Alternative	Comment
Promote state funding for acequia conservation	Change implementation priority to 1 (8-19)

Key ID Number 3a

Alternative	Comment
Increase water rates on sliding scale	Oppose if businesses pay more than their share. Favor fixed rate to encourage econ development but discourage over-use (4-17)
Increase water rates on sliding scale	Add SWCDs to list of responsible parties under all #3 alternatives (8-19)
Increase water rates on sliding scale	Agree everyone could pay a base rate (separate res/ commercial). Next increase higher. Penalize those with bluegrass.(4-17)

Key ID Number 3b

Alternative	Comment
Promote xeriscaping/drip irrigation	Add Bosque del Apache to list of responsible parties (8-19)

Key ID Number 3d

Alternative	Comment
Promote water-saving fixtures	This is in the water conservation plan (4-22)

Key ID Number 3e

Alternative	Comment
Improve efficiency of surface conveyance systems	Could add automatic check valves--You need sufficient head for irrigation. (8-19)

Key ID Number 3ei

Alternative	Comment
Improve water irrigation conveyance	It reduces the time the canals are full (4-22)
Improve water irrigation conveyance	How does improved efficiency alter next year's rights? (Ans. Have 5 years to use or lose) (4-22)
Improve water irrigation conveyance	Acequias not like to discuss reduced diversions--prefer more efficient conveyance so more water goes into the river (4-22)
Improve water irrigation conveyance	It's still good, more efficient, to run the water through the MRGCD. (4-22)
Improve water irrigation conveyance	Of 130,000 acre feet total regional depletion, 200 AF is a drop in the bucket (from riparian ET) (4-22)

Improve water irrigation conveyance

We'll line ditches if there's money available (4-22)

Improve water irrigation conveyance

It's negligible politically (4-22)

Key ID Number 3eiii

Alternative	Comment
Meter/manage water diversion/returns	The Pecos does block releases (4-22)
Meter/manage water diversion/returns	The acequias measure the amount in and put back (4-22)
Meter/manage water diversion/returns	New wells have meters--tax credits would help (4-22)
Meter/manage water diversion/returns	Less diversion not save much, might help endangered species issue (4-22)
Meter/manage water diversion/returns	It's complicated--if not have enough head it may be less efficient. Will look at further in future years (4-22)
Meter/manage water diversion/returns	In the past, the State Engineer did not count the return flow (4-22)
Meter/manage water diversion/returns	La Joya has off-farm metering now, others will have in a few years (4-22)
Meter/manage water diversion/returns	Acequias not like to discuss reduced diversions--prefer more efficient conveyance so more water goes into the river (4-22)

Key ID Number 3h

Alternative	Comment
Reduce agriculture consumptive use	Add another action: "Support full funding of 2002 Farm Bill Conservation Security (?) Amendments (8-19)
Reduce agriculture consumptive use	Add another action: "identify commercially feasible low-water-use crops" that can be sold for as much as alfalfa (8-19)

Key ID Number 3i

Alternative	Comment
Improve farm irrigation efficiency	Need to flood agricultural land periodically to wash salts out of the soil (4-22)
Improve farm irrigation efficiency	Would need gopher-resistant tubing. (4-22)
Improve farm irrigation efficiency	Would be possible to do drip irrigation with groundwater if the SEO would okay low volume wells (4-22)
Improve farm irrigation efficiency	Why can't the state open more wells? (4-22)
Improve farm irrigation efficiency	There's not much furrow plus drip--it's expensive (pumps, sand filters) unless do 50 acres at a time (4-22)
Improve farm irrigation efficiency	People have supported, but don't have the money to do (8-19)
Improve farm irrigation efficiency	Laser leveling is well-known practice. What we can do as a planning area is almost nothing. (4-17)
Improve farm irrigation efficiency	Laser leveling is going on now. There's no other way. (4-22)
Improve farm irrigation efficiency	Farmers need to be able to sell or lease water saved through conservation or get no benefit from it. (4-17)
Improve farm irrigation efficiency	Every orchard (10-20 acres typically) should be on a drip system. Pistachio orchard in Sierra is on one. (4-17)

Improve farm irrigation efficiency	Conservation can benefit farmers in years where full water allotment is not available. (4-17)
Improve farm irrigation efficiency	Laser leveling costs \$2,000 an acre here (4-22)
Improve farm irrigation efficiency	State Water Trust Board is funding projects. Get more points if project is part of regional water plan.(4-17)

Key ID Number 4b

Alternative	Comment
Control canal side brush and weeds	Recommend keep up with this even though not big extra savings (4-22)
Control canal side brush and weeds	There is disagreement over how often the MRGCD mows (4-22)
Control canal side brush and weeds	Started a week early this year to get weeds out. Lose less than if keep in channel (4-22)
Control canal side brush and weeds	Good mowing occurs already. (4-17)
Control canal side brush and weeds	Add BLM to list of responsible parties (8-19)

Key ID Number 4c

Alternative	Comment
Increase watershed yields	Mixed data on water savings from clearing juniper and pinion. Probably not produce measureable increases. (4-17)

Key ID Number 4d

Alternative	Comment
Remove exotic vegetation	Get rid of salt cedars. (4-17)
Remove exotic vegetation	There is a lot of Federal money matches for revegetation (4-22)
Remove exotic vegetation	They are managing the watersheds upstream/easier to do since Los Alamos fires and change in Administration (4-22)
Remove exotic vegetation	Add new action: Monitor effects on public health (8-19)
Remove exotic vegetation	We're doing 5,000 acres in September by aerial spraying (4-22)
Remove exotic vegetation	Cutting stumps costs about \$2,000 per acre (4-22)
Remove exotic vegetation	Want salt cedar gone. When will state make more money available for this? (4-17)

Key ID Number 4e

Alternative	Comment
Restore bosque habitat/reduce evapotranspiration	Add Save our Bosque Task Force to list of responsible parties (8-19)
Restore bosque habitat/reduce evapotranspiration	Add new action: Support Socorro flood plain project of Bosque del Apache Task Force and SALT (land trust) (8-19)

Key ID Number 4g

Alternative	Comment
Delay start of irrigation season	Can do depending on the crop--alfalfa is about three weeks later (4-22)

Delay start of irrigation season

Not here (Sierra Co.). Could take deliveries earlier here but not later. Maybe could do in northern part of region. (4-17)

Delay start of irrigation season

Remove 4g (4-22)

Key ID Number 5a

Alternative	Comment
Protect areas vulnerable to contamination	Salt cedar grows in the runoffs (8-19)
Protect areas vulnerable to contamination	Add to actions: support independent monitoring of health effects
Protect areas vulnerable to contamination	Bosque del Apache sprays the levee, but uses mostly mechanical means to remove salt cedar. (8-19)
Protect areas vulnerable to contamination	Certain herbicides can be used near water (8-19)
Protect areas vulnerable to contamination	Spraying affects the public welfare (8-19)
Protect areas vulnerable to contamination	Is spraying the salt cedar with herbicide safe for humans? We weren't allowed to spray when the minnows passed. (8-19)

Key ID Number 6b

Alternative	Comment
Increase residential building densities	Co. zoning passed in Dona Ana. Put subdivisions on smaller area and yards to save water, preserve open space (4-17)
Increase residential building densities	Say "encourage." Stay away from mandatory regulations, such as zoning. (4-17)
Increase residential building densities	Change priority to #3. (8-19)

Key ID Number 6c

Alternative	Comment
Ensure regional voice in MRGV water management	Change action "Participate in URGWOM" to "Participate in State Water Plan" 8-19)

Key ID Number 6e

Alternative	Comment
Ensure public involvement in water planning	Revise action to "assign" rather than "hire" a public involvement coordinator (8-19)
Ensure public involvement in water planning	There are grants available for coordination (8-19)
Ensure public involvement in water planning	State and Federal agencies should disseminate information to the public (8-19)

Key ID Number 6f

Alternative	Comment
New developments must prove sustainable water supply	Change implementation priority to #2 (8-19)
New developments must prove sustainable water supply	I would hate to buy a house and know the water could run out in 30 years (4-22)
New developments must prove sustainable water supply	I hate regulation, but hate to leave it to the County to fix after the developer is gone. Need to protect people in subdivisions (4-22)
New developments must prove sustainable water supply	There is a resource limitation to what we can do (4-22)

New developments must prove sustainable water supply

New developments must prove sustainable water supply

New developments must prove sustainable water supply

New developments must prove sustainable water supply

New developments must prove sustainable water supply

New developments must prove sustainable water supply

New developments must prove sustainable water supply

County revenue bonds can buy water rights through right of first refusal and can sell back to developer. (4-22)

In T or C, subdividers have to furnish X acre-feet of water rights per house or buy from us. (4-17)

It's hard to implement or evaluate the cumulative impacts/ no standard/ we refer to SEO (4-22)

Look at well tests: two pump tests and run analytical model (4-22)

Not make sense to increase requirement for supply past current 40 years. OSE reviews now for county. (Rod) (4-17).

Zoning was shot down earlier, but people are more willing now to look at planning (4-22)

How set price? How transferable? Could be complicated (4-22)

Key ID Number 7b

Alternative	Comment
Encourage retention of water in region	Local residents need more control over this (4-22)
Encourage retention of water in region	If against export, have to be against import. Dollars would help here. (4-17)
Encourage retention of water in region	County could have a memorandum of understanding with other players (8-19)
Encourage retention of water in region	Could sell water rights to the County so they could use later for development (8-19)
Encourage retention of water in region	Could explore ways of right-of-first-refusal for local communities (4-22)
Encourage retention of water in region	Add municipalities to list of responsible parties (8-19)
Encourage retention of water in region	Need to break into rights and wet water. (4-17)
Encourage retention of water in region	As water is a property right we should be able to do as we wish with it--will sell here if get the same money as there (4-22)
Encourage retention of water in region	New statute (March 2004) requires acequia approval of transfers into or out of acequia or community ditch. (4-17)
Encourage retention of water in region	If half our agricultural rights are sold to Albuquerque, we'll lose our economic base. (4-17)
Encourage retention of water in region	People saw the value in keeping water here, but not want to restrict individual's ability to control water rights. (4-17)
Encourage retention of water in region	Pre-1907 rights are the only ones sold (4-22)
Encourage retention of water in region	Public welfare and impairment issues have been ignored--water transfers can hurt regional economy (4-22)
Encourage retention of water in region	Sierra County wants water it has for its own development (8-19)
Encourage retention of water in region	Some have sold to the water bank and leased back (4-22)
Encourage retention of water in region	Water bank is another tool (4-22)
Encourage retention of water in region	New state statute requires acequia approval of transfers in or out of acequia or community ditch (4-22)

Key ID Number 7c

Alternative	Comment
--------------------	----------------

Develop intra-regional water bank	Some have sold to the water bank and leased back (4-22)
Develop intra-regional water bank	Could be discussed (4-17)
Develop intra-regional water bank	Leave in. There is a lot of talk in the legislature about how to do (8-19)
Develop intra-regional water bank	Might consider water bank if it operates within a certain district (4-17)
Develop intra-regional water bank	Pecos Valley is a precedent. Trend is regional (8-19) ?
Develop intra-regional water bank	There are programs and money out there to research how (8-19)
Develop intra-regional water bank	Water bank is another tool (4-22)
Develop intra-regional water bank	Need to make sure water is there for development (4-22)

Key ID Number 7d

Alternative	Comment
Require environ./econ. analyses of all water transfers	This relates to public welfare (8-19)

Key ID Number 7e

Alternative	Comment
Adjudicate all water rights	Not a bad idea to adjudicate. J. Dansmeyer argues rights don't have to be declared--if keep history (4-17)
Adjudicate all water rights	Those who retain old water rights should have the first right to water (8-19)
Adjudicate all water rights	The legal process for this is not being supported by people up north. They are supporting legislative efforts (8-19)

Key ID Number 7f

Alternative	Comment
Make water rights non-condemnable	Add: Support legislative efforts to make this happen (8-19)
Make water rights non-condemnable	We don't want to be like Albuquerque, which thought had lots of water and found out otherwise (8-19)
Make water rights non-condemnable	Support (Sierra) (4-17)
Make water rights non-condemnable	Municipalities can condemn water rights (8-19)

Key ID Number 7g

Alternative	Comment
Establish regional water management authority	Change implementation priority to 3 (8-19)

Key ID Number 7h

Alternative	Comment
Use well water only for drinking	Add "municipalities" as responsible parties (8-19)
Use well water only for drinking	Agree to change to "preserve and protect deep well water." (8-19)

Use well water only for drinking

Let people have a well if they want their own garden (8-19)

Use well water only for drinking

Santa Fe has an ordinance against domestic wells. Limited where there is city utility service (8-19)

Use well water only for drinking

The Bosque del Apache uses wells in dry times. We monitor our wells. (8-19)

Key ID Number 7j

Alternative	Comment
Restrict new domestic wells	Domestic wells can impair senior water rights because they don't need a water right for it (4-22)
Restrict new domestic wells	Famers are hurt by current well rules (4-22)
Restrict new domestic wells	Issue: Landowner sells water rights, then subdivides and lets each acre have 3,000 af/yr (4-22)
Restrict new domestic wells	Need something in the report on this issue. Fairness issue. For example, municipalities can restrict if offer water (4-22)
Restrict new domestic wells	Only where infringes on farmers, ranchers (4-17)
Restrict new domestic wells	Add OSE, municipalities, and counties to list of responsible parties (8-19)