

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

SOCORRO-SIERRA

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2003

CONTACTS

Nyleen Stowe (505) 835-1710

Merry Jo Fahl (505) 894-2212

Joanne Hilton (505) 822-9400

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

Nyleen Stowe (505) 835-1710

Merry Jo Fahl (505) 894-2232

Joanne Hilton (505) 822-9400

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.

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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

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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.

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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: jmatton@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

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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) 174, 175—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. Cortin 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](http://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

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## 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](http://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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For more information call Socorro SWCD 835-1710, Sierra SWCD 894-2212, or Sites Southwest 882-8200. Website: [www.socorroswcd.com](http://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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**NEWS**

LINE

**bomb-like devices  
 found at Sarracino**

bomb-like devices were found from Sarracino Middle School late Tuesday morning, Sheriff Roy Herrera said. Sheriff Herrera said he and Assistant Sheriff Cynthia Freeman traveled to Sarracino Middle School right before lunch, where the resource officer was in possession of two small devices. The resource officer didn't actually see the devices, but they were described to him by Herrera. "They could be anything from fire crackers to bombs," Herrera said.

The resource officer, who is a Police Department officer, works at the middle school. He arrested 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

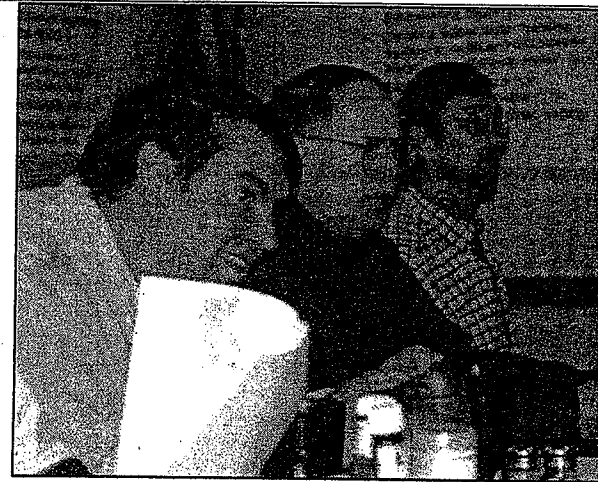
*continued from page 1A*

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?

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 Thursday, June 20, at 6 p.m. The meeting will take place at K-Bob's Restaurant, 2260 N. Date St. 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 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.

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clude 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 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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# Mountain View Mail

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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.