

**Appendix C3**  
**Database of Public Comments**  
**Regarding Alternatives**

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# alternative collection

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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

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

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

**Key ID Number** 2a

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

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

**Key ID Number** 3a

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

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

**Key ID Number** 3d

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

**Key ID Number** 3e

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

**Key ID Number** 3ei

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

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

**Key ID Number** 4d

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

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

**Key ID Number** 6e

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

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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

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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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

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

**Key ID Number** 7e

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

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

**Key ID Number** 7h

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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)