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## 2. DOCUMENTATION OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING PROCESS

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### 2.1 INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION - SPONSORED WATER WORKSHOPS

No New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) sponsored workshops on water have been held in Lea County. However, in July, 1999 a workshop on GIS mapping for all regions in the state was held and made available to Lea County interests. The ISC contracted with the Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI) to provide these services at no cost to the participants.

### 2.2 BACKGROUND SUMMARY OF REGION PREPARED FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION

A Lea County regional background summary was not prepared. However, the following notice, which announces the Plan and states its purpose, was printed in the general circulation newspapers of Lea County, aired on local radio stations, and posted at public locations in early December, 1998, prior to beginning the planning process.

**NOTICE  
OF  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

LEA COUNTY WATER USERS ASSOCIATION

The Lea County Water Users Association (LCWUA) Board of Directors invites all interested parties to attend an organizational meeting at 7:00 PM, Monday, December 14, 1998 at the Lea County Cultural Center, 5101 Lovington Hwy, Hobbs, NM. The purpose of the meeting will be to hear an overview of the proposed LCWUA 40 Year Regional Water Plan as suggested by the Interstate Stream Commission, the New Mexico Office of State Engineer and state law. Following the project overview, participants will be asked to assist in the formation of a steering committee to help guide the Board of Directors and the Engineering Consultant in the development of the 40 Year Water Plan for Lea County. All Lea County residents are urged to attend this important meeting as the steering committee will be most effective if it represents all interests (oil, gas, agricultural, mining, municipal, environmental, general interest and others). Questions should be addressed to Mr. Dennis Holmberg, County Manager, Lovington, NM (505) 396-8521.

At the Organizational Meeting, advertised in the notice, a water resource background of the Region was given and the goal of the planning process was explained.

### 2.3 LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTICIPANTS

The Participants involved in the development of this Plan were selected from the major Stakeholders of the water resources of Lea County. They include the Lea County Water Users Association (LCWUA), its Board of Directors, and its ex-officio members, a Steering Committee comprised of individuals from five defined segments of the population of Lea County, and the citizens of Lea County. The LCWUA consists of a representative from the County and each of the five incorporated municipalities located therein. The Steering Committee, whose members were selected from groups representing Public Utilities, Agriculture, Oil and Gas Industries, Municipalities, and Domestic Water Users, was organized by the LCWUA. These groups were developed from the interests of approximately 250 citizens of Lea County that attended an open project kickoff meeting. A

listing of the individuals representing these Stakeholders is included in Section 1.1.

In 1998, the Lea County Water Users Association (LCWUA) issued a Request for Proposals from Professional Engineers and Hydrogeologists to prepare a Regional Water Plan (Plan) for the county. Proposals were accepted and a Project Consultant, Leedshill-Herkenhoff, Inc. (engineers) was selected. The Project Consultant has been assisted by John Shomaker & Associates (hydrogeologists) and Montgomery & Andrews, PA (attorneys). Leedshill-Herkenhoff entered into a contract with the LCWUA on September 24, 1998.