

New Mexico Lower Rio Grande Regional Water Plan Public Comment Database

Date	How Contacted	Name	Comment
1/28/2000	Phone	Bobby Wright, Chaparral Lake Water Company	Wanted a copy of the plan. Also was willing to fill out water user form, please fax.
4/26/2000	AWWSP Meeting	Local water provider	Would like a copy of the report. Also that the plan takes small users into consideration equally with the City of Las Cruces.
4/26/2000	AWWSP Meeting	Local water provider	When will the report be completed?
8/2/2000	AWWSP Meeting	Local water provider	When is the report going to be finished, and can they get a copy.
8/10/2000	MVEDA Meeting	Kevin Bixby, Southwest Environmental Center	Wanted to make sure that environmental factors were taken into consideration during the 40-year plan development.
8/10/2000	MVEDA Meeting	Local Developer	Couldn't we retire some agricultural water rights and use them for development.
8/10/2000	MVEDA Meeting	Local Developer	This city has not grown because there is too much agriculture.
4/27/2002	ASCE Meeting	Student	When will the plan be complete?
4/27/2002	ASCE Meeting	Engineer	When can I get of a copy of the plan?
4/27/2001	ASCE Meeting	Student, NMSU	Would like a copy of the plan for use in thesis paper.
8/20/2001	E-mail	Lisa Holguin	Asked if we could give a presentation on the 40-year plan for the International Boundary and Water Commission quarterly public meeting.
8/29/2001	IBWC Meeting	Audience Member	Where can you find copies of the water plan?
8/29/2001	IBWC Meeting	Audience Member	What is this plan going to do to my water rights?
8/29/2001	IBWC Meeting	Audience Member	How is this plan going to effect my water rights?
8/29/2001	IBWC Meeting	Local Area Farmer	Thank you for looking out for our interests.

New Mexico Lower Rio Grande Regional Water Plan Public Comment Database

Date	How Contacted	Name	Comment
8/30/2001	Phone	Mr. Colquit, Chaparral Lake Water Company	Agreed to fill out a small water user form and also to mail a copy of the Lake Water Company 40-year water plan.
8/31/2001	Phone	Mark Baker, NMSU Student	Wanted copy of the report.
9/19/2001	LWV Meeting	Audience Member	How is this plan going to effect our water bills?
9/19/2001	LWV Meeting	Audience Member	When can they get a copy of the report?
10/26/2001	Phone	Kathy Watson, CDM	Wanted copy of the population projections.
2/13/2002	AWWA Meeting	Dave Brosman, El Paso Water Utilities	You're stealing our water! Note: He was very aggressive, and brought the issue up several times during the presentation and meeting. He made snide under the cuff remarks through out the talk and then finally made this statement.
2/13/2002	AWWA Meeting	Salvador Lopez-Cordova, CDM	Asked about population projections.
2/13/2002	AWWA Meeting	Texas Resident in Audience	When is the plan going to be available and where can I get a copy?
8/28/03	Las Cruces Public Meeting	Steve Trowbridge-City of Las Cruces Commissioner	Thank you.
8/28/03	Las Cruces Public Meeting	Paul Dillin	Please include an Environmental Pool as part of framework.

New Mexico Lower Rio Grande Regional Water Plan Public Comment Database

Presentation/ Meetings (does not include Lower Rio Grande Water Users Organization Technical Committee Monthly meetings:

Alliance of Water and Wastewater Service Providers (AWWSP) 4/26/2000 and 8/2/2000
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 4/27/2001
American Water Works Association (AWWA) 2/13/2002
City of Las Cruces Public Meeting 8/28/2003
Community of Chaparral Public Meeting 8/25/2003
Elephant Butte Irrigation District Board Meeting 12/9/2003
International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) 8/29/2001
League of Woman Voters (LWV) 9/19/2001
Lower Rio Grande Water Users Association (LRGWUO) 7/27/2000, 7/24/2001, 3/9/2000, 12/18/2003
Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance (MVEDA) 8/10/2000
New Mexico-Texas Water Commission 9/23/2003
Public Hearing 12/17/2003
Santa Teresa Public Meeting 8/26/2003
Village of Hatch Public Meeting 9/4/2003

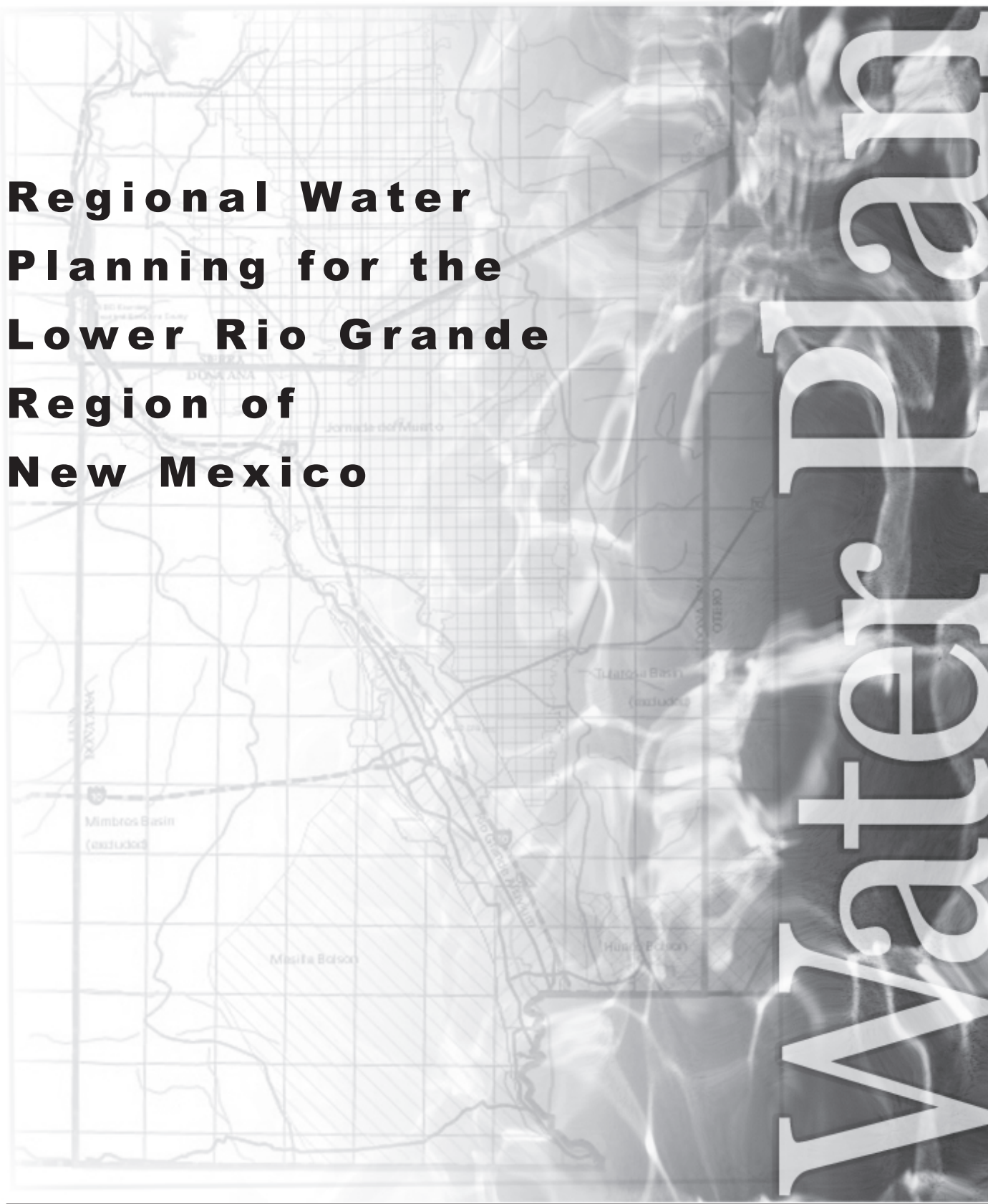
Web Page Information:

www.lrgwuo-waterplan.com:

Guest Comments: None
Total Visitors Hits: 651
Unique Visitors Hits 523

**Regional Water
Planning for the
Lower Rio Grande
Region of
New Mexico**

Water Plan



*Planning for Current
and Future Water Needs*



DOÑA ANA REGIONAL WATER PLAN

We need your help!

What is the Regional Water Plan?

The Lower Rio Grande Water Users Organization is developing a regional water plan for Dona Ana County and portions of Sierra and Otero Countys within the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID) Boundary.



The Plan will address current and future water use for the region through the year 2040, including domestic, municipal, and agricultural water use.

Who are it's members?

The LRGWUO is made up of the City of Las Cruces, Dona Ana County, Dona Ana Mutual Domestic Water Users Association (DAMDWUA), the Town of Mesilla, The Anthony Water and Sanitation District, the Village of Hatch, New Mexico State University, and the EBID.



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Why should you care about this plan?

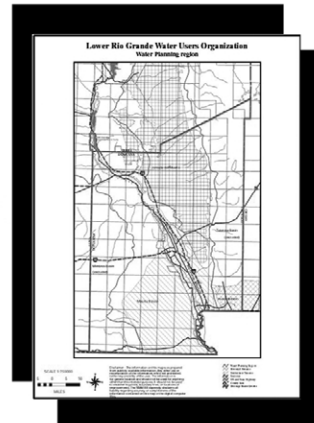
Your involvement is needed to assist the LRGWUO in addressing issues such as: Your water bill, maintaining our agricultural heritage, waste water reclamation, recreational uses, landscaping, preserving the environment, sustainable supplies, farming, conservation, Rio Grande basin flows, and drought.

What is the Lower Rio Grande Water Users Organization ?



This organization represents public bodies that reside in south-central New Mexico. The LRGWUO is the public entity that has been given the mandate to guide the regional planning effort.

Which regions will be affected?



The LRGWUO has defined it's boundary for regional planning as Dona Ana County and those portions of Sierra and Otero Countys that is within the EBID boundary. The areas excluded are the portions of the Tularosa and Mimbres basin in the county. (These are included in other plans.)

How can you help?

Water is our most important resource. The LRGWUO depends on your ideas and input to develop a plan that truly takes into account the interests of all county residents.



How can you get involved? > > >

- **Participate in public meetings.**
Call our toll-free phone: **1-866-DAC-Plan (322-7526)**
or in Las Cruces: **505-527-1041**
- **Review the draft and final plans at public buildings**
- **Get involved in focus groups. Visit our website at:**
www.lrgwuo-waterplan.com

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

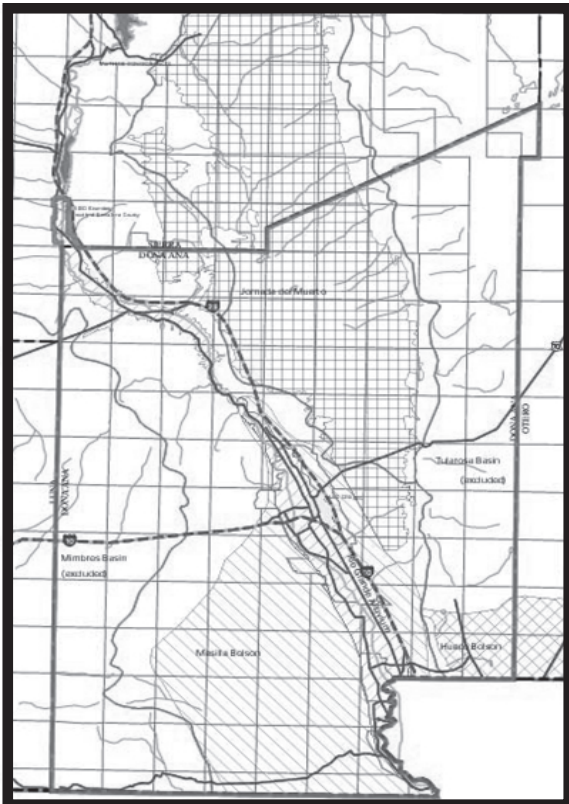
Terracon, John Shomaker and Associates, Livingston Associates, and Zia Engineering have completed the Lower Rio Grande Water Users Organization (LRGWUO) Dona Ana Regional Water Plan. The planning region is located in south central New Mexico and lies within the northern extreme of the Chihuahuan Desert. The majority of the planning region is within Dona Ana County (excluding portions of the Tularosa and Mimbres Basins). The planning region also includes a portion of Sierra County below Caballo Dam and includes Chaparral in southeastern Dona Ana County.



The two year effort has built upon the previous water planning efforts in the region (1994), and was designed to bring the technical research up to the standards required by the ISC Regional Water Planning Template.



Lower Rio Grande Water Users Organization WATER PLANNING REGION



The Dona Ana Regional Water Plan includes:

- Analysis of the Surface and Groundwater Supply Available to the Region
- Demographic Analysis
- Population Projections to 2040
- Current Water Use and Project Water Demand, and
- Strategies for Future Management of the Region's Water.

The following is a brief synopsis of the five areas covered in the Doña Ana Regional Water Plan.

- ***Analysis of the Surface and Groundwater Supply Available to the Region***
- ***Demographic Analysis***
- ***Population Projections to 2040***
- ***Current Water Use and Project Water Demand***
- ***Strategies for Future Management of the Region's Water.***

ANALYSIS OF THE SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER SUPPLY AVAILABLE TO THE REGION

The average annual precipitation in the Las Cruces area is approximately 8.49 inches. More than one half the annual precipitation occurs during the summer months, particularly in the period between July and September. There are several drainage basins within the planning region. Upland watersheds drain to the basins in the direction of the Rio Grande. Few actually reach the river, the majority 'dead-end' into the sandy bottoms of the main drainage basins.

The Rio Grande is the sole perennial surface water source and the primary source of surface water in the planning region. The Rio Grande flows through a valley that is part of a narrow structural depression. The Rio Grande Project (constructed in the early 1900's) developed all the remaining flows of the Rio Grande and its tributaries from Elephant Butte Reservoir to Fort Quitman, Texas. Within the planning region, the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID) administers the Project. The volume of surface runoff is included in identification of available surface water resources for the Rio Grande.

The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulated by the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) Surface Water Bureau indicate that permits have been issued to six municipal and other wastewater treatment plants/systems along the Rio Grande. Hatch, Las Cruces, Gadsden ISD, Anthony, Santa Teresa, and Sunland Park hold permits from the NMED and NPDES. Treated wastewater is required to conform to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulatory standards. The total permitted discharge of approximately 19.1 MGD from the six plants, which represents a return flow of approximately fifty-nine acre-feet per day of treated wastewater to the Rio Grande.

The NMED Groundwater Division has issued groundwater discharge permits to commercial and industrial entities in the planning region. The majority of industries with groundwater discharge permits are dairy, food processing facilities, or rural smaller industrial/ commercial operations. These permit holders are allowed to store their wastewater in lined ponds, to utilize land-application and/or discharge to septic systems. Dona Ana County also operates a septage disposal facility in Mesquite, consisting of lined evaporation basins. These discharges do not directly discharge into the Rio Grande, or any canals or drains. Therefore, they do not directly impact the available surface water supplies within the Rio Grande.

Within the planning region there are no major storage reservoirs. The City of Las Cruces maintains Burn Lake (recreational), which is fed via irrigation and irrigation drain water. Stormwater runoff from west central sections of Las Cruces also drain into Burn Lake. The approximate capacity of this recreational facility is 390 acre-feet. Storm water dam facilities are also located within the planning region, but are only designed as detention facilities, and therefore do not maintain a permanent pool behind them.

Recent studies within the planning region indicate that there is a link between the surface water system of the Rio Grande and the groundwater supplies. Agriculture provides the major source of groundwater recharge in the plan area, in return the aquifer provides water to the river under certain conditions. Issues which affect the relations between the surface water sources and the underlying shallow aquifer include irrigation practices, weather and precipitation patterns, releases of water from the Caballo Reservoir upstream, and well pumping rates.

Agriculture is the dominant use of land within the Rincon and Mesilla Valley. Irrigation consumes the largest amount of water. Major crops include cotton, pecans, alfalfa, cereal grains, and vegetables. The EBID distributes irrigation waters from the Rio Grande for the Mesilla Valley. Groundwater is also used to supplement surface water where needed. Annual groundwater withdrawals for irrigation, municipal, industrial and domestic wells vary depending on the amount of surface irrigation water available from the river.

The four-groundwater basins in the planning region include:

- Jornada del Muerto
- Mesilla Basin
- Hueco Bolson
- Rincon Valley Basin

MESILLA BASIN is an important hydrologic basin for economic development in southern New Mexico. The Mesilla Basin occupies the central portion of Dona Ana County, covering approximately 1,110 square miles. The main aquifers of the Mesilla Basin consist of the Rio Grande deposits and the Santa Fe group basin-fill. Water levels in the Mesilla Basin range from 10 feet below ground level (bgl) near the Rio Grande to 300 feet or more bgl in the western and east-central part of the basin. Groundwater flow in the Mesilla Basin is generally to the southeast, parallel to the trend of the Rio Grande with groundwater flowing from higher elevations to lower elevations. Natural discharge from the Mesilla Basin occurs near the El Paso Narrows. The majority of groundwater is discharged as drain flow and evaporation. Groundwater recharge in the Mesilla Basin occurs along arroyos during precipitation events. This process is known as 'slope-front recharge'. Recharge also occurs from the Rio Grande and associated irrigation canals. According to previous studies there are approximately 20 million acre-feet of freshwater and 2.7 million acre-feet of slightly saline water available for pumping in the Mesilla Basin.

JORNADA DEL MUERTO lies between the San Andres Mountains to the east and Caballo, San Diego, and Dona Ana Mountains, and the Mesilla Basin to the west. Water levels in the Jornada del Muerto Basin range from 50 to over 500 feet bgl. The direction of groundwater flow in the Jornada Basin is west to southwest towards the Rio Grande Valley. Natural discharge



from the basin occurs as groundwater flows along the western part of the basin. Recharge to the Jornada del Muerto Basin occurs by means of mountain front recharge, subsurface groundwater flow, and from geothermal upwellings. According to previous studies there are approximately 40 million acre-feet of groundwater available for pumping in the Jornada Basin.

THE HUECO BOLSON covers approximately 255 square miles and is located primarily in the southeastern corner of Dona Ana County, and extends eastward into Otero County. Only approximately 3 percent of the Bolson lies within New Mexico. Aquifer characteristics of the Hueco Bolson vary, and are dependent on grain size and sorting of the sediments. The average water level in the New Mexico portion of the Hueco Bolson is about 350 feet bgl. Groundwater flow in the New Mexico portion of the Hueco Bolson is generally eastward along the northwestern portion of the basin. Natural discharge from the bolson is estimated to be 4,650 acre-feet per year for the portion of the aquifer that has a Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) concentration of 1,000 mg/l or less. Recharge of the Hueco Bolson comes from the Tularosa Basin, with a small amount of flow from the Mesilla Basin. Surface recharge to the basin-fill comes from storm runoff percolating through the alluvial fans on the sides of the Organ and Franklin Mountains. Recoverable groundwater in storage estimates for the Hueco Bolson are based on the assumption that 50 percent of the water in storage can be recovered by pumping. The Hueco Bolson has approximately 6 million acre-feet of groundwater within the study area that is assumed to be available for pumping.

RINCON VALLEY BASIN (Palomas Basin) is located in the south-central Sierra County and the northwestern corner of Dona Ana County. The main aquifer in the Rincon Valley Basin is the post-Santa Fe Group alluvial deposits. Yields in the irrigation wells in the floodplain aquifer can be quite high. Water levels in the Rincon Valley Basin vary between 0 feet bgl, in the floor plain to 400 feet bgl in the Caballo Mountains. Along the Rio Grande in Dona Ana County, depth to water is less

than 20 feet bgl. Water is replaced quickly in the alluvial aquifer, due to high transmissivity and proximity to the Rio Grande. The average water levels within the valley do not appear to be decreasing, though seasonal fluctuation does occur. The direction of groundwater flow in the Rincon Valley Basin is northeast, from the mountains into the valley and then south and east down to the river. Recharge to the Rincon Valley basin is via seepage from the Rio Grande and irrigation canals. Some recharge also occurs from subsurface flow through the coarse sediments in mountain front tributaries and arroyos. Development of groundwater in the Rincon Basin will be at the expense of surface water flow in the Rio Grande. The total amount of recoverable groundwater in storage that can be recovered by pumping (fresh and saline) is approximately 320,000 acre-feet.

Within the planning region the Rio Grande meanders approximately one hundred miles through fertile farmlands, populated communities, and base piedmont slopes. Human activity along the river results in discharge of chemicals to the surface water system and subsequently to shallow groundwater. Studies conducted by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) found that seven of the eight largest pesticide concentrations found within the Rio Grande Valley are within the planning region. Dissolved nutrients such as nitrite, ammonia, and phosphorus were also found in surface water samples.

Points of source impacts within the bounds of the planning region are generally limited to municipal and regional wastewater treatment plant facilities. Storm drain system runoff is also a point of source impacts within the planning region. The water quality from domestic wastewater systems is monitored and controlled, and impacts from these sources are generally minor or positive to the overall water quality within the river. Impacts from storm drain runoff are not monitored and vary depending on the volume of and the timing between precipitation events. Additional investigation on the storm drain runoff is beyond the scope of this study. However, non-point source impacts are a concern to water quality within the region. Uncontrolled stormwater

runoff from municipal areas, commercial and industrial sites and agricultural farmlands and dairies can result in significant volumes of contaminants entering the surface water system.

Permits for non-point source discharges (discharged mostly to the groundwater) within the planning region include:

- Private and commercial septic systems
- Land application to crops from dairies, food processing facilities and other agricultural related operations
- Evaporation lagoons for agricultural, commercial and industrial operations
- Discharges from small domestic wastewater systems to leach fields, evaporation lagoons or land applications.

The water quality within the Mesilla Basin is dependent on factors such as irrigation within the Rio Grande corridor, bedrock found in recharge zones, and the presence of geothermal water. Ground water contamination sources in the Mesilla Valley include leaking underground storage tanks (LUST) sites, septic tanks, cesspools, landfills, dairies, agricultural and municipal chemicals, and other waste disposal practices. LUSTs are a major source of groundwater contamination in New Mexico. Within the Mesilla Basin there are one hundred and fourteen LUST sites, forty-eight require no further action. Sixty-six are currently undergoing investigation, remediation, or monitoring.

The southern portion of the Jornada del Muerto Basin has low TDS levels, but high concentrations of sodium, bicarbonate, and sulfate. Pockets of highly saline water occur along faults where deep water can flow upward, very fresh water is located along recharge zones near arroyos. Sources of groundwater contamination in the Jornada Basin include septic tanks, liquid waste disposal sites, and LUST sites. There are three LUST sites listed with the NMED in Organ, all have a no further action status. Due to the deep water table within the Jornada Basin, the aquifer may not be as sensitive to contamination from LUST's, septic tanks, landfills, or agricultural operations.

Water quality in the Hueco Bolson is variable. Hardness and chloride content can be high, and sulfate concentrations are well below the EPA secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL). Freshwater is found in a wedge where recharge comes off the alluvial fans on the western side of the basin. There are two NMED LUST sites within the planning region and both have the status of no further action/ suspected release. There is also a closed landfill in the town of Chaparral. Groundwater contamination from the landfill is unknown. The aquifer is assumed to be slightly sensitive to sub-surface contamination due to elevated nitrate levels in some of the wells located in Chaparral.

The Rincon Valley Basin has very hard water that exceeds the EPA hardness MCL of 250 mg/l in many wells, and contains high amounts of dissolved solids. There are thirteen LUSTs in the Rincon Valley Basin, all are located in Hatch. Two of the LUST sites have a status of no further action. Seven are currently being monitored, and the remaining four are in the process of remediation or investigation. Liquid waste disposal, septic tanks, and cesspools also are sources of groundwater contamination. The aquifer is very susceptible to contamination due to the high water table.

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The majority of the population within the planning region consists of individuals of Hispanic or Caucasian backgrounds with an approximate 60-percent to 40-percent mix respectively between the two. According to the 2000 census approximately 60-percent of the population are between the 18-years and 65-years of age. The ratio between male and female within the state is approximately 1:1.

The County of Dona Ana has one of the lowest levels of per capita income in the United States. Within the Dona Ana County area, the government continues to be the predominant employer. Dona Ana County is an important producer of agricultural goods, such as chili, pecans, and cotton. Agriculture is considered one of the largest segments of income for the County. In general, the economy has experienced a slow but steady growth within each major industry group through the 1990's.

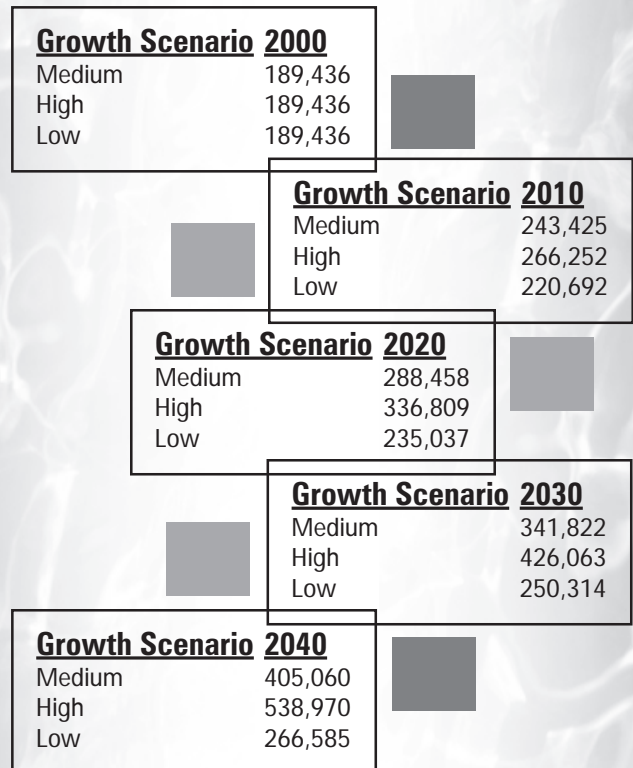
The economic base of the Mesilla Valley has been very stable over the past several years and no great change is anticipated in the near future. Dona Ana County appears to have some potential for attracting agriculture-related light industry for several reasons including the following: low cost of living, available land, available labor force, adequate water systems, and good transportation facilities. There is also a potential for the development of a retirement-related industry due to the excellent year-round climate of the area and the relatively low cost of living in the County.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS TO 2040

Population projections for the incorporated and the unincorporated communities of the planning region are complex. Three different growth rates; medium, high, and low have been developed to provide the possible variability for the projections.

A regression model was used to extend the historic census data to provide population estimates at ten year intervals. The model provided by Peach and Williams assumes that population growth-rates are related to the economic growth-rate of the region, migration, and natural growth-rates of the population.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR 2000 TO 2040



The two broad water demand categories in Doña Ana County are:

- The use of surface water supply developed under the US Bureau of Reclamation Rio Grande Project; and
- The use of regional groundwater supply as developed by private individuals, industrial-commercial interests, semi-public entities, and municipalities.

CURRENT WATER USE AND PROJECT WATER DEMAND

During the periods of low river flow when releases are not being made from Elephant Butte Reservoir, the Rio Grande gains base-flow from the surrounding shallow aquifers. All surface water demands for irrigation under the EBID are met by water delivered by EBID. Water releases are from storage in Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs located 30 miles north of the Region in Sierra County. However, not all releases from these reservoirs are used in the region. Some of the water is lost due to evaporation, and forty-three percent is committed to the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 (EPCWID) in Texas. The consumptive use of the surface

water supply available to New Mexico from Elephant Butte Reservoir is currently allocated exclusively for irrigated agriculture. There is also the non-consumptive use of the Reservoir water for power generation. A significant amount of consumptive water use is associated with the maintenance of the non-beneficial vegetation that grows along ditches and drains maintained by EBID and in the bosque areas.

Adjudication of water rights in the Lower Rio Grande began in 1986, but no final date has been set for the completion. The adjudication will determine how much groundwater can be pumped without affecting senior surface water rights.

The main source of surface water in the planning region is from flows stored in the Elephant Butte Reservoir. This reservoir is the basic storage unit for the Rio Grande Project established in 1906 to provide irrigation water to farms in Texas and New Mexico by capturing flood-flows and storing them in the Reservoir.

The Rio Grande Project was also established to ensure that the United States could deliver water to Mexico. The 1906 Treaty negotiated with Mexico required 60,000 acre-feet of water to be delivered to Mexico at the Acequia Madre. The United States has been able to deliver this amount in most years, however the amount is sometimes reduced during periods of short supply from the Elephant Butte Reservoir.

Colorado, Texas and New Mexico entered into an interstate compact that divided the supply of the Rio Grande between the three states by providing a sliding scale delivery system. New Mexico's deliveries at Elephant Butte were to the Rio Grande Project. It did include deliveries to Mexico. The compact also contains provisions on volumes of water to be released from storage under certain circumstances.

The Rio Grande Project lands, canal system, drains and diversion dams are located on a narrow 150-mile river reach of the Rio Grande from Elephant Butte Reservoir to the southern line of El Paso County and these facilities are adequate to meet current demands.

Prior to the start of the irrigation season each year, the EBID announces the anticipated allocations to District farmers in terms of acre-feet per acre. The irrigation District must limit diversions at Perchas, Leasburg and Mesilla dams based on the storage available for release in Elephant Butte and Caballo reservoirs. The district must ensure that sufficient water will be available to provide equity to Texas irrigators and to make deliveries to Mexico. At the end of the water year, if there is unused water, it is allowed to remain in storage for reallocation the following year.

Irrigation water demands in the District are based on crop consumptive use or crop evapo-transpiration. Factors that affect demand for water in the District include the cropping patterns and associated length of the growing seasons, the weather and the effective rainfall for each crop. In making farm deliveries, the District does not differentiate between crops, but distributes the annual allotment pro-rated for the 90,640 acres on its Assessment Roll depending on the Project water supply available.

Ground water is used in all categories of demands in the region including irrigation, which represents the largest source of demand followed by municipal requirements and by small public water supplies.

Water demands for public water supplies include those exerted by water utilities, both publicly or privately owned, and that have at least 15 service connections, or that regularly serve an average of at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year. Most of the public water supplies in the planning region serve a relatively small number of connections where uses are limited to household and garden purposes. Public water supplies also provide water for parks, playing fields, golf courses and recreational activities.

Domestic wells serve single family or multiple housing units as long as the total demand does not exceed 3 acre-feet per year. If more than 25 occupants are served, the supply would be classified as a public water system. Water from domestic wells is used for drinking, food preparations, bathing, washing clothes and dishes, flushing toilets and watering lawns and gardens.

Industrial uses of water are met by diversions from groundwater. The Office of the State Engineer (OSE) identifies twenty-five industrial wells in the region with a total use of approximately 77-acre feet per year.

Commercial uses within the planning region include agricultural product processing, institutions, businesses, campgrounds, picnic areas and visitor centers. The total for industrial and commercial uses listed in 1997 was approximately 6,000 acre-feet per year.

Irrigated agriculture uses ground water to process agricultural products, to clean facilities and to provide cooling water. The OSE lists 1,738 wells in the region used for irrigation.

Today there are eight categories of water use. These categories include:

- Public water supply
- Domestic Use
- Industrial
- Commercial
- Irrigated Agriculture
- Livestock
- Mining
- Power

Wells used for irrigation purposes fall under three categories:

- Wells that provide supplemental water to EBID lands during years when a full surface supply is not provided.
- Wells that are in current use to provide additional irrigation water beyond that available from the EBID, even in years of full supply.
- Wells that are used for crops where groundwater is the only source of supply.

Livestock demands in the planning region depend on groundwater. Demands for the livestock is approximately 4,500-acre feet per year. OSE lists one hundred and forty wells in the planning region as sources of water for livestock. Only one percent of water for livestock is obtained from surface water.

Mining in the planning region includes sand and gravel operations, rock quarries and the mining of volcanic materials. Groundwater demand for mining activities is approximately 66 acre-feet per year. According to OSE 60 wells serve the mining demands.

There is one power generation facility in Dona Ana County and it is owned and operated by El Paso Electric. The power generation facility is located near Sunland Park, in the southern part of the County. The water requirement for the power generation is approximately 3,500 acre-feet per year. Water demand for cooling water is approximately 2,400 acre-feet per year.

Per capita water withdrawal rates vary from just over 70 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) to 255 gpcd. Over inflated water use figures for the White Sands Missile Range water system is due to the influx of non-resident populations during the working hours. The average person in the planning region consumes 182 gallons per day.

STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF THE REGION'S WATER

Proper management can extend water resources within the planning region. Tools to complete this include educational, institutional, and governmental programs designed to augment water resources. Water management alternatives can be placed into two categories of public education and water conservation and reuse.

Proper management begins with public education. An educational campaign aimed at water conservation and supply protection could extend water supplies within the planning region. The development of water conservation plans within the communities and the use of reclaimed water on areas such as parks, golf courses and other green spaces would also help with conservation goals and lower the use of potable water for these green areas.

Water Development Alternatives would create 'wet water' for the planning region. Potential Alternatives for the planning region include:

- Watershed Management
- Desalination
- Underground Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)
- Reclaimed Water/ Reuse
- Residential/ Commercial Water Conservation
- Agricultural Water Conservation
- Leasing of Agricultural Water to M&I Use
- Surface Water Capture
- Development of Deep Ground Water
- Importation of Water

Watershed management involves methods to improve the quality and/or quantity of the water within an area. For example, the thinning or removal of invasive plant species along the Rio Grande and the reduction of mesquite could increase recharge to the upper aquifer layers.

Desalination of brackish groundwater is becoming an economical technology. The use of desalination could help tap the deeper, brackish aquifers in the planning region. The pumping of deeper aquifers would also have a lesser effect on the Rio Grande. The cost of desalination is proportional to the levels of TDS in the water and increases rapidly with TDS levels above 10,000 mg/L.

Aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) refers to taking water from the surface and injecting it into an aquifer for storage. The water is then withdrawn at a later date for use. ASR allows for a large amount of water to be stored without evaporation losses or the need for surface lakes or tanks. It replenishes areas where declines in groundwater are severe. Sources of injection water include treated wastewater, storm water runoff, excess EBID water, and treated surface water from agricultural users. Treated wastewater from municipalities would be re-injected up gradient from well fields to reduce groundwater draw down. The State of New Mexico promulgated rules that allow municipalities and other governmental entities to store water in underground aquifers for later recovery.

Flood control facilities may be used as an aquifer recharge. Detention ponds and spreading basins (french drains), can be used for storm water control and the percolation of flood waters. This process would recharge groundwater in shallow aquifers.

Treated wastewater effluent could also be reclaimed and used on green spaces to offset the use of potable water. New regulations on reclaimed

water quality have been proposed by NMED, and would require the additional treatment of reclaimed water beyond conventional secondary wastewater treatment. This would disinfect and eliminate pathogens and bacteria from the water and make the reclaimed water safe for unrestricted uses. In some communities, effluent water is treated to better than drinking water standards and re-injected into the groundwater aquifer for additional treatment and storage.

and laser leveling.

The EBID is establishing a water lease/transfer program where member municipalities may lease unused EBID water for municipal use. This lease program could defer water allotments from a water-righted land and lease it to other lands within its EBID boundaries. At present, all water managed by EBID is delivered to agricultural users. The creation of the Special Water Users Associations (SWUA) is recognition of the needs for a water supply for municipal growth within the EBID service area. The SWUA concept is an EBID Board approved policy that sets several rules for the use of EBID water for limited municipal purposes. It was created to maintain equity for EBID water users, maintain consistency with EBID policies and statutory obligations, and to maintain the hydrologic health of the system.

Surface water capture is the idea of impounding and diverting storm water run off from the mountain areas before it enters the groundwater and becomes mineralized. The construction of dams and diversion structures would be required.

The importation of water from other areas outside the planning region could be used in conjunction with an ASR program, for immediate/drought use. Potential areas of importation include: Gila River Central Arizona Project, Nutt-Hockett Basin, and the Salt Basin.

The most effective conservation measure is education and awareness training. Education goals would include:

- Make the public aware of the value of water.
- Emphasize that rainfall is low in the region.
- Emphasize that we are depleting potable water resources.

Industrial and commercial water demands can be reduced with little capital investment and without reducing the competitive position of the product produced. The most cost-effective method of conservation would be the reuse of water from the production process.

The largest water demand in the planning region comes from agricultural use. Applicable methods of water conservation include the use of drip and sprinkler systems, lining ditches,

Proposed methods of conservation by the EBID include:

- The installation of canal liners
- Control weeds and vegetation in conveyance structures
- Monitor flows to determine unaccounted water or losses
- Improve flow regulations structures/ monitor soil moisture
- Schedule water deliveries/ irrigation to meet crop demands.
- Land leveling
- Optimum tillage
- Recover runoff and tail water
- Select/improve proper application methods

Wells, Mary E.

From: MVEDA Info
Sent: Monday, August 07, 2000 4:35 PM
To: Summit@zianet.com
Subject: MVEDA Meetings - Aug. 7-11

Tuesday Industrial Development Meeting Reminder! And notice of the MVEDA Economic Summit's Water Committee meeting this week!

The MVEDA Economic Summit's Industrial Development-Business on the Border-Technology Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 8 at the Holiday Inn de Las Cruces. Please follow the signs to the meeting room.

Cost: \$7 - Deli Buffet, pasta salad, cole slaw, potato salad, soup, potato chips, cookies, ice tea. Cash or checks only. No credit card payments available at committee-level lunches.

Speaker: John Lamonica of Farmers Investment Company (FICO) of Tucson, AZ. FICO is building a pecan cold storage facility at the West Mesa Industrial Park. FICO will have a \$3 million investment when the project opens.

Extra: We will have a report on future plans at the West Mesa. Robert Garza of the City of Las Cruces has been invited.

The MVEDA Economic Summit Water Committee will meet at the NMSU Advanced Manufacturing Center, 2345 E. Nevada Ave., at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10. An update of recent regional and state water activities will be reviewed.
Co-chairs
Win Jacobs and Dr. James M. (Jim) Kadlecek will lead the discussions.

The NMSU AMC building can be found: From Lohman Avenue: Take Walnut Avenue south to Nevada Avenue, turn left(east); go one-half block. The AMC building will be on your left. It has a large blue stripe on the front of the building.

>From University Avenue: Take Trivez Avenue approximately 1.5 miles north to Nevada. Turn left. The AMC building will be on your right, one-half block. The meeting will be held in the large conference room. Go through both sets of double doors in front. Follow the signs to the meeting room.

Steve Carter, Industrial Development Committee Chairman
Steve W. Givens, Summit Coordinator
Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance
(505) 525-2852

MVEDA Economic Summit II

Water Committee
8-10-00

Sign-Up Sheet

Please print or write legibly...we still have mysteries from our previous sign-in sheets!

Name	Mailing address	Phone & FAX	*IMPORTANT: e-mail
CHARLES SEEGER STROM	2432 LaFoncha Circle #1 88001	NEW CONCEPT ROAD RUNNER	NEWCONCEPT@ROADRUNNER.COM
George Stein	1990 Easthollow, Suite 225	LC 88001	gstein@banded-wire.net
KEVIN BICKBY	1474A S. SOLANO	LC 88001	swec@zianet.com
Mary Wells	P.O. Box 5067	LC 88003	mewells@terracon.com
Win Jacobs	1812 Anehurst	LC 88011	
TIM KADLACEK	MVEDA	P.O. Box 1299	88004-1299
Steven W. Givens	"	"	88004-1299

drumk
@mveda
com
sgivens
@mveda,
com

Organizational message

August 2000

The MVEDA Economic Summit III is scheduled for 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Oct. 19 in the main ballroom at Hilton Las Cruces.

Summit III will be the most challenging and unique of the three events that have galvanized an increasing percentage of Dona Ana County and City of Las Cruces residents.

We will explore the dynamics of the huge non-profit community in our region and its significant impact on economic development. At the same time, we will focus on workforce training needs in our area. We have a large and relatively young workforce that lacks skills for the higher paying jobs most coveted. We must identify what training is needed by whom and prepare them.

In 2001, a major component of the North American Free Trade Agreement changes. This will give the United States, Mexico and Canada a huge advantage over the higher tariffs in much of the world where electronics, electrical, computer and other components are made and assembled. If we are to attract some of these industries because of geographic location, we must have trained workers and an identifiable, rapid-response system in place.

Summit III will continue to address the other six key areas targeted in the 1998 and 1999 events: Water; Agriculture and Land Use; Convention Center-Tourism; the Spaceport; and Health Care. More than 2,500 participants have worked with us to date.

Our Summit techniques and blueprints have been requested by other New Mexico cities. The Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments soon will use many of our content for the metropolitan Albuquerque area in a series of "Community Conversations". The New Mexico Economic Development Department is hosting a two-day, state "Economic Summit" late in September and again in Albuquerque.

Imitation may be flattery, but we haven't and won't fall into the trap of coasting because of praises. We don't intend to allow our momentum to die and become another failed initiative.

MVEDA's challenge is to continue being a fair, honest, receptive and professional organization. It's not necessarily about what we think, it's what you, the public want and need. Our job is done best when we do our best and then let the experts and the private sector thrive.

Join us Oct. 19 at Hilton Las Cruces for Summit III. There's much work to do and there are many challenges. But we're making progress because we are "Citizens at Work".

Steven W. Givens
MVEDA Summit Coordinator,
MVEDA Assistant Executive Director



MESILLA VALLEY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

2345 E. Nevada Avenue Las Cruces, NM 88001-3902
(505) 525-2852 Fax (505) 523-5707 1-800-523-6833
<http://www.mveda.com> sites@mveda.com

In 1998, the Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance held a 12-hour public event to allow area residents to decide top areas in which it should devote its energies over the next two years.

The initial MVEDA Economic Summit drew 225 people of 400 invited Oct. 9.

A 31-person steering committee appointed by Mayor Ruben A. Smith of Las Cruces and then-Chairman Gilbert T. Apodaca of the Dona Ana County Board of Commissioners selected the invitees and guided the planning process.

An additional 107 individuals returned Oct. 10, 1998 when the Summit's findings were officially endorsed by area elected officials and candidates.

Laminated sheets with candidates' and elected officials' Summit-endorsing signatures are a part of the event's permanent records of activities.

The original six initiatives adopted were: Water Resources; Industrial Development-Business on the Border; Workforce Training; Agriculture-Land Use; the Spaceport; and Convention Center-Tourism.

MVEDA Economic Summit II, was held Nov. 9 1999 and was attended by a record 282 area residents. All six initial initiatives were reaffirmed and three new topics were approved: Technology; Health Care; and a Community Foundation.

MVEDA Economic Summit III is set for Oct. 19 at Hilton Las Cruces.

More than 2,400 participants have attended quarterly Summit follow-up activities and monthly committee meetings since the original event.

MVEDA is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization contracted by both the city and county to promote economic development. Private sector partners in business and industry throughout Dona Ana County also support MVEDA.

Dr. James A. (Jim) Kadlecek, MVEDA executive director, serves as Summit Chairman. Steven W. Givens, MVEDA assistant executive director, is Summit Coordinator.

For more information, please call MVEDA at (505) 525-2852. E-mail contacts are: drjmk@mveda.com and sgivens@mveda.com

RIO GRANDE CITIZENS' FORUM
SALLY SPENER'S NOTES
AUGUST 29, 2001
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Rio Grande Citizens' Forum members in attendance introduced themselves:

Kevin Bixby
David Carpenter
Mike Fahy
Joe Groff
Carlos Marin
Conrad Keyes
Sue Watts

Other IBWC staff present:

Wayne Belzer
Doug Echlin
Carl Fietze
Commissioner Carlos Ramirez
Sally Spener
Larry Stout

Other entities represented:

Dona Ana County Planning and Zoning
Dona Ana MDWCA
Terracon
El Paso County Water Improvement District
CSA Consulting Engineers
City of Las Cruces
Santa Teresa
NMSU grad student
Office of State Engineer
Singhco
Bath Engineering
League of Women Voters of Las Cruces
Johnson and Associates
TNRCC
Town of Mesilla
farmer
farmer
Dona Ana MDWCA
NMSU WRRRI

U.S. Border Patrol
NMSU Dept. of Geography
League of Women Voters of El Paso, Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
farmer
NMSU WRRI
KRWG 90.7 public radio
CDM Inc
Las Cruces resident
several other members of the public

There were presentations on the following topics:

Rincon and Hatch Siphon Protection Works Update - Larry Stout, USIBWC

Canalization EIS Update - Doug Echlin, USIBWC

El Paso-Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project Update - Mike Fahy, El Paso Water Utilities

Agency Goals -Commissioner Carlos M. Ramirez, USIBWC

Texas Clean Rivers Program for the Rio Grande Basin - Wayne Belzer, USIBWC Clean Rivers Program staff

Lower Rio Grande Water Users Association - Mary Wells, Terracon

Mary Wells of Terracon did a presentation about regional water planning work for the Las Cruces area from Caballo Reservoir to the Texas border. The plan projects to the year 2040. They are working under contract with the Interstate Stream Commission to include a water supply study. So far, the following information has been compiled: surface water supply information, historical weather data, inventory of existing conditions, and stream gage data on the Rio Grande. The groundwater supply portion of the plan is finished. They are also looking at groundwater quality. They are in the process of finishing up the water demand section looking at agriculture, domestic, commercial, etc. The population projections are finished. Almost 90% of the area's water is used by agriculture. There will be public meetings on the draft plan probably in the third week of September. The plan needs input from the public on how to meet future demand. Demands for environmental needs will also be considered in the plan. Hope to have a final plan by December 31, 2001 to go for public hearing. Contact numbers are: 888-322-7526, 505-527-1041.

Public Comment

Recommendations for Future Programs

Next Meeting - November 2001, El Paso

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2003

CONTACTS

Mary Wells 505.527.1041
Or 1.866.DAC.PLAN

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS (REVISED)
REGIONAL WATER PLAN**

How much water will be available to Doña Ana County residents in the future for drinking, irrigation and agriculture? What can we do to conserve and better manage water supplies in the region? Residents will have a chance to find out the answers to these questions and to offer their own alternatives for conservation and management at public meetings scheduled for the last week of August and early September.

The Lower Rio Grande Water Users Organization (LRGWUO) is sponsoring these public meetings. The LRGWUO represents residents of the City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, the Town of Mesilla, the Anthony Water and Sanitation District, the Village of Hatch, New Mexico State University, Doña Ana Municipal Domestic Water Consumers Association and Elephant Butte Irrigation District.

This Plan was produced with a grant from the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. The Plan, along with water plans from other regions in the state, will eventually form the framework for a statewide water plan that will guide water management decisions in New Mexico.

Copies of the Draft Lower Rio Grande Regional Water Plan for public review are located at the following address:

- Doña Ana Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association Office: 5535 Ledesma Drive, Las Cruces, New Mexico
- Anthony Water & Sanitation District Office: 1750 Fourth Street, Anthony, New Mexico
- Las Cruces City Hall: 200 North Church Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico
- Branigan Memorial Library: 200 East Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, New Mexico
- City of Las Cruces Utilities Building: 680 Motel Boulevard, Las Cruces, New Mexico
- Doña Ana County Managers Office: 180 West Amador Avenue, Las Cruces, New Mexico
- Doña Ana County Utilities Building: 2024 East Griggs Avenue, Las Cruces, New Mexico

- Doña Ana County Sheriff's Substation: 131 East Lisa Drive, Chaparral, New Mexico
- Elephant Butte Irrigation District Office: 530 South Melendres Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico
- Hatch Village Hall: 133 North Franklin, Hatch, New Mexico
- Mesilla Town Hall: 2670 Calle De Parian, Mesilla, New Mexico

Public meetings are scheduled as follows:

- August 25, 2003 6:00 PM at the Chaparral Elementary School Gymnasium
- August 26, 2003 6:00 PM at the Santa Teresa School Gymnasium
- August 28, 2003 6:00 PM at the Las Cruces City Council Chambers at City Hall
- September 4, 2003 6:00 PM at the Hatch Community Center

Residents are encouraged to attend these meetings to learn more about the water plan for the region and to offer their comments. For further information, please contact Mary Wells at 505.527.1041 or 1.866.DAC.PLAN or visit the website at www.lrgwuo-waterplan.com.

Las Cruces calendar

Today

Cable TV Compliance Commission meeting: 4:30 p.m., Conference Room A, City Hall, 200 N. Church St. For information call 541-2200.

Doña Ana County Planning and Zoning Commission: 9 a.m. at the Commission Chambers, 2nd floor of the County Courthouse, 251 W. Amador Ave. The application deadline for variance, PUD, zone change and detailed site plan review cases are 45 days prior

to the meeting date. For information call 647-7237.

Doña Ana County regional water planning meeting: 6 p.m. at the Las Cruces City Chambers at City Hall, 200 N. Church St. For information 527-1041 or 1-866-DAC-PLAN or visit the Web site at <http://www.lrgwuo-waterplan.com>.

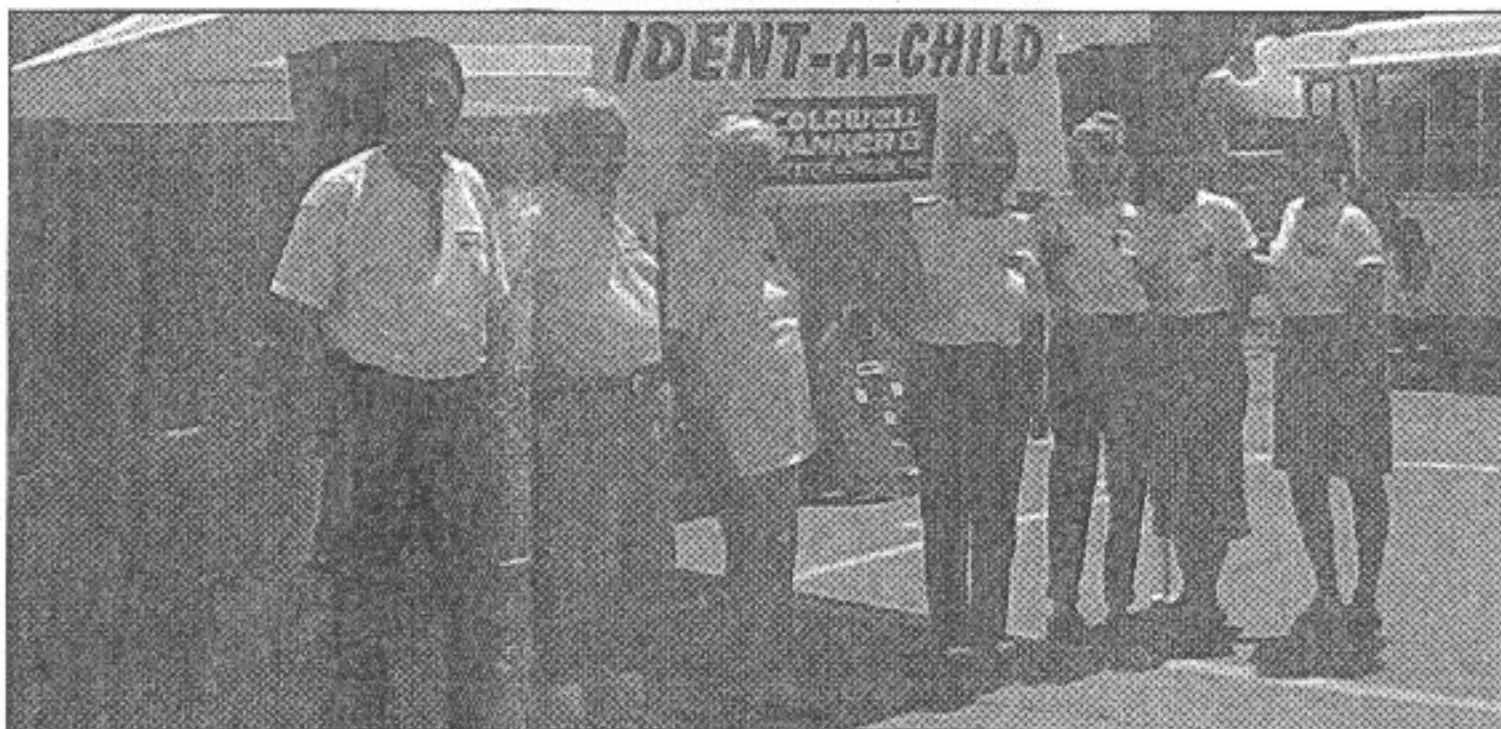
Consumer debt workshop: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave. Information on repossessions, foreclosures,

collections and bankruptcy by volunteer lawyer. Free to the public. For reservations, call 1-800-876-6227 or (505) 797-6054.

Lower Rio Grande Regional Water Plan Public meeting: 6 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 200 N. Church St. For information call 528-3511.

Representation Hearing: Labor Relations Board: 9 a.m., Conference Room A, City Hall, 200 N. Church St. For information call Alicia Martinez at (915) 565-2470.

Photos and fingerprints



COURTESY PHOTO

During the National Kids Day Carnival held at the Boys and Girls Club on Aug. 2, the Real Estate Associates from Coldwell Banker de Wetter Hovious supported the Ident-A-Child program. This program is a free service provided by Coldwell bankers. It provides parents with a permanent identification record of their child which includes photo and fingerprints. Among those assisting were Ernesto Uranga, Keith Hettinga, Patricia Diaz, Connie Hettinga, Regina Hollars, Lydia Garcia and Sherry Good in the photograph. Also assisting were Jane Lowenhaupt and Stevie Bennett.



Casa de Peregrinos

Emergency Food Program

825 Spruce Avenue
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001
523-5542

Casa De Peregrinos
Needs your Help!

Casa de Peregrinos a Non-Profit emergency food program, is asking for donations of canned foods and dry goods Our food supply has depleted to nothing, due to the lack of incoming food donations.

You will be helping Casa de Peregrinos feed the Families and Children in The Doña Ana County.

Please bring all donations to 825 Spruce Ave. Monday, Wednesday, Friday between 9:00 am -12:00 am or 1:00 5:00 pm

List of foods needed:

- Pastas Fideos Ramen
- noodles · Saltines
- Cereal Dry milk Oatmeal Peanut Butter
- Juices Can Fruits · Can Meats · Canned Vegetables

Thank you for your support!!
Sincerely, Rebeca M. Renteria
Executive Director

Lower Rio Grande Regional Water Plan
 Public Meetings
 Las Cruces, New Mexico
 August 28, 2003

Name Address Phone, and/ or E-mail:	Comments and/or Suggestions:
KEVIN WITTER (505) 524-7865 kevin1972@yahoo.com	
Sami Al-Haddad Khaled Al-Khali PHIL KING ipking@nmsu.edu Beth Bardwell bethbardwell@zianet.com	
Cheryl Blevins PO Box 443 Mexilla, NM 88046 billypap@hotmail.com	
Steve of Trowbridge City Council Las Cruces	Thank you
Beth Bardwell, Program Officer, LWWF 100 E. Hadley Las Cruces, NM 88011 bethbardwell@zianet.com	
Kevin Bickel SW Rav Center kwec@zianet.com	
Bobby Croel WRRI/NMSU LAS CRUCES NM 88003	
JORGE A. GARCIA CITY OF LAS CRUCES UTILITIES	
William + Christina Little 5640 Real del Norte Las Cruces 88012	
JOHN BUNN 716 BISON TRAIL LC, NM 88001 jbunn@nmsu.edu	

Lower Rio Grande Regional Water Plan
 Public Meetings
 Las Cruces, New Mexico
 August 28, 2003

Name Address Phone, and/ or E-mail:	Comments and/or Suggestions:
Marvin Teschner Las Cruces Sun News	
OSCAR PADILLA P.E. 425 S. Telshor Bldg. C. Suite 201 LAS CRUCES, NM 88011	
Barb Sauter 2015 Cresta Ct Las Cruces NM 88005	
Paul Dulin 2700 Highway 165 (PO Box 38) HATCH NM 87437 pdulin@aol.com	Please include an "Environmental Pool" as part of framework.
Wyn Jacobs Annie Hewitt	wnjacobs@znet.com voice of Women Voters
Dan Santantonio dansant@los-cruces.org	

**New Mexico Lower Rio Grande Regional Water Plan
Public Meeting Minutes
Las Cruces, New Mexico
August 28, 2003**

The Public Meeting began at 6:15pm.

Ms. Mary Wells introduced herself and the consulting team and what they were responsible for as well as the Lower Rio Grande Water Users Organization (LRGWUO) the eight entity members. Ms. Wells also introduced Mr. Creel, Mr. King and Mr. Garcia, specific members of the LRGWUO- Technical Committee that were sitting in the audience.

Ms. Wells, gave an approximate twenty three (23) minute power point slide presentation explaining what the Lower Rio Grande Regional Water plan is and why we are asking for public participation (see slide hand out sheet).

Ms. Wells opened the meeting to public participation/ comments at 6:38pm.

- Question: Who has the right to finalize the Regional Water Plan and how will this regional water plan integrate into the New Mexico State Water Plan?

The State intends to incorporate the regional water plans into the State Water Plan. The State would not have financed these regional plans if they did not want to pay attention to the Planning documents produced. The Governor of New Mexico has taken this State Water Plan as part of his mantra, and requested the State Plan be completed by the end of this year (2003).

The Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) has had the Draft Regional Water Plan for three weeks and their comments are expected within a week or so.

- Comment: Dona Ana County does not see the Rio Grande as other parts of New Mexico. The State Plan should take into account this difference.
- Question: If there is conflicting input who makes the call?

Regional Water Plans that have gone before the ISC have been accepted. The LRGWUO technical committee has endorsed the Regional Water Plan, and the LRGWUO will have to endorse it also before it goes to public hearings.

- Question: What is the time frame for public comment?

There will be thirty (30) days for public comment, beginning on September 4, 2003 (the last Public Meeting held in Hatch). By that time the ISC should have their final comments, and the LRGWUO will have reviewed the plan. At that time public hearings will be scheduled. These

**LRGWUO- Regional Water Plan
Public Meeting Minutes
Las Cruces, New Mexico
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hearings will be formal meetings with a Hearing Officer (Mary Wells is acting as such at these public hearings), and a court reporter documenting the hearings. The Hearing Officer will make meeting notes, and present the transcript and notes to the LRGWUO committee for comment.

- Question: One of our alternatives is block pricing. Yet, the City of Las Cruces (CLC) found that block pricing stopped working. What were the criteria for establishing the impact of block pricing?

Within the Regional Water Plan, consultants found the average and maximum. No one said that block pricing did not work. The average household has dropped from 15,000 to 11,000 gallons per month from the 1995 start of block pricing. What was no longer feasible was the 1.63 price per gallon. The CLC never stated that block pricing did not work. The rate of use has dropped and the goal now is to continue to see it drop.

- Question: What were the criteria for establishing the social and cultural impacts for changes between the agricultural and municipal uses of surface water?

The shift from agricultural use of water to municipal use will happen within Las Cruces. The permanent transfer of water rights from agricultural use to the Special Water Users Association (SWUA). The SWUA will lease or acquire water rights within the EBID service area. The SWUAs will not actively try to buy out farmers but rather lease or purchase the water rights when the irrigator grows houses or buildings instead of crops.

- Comment: The Problem with CLC block pricing is that it is punitive, people who can afford will use it without regard to the price per gallon. Is there a system in place to develop a water budget? Example if a family of 4 uses approximately 13,000 gallon per month between October and March. Why can't we set the rate so that though they were on a lower block. However, if they cause problems to the system, inducing costs during the summer months, if you contribute to the peak, then will you pay for the impact on the system?
- Question: What is the demand figures for the Environment? Why is this not a consideration within the Regional Water Plan? Within the environmental pool what are the proposed estimates for current use of water by the environment. If we can count the agricultural and municipal demand why can't we show the same for the environment.

The answer is unknown, however it is something we will take into consideration. There has to be a balance between the environment, agriculture, and municipal use, we can not just take one of these into consideration without considering the others. One must also take into consideration Project water.

**LRGWUO- Regional Water Plan
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The ISC does not consider this Regional Water Plan as a final document. It must be revised every five years, this is a living document and therefore can change as the needs of the regional change.

- Comment: The environment is not mentioned in the Executive Summary.
- Comment: We will never run out of water, just of cheap water, and to say that we [sic] are is wrong.

Water is finite we can run out.

- Comment: We could import it from somewhere else therefore we will not run out, or use deeper aquifers.

To import water still means that it comes from somewhere. An example would be the importation of water from the Tularosa Basin, two entities on the one basin does make this a infinite resource. We have to take into consideration what the cost of importation will be on the population that is coming into the system. To mine deeper resources, we have to consider the water quality, diminishing returns dollars spent versus amount of groundwater recovered and treatment cost.

- Comment: To say that we will run out of water is a scare technique, we should not say we can not accommodate when we can.
- Comment: We need to say that we need to do with less water not without it.
- Comment: What we need to do is optimize the use of potable drinking water, by matching up water quality with water needs. There is no reason to water golf courses with chlorinated water, when we can encourage the re-use of water or water recycling. Process water could be used for another part within the same industry or for another industry.

The CLC has a fairly active reuse program, however gray water does not come free, it is expensive in the short run, but pays off in the long run.

- Question: With the use of water conservation within the Planning Region how much could you reduce demands?

It is hard to quantify per alternative, a target number was used when quantifying each alternative we have come up with so far.

- Comment: Development could help finance the gray water system.

**LRGWUO- Regional Water Plan
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- Question: How does the SWUA target the transfer of water rights, how are these rights purchased?

The SWUA does not target farmers, as farmers convert their agricultural land for urban use (or begins growing housing) the district has the means to purchase or park these rights. The CLC does not go out and purchase water rights.

- Question: Is this Regional Water Plan descriptive or does the LRGWUO have the right to put it into effect.

The Regional Water Plan is a planning tool. It would be descriptive in the possibilities for water conservation.

- Question: Does the Water Plan study the fiscal policies of the alternatives?

This is not within the scope of the plan.

- Question: The CLC passed a component within the water rates to acquire water rights. What are these funds used for?

These funds are used to pay for surface water rights, however, they do not go outside the city boundaries. The only exception to this is farms used the park surface water rights (appurtenant rights).

The EBID transfers water rights from Hatch to Mesilla, it requires that the water rights stay within the system. This is explained in section 5.6 of the Water Plan or the Legal chapter, and in the Alternatives Section of the Report.

- Comment: Is it true that El Paso County has a more water rights within the EBID boundaries invested interest than the City of Las Cruces.

The Alternatives section is a work in progress. We do needs your comments. Please read the report, it is located in various public buildings, and can be downloaded from the web page.

- Comment: The Regional Water Plan Copy was not located at the Hatch Village Hall, I went there and they gave me something that was dated 2000.

We will call tomorrow to verify it was received, but it was sent there. The receptionist might not have known what you were looking for.

- Comment: Please fax me a copy of the Conservation Plan (Marvin Tessneer, reporter for the Las Cruces, Sun News)

**LRGWUO- Regional Water Plan
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- Comment: We should look at rebates and/ or incentives, and land use planning for the optimization of water resources.

8:15pm, the Public Meeting ended.

Obituary Cox

Calvin S. Cox, Jr., 77, a resident of Albuquerque, died Wednesday, August 27, 2003. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Beverly of Albuquerque; children, Timothy and his wife, Billie, Karen, and Kenneth; brothers Clare Blair of Killeen, Texas and Jack Cox and wife, Joyce of Sonita, Ariz.; and sister, Bonnie Duncan of Missoula, Mont.

Mr. Cox served in the Army during WWII. He retired in 1991 after 42 years of service at Sandia National Labs. While employed with Sandia he lived in Alamogordo, La Cruces and Albuquerque.

Cremation has taken place and memorial services will be held Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2003, 3:30 p.m. at French Mortuary, Lomas Blvd. Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Kaseman Hospice, 8300 Constitution NE, 87110. Special thanks to Malcolm Purdy, MD and staff of the ...

By Marvin Tessneer
SUN-NEWS REPORTER

Representatives from the Interstate Streams Commission stopped in Las Cruces Thursday evening on a statewide tour to gain public input on a statewide water plan.

"Water is our most important resource," Terracon engineer Mary E. Wells said during the hearing at the Municipal Building. "We need public involvement to make this plan comprehensive, successful. We want to make sure that we consider all points of view."

The hearing was sponsored by the Lower Rio Grande Water Organization, which includes the city of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, Mesilla, Anthony, Hatch, New Mexico State University, the Doña Ana Municipal Domestic Water Consumers Association and Ele-

Water conservation

Some of the suggested conservation practices from the Interstate Stream Commission's public hearing Thursday include:

- Public education. All the water in this community comes from the Rio Grande and connecting aquifers and the adjacent basins. The Rio Grande supply is determined by the winter snowpack in the southern Rocky Mountains, which was far below average last spring.

Rainfall here is sparse, averaging 8.49 inches annually.

- Adopting water conservation ordinances. These would include limiting lawn watering to specific hours and days.
- Landscaping with underground sprinkler or drip systems and low water-use plants and ground cover.

phant Butte Irrigation District, at 6 p.m. at the Hatch Community Center.

Public hearings also were held in Chaparral and Santa Teresa. Those unable to attend a meeting who want to provide input on Sept. 4 are scheduled for Sept. 4

• Increased "block rates," or charging more for designated volumes of water or refunds for lower water use.

Recommended alternative practices include:

- Better watershed management, where the water sources originate.
- Leasing agricultural water rights for municipal and industrial uses.
- Desalination, or converting mineral-laden water into pure water.

- Developing underground water storage, which prevents evaporation of water.
- Reclaiming waste water for reuse.
- Lining water delivery channels to reduce loss during transportation.
- Weed control in conveyance channels.
- More efficient agricultural irrigation use.

the draft plan can call 527-1041, and 1-866-DAC.PLAN, write to 1630 Hickory Loop, Las Cruces, 88005 or e-mail www.terracon.com.

Marvin Tessneer can be reached at mtessneer@lcsun-news.com.

con.com, www.irgwuo-water-plan.com or mewells@terracon.com.

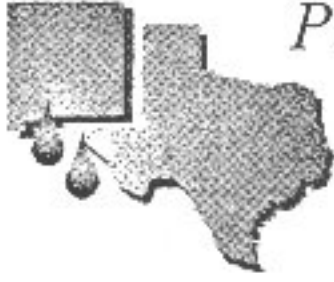
In this part of New Mexico, the ISC is seeking more data on what it terms "basins" that contain surface and underground water resources. The basins in this part of the state under study are Rincon, Mesilla, Jornada del Muerto and Hueco.

The demands on these resources include agriculture, municipalities, industry and mutual water users systems. This area has 78 mutual and domestic water user associations, Wells said.

"We need to make the public aware of the fact that there isn't going to be anymore water here," she said. "What we have now is all we're going to have."

New Mexico – Texas Water Commission

Public Entities in Partnership for Sustainable Water Resources



Water Resources Research Institute, Dept. 3167
New Mexico State University, Box 30001
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001
Phone: (505) 646-4337
FAX: (505) 646-6418

El Paso Water Utilities
Public Service Board, P.O. Box 511
El Paso, TX 79961
Phone: (915) 594-5501
FAX: (915) 594-5699

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE NEW MEXICO/TEXAS WATER COMMISSION

Elephant Butte Irrigation Office
530 South Melendres
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Telephone (505) 526-6671
(505) 523-9666

October 23rd
9 am

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- I. Review and Approval of Minutes from September 15, 2003, MAC/SC Meeting (MAC/SC).
 - II. Progress Report by the Paso del Norte Watershed Council (PdNWC)
(Nancy Hanks, Watershed Council Coordinator)
 - III. Regional Water Plan for the Lower Rio Grande Water Users Organization (LRGWUO)
(Mary Wells, Terracon)
 - IV. Update on the Year-End Rio Grande Project Water Supply (Wayne Treers, BuRec)
 - V. Grant Financing for Lining EBID's Canal/Piping Raw Water Supply (Gary Esslinger, EBID)
 - VI. Desalination Concentrator Research at the EPWU/Fort Bliss Desalination Pilot Plant
(Tony Tarquin, UTEP)
 - VII. Update on EPWU's Hosting of the Commission's Web Page (Mike Fahy, EPWU)
 - VIII. Other Business: Update on the Multi-State Salinity Coalition (MSSC)
 - IX. Schedule Next Meeting/Location

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING HAS OFFICIALLY EXISTED IN NEW MEXICO SINCE 1987. IT IS A PROCESS THAT GOT ITS START FROM THE ASHES OF THE NM/TEX WATER SUIT AND IS ESTABLISHED UNDER NM STATE LAW (72-14-44). THE REGIONAL WATER PROGRAM IS ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE NM INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION. SINCE THE PROGRAM'S INCEPTION, SOME 13 GROUPS ACROSS THE STATE HAVE PRODUCED OVER 22 PLANS THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE PLANNING OF CURRENT AND FUTURE WATER USES AND ASSISTED IN CREATING WISER ATTITUDES ABOUT THIS PRECIOUS, LIMITED RESOURCE. PARTICIPATING MEMBERS OF THE LOWER RIO GRANDE WATER USERS ORGANIZATION HAVE RECENTLY ENTERED INTO WHAT SHOULD BE THE PLANNING EFFORT THAT WILL BRING SOME CLOSURE TO THE STUDY AREA CORRIDOR FROM PERCHA SOUTH TO THE NM/TEX STATE LINE. ALSO INCLUDED WILL BE OTHER PARTS OF SIERRA AND DONA ANA COUNTIES. THE LOWER RIO GRANDE WATER USERS ORGANIZATION IS CURRENTLY FINALIZING CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN ISC, AND TERRACON, THE CONSULTING ENGINEER WORKING FOR THE ORGANIZATION. THIS EFFORT WILL PRODUCE A FINAL DOCUMENT THAT SHOULD FIT NICELY AND COMPLIMENT THE LAS CRUCES/EL PASO REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE WATER PROJECT.

THE LAST PIECE OF THE PUZZLE WILL BE MOVING TOWARD COMPLETEING THE WATER RIGHTS ADJUDICATION. THE ADJUDICATION IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS: A HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY OR PHYSICAL INVENTORY OF THE BASIN TO ASCERTAIN THE WATER RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS, AND A LEGAL ACTION DURING WHICH THE STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE MAKES OFFERS OF JUDGEMENT THAT CAN BE ACCEPTED OR REJECTED BY THOSE CLAIMING WATER RIGHTS IN THE AREA. THIS PROCESS IS THE KEY TO BRINGING ALL WATER RELATED ISSUES TO THE FOREFRONT. THE COMPLEXITIES AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF SO MANY USERS WITH SO MANY DIFFERENT NEEDS WILL EVENTUALLY BE SORTED OUT. HOWEVER, THE OUTCOME WILL BE THAT THERE WILL BE NO NEW WATER FOUND BUT IT WILL BE EASIER FOR WATER TRANSFERS TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN WILLING BUYERS AND SELLERS. THIS LEAVES US WITH THE UNANSWERED QUESTION THAT AFFECTS THE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN OUR AREA: DO WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO GROW OR DO WE WANT TO GIVE UP OUR GREEN VALLEY? MAYBE ALL WE CAN HOPE FOR IS A SUSTAINABLE BALANCE.

THANK YOU.

PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR REGIONAL WATER PLAN

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2003,
AT 7:00 P.M.**

**COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
DOÑA ANA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
251 W. AMADOR, 2ND FLOOR**

This Plan will eventually form the framework for a state wide water plan to guide water management decisions in New Mexico. Copies of the final Plan will be available after December 10th at the following locations:

- Doña Ana Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association Office, 5535 Ledesma Dr., Las Cruces, NM
- Anthony Water & Sanitation District Office, 1750 Fourth St., Anthony, NM
- Las Cruces City Hall, 200 N. Church St., Las Cruces, NM
- City of Las Cruces Utilities Building, 680 Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, NM
- Doña Ana County Managers Office: 180 W. Amador Ave., Las Cruces, NM
- Doña Ana County Utilities Building: 2024 E. Griggs Ave., Las Cruces, NM
- Doña Ana County Sheriff's Substation, 131 E. Lisa Dr., Chaparral, NM
- Elephant Butte Irrigation District Office, 530 S. Melendres St., Las Cruces, NM
- Hatch Village Hall, 133 N. Franklin, Hatch, NM
- Mesilla Town Hall: 2670 Calle De Parian, Mesilla, NM

For further information, please contact Mary Wells at 505-527-1041 or 1-866-DAC-PLAN or visit the website at www.lrgwuo-waterplan.com.



City of Las Cruces
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE