

# NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION

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## RESOLUTION OF THE NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION REGARDING THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Farmington, New Mexico  
August 17, 2004

WHEREAS, in 1987 the New Mexico Legislature recognized the need for water planning to protect the essential and finite water resources of the state by enacting legislation entitled "Authorizing the Interstate Stream Commission to Fund Regional Water Planning Efforts"; and

WHEREAS, the state was subsequently divided into 16 planning regions and the Interstate Stream Commission developed a template for the creation of regional plans, and, as appropriations allowed, provided funding to individual regions for the development of regional plans; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Rio Grande water planning region was established as encompassing Valencia and most of Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties including the Pueblos of Jemez, Zia, San Felipe, Santa Ana, Sandia and Isleta, portions of the Pueblos of Santa Clara, Cochiti, Santo Domingo and Laguna, a portion of the Jicarilla Nation and a portion of the Tohajiilee Chapter of the Navajo Nation; the municipalities of Rio Rancho, Albuquerque, Jemez Springs, Cuba, San Isidro, Bernalillo, Corrales, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, Bosque Farms, Los Lunas, and Belen; the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority and the Southern Sandoval County Flood Control Authority; the Cochiti, Albuquerque and most of the Belen Divisions of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and numerous other parties and a significant portion of the middle Rio Grande bosque; and

WHEREAS, the Interstate Stream Commission contracted with the Mid Region Council of Governments to complete the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan; and

WHEREAS, funding of over \$1.3 million was provided to complete the plan as follows:

The Interstate Stream Commission provided grants totaling \$562,000 to the Mid Region Grande Council of Governments between 1989 and 2001 for purposes of completing the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan; and

Local governments contributed funds in the amount of \$441,000; and

The Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly contributed funds in the amount of \$300,000; and

WHEREAS, additional in-kind services and funding were provided by Sandia National Laboratories, the Utton Transboundary Center of the University of New Mexico and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and



WHEREAS, numerous individuals throughout the planning region provided freely of their time to ensure the timely and successful completion of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, water used in the Middle Rio Grande regions is supplied from both ground and surface sources including the Rio Grande and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, the principal uses of water in the region are irrigated agriculture, municipal, industrial and domestic consumptive uses, riparian evapotranspiration and evaporative losses from conservation and recreation storage; and

WHEREAS, the management and administration of the water resources of the region faces many challenges including periodic drought and numerous legal and institutional constraints including the Rio Grande Compact, unadjudicated water rights, the federal Endangered Species Act, and projected population growth; and

WHEREAS, the Mid Region Council of Governments Water Resources Board and the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly prepared the Plan in accordance with the general guidelines for the development of regional water plans outlined in the Commission's 1994 *Regional Water Planning Handbook*; and

WHEREAS, the Mid Region Council of Governments and the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly conducted a series of public meetings throughout the communities of the region to identify public concerns, to obtain comments on the water assessment, and to review the proposed water management alternatives; and

WHEREAS, the Plan documents water supply and projected demand, includes a regional water budget, a Preferred Scenario, and evaluates and recommends alternatives for water development, water management, and water conservation for the region related to the Preferred Scenario; and

WHEREAS, the Mid Region Council of Governments Water Resources Board and the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly evaluated water management alternatives based upon the goal of assuring a sufficient and sustainable water supply to the region at an economically sustainable price, to meet the future water needs of the region, including consideration of the regional public welfare and to support reasonable growth in the region in part, through development of new supplies, application of conservation measures and protection of the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Mid Region Council of Governments and the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly have presented the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan to the local government in the region and local governments have adopted resolutions endorsing the contents and principal objectives in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, technical and legal staff of the Commission have reviewed the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan and concluded that the Plan is generally consistent with the Commission's 1994 *Regional Water Planning Handbook* (1994) and is generally responsive to the Commission's *Criteria and Procedures for Acceptance of Regional Water Plans* adopted by the Commission in 1999; and



WHEREAS, the Mid Region Council of Governments Water Resources Board has submitted the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water plan for consideration for acceptance by the Interstate Stream Commission; and

WHEREAS, the vote of the New Mexico State Engineer in accepting the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan is pursuant to Commission Resolution 99-09 recognizing his role as a member and Secretary of the Commission as provided by Sect. 72-14-1 NMSA, 1978 and his vote means only that the New Mexico State Engineer, as Secretary, has agreed the regional water plan meets the Commission's Acceptance Criteria for Regional Water Plans; and

WHEREAS, acceptance of a regional water plan by the Interstate Stream Commission, either wholly or partially, may be conditional relative to its statutory responsibilities as expressed in Chapter 72, Articles 14 and 15, Laws of New Mexico and any conflicts, decrees, judgments, or public welfare concerns that may arise specific or unique to the region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan is determined to be complete and generally responsive to the *Criteria and Procedures for Acceptance of Regional Water Plans* adopted by the Commission in 1999; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission hereby commends and applauds the Mid Region Council of Governments, the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly, the member governments of the Council and those individuals whose hard work and dedication have resulted in completion of the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Interstate Stream Commission finds that the discussions of water rights of Middle Rio Grande water users and potential claimants, and discussion of New Mexico Rio Grande Compact compliance and other administration matters, found primarily in Chapters 5 and 9 of the Plan, and elsewhere, including supporting documents of the Plan, legal positions and hypotheses, are solely those of the planning region and are not endorsed, adopted or accepted by the Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission hereby accepts the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan as produced in accordance with all existing requirements of law and of the Interstate Stream Commission for preparation of a regional water plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that by its said acceptance of the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan, the Interstate Stream Commission acknowledges that acceptance of this regional water plan does not constitute or imply concurrence by the Commission with the data, technical interpretation, legal interpretation, or recommendations contained in the regional water plan.

Adopted by unanimous vote of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August 2004.

  
Jim T. Dunlap, Chairman