

Supporting Document A-7

Memorandum of Understanding for Sub-Regional Water Planning

2001

**Memorandum of Understanding
For Cooperation in Sub-regional Water Planning**

This memorandum of Understanding constitutes an agreement between the Placitas Area Water Planning Group (PAWPG) and the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly (MRGWA) for the purpose of establishing cooperation, coordination, and public involvement in integrating sub-regional water planning into the MRG regional water plan.

WHEREAS, the PAWPG, which was initiated in 1999, performs a grassroots effort to promote and contribute to the development of a sub-regional plan in the Placitas Area through an open, inclusive and participatory process that abides by the guidelines of the Regional Water Planning Handbook, as published by the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) in 1994; and

WHEREAS, the Placitas Area has specific priority issues that differ from those issues most important to much of the Middle Rio Grande region and the Albuquerque metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the Placitas Area is included within the geographic boundaries of the MRG regional planning area; and

WHEREAS, the PAWPG has structures in place to execute a planning effort that is guided by the Water Planning Template that guides the MRG planning process; and

WHEREAS, the Water Assembly and the Water Resources Board together have been accepted as the official water planning organizations for the MRG.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it agreed as follows:

Section I: The Water Assembly and the PAWPG shall form a partnership in order to develop the MRG regional water plan which shall include the sub-regional plan of the PAWPG to ensure that the regional water plan is representative of sub-regional Placitas Area Watershed Plan, and that the Placitas Area Watershed Plan is consistent with the MRG regional water plan. Each party shall provide limited advisory support to the other.

Section II: The PAWPG provides a special base of knowledge and an open public forum to conduct essential dialogue on the values of water and visions of future water needs in the Placitas Area. PAWPG shall develop a sub-regional Water Plan by following the Water Planning Template guidelines.

Section III: If the Placitas area water plan is consistent with the Regional Water Plan, the Water Assembly shall include the Placitas Area water plan either within the main body of the regional plan or as an appendix, thereby entering the Placitas results into the overall state water plan. The Water Assembly and the PAWPG will work together throughout the planning process to resolve any conflicts between the regional water plan and the Placitas product. All unresolved conflicts will be reported as such in the MRG regional water plan, but the Regional Water Plan shall be overriding. MRGWA will determine how best to organize the Placitas product into the MRG regional water plan document. The PAWPG will provide text, tables, illustrations and raw data to the MRGWA in the form requested by the MRGWA for inclusion in the MRG regional water plan document.

Section IV: Normally, the Water Assembly and the PAWPG shall acquire funding independently for their respective efforts. Should the occasion arise where the two seek funding jointly, they shall first establish a written agreement as to the intended division of any funds which might be received.

Section V: The Water Assembly and the PAWPG shall each review this Memorandum of Understanding annually and jointly reaffirm or revise the agreement as appropriate. This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated at any time upon written request by either the PAWPG or the Water Assembly.

Agreed to on this ____ day of _____, 2001, by:

_____ Date: _____

Reid Bandeen, Chair
Placitas Area Watershed Planning Group

_____ Date: _____

Bob Wessely, Chair
MRG Water Assembly