

Supporting Document A-8

Roles and Responsibilities Letter

October 2000



Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments of New Mexico

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October 4, 2000

Alan Armijo, Chair
City of Albuquerque
Alicia Aguilar, Vice Chair
Valencia County

Mr. Norman Gaume, Chief Engineer
New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102

MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

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Torrance County
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Village of Willard

Dear Norman:

Pursuant to our August 23 meeting with the Interstate Stream Commissioners, yourself and Mary Helen Follingstad, we have engaged in extensive discussions about roles and responsibilities in the conduct of regional water planning in the Middle Rio Grande, as requested by you and the Commissioners. In addition, of course, we have developed the elements of an amendment to our existing contract. Our discussions have been constructive and have resulted in additional clarity to the planning process here. Let us summarize the results of these discussions in this letter. Jim Gross will talk directly with Mary Helen about the contract amendment.

The existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing a partnership among the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments and the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly will remain unchanged for the duration of the contract amendment. However, we have amplified the language of the MOU to recognize the Water Assembly as the single negotiating table at which all non-governmental and public involvement in the plan occurs. To that end the Water Assembly must actively solicit and maintain the participation of all interests. We have further specified that the Water Resources Board will provide oversight to MRGCOG staff and management in developing the plan, become the owner of the plan once adopted, and be charged with its implementation, with the continuing assistance of the Water Assembly.

Dennis R. Foltz, AICP
Executive Director
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*An Association of General and Special Purpose Units of Local Governments
within New Mexico State Planning and Development District III*

We have also more sharply delineated responsibilities for Work Assignments under the contract amendment, using the previously proposed Amended Scope of Work developed by Mary Helen and Jim. The MRGCOG staff and management will bear responsibility for completing all elements of Task #1 with advisory support provided by the Water Assembly. All elements of Task #2 will be the responsibility of the Water Assembly with logistical support provided by MRGCOG staff and management. Responsibility for Subtask 3.1 will be borne by MRGCOG with Subtasks 3.2 and 3.3 borne by the Water Assembly, though we jointly hope to raise additional funding that would enable us to hire a consultant to assist with Subtask 3.3. We propose to extend the completion date for all Work Assignments to June 30, 2001, though all work other than Subtask 3.3 should be completed by March 31, 2001.

For purposes of completing the deliverables required under the Amended Scope of Work, we conceptually pooled all funds available for the work, including new funding contributed by local governments and funding which the Assembly hopes to raise from various sources. These funds were then allocated back to the Work Assignments identified above. Included among our allocation plan was the identification of an additional \$5,000 for the Rio Jemez and Rio Puerco subregions, which will bring the total provided for public outreach there to \$10,000. Again, details will be provided by Jim Gross directly to Mary Helen Follingstad.

We believe that these results from our discussions are fully responsive to the concerns expressed in the August 23 meeting, and look forward to putting the contract amendment in place. Of course, we should note that there will remain considerable planning work yet to be done after completion of all deliverables and hope that we will be mutually successful in securing additional funds for that purpose from the next legislative session. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Larry Blair, Chair
Middle Rio Grande
Water Resources Board



Dennis Foltz, Executive Director
Middle Rio Grande
Council of Governments



Lee Brown, Chair
Middle Rio Grande
Water Assembly

cc: Hal Engle
Palemon Martinez
Stan Bulsterbaum
Bob Grant
Mary Helen Follingstad
John Stomp
Frank Robinson
Jim Gross
Joe Quintana