

# NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION

## COMMISSION MEMBERS

♯IM DUNLAP, Chairman, Farmington  
J. PHELPS WHITE, III, Vice-Chairman, Roswell  
JOHN R. D'ANTONIO, JR., P.E., Secretary, Santa Fe  
BUFORD HARRIS, Mesilla  
BLANE SANCHEZ, Bosque Farms  
JULIA DAVIS STAFFORD, Cimarron  
PATRICIO GARCIA, Rio Chama  
JUDITH M. ESPINOSA, Albuquerque  
JAMES WILCOX, Carlsbad



BATAAN MEMORIAL BUILDING, ROOM 101  
STATE CAPITOL  
POST OFFICE BOX 25102  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504-5102

(505)827-6160  
FAX:(505)827-6188

## 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