

The
Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly
Presents a Forum on
**Aquifer Recharge, Storage & Recovery:
Boon or Boondoggle?**



Costs vs. Benefits

Energy Requirements



Quality Concerns

What is Proposed

Saturday, April 9, 2011
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Light Breakfast & Conversation begins at 8:30 a.m.
UNM Law School Room 2402
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Free Parking at UNM on Saturdays
Campus map available at <http://www.unm.edu/campusmap.html>

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Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Water Assembly's purpose is to assure effective implementation of the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan through an open, inclusive, and participatory process so as to achieve the common interests of the people and stakeholders of the region for a sustainable water future that balances water use with renewable supply in accordance with the stated goals of the Water Plan.

Aquifer Recharge, Storage & Recovery: Boon or Boondoggle?

Aquifer Storage is one of 43 recommendations in the Regional Water Plan for closing the gap between water supply and water demand in the Middle Rio Grande basin.

What is meant by aquifer recharge and storage?

Some recharge occurs naturally as the Rio Grande winds its way through our region. Some occurs via agricultural irrigation and its associated ditches and drains. Artificial recharge involves moving water from the surface into the aquifer, either by seepage from a man-made pond or pumping down a well. Aquifer storage is water stored underground for future use.

The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) proposes to clean river water and store it for later use in the aquifer. Rio Rancho has plans to treat waste water and store it in the aquifer. Proposals abound for projects at a much smaller scale, and Arizona is already storing surface water in the ground for current and future needs.

Such artificial storage projects raise interesting questions:

- How much energy is required to clean and store water?
- What types of contamination are possible?
- What are the costs?
- Are these projects safe and useful enough to be worthwhile?

The Water Assembly is sponsoring a free forum for the general public to explore these projects together with some of the issues they raise. Please join us to learn more!

Tentative Agenda

Overview: Types Of Recharge & Storage

Specific Proposals:

- Small Scale Projects
- Agricultural Recharge
- ABCWUA and Rio Rancho plans

Lessons Learned from Elsewhere

Issues:

- Water Quality
- Permitting
- Costs & Returns
- Energy

Questions, Comments and Discussion

Take Note: Fifteenth Annual Water Assembly this Fall!

The Water Assembly is working on the "*Futures Project*." In Phase One an expert team developed a retrospective view of the region from 2025, assuming no new policy interventions ... not a very pretty scene. The long term goal is to change that future by raising the awareness and effecting policy changes.

This fall, the annual Assembly will focus on Phase Two - Alternative Visions. The plan is to develop a set of three or four more-benign visions of the 2025 region - either by working back to the causative interventions, or by working forward from conjectured interventions toward the resulting visions.

Please check out information about our activities and the Regional Water Plan at www.WaterAssembly.org.

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