

Protracted Drought / Surface Water Shortages and Decline of Groundwater Stores & Underground Flows

ESA Collaborative – struggling to balance ecology and agency missions; how to adapt

Adaptation means changes in policy

Lower Rio Grande provides us insight – the new future

Enviro farmers –

River health issues are important

Changes are being driven by Mother Nature and Adam Smith rather than us actually adapting

Lease the depletion on the river

Car wash groups – work with stores to educate folks to use less water

Water rights ownership may need to be reviewed

Transparency in how water is shifting due to changes in climate and landscape scale

When transfer water rights, may simply end up in weed fields without some additional guidance

Agriculture has given up what it can if it is to remain viable

Or might there be a different type of agriculture that could be practiced

Move from animal agriculture to cabbage ☺ different types of crops

Desal Plant – plans to power it? Robbing peter to pay paul to operate the plant

Santa Teresa – lots of potential for solar energy

Geothermal component

Aquifer Storage & Recovery – under-pressured areas that could have water stored

Jet fuel spill may interfere with some of the better areas

Mesa del Sol and west side has potential for AS&R

Design with Nature (Ian McHarg)

Legal constraints (Compact; Treaty and other agreements which predate it) leave region vulnerable

Compact is stationary but not stable

Conservation is not always beneficial for the environment

Being more efficient may not mean more water in the river

Hardening of demand – core need is rigid and no slop in system

Adaptation without mitigation is pointless.

Expand water use so that hardening happens later

Carrying capacity – limiting development; controlling population

Where is the accountability for approving development?

Gaining traction from public on public policy questions is not scalable

- Can't be an expert on every detail

- Educate and address agency actors who can affect change at that level

- Public can sort out the issues if educated and engaged; no public will built up to change

Be careful about framing the issues.