

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE WATER ASSEMBLY

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April 12, 2004

Mary Helen Follingstad, AICP
Regional Water Planning Manager
Interstate Stream Commission
P. O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-5102

Dear Ms. Follingstad:

As a co-equal partner for regional water planning with the Mid Region Council of Governments, the Water Assembly is pleased to join in submitting the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan to the Interstate Stream Commission for acceptance.

The Water Plan has been in development through the 1998 partnership between the Water Assembly and the Mid Region Council of Governments' Water Resources Board. The Water Plan to date is the result of well over a hundred public meetings throughout the region and a similar number of briefings to agencies, groups, and governing bodies within the Region. About 30,000 person hours of volunteer expertise were invested. About \$1.2 million in state, local government, and private funds have been expended, some of which went for analyses by technical consultants and MRCOG staff.

As a result of these efforts, the Water Plan contains 43 recommendations to address the region's ongoing overspending of the water resource and to further the mission of the plan which is to "Balance Water Use with Renewable Supply". It is important to recognize that these are all recommendations. Having no authority by itself, the plan contains no directives.

We will continue to encourage the general public and those in authority to take the necessary implementation actions as described in Chapters 11 and 12 of the plan. We would sincerely appreciate the assistance of the Interstate Stream Commission in encouraging local, state and other entities to take appropriate implementation actions.

The submitted RWP appears on two CDROMs. MRCOG is preparing paper copies of the first CDROM for you.

The first CDROM contains six main directories.

Directory A contains this cover letter and the cover letter from the Mid Region Council of Governments. Directory B contains the acceptance resolutions from governing bodies in the Region. Directory C contains several summaries – overview brochure, executive summary, general summary for the Rio Grande mainstem, and general summary for the hydrologically separable Rio Puerco/Rio Jemez subregions.

Directories D and E contain Chapters 1 through 11 of the RWP, the portions of the plan that apply to the Rio Grande mainstem and their associated key appendices.

Directory F contains Chapter 12 of the RWP which applies to the Rio Puerco/Rio Jemez subregions.

The second CDROM contains three main directories.

Directories G and H, respectively, contain analysis reports as supporting documents for the Rio Grande mainstem portion of the plan and archival material that is being kept simply for historical record. Directory I contains the supporting documents for the Rio Puerco/Rio Jemez subregions.

Water planning is an ongoing process. There are aspects of the plan that we would all like to see improved in one way or another. In addition, new and improved water data will become available as time goes on. Addressing those issues are to be a part of the ongoing update process of the Water Plan, using resources as they become available.

We are looking forward to presenting this Water Plan for the region in person to the Interstate Stream Commissioners for acceptance. We hope this presentation can take place at their May meeting. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to telephone me at 867-3889.

Sincerely,

Bob Wessely, Chair
Water Assembly