A Tale of Two Cities and a Two-Pronged Approach

OLAWC, NM Water Ambassadors, NM Water Advocates
Presentation to the Water And Natural Resources Committee
November 7, 2023 – Santa Fe, NM

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A Tale of Two Cities

- Ogallala Aquifer: Sole source of potable water
- NM Tech (NMBGMR) Aquifer Mapping Program research conducted for both counties and cities (Clovis/Curry County commissioned a 2nd research study of the High Plains Aquifer in 2023 in the paleochannel project area)
- Effluent Reuse System (Clovis is fully functional and saving 4.08 million gallons per day; the Portales system has stalled.)
- Expecting delivery of surface water from Ute Reservoir by 2030 (Infrastructure ready?)
- Regional/local water resilience planning (SB337 Water Security Planning Act)

City	Drought	High Ag Use of Water	Sole Water Source	Effluent Reuse System	Water Planning
Clovis	X	X	X	X	X
Portales	X	X	X	X	

DATA DRIVES DECISION MAKING

- Beginning with the END in mind: The Race to the Bottom!
- NM Tech Aquifer Mapping Program scientific research yields results that provide key projections for groundwater data and management
- What are my water sources? What is my hydrologic reality?
  - **Diversification of Water Sources**: A water portfolio includes a mix of water sources such as groundwater, surface water, rainwater harvesting, and treated wastewater. This diversification reduces dependence on a single source, making the water supply more resilient to fluctuations in availability or quality.
- Does my infrastructure support transmission of water sources?

LOCAL + REGIONAL WATER PLANNING (SB337)

- **Community Identity**. Local water resources can be integral to a community's identity, culture, and history, making their preservation and management critical.
- **Community engagement creates community ownership**. Regional and local water planning recognizes and cultivates community involvement and decision-making; it invites adequate input and ensures the needs and decisions of residents are considered.
- **Forecasting the impacts of climate change.** Helps communities adapt to changing weather patterns and extreme events, such as droughts.
- **Water Quality Improvement**. Planning can include measures to improve water quality, reducing pollutants and enhancing the safety of water sources.
- **Public Health**: Access to clean and reliable water is essential for public health, preventing waterborne diseases, and ensuring the well-being of the community.

LOCAL + REGIONAL WATER PLANNING (SB337)

- **Resource Sustainability**. Local and regional water planning ensures the sustainable use and management of water resources, safeguarding them for future generations.
- **Economic Stability**. Water planning supports local economies by ensuring a stable water supply for agriculture, industry and businesses, reducing the risk of disruptions.
- **Accountability and Evaluation Measures.** Being held accountable comes through progress reports and evaluation measures.
- **Action Plans.** Well-designed plans and a timeline for implementation are approved.
- **Implementation as Essential**. Success is found in the overall plan's implementation, evaluation, and revision process.

UNDERGIRDING NM COMMUNITIES

- Funding and implementing an **AQUIFER MAPPING PROGRAM** across the state of New Mexico for groundwater management is vital.
- **BUILDING CAPACITY** is vital to mitigating the water crisis we face in New Mexico. State agencies undergird our regions and communities. Their support and expertise are vital to our success! The Office of the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission need to restore at least 20 of the positions they lost in the past to be adequately equipped to address the urgent challenges we are facing.
- **WATER GOVERNANCE** plays a more critical role than ever when we are faced with a water crisis. The current, long-standing model of appropriated and adjudicated water rights; permits for drilling new, replacement, and supplemental wells; and enforcement strategies must be reconsidered in the context of 21st Century water scarcity.

Questions?