

Colfax Regional Water Plan
Colfax Soil and Water
Conservation District
Raton, New Mexico
March 2003

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.

Implementation Schedule and Recommended Actions for Alternatives to Meet Future Supply Needs

Alternative	Implementation Priority ^a	Action	Responsible Party ^b
General actions	1	- Hire a regional water coordinator to manage the activities outlined in this table and assist in their implementation - Provide public outreach and educational activities - Seek funding - Interact with political leaders to generate support for plan and implementation projects	- County - All - County, SWCD, extension service
<i>Water Supply Conservation</i>			
Implement voluntary agricultural water conservation measures, including lining ditches and encasing delivery systems to reduce losses	1	- Design and implement agricultural conservation practices, focusing on reduced distribution losses - Consider other agricultural conservation measures such as on-farm improvements	- Irrigation districts, agricultural users, NRCS, SWCD, county extension agent - Irrigation districts, individual farmers
Develop county and city ordinances for conservation	2	- Review conservation policies and water rates and consider changes - Consider water conservation and supporting ordinances as part of the developing Comprehensive Plan	- Municipalities - County
Xeriscape to conserve (municipal) water	2	Consider including xeriscaping in conservation ordinances	Municipalities, County
Implement efficiencies in municipal water supply management (e.g., leak detection)	1	Conduct leak detection and repair leaks, especially in systems with large loss rates	Municipalities, Mutual domestic water systems
Remove invasive vegetation; revegetate to reduce riparian evapotranspiration	2	- Survey extent of phreatophyte vegetation in the County - Develop projects to remove phreatophytes	NRCS, SWCD, individual landowners
Implement efficiencies in industrial uses such as mining	3	Consider conservation measures as new industries develop in the County	Industries, County
<i>Water Supply Development and Infrastructure</i>			
Implement dredging projects to improve storage in reservoirs and ponds	2	Conduct field testing of sediment depths; develop detailed engineering conceptual designs and cost estimates for individual reservoirs	Reservoir operators, NRCS, municipalities
Pursue underground storage of available water	2	Research aquifer storage and recovery options and potential pilot projects	Municipalities or coalition of local governments through JPA
Build additional water storage capacity	2	Conduct feasibility studies for increasing storage at existing reservoirs or for constructing new reservoirs	Reservoir operators/state and federal agencies
Recycle municipal wastewater for agricultural and recreational use	2	Evaluate specific projects for wastewater reuse	Municipalities
Implement cloud seeding projects	3	Support research and monitor effects	Angel Fire, County
Build a regional delivery system to tie in municipal systems (Cimarron, Springer, Maxwell, Miami, and Raton)	3	Conduct feasibility study	Municipalities, Cimarron watershed group
Maintain treatment plant in municipalities and upgrade mains and other infrastructure	1	Seek funding for maintenance of existing infrastructure and design and construction of new infrastructure as needed by each community	Municipalities, mutual domestic water associations
<i>Water Supply Quality Protection</i>			
Develop and implement county-wide septic tank and other water quality control ordinances	2	- Include water quality provisions in the County Comprehensive Plan - Consider including water quality studies for development projects as part of the County Comprehensive Plan	- County - County
Construct wastewater treatment systems to replace septic tanks in the Moreno Valley and other parts of the county	1	Complete preliminary engineer report on wastewater options in the Moreno Valley	Cimarron watershed group, municipalities

Implement nonpoint source management projects	2	- Support local and regional watershed efforts to identify nonpoint source problems and implement best management practices - Identify specific nonpoint source projects	Cimarron and Canadian watershed groups
Draft and implement source water and wellhead protection plans for key water supplies	2	- Delineate wellhead protection areas - Review and consideration of wellhead protection plans - Request that NMED conduct a source water assessment and protection study or assist with obtaining funding	- Municipalities with groundwater supply wells (Angel Fire, Eagle Nest, Maxwell), County - County, Cimarron, Angel Fire, Cimarron watershed group
Monitor methane gas extraction activities for potential impacts to groundwater quality/quantity and consider potential reuse of water	2	Meet with extractors and New Mexico Oil Conservation Division to evaluate	County, municipalities, SWCD, watershed groups

Water Resources Management

Implement drought contingency plan	1	- Hire drought/water resources coordinator - Convene drought task force meeting - Routinely monitor drought indicators	- County - SWCD
Manage watersheds to improve yield, implement projects identified by watershed groups, and obtain funding and adopt watershed management plans that address private and public lands	1	- Survey the county to identify promising locations, and access and biological issues to aid in planning for thinning projects - Conduct pilot forest management studies and monitor the results - Support ongoing initiatives for development of markets for small-diameter timber, and support timber marketing research and pilot projects within the county - Conduct watershed planning efforts	SWCD, NRCS, County, municipalities, other agencies, watershed groups

Develop 40-year water plans and secure water to meet future demands (municipalities and other local entities)	2	- Each municipality and irrigation district should develop and submit a 40-year plan - The County should submit a 40-year plan (this regional plan covers the county)	- Municipalities, irrigation districts - County
Pursue water rights transfers or leases to help supply projected demand	2	Evaluate priority dates, needs, and potential for leases or transfers	Individual water rights holders, irrigation districts
Implement growth management and land use planning	1	With public input, adopt a comprehensive plan for the county that addresses water supply and water quality issues defined in this plan	County
Develop and enact County/municipal regulations regarding domestic wells	2	Develop County and or municipal regulations to address domestic well impacts on senior water rights (County efforts may be included in the comprehensive plan development)	County, municipalities
Appropriate and reserve groundwater for the County	2	- Conduct public meeting to determine if there is local support for declaration of the Capulin Basin; if there is, petition OSE - Conduct up-to-date hydrogeologic investigation of resources in the county - Evaluate groundwater level declines in Ogallala Aquifer in eastern part of the county	- County, Steering Committee, SWCD, OSE - USGS, County - USGS, County, OSE
Establish regional water banking (accounting) system	2	Petition OSE or local political representatives to set up a bank	All
Actively manage existing storage facilities to optimize efficient use of water/storage. Become well versed in system's more formal practices.	2	Obtain clarification from the NMGF and OSE on administration of Eagle Nest Reservoir	All (request), NMGF and OSE

Establish a mechanism to better manage water delivery throughout Colfax County	2	- Hire additional water masters - Computerize delivery records	- OSE - OSE
Establish a Canadian River Water Master	2	Hire water master	OSE

^a 1 = Begin Implementing Immediately

2 = Begin Implementing In 1 to 10 years

3 = Begin Implementing In 10 to 40 years

^b Primary responsible parties; others may also be involved

NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service

SWCD= Soil and Water Conservation District

JPA = Joint Powers Agreement

OSE = Office of the State Engineer

NMED = New Mexico Environment Department

USGS = U.S. Geological Survey

NMGF = New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

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Table 8-10. State and Federal Funding Sources

Program Title / Agency / Web Site or Contact ^a	Funding Areas				Description
	Water Supply Conservation	Development and Infrastructure	Water Supply Protection	Water Resources Management	
General Information					
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance http://www.cfda.gov/	■	■	■	■	Good information about funding sources, grant writing, etc.
Federal Drought Programs http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/iwr/drought/feddrgrtprogs.htm#_Toc491241963	■	■	■	■	Summary of federal funding sources available for drought programs.
Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/fund/sources.html			■		Topical listing of funding sources related to watershed protection.
Links to private funding sources http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/capacity/funding.htm#private	■	■	■	■	List of links for private funding sources for various areas.
Funding Programs					
New Mexico Clean Water State Revolving Fund <i>New Mexico Environment Department, Construction Programs Bureau</i> Santa Fe: 505-827-2806 http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/cpb/cpbtop.html http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us <i>New Mexico Water Trust Board</i> Contact New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) http://www.epa.gov/owm/cwfinance/cwsrf/index.htm	■	■	■	■	Eligible projects include water supply development, conservation, watershed management, and infrastructure. Water quality protection projects for wastewater treatment, nonpoint source pollution control, and watershed and estuary management.

Community Block Development Grants <i>Department of Housing and Urban Development (local office)</i>				■	Funding source for 40-year plans.
Community Facilities (CF) Direct Loans and Grants <i>U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)</i> http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/cp_dir_grant.htm		■			Provides loans for the development of essential community facilities for public use in rural areas and towns with a population of 20,000 or less.
Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants <i>USDA Rural Utility Services (RUS)</i> <i>Albuquerque: 505-761-4955</i> <i>Raton: 445-9471</i> http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/nm/index.html http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/programs.htm#EMERGENCY http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/programs		■	■		Assists rural communities that have had a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water.
Planning Assistance to States <i>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i> <i>Albuquerque: (505) 342-3109</i> http://www.spa.usace.army.mil http://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/gl/22.htm	■	■	■	■	Assists in planning for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources and ecosystems.
Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 - Title II <i>U.S. Bureau of Reclamation</i> <i>Albuquerque Area Office: 505-248-5323</i> http://www.uc.usbr.gov/progact/watercons/wtr_wmp.html http://nris.state.mt.us/drought2001/reports/DRTBuRecDrRelief.html	■	■	■	■	Assistance in the construction and planning of projects that mitigate effects of drought.

Conservation Technical Assistance <i>USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service</i> <i>Raton Service Center: 445-9571</i> <i>Albuquerque Office: 761-4407; 1-800-410-2067</i> http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cta/			■	■	Planning and implementation of solutions to natural resource concerns, including drought.
Safe Drinking Water Act Revolving Loan Program <i>New Mexico Environment Department, Construction Programs Bureau</i> <i>Santa Fe: 505-827-2806</i> http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/cpb/cpbtop.html http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us <i>U.S. EPA</i> http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf.html		■	■		Water infrastructure improvements, for small and disadvantaged communities and for pollution prevention to ensure safe drinking water.
Water and Waste Loans and Grants <i>USDA Rural Development</i> <i>Albuquerque: 505-761-4955</i> <i>Raton: 445-9471</i> http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/nm/index.html http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/programs.htm		■	■		Development or improvement of water or wastewater disposal systems in rural areas.
Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program <i>USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service</i> <i>Raton: 445-9571</i> <i>Albuquerque: 505-761-4407; 1-800-410-2067</i> http://www.nrcs.usda.gov http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/snowsurvey/				■	Monitoring of climatic and hydrologic elements necessary to produce water supply forecasts.

Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study Program <i>U.S. Bureau of Reclamation</i> Albuquerque: 505-248-5323 http://www.cfrda.gov/static/p15504.htm	■	■			Appraisal and feasibility studies on water reclamation and reuse projects.
Small Watershed Program <i>USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service</i> Raton: 445-9571 Albuquerque: 505-761-4407; 1-800-410-2067 http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed/	■		■	■	Agricultural water management, municipal and industrial water supply, groundwater recharge, and watershed protection projects.
Environmental Quality Incentives Program <i>USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service</i> Raton: 445-9571 Albuquerque: 505-761-4407; 1-800-410-2067 http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/	■		■		Practices to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on farm and ranch lands.
Emergency Water Supplies <i>USDA Rural Development</i> Santa Fe: 505-476-9600 http://www.dps.nm.org/emergency/em_index.htm Raton: 445-2708 e-mail: rfd@raton.com	■		■		Provision of emergency water supplies to communities that may run out of adequate drinking water.
Finance Authority Emergency Funding and Water and Wastewater Grant Program <i>NMFA</i> Contact: NMFA at (505) 984-1454 toll free, 1-877-ask-nmfa		■			Provision of emergency water supplies.
Emergency Conservation Program <i>USDA Farm Services</i> Raton: 445-9571 Albuquerque: 505-761-4407; 1-800-410-2067 http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/disaster/ecp.htm	■				Rehabilitation of farm lands and conservation facilities.
Public Assistance /Emergency Measures Program <i>New Mexico Emergency Management Center</i> Regional Office Main Number (940) 898-5399 Santa Fe: 505-476-9600 Raton: 445-2708 e-mail: rfd@raton.com http://www.dps.nm.org/emergency/em_index.htm http://www.fema.gov/reg-vi/		■		■	Activities to alleviate consequences of the subject of a Presidential Emergency or Major Disaster Declaration (such as drought).
Economic Adjustment Program: Sudden and Severe Economic Dislocation Components <i>U.S. Department of Commerce EDA</i> http://www.osec.doc.gov/eda/				■	Prevention of serious economic dislocations or reestablishment of employment opportunities after a sudden and significant dislocation.
Conservation Reserve Program <i>USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service</i> http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/crpl/	■				Helps farmers and ranchers address water resource concerns on their lands.
Emergency Watershed Protection <i>USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service</i> http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ewp/ewp.html			■	■	Emergency recovery measures to relieve imminent hazards to life and property as a result of natural disasters.

Emergency Well Construction and Water Transport USACE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District Office Albuquerque: 505-342-3109 http://www.spa.usace.army.mil		■	■		Construction of wells or transport of water drought-distressed areas.
Water Quality Program USDA CSREES http://www.reeusda.gov/nre/water/water.htm			■		Provide watershed- based information for assessing and improving sources of water quality impairment in targeted watersheds.
Unsolicited proposals U.S. Geological Survey http://www.usgs.gov/contracts/grants/unsolbk.html State-EPA NPS Partnership U.S. Environmental Protection Agency http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/partnership.html Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants to States National Park Service http://www.nrc.nps.gov/PROGRAMS/LWCF/index.html Water Reclamation and Reuse Program U.S. Bureau of Reclamation http://www.usbr.gov/tcg/guidelines/	■		■ ■	■	Research proposals in many earth science areas, including hydrology and conservation. Focus on nonpoint source topic-specific needs including: watershed planning and implementation. Matching grants to states and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Projects for reclamation and reuse of municipal and other wastewaters and naturally impaired waters.

a Web site address as of November 2002; address and information found there is subject to change.