



Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly
partnered with the Mid Region Council of Governments

Community Conversations

Your Ideas Contribute to Developing Regional Water Management Plan

You attended a public meeting as part of the 4th or 5th Community Conversations that were held in the Middle Rio Grande region in March and September 2002. At these meetings the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly accepted your ideas and listened to your opinions about water management for the region. You may have participated in an exercise to balance the water budget, and you may have “voted” for your most liked and least liked alternatives to be included in the Middle Rio Grande Water Management Plan. All public input has been documented and is being integrated into the water planning process. Once the regional plan is complete, it will be integrated into a statewide plan to help us manage our most precious resource.

Those of you who attended the 4th series had the opportunity to use a model specifically designed to complete the Water Balancing Exercise. As attendees quickly learned, creating a balanced water budget is no easy task! Managing water will require us to consider all uses and to potentially make some very difficult decisions about how water is allocated and used. For example, one group discovered that they could come very close to balancing the water budget IF they allowed for no population growth. Another interesting result was that most of the groups maintained agricultural use at roughly its current level.

At the 5th round of Community Conversations the Water Assembly presented a list of 44 water management alternatives that had been gathered from previous public input. Meeting attendees had the opportunity to “vote” for those alternatives that they believed were most favorable and those that they preferred not be included in the regional plan (remember the blue and black dots?). People could also submit their preferences by mailing in a pre-printed postcard to the Water Assembly. The results from the meetings and the postcards are reported in this special mailing. The matrix included here lets you see which alternatives received positive responses, which received negative responses and which are controversial or completely ignored. Additionally you can compare the results from the various parts of the region, as well as compare responses from the meetings with those received on postcards.

The Water Assembly, working with its partner the Mid Region Council of Governments, is dedicated to ensuring that all voices in the region have a say in developing the water management plan and thank you for your participation in the process. We look forward to seeing you at future Community Conversations as we move toward preparing the final plan.



Management Alternative Preferences

Alternative Action (Abbreviated text)	"Dot" votes														Card votes							
	L. L.		Bern.		S. Val.		R. R.		AIPCC		Belen		Totals		Val.		Bern.		San.		Totals	
	M	L	M	L	M	L	M	L	M	L	M	L	M	L	M	L	M	L	M	L	M	L
Increase Water Supply																						
Implement local and regional watershed management plans. (A-66)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0
Restore bosque habitat/manage vegetation to reduce evapotranspiration. (A-1)	14	0	19	0	8	0	16	0	6	0	14	0	77	0	3	0	12	1	4	2	19	3
Establish erosion prevention measures/use soil and vegetation management techniques to reduce runoff/increase infiltration. (A-33)	1	2	3	0	2	0	3	1	2	0	1	0	12	3	0	1	6	1	3	3	9	5
Enhance/expand local government storm water management plans/programs to control runoff, minimize erosion, enhance infiltration, and prevent pollution. (A-34)	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	5	2	0	1	1	0	1	3	2	4
Continue evapotranspiration studies and apply findings to vegetation management programs in the water planning region. (A-40)	0	0	1	3	1	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	3	8	0	1	1	5	0	2	1	8
Create constructed wetlands for groundwater recharge, water harvesting, habitat improvement, hydrological management. (A-36)	2	2	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	8	3	1	1	2	3	0	2	3	6
Develop economic potential of non-native species removal, harvesting, and output of products by local industries. (A-2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	2	2	0	2	2	6
Reduce evaporation in storage reservoirs by retaining water at higher elevations or latitudes, or by reducing surface areas. (A-45)	3	0	2	0	3	0	8	1	4	3	3	0	23	4	6	0	9	3	5	0	20	3
Increase monitoring/modeling of surface water system to improve water management at the watershed level, retain excess water flow from Elephant Butte during wet cycles. (A-38)	3	0	1	0	1	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	9	1	2	0	1	0	2	0	5	0
Inject water treated to drinking water standards for aquifer storage in appropriate locations. (A-46)	4	0	2	4	0	1	6	3	0	3	1	6	13	17	1	3	3	5	2	2	6	10
Encourage on-site rainwater harvesting. (A-44)	0	0	1	1	2	0	6	2	0	0	3	0	12	3	2	1	1	2	4	1	7	4
Promote on-site residential/commercial greywater reuse/recycling. (A-24)	1	0	2	0	3	0	5	1	2	0	3	0	16	1	3	0	6	2	4	0	13	2
Reuse treated wastewater for non-potable uses. (A-27)	1	0	2	0	2	0	7	0	3	0	2	0	17	0	2	1	5	1	4	0	11	2
Utilize technological advances for treating deep saline and brackish water for potable or non-potable use. (A-39)	0	2	0	0	0	1	4	2	1	3	0	0	5	8	1	4	2	10	4	0	7	14
Acquire additional water rights without condemnation, and import water from other basins where possible. (A-69)	0	2	4	0	0	6	2	1	0	17	1	1	7	27	1	2	3	11	2	5	6	18
Conduct research on innovative water supply enhancement techniques such as weather modification. (A-42)	0	5	0	8	2	6	0	13	0	8	0	1	2	41	0	8	0	18	0	4	0	30
Decrease or Regulate Water Demand																						
Implement local water conservation plans/programs in all jurisdictions, including drought contingency plans. (A-18)	10	0	6	0	1	0	7	1	5	0	5	0	34	1	6	0	7	0	4	0	17	0
Examine pricing mechanisms, adopt most effective at conserving water. Mechanisms include: a) reflect water's true value; b) moderately increasing block price schedule; c) steeply increasing block price schedule; d) other incentives/subsidies. (A-21)	0	3	0	0	2	1	2	11	7	0	1	17	12	32	0	4	7	4	4	2	11	10
Offer subsidies for adopting water efficient technologies and utilizing water saving devices. (A-22)	7	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	12	2	1	0	1	2	2	1	4	3
Establish region-wide educational programs, including public and private school curricula, to encourage water conservation. (A-56)	2	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	3	2	0	9	3	3	0	3	0	2	0	8	0
Develop/employ alternatives to maximize irrigation efficiency on irrigated land. (A-10)	8	0	1	0	5	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	17	2	3	0	6	0	2	0	11	0
Meter and manage surface water distribution flows through all irrigation systems. (A-7)	3	6	1	6	0	1	3	1	1	4	1	2	9	20	4	5	4	2	2	2	10	9
Develop conveyance alternatives for water transportation in agricultural irrigation systems. (A-9)	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	8	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	8	7
Fund acequias to develop/implement conservation programs. (A-60)	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	2	2	1	0	0	9	5	1	1	2	7	2	2	5	10
Meter all water supply wells, including domestic wells. (A-8)	1	12	0	19	0	5	3	8	5	5	1	14	10	63	3	4	5	6	2	5	10	15
Reduce allowed pumping from domestic wells, restrict domestic wells where surface waters or aquifer could be impaired. (A-61)	0	4	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	5	2	11	1	5	1	4	0	2	2	11





	"Dot" votes												Card votes											
	L. L.		Bern.		S. Val.		R. R.		AIPCC		Belen		Totals		Val.		Bern.		San.		Totals			
Alternative Action (Abbreviated text)	M	L	M	L	M	L	M	L	M	L	M	L	M	L	M	L	M	L	M	L	M	L		
Change Water Uses																								
Develop markets for locally-grown produce, low-water alternative crops. (A-11)	3	1	2	0	3	2	0	5	3	5	0	0	11	13			1	1	3	4	1	3	5	8
Adopt policies to integrate land use and transportation planning and water resource management in all jurisdictions. (A-30)	7	5	7	2	4	0	6	4	11	0	4	0	39	11			6	3	11	3	3	0	20	
Increase building densities and infill development through land use policies and regulations. (A-28)	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	14	1	2	1	3	5	23			1	2	6	4	0	5	7	11
Water Rights Regulation																								
Identify, quantify, and adjudicate water rights and wet water quantities. (A-71)	6	1	2	0	2	0	4	8	3	0	2	0	19	9			5	0	4	3	3	1	12	4
Change state law to include in-stream flow as beneficial use. (A-63)	2	16	2	2	2	2	5	5	3	1	0	10	14	36			0	5	11	1	3	4	14	10
Address groundwater/surface water interactions in the statutes for administering water rights. (A-144)	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	2			0	0	1	1	2	0	3	1
Active water resource management by the OSE/ISC. (A-143)	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	3	7			1	0	2	4	2	1	5	5
Establish more equitable accounting for evaporative losses in Rio Grande Compact water. (A-51)	4	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	7	0	15	2			1	0	4	1	0	0	5	1
Water Quality Protection																								
Identify, protect and monitor areas vulnerable to contamination; restrict groundwater supply wells in sensitive areas. (A-47)	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	5	5			0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
Enforce wellhead protection programs on all public water supply wells. (A-50)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	1	6			0	0	2	3	0	0	2	3
Expand centralized wastewater collection and treatment systems into all areas of urban and suburban development. (A-26)	0	5	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	4	8			0	0	3	2	1	0	4	2
Implement Plan & Manage Water Resources																								
Establish regional water management authority to administer or assist in a water banking program. (A-67)	0	1	0	3	0	0	5	0	1	2	0	9	6	15			0	4	2	5	1	3	3	12
Preserve, but continue to draw deep-well water for drinking purposes only. (A-15)	5	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	8	2			2	2	5	3	3	0	10	5
Develop growth management plan to: 1) reduce water consumption; 2) minimize impact on water resources; 3) encourage conservation-oriented economic development and 4) ensure adequate water supplies for proposed development. (A-52)	3	1	6	2	1	0	3	0	10	0	9	1	32	4			7	3	10	6	2	2	19	11
Ensure public involvement in water planning by continuing regular public information/dissemination programs and public relations campaigns, and citizen planning committees. (A-53)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0			1	0	0	5	3	0	4	5
Establish/integrate a regional Geographical Information System database of publicly accessible information on water resources and photo imagery. (A-73)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	4	0	1	1	8			0	1	1	3	0	2	1	6
Funding																								
Establish dedicated/continuing funding for Regional Water Planning at local, regional and state levels. (A-58)	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	3	4			0	3	1	5	1	0	2	8
Establish a State-based water severance tax for water projects, planning and conservation. (A-59)	0	7	0	8	0	2	5	5	1	3	0	2	6	27			1	1	3	3	1	5	5	9

Reading the Matrix

Results from "dot" voting at meetings in Los Lunas (L.L.), Bernalillo (Bern.), Albuquerque's South Valley (S. Val.), Rio Rancho (R.R.), All Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (AIPCC), and Belen are shown here. The 'M' column reflects the number of blue dots placed on that alternative indicating a most preferred alternative; the 'L' column reflects the number of black dots indicating a least preferred alternative. The "Card votes" columns show the responses on post-cards returned to the Water Assembly from Valencia, Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties.

The text for the alternatives is abbreviated to save space for this mailing and the parenthetical reference (e.g. A-44) refers to the iden-

tification number used in organizing the alternatives throughout the planning process.

Full Reports

This mailing provides highlights from the Community Conversations. To see the full reports from the meetings, including complete text for the alternatives, please go to the Water Assembly web site: www.WaterAssembly.org OR contact the Mid-Region Council of Governments at 247-1750 to request the documents.

Future Water Assembly Activities

Regional Forum

January 25, 2003

Learn the results of the technical feasibility study for the management alternatives.

6th Community Conversations

March 2003

Attendees will focus on reviewing and critiquing scenarios for water management.

7th Community Conversations

Date to be announced

This series of meetings will present the draft Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan.



For more information consult the Water Assembly web site:
www.WaterAssembly.org

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*Thank you for helping to develop our regional water plan through an
open, inclusive and participatory process.*