



**MRCOG Water Resources Board**  
***Middle Rio Grande and Estancia Basin Regional Water Plans***

**SURVEY OF GENERALIZED RECOMMENDATIONS**

This survey will be used to identify recommendations for the Water Resources Board (WRB) to pursue for the next 3-5 years. Listed below are paraphrased recommendations from the Middle Rio Grande (MRG) and Estancia Basin (EB) regional plans. The References column pertains to the original recommendations from each regional plan (attached to this survey). For each action recommendation review all references and assign a priority (low, medium, high) by checking one box. Please fill out this survey and return to MRCOG staff no later than **September 17, 2010**.

<b>Action Recommendations</b>	<b>References</b>		<b>Priority</b>		
	MRG	EB	Low	Med.	High
<b>Water Planning and Management Actions</b>					
Maintain a regional water resources database and monitoring programs	R2-6 R3-1 R7-4	8.1.7 8.1.4 8.2.1 8.2.4 8.5.2 8.3.4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support a collaborative regional water planning process	R2-7 R2-8 R2-10	8.1.1 8.1.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secure funding for regional water planning and water project funding in the region	R2-3	8.1.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expand and improve local government regulation and management of water	R2-12	8.1.6 8.2.6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advocate for more effective water rights administration within the region	R1-1 R2-1 R2-2 R2-4 R2-5 R2-11 R8-3	8.2.7 8.3.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain water education programs and information outreach	R9-1 R9-2	8.1.5 8.5.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Water Conservation Activities</b>					
Improve the efficiencies of agricultural water use and consumption	R4-1 R4-2 R4-3 R4-4 R4-5	8.2.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement domestic water conservation programs	R1-2 R1-3 R1-4 R1-5 R1-6 R1-8 R1-9	8.2.2 8.2.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Recommendations	References		Priority		
	MRG	EB	Low	Med.	High
<b>Water Quality Protection</b>					
Implement groundwater protection programs	R5-3	8.5.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve wastewater treatment and discharge	R1-7 R5-1 R5-2	8.5.4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		8.5.5			
		8.5.6			
		8.5.7			
		8.5.8			
<b>Watershed and Vegetation Management Programs</b>					
Develop and implement watershed management plans and programs	R6-3 R6-4	8.5.9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement vegetation management programs to preserve water resources in the region	R6-1 R6-2	8.3.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement local and regional storm water plans	R2-9		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Water Infrastructure Programs</b>					
Improve local and regional water infrastructure	R7-1 R7-2 R7-3 R8-2	8.4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop new or advanced technologies for managing regional water resources	R8-1	8.3.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

For tracking purposes, please print your name here \_\_\_\_\_  
 (All surveys will be kept confidential)

Please check the appropriate box for each question:

Please check which organization that you represent on the WRB.

County

Municipality

Other (please indicate)

Which Water Planning Region applies to your community?

Middle Rio Grande

Estancia Basin

In which County is your community located?

Bernalillo

Sandoval

Santa Fe

Torrance

Valencia

Please save and email the completed survey to Joe Quintana at [jquintana@mrcog-nm.gov](mailto:jquintana@mrcog-nm.gov)  
 or mail to MRCOG, 809 Copper Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102  
 Attention: Joe Quintana by September 10, 2010.

Joseph L. Quintana, AICP  
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Between September 3 and 17, 2010, members of the Water Resources Board (WRB) completed a survey to identify the most important regional water planning recommendations to work on for the near future. Because the WRB includes MRCOG members from two water planning regions, the recommendations for the Estancia Basin and the Middle Rio Grande Basin were summarized. Those regional water plans have many recommendations in common. Consequently, a consolidation of the recommendations were paraphrased for purposes of the survey. Members of the WRB were asked to consider the potential for implementing an action recommendation considering cost, staffing requirements, and achievability of the action. The results of the survey are to be used to help focus the efforts of the WRB in implementing the regional water plans.

**MRCOG WATER RESOURCES BOARD  
October 6, 2010**

**Middle Rio Grande and Estancia Basin  
Regional Water Plans Survey Results**

Number	Action Recommendations	Mean Score
<b>Water Planning and Management Actions</b>		
1.	Maintain a regional water resources database and monitoring programs	<b>2.00</b>
2.	Support a collaborative regional water planning process	<b>2.33</b>
3.	Secure funding for regional water planning and water project funding in the region	<b>2.42</b>
4.	Expand and improve local government regulation and management of water	<b>2.17</b>
5.	Advocate for more effective water rights administration within the region	<b>2.25</b>
6.	Maintain water education programs and information outreach	<b>2.50</b>
<b>Water Conservation Activities</b>		
7.	Improve the efficiencies of agricultural water use and consumption	<b>2.00</b>
8.	Implement domestic water conservation programs	<b>2.25</b>
<b>Water Quality Protection</b>		
9.	Implement groundwater protection programs	<b>2.17</b>
10.	Improve wastewater treatment and discharge	<b>2.00</b>
<b>Watershed and Vegetation Management Programs</b>		
11.	Develop and implement watershed management plans and programs	<b>2.08</b>
12.	Implement vegetation management programs to preserve water resources in the region	<b>2.08</b>
13.	Implement local and regional storm water plans	<b>2.00</b>
<b>Water Infrastructure Programs</b>		
14.	Improve local and regional water infrastructure	<b>2.17</b>
15.	Develop new or advanced technologies for managing regional water resources	<b>1.92</b>

**MRCOG WATER RESOURCES BOARD**

March 3, 2011

**Middle Rio Grande and Estancia Basin  
Regional Water Plans Priority Actions**

<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Maintain water education programs and information outreach	MRG R9-1	<u>Develop a Water Education Curriculum for Schools.</u> School curricula and projects should be developed to teach children the importance and value of water in the region. Especially important are issues of water conservation, where water comes from, and cultural values associated with water.
	MRG R9-2	<u>Implement Adult Public Education Programs.</u> Establish region-wide and local public education programs to encourage a more complete awareness of the full range of water related subjects among the citizenry, and to enhance voluntary water conservation programs in the Region.
	EB 8.1.5	<u>Information and Education Program.</u> Develop and implement an Information and Education Program to keep residents informed about water resources, water rights, and sewer/wastewater in all of their facets, and which assists the school systems in educating their students about water.
	EB 8.5.1	<u>Information Program.</u> Implement an Information Program so that the Estancia Basin residents understand the Clean Water Act and appropriate New Mexico Environmental Department and United States Environmental Protection Agency standards and programs.
Secure funding for regional water planning and water project funding in the region	MRG R2-3	<u>Provide Dedicated Funding for Water Activities.</u> In order to have a reliable funding source for water projects, planning, and conservation, a dedicated, reliable, and recurring revenue stream from state government, augmented with federal funds, needs to be established.
	EB 8.1.3	<u>Basin Water Resources Trust Fund.</u> Create funding sources and a trust fund to ensure continuity of program funding and execution. Use either the Committee or a separate non-paid Board of Directors to provide oversight of the Trust Fund and utilize one of the soil and water conservation districts (SWCD), such as East Torrance SWCD to provide administrative support.

Recommendations	Source	Actions
Support a collaborative regional water planning process	MRG R2-7	<u>Establish Watershed Management Plans.</u> Specific watershed management plans should be adopted throughout the Middle Rio Grande planning region to achieve common objectives such as: increasing water yield, reducing storm water runoff and preventing soil erosion, improving woodland and rangeland health, increasing infiltration and protecting aquifer recharge zones, and water quality protection from non-point source pollution. Basin-wide coordination should be established in order for local governmental jurisdictions, water management agencies, and private water system developers to apply best management practices (BMPs) for watershed protection.
	MRG R2-8	<u>Maintain Comprehensive, Integrated, and Continued Water Planning.</u> There must be connection between water resource planning and other basic planning elements in the regional planning process. Local government jurisdictions and regional planning agencies should work cooperatively to integrate water plans with planning for land use, transportation, economic development, and other planning efforts of regional significance. The quality and quantity of hydrological data should be enhanced for water budgeting calculations. Regional water planning should continue through an open, inclusive, and deliberative process to ensure diverse stakeholder participation in the decision making process.
	MRG R2-10	<u>Promote Cooperative Regional Water Management.</u> Local jurisdictions should share the task of balancing regional water use with renewable supply. Sustainable water resource management should be implemented with the following objectives: reduce water consumption, minimize negative impacts on water resources, encourage conservation-oriented economic development, ensure adequate water supplies for proposed development, protect and enhance the natural environment, and consider the carrying capacity and location of development.
	EB 8.1.1	<u>Special Groundwater Management Program.</u> Designate the Estancia Basin as a Special Groundwater Management Area at all levels of government (county and state) to focus attention, resources, and effort in moving the Estancia Basin from the current “mined” condition toward a more sustainable water supply posture in the future.
	EB 8.1.2	<u>Basin-Wide Planning and Coordinating Entity.</u> Continue to use the EBWPC to provide a single focus basin-wide water resources coordinating and planning effort to ensure priority of effort, program development and understanding, funding, and execution of the Water Plan.

<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Implement domestic water conservation programs	MRG R1-2	<u>Establish Outdoor Conservation Programs.</u> Local governments should implement incentive, regulatory, and/or public education policies to reduce high-water use landscaping and convert to xeriscaping wherever possible.
	MRG R1-3	<u>Promote Rainwater Harvesting.</u> Local governments should implement incentive, public education and/or, if deemed appropriate, regulatory policies to encourage rainwater harvesting.
	MRG R1-4	<u>Conversion to Low Flow Appliances.</u> Local governments should implement incentive, public education and/or, if deemed appropriate, regulatory policies to encourage all construction, new and old, to utilize effective low flow fixtures and appliances such as toilets, clothes washing machines, dishwashing machines, showerheads, automatic shutoff faucets, and broken sprinkler cutoffs.
	MRG R1-5	<u>Urban Water Pricing.</u> Local governments should examine a variety of water pricing structures and adopt those that are most effective at conserving water.
	MRG R1-6	<u>Greywater Reuse.</u> Municipal and industrial (M&I) use of greywater should be encouraged. Installation of dual piping may be appropriate for new M&I construction. Incentives should be provided to retrofit existing M&I to greywater reuse where the quantities are sufficiently large.
	MRG R1-8	<u>Reduce Water Use in Parks and Golf Courses.</u> It is recommended that technologies be applied to achieve an 80% reduction in the current growth rate of water use in parks and golf courses.
	MRG R1-9	<u>Recognize Urban and Economic Vitality in the Region.</u> It is important to the region and the State to ensure that municipalities have adequate existing and future water supplies.
	EB 8.2.2	<u>Retrofit Plumbing Program.</u> Develop and implement free or low cost plumbing, shower, and toilet retrofit program throughout the Estancia Basin.
	EB 8.2.5	<u>Watering Practices.</u> Develop basin-wide watering practices that minimize loss through evaporation and evapotranspiration.

Recommendations	Source	Actions
Advocate for more effective water rights administration within the region	MRG R1-1	<u>Establish a Domestic Well Policy.</u> The State Engineer should establish a policy to reduce pumping from domestic wells and restrict drilling of domestic wells where surface waters or the aquifer could be impaired.
	MRG R2-1	<u>Adjudication and Water Rights Settlement.</u> Identifying, quantifying and prioritizing water rights are paramount to better water management. Currently, the State Engineer uses the process of adjudication to accomplish this. Adjudication should be carried out in this Region unless more expedient, equitable, and less costly methods, such as alternative dispute resolution can be accomplished. The legislature and the State Engineer should direct sufficient funding to prepare the necessary information, including hydrographic surveys, to identify, quantify and resolve priority ownership of water rights.
	MRG R2-2	<u>Apply Conjunctive Use Management.</u> Ground water and surface water are two parts of the same system in the Middle Rio Grande Region; each interacts with and affects the other. For water resources in such a system to be managed effectively, they must be managed together, or “conjunctively.” Conjunctive-use management should be applied in state water management and New Mexico water law should address situations that prevent conjunctive management of ground and surface waters.
	MRG R2-4	<u>Elephant Butte Loss Accounting.</u> The Office of the State Engineer and Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) should assure that evaporative losses from Elephant Butte Reservoir are apportioned fairly between the two water-planning regions, Socorro-Sierra and Middle Rio Grande.
	MRG R2-5	<u>Active Water Rights Administration.</u> The State Engineer should improve the enforcement program to ensure that necessary and allowable water is drawn for municipal uses, agriculture, and other uses. A program should be instituted for enforcing water retirements after transfers (both permanent and temporary). It is particularly important that land whose water rights have been retired, transferred or leased not continue to use part or all of the water for which it had been previously entitled.
	MRG R2-11	<u>Promote Water Banking.</u> Water banking is a term used for several different concepts for leasing water. Legislation should be enacted to provide individual and other vested water right holders with a range of options for short-term leasing of water (less than five years) for purposes such as aquifer recharge, Rio Grande Compact deliveries, environmental needs, and meeting demands of senior rights holders in times of water shortage.
	MRG R8-3	<u>Eliminate Undeclared Water.</u> The State Engineer should declare all waters in the state, regardless of depth and quality, so as to enable proper administration and protection of all of the waters in the state.
	EB 8.2.7	<u>Water Rights Program.</u> (Develop) multifaceted program involving legislation, incentives, buyouts, leasing, and banking programs which are all critical to the success of any conservation effort in a largely rural area and to the success of the Plan.
	EB 8.3.3	Annex Undeclared Area. Annex the undeclared areas immediately adjacent to the southern boundary of the NMOSE’s administrative boundary of the Estancia Basin.