

FOREWORD

The story of water is the story of the human, agricultural and industrial development of New Mexico. The places people live, their method of making a living, the type of communities they have built were dependent on water. Water will continue to be a dominant factor in the future development of New Mexico and the Southwest.

Recognizing the vital role water plays in the economy of our state, the Annual New Mexico Water Conference was instituted in 1956 by New Mexico State University of Agriculture, Engineering and Science. The Third Annual Conference was held in November, 1958. These conferences are open to every interested person and are designed to permit and encourage a free and constructive consideration of New Mexico's water problems. Milton Hall on the State University Campus has been the site for each of the conferences.

The annual conferences are attended by leaders in agriculture, government, business and education from many areas in New Mexico. The 1958 conference attracted such leaders from several states, some as far away as New York and Washington, D. C. The bringing together of these papers and the exchange of thought during each of the three conferences has done much to focus the attention of the people of the state on the need for a definite, well coordinated program of water development and conservation with all major water user groups participating.

Beneficial use and prior appropriation have long been the guides to the use of our limited water supply in New Mexico and the West. More attention must be given to these two factors in all water deliberations. Our scarce and valuable water supplies can not be wasted. Greater emphasis is being given in the entire United States to putting water resources to beneficial use. The Water Conference offers an opportunity for various interests to express their views and for each of these groups in water development and conservation to more fully understand and appreciate the legal, economic, and other factors affecting water use.

The Conference was sponsored by New Mexico State University through the Agricultural Experiment Station, Agricultural Extension Service, College of Agriculture, College of Engineering, and Cooperative Agent, USDA-ARS, SCS, with the cooperation of the Water Conference Advisory Committee, Water Resources Council - New York City, New Mexico Economic Development Commission, South Spring Foundation - Roswell, New Mexico, and Charles Lathrop Pack Forestry Foundation - Tucson, Arizona.

The papers appearing in this publication are in the order in which they were presented. The program which follows this statement will serve as an index to the papers.



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