

FOREWORD

Water is King among the resources in New Mexico. It has determined where the people live and how they make their living. Water has been a dominant factor in the state up until now. It will become more important as our population grows and our agriculture and industry develops.

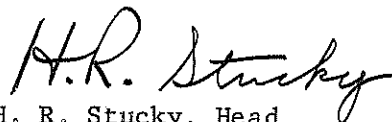
Water Law has been developed in New Mexico over several centuries. The "Public Acequa", or irrigation ditch organization, was established here long before this region became a part of the United States. These organizations were recognized in the Territorial Constitution of 1850 and the State Constitution. The New Mexico Constitution adopted January 21, 1911 reads "All existing rights to the use of any water in this state for any useful or beneficial purpose are hereby recognized and confirmed."

Since the ownership and use of New Mexico's water resources is determined by water laws, it was decided by the New Mexico Water Conference Committee to concentrate the Fourth Annual Water Conference program on the theme Water and Water Law. The conferences are held to assist in focusing the attention of the people of the state on the developing demand for water and the need for a well coordinated program of water use and conservation with all major water user groups participating.

The Fourth Annual Conference was planned with four sections, Water Laws, Water and Recreation, Water Conservation and Research and Education. In each of these topics consideration was given to agricultural, industrial, municipal and recreational needs for water and how the water laws apply to these areas. The conferences are open to every interested person and are designed to permit free and constructive consideration of New Mexico's water problems. Each of the conferences has attracted a cross-section of the people of the state who have an interest in water. Milton Hall on the State University Campus has been the site of each of the four conferences.

This Conference was sponsored by New Mexico State University through the Agricultural Experiment Station, Agricultural Extension Service, College of Agriculture, College of Engineering, and Cooperative Agencies of USDA-Agricultural Research Service, and Soil Conservation Service, with the cooperation of the Water Conference Advisory Committee and the New Mexico Department of Development.

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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