

PREFACE

This year marks the twenty-third consecutive New Mexico Water Conference. In contrast to earlier years, this year's conference was structured around a workshop format. This was done to encourage audience participation in a small group atmosphere. Keynote speakers and discussion leaders were selected to provide direction to the meetings. Conclusions reached in the individual workshops were brought before the group in a final plenary session and the conference was concluded by a lively discussion among members of a distinguished panel of water experts.

The papers included in this year's "Proceedings" are edited versions of formal presentations and workshop conclusions. The highlight of this year's "Proceedings" is an edited transcription of the entire panel discussion.

As a preview to this document the following are representative quotations that were heard during the Conference:

"There is not enough water (in New Mexico) to meet all of the projected requirements of the state."

"We will need a 10 fold increase in returns from agriculture in order to compete financially with other industries and urban use of water."

"We are not likely to conserve ourselves into a rich water supply."

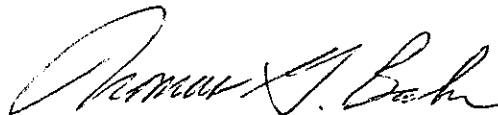
"We need to get the priority of saline water development off the back burner."

"Water and energy are inseparable. The limited supply of water in New Mexico may be the basis, the measure and the bottom limit to problems associated with water use for energy production."

"New Mexico has operated to the satisfaction of its citizens without any National Water Policy."

"Expertise simply does not exist at the Federal level that could do a better job of managing water than the states are already doing."

The success of this year's conference was a direct consequence of the serious concern and constructive attitude on the part of all participants in considering the possible as it related to our most valuable natural resource, water.



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Director

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