

PREFACE

The 24th Annual Water Conference was held on May 3 and 4, 1979 to discuss "The New National Water Policy: Will it Work in New Mexico?" The format of speakers and open panel discussions provided contrasting views and ample opportunity for debate on this controversial topic.

The papers included in this volume are edited versions of the formal presentations and transcripts of the panel discussions. As a preview of what you will find in these "Proceedings" here are some representative quotations.

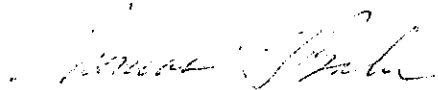
"There is an old adage about water in the United States. Local governments have all the problems, state governments have all the authority, and the federal government has all the money. The National Water Policy is designed to attack that problem."

"Some would argue that we could dispatch with the theme of the conference rather quickly, that is, respond to the question-- 'The New National Water Policy: Will it Work in New Mexico?'-- with an unqualified 'No!'"

"...for every complex problem there's a simple answer, and it's wrong. We need to look at serious questions, and we need to do it while there is still time."

"Embedded within the \$15 billion in economic loss suffered in the West in the '76-'77 drought was a portent of the next century, if our nation fails to address and reform the management of our water resources."

This Water Conference was once again a success due to the thoughtful contributions of the speakers and discussants toward understanding the directions our nation is taking to produce a National Water Policy.



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Director

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