

PREFACE

The 26th annual water conference was held on March 26 and 27, 1981. This year the theme was, "Water for a Growing and Changing Sunbelt State."

New Mexico is one of the country's rapidly expanding Sunbelt states and we are faced with limited supplies of renewable fresh water. It is generally agreed that our current supplies will accommodate future demands in some sectors of the economy, but there is not enough water to supply all projected demands.

This year's New Mexico Water Conference sought to provide an opportunity to both water users and water managers to ask hard questions about the future. It also provided a forum for public input. Some of the questions addressed were:

- * What new water use conflicts may come about with growing demands for our limited supply?
- * Which sectors of the economy will benefit and which may lose as these conflicts become resolved?
- * Can we develop different management schemes and new technologies to use our supplies more effectively?
- * What new information will be required if we are to minimize future water conflicts and sustain a growing economy?

Due to the contributions of speakers and participants the water conference was once again a success. Special thanks is again in order for the unselfish contributions and helpful suggestions of our State-wide Advisory Committee.

In addition to the formal presentations, the workshops provided a meeting place for people interested in different aspects of water use. The papers which follow present the conference's response to New Mexico's water future.



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