

## PREFACE

In the spring of 1988, the New Mexico Water Conference Advisory Committee met to discuss topics and speakers for the 33rd Annual New Mexico Water Conference. Committee members suggested the conference this year focus on the water planning process in the state, with an emphasis on local, public participation. What local and cooperative efforts are currently underway? What about efforts at the regional level? How and to what extent does the public participate in water planning? How are conflicts worked out among the various competing interest groups? Does a "bottom up" approach to water planning provide for an effective statewide plan? These were among the questions this year's conference participants would try to answer.

The first session was devoted to planning efforts at the local level. John Folk-Williams set the tone for the conference by defining the terms "planning" and "consensus," and providing the essential steps in a consensus-building process. Another presentation dealt with public welfare values and their role in the reallocation of water from rural to urban uses. An informative and entertaining presentation was given by the president of an energy industry and the city manager with whom he cooperated in establishing his business. The role of water planning in the economic development of the state, and the state's new position in the Bureau of Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region, were provided also.

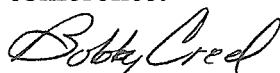
The second session provided an overview of regional and state planning. The chairman of the Interstate Stream Commission discussed the ISC grant program which provides funds to communities to do their own water planning. The Eastern High Plains plan and the Santa Fe area plan were offered as examples of regional planning. The role water planning activities plays in the uses of state trust land resources was outlined.

The featured speaker at this year's banquet, Roderick E. Walston, Deputy Attorney General of the State of California, enlightened his audience with his extensive knowledge concerning the impact of the public trust doctrine in water planning. Having argued six water cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, Mr. Walston is well-versed on this issue.

The final session was devoted to planning efforts at the state level, the influence of agricultural practices on water quality planning, and a look into the future, as projections for water supply and demand to the year 2030 were discussed.

As in the past years, we devoted time to a panel discussion which brought together participants representing various water interest groups. The panelists responded to questions from the moderator. This lively exchange allowed for audience participation.

The water conference this year confirmed the need for forums of this type. It was clear from the discussions that there are problems to be solved and representatives of all interest groups must be involved in these discussions. We look forward to next year's conference.



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