

## PREFACE

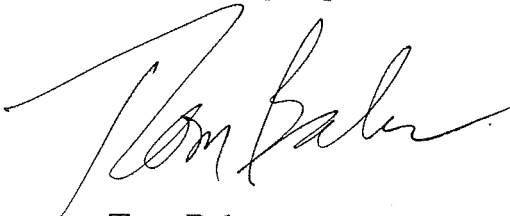
As in the previous 33 years, the 34th Annual New Mexico Water Conference brought together various groups interested in the status of water in our state. In the spring of 1989, the New Mexico Water Conference Advisory Committee, consisting of 39 members from throughout the state representing state and federal agencies, Indian governments, and academic and private concerns, met to discuss the focus of the 34th conference. At the Roswell Economic Forum's invitation, the committee decided to hold the conference in southeastern New Mexico. It was determined the theme would be southeastern New Mexico as a case study of current water issues facing the state. Problems facing that area are much the same as those facing other parts of the state including water quality, planning for future demand, and meeting out-of-state demands for water.

The first session provided an overview of the southeastern region. Fort Sumner Irrigation District, Carlsbad Irrigation District, the Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District, and Brantley Dam were described by speakers well-versed on their topics. Peter White of the State Engineer Office provided the background to the recently decided Pecos River suit. A panel of three then discussed their views of the Pecos case.

The Thursday afternoon session was devoted to water quality--a continuing concern in New Mexico. The impacts of the oil and gas industry and landfills on water quality were discussed. Federal initiatives and state programs dealing with water quality were reviewed. Bob Porter of the Farm Bureau described the concerns of the agricultural community as they relate to water quality. The session concluded with two academicians describing their research accomplishments related to conserving our water resources.

The final session focused on planning for the future. Governor Garrey Carruthers noted that water quality would be the issue of the 1990s. The Governor also discussed the currently hot topic of landfills. The session ended with a panel discussion by representatives of local governments including the mayors of Roswell, Carlsbad, Hobbs and Artesia, the Ruidoso city manager, and the president of the Mescalero Apache Tribe. This session was open to the public at no charge to encourage the participation of the general public and their understanding of current water issues.

This year's conference reconfirmed the need for forums of this type. The water problems facing the state are varied and require careful consideration and discussion by all interested groups. We look forward to continuing this tradition in the coming years.



Tom Bahr  
Director