

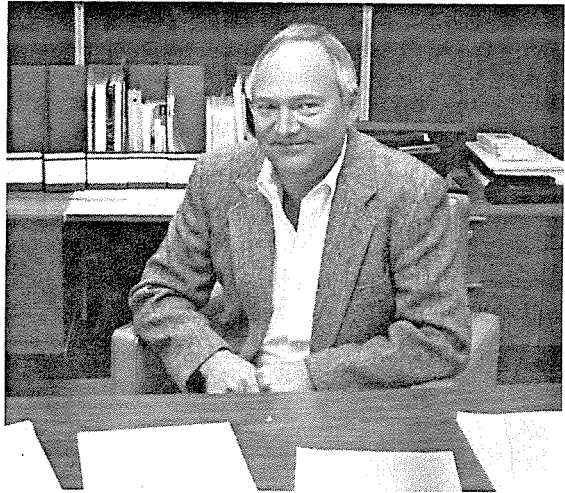
PREFACE

At last year's water conference, then Governor Garrey Carruthers predicted that water quality would be the issue of the 1990s. Immediately following that conference, the Water Conference Advisory Committee met to begin planning the 1990 conference. As in the past, they were most helpful in suggesting the topic, format, speakers and site for the 35th Annual New Mexico Water Conference.

This year's conference focused on water quality and the interrelationships of those charged with protecting the quality of New Mexico's water and those who are regulated. Those who regulate, with their abundance of laws and regulations, met with those who are regulated, armed with their particular water needs and practical considerations. The two groups, along with interested citizens, met in an informal setting to discuss openly their water quality concerns.

Several recognized experts presented overviews of federal water law, state surface water legislation, tribal water quality regulation, and federal and state groundwater protection laws. Other knowledgeable speakers provided the background to current water quality issues and conflicts. These talks provided the framework for the lively exchange during panel discussions in which all interested parties presented their perspectives. The audience had an opportunity to ask questions and join in the discussions.

In February 1990, the advisory committee met to finalize plans for the conference. Steve Reynolds, an active member of the advisory committee, was present, and, as always, contributed enthusiastically to the planning. His wisdom, advice, and friendship will be sorely missed in the years to come. In honor of Steve's commitment to our state's water resources, we dedicate this conference to his memory.



Tom Bahr
Director