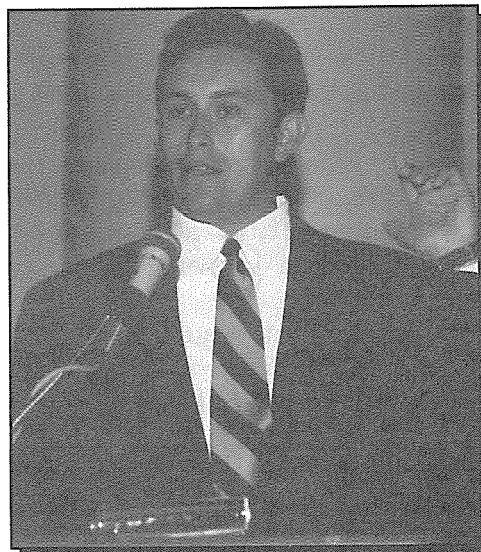


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WATER CONFERENCE OPENING REMARKS

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Good morning. For all of you who do not live in Albuquerque, we are sorry about the weather. There seems to be an atmospheric condition in Albuquerque every time an Aggie comes to town—I think that's the cause of the snow and rain.

Albuquerque has had some great visitors this past week. A week ago our Mayor Martin Chavez flew back from Washington D.C. with President Clinton. We had Secretary Cisneros visit this past Saturday and Vice-President Al Gore was here on Monday. But the highlight of the week, which is what I think I'm going to tell my children about, happened at last night's Lyle Lovett concert across the hall here at the Convention Center. I must have been just 100 feet away from Julia Roberts.

Growing up in the south valley I remember my grandfather irrigating our fields. We had a great time in the spring when he opened up the ditches and let the water through. An ancient Greek philo-

sopher said, "Let us resolve to be the masters of our own destiny and not the victims of our history." That's one of the reasons I think the mayor has undertaken a massive water conservation campaign in the city of Albuquerque. For those of you who are not familiar with it, the mayor has called for a voluntary reduction in water usage by Albuquerque citizens. The mayor has made the water issue the priority of his administration.

While I was growing up, we were told that we were living above a great lake. Now experts are telling us something different. I am sure that Jean Witherspoon, Norman Gaume and Gary Daves of the City of Albuquerque will discuss this further, but one of the things that really hit us at the beginning of this administration was that in some areas of Albuquerque the water level has declined over three feet in just a few years. Since 1960 the water level has declined as much as 160 feet in some places.

The mayor's concern is a concern for his children. He has often said if we do not do something now it will be our sins that our children pay for. That is one reason he is pushing this issue so strongly.

Some of the City's conservation initiatives are basic. Two weeks ago we asked members of the restaurant association not to put glasses of water on restaurant tables automatically. Of course, the famous water surcharge has been discussed. We also are looking at different types of businesses that will assist us in conserving water.

Albuquerque wants to attract clean businesses while protecting its natural resources. Intel has been discussed a number of times, but in actuality, industrial water usage in Albuquerque only constitutes three percent of the City's total water usage. Residential usage encompasses 71 percent of all water usage in Albuquerque. Trade-offs are made when the City tries to attract a business that will employ 2,000 people but requires 1,000,000 gallons of water—the same amount of water put on our golf courses in a week.

We have a lot of work to do in the area of water conservation and likewise in water protection. You can tell a lot about a society by how it treats its animals and beaches, and I think we can extend that to how we treat our rivers. I represented the south valley, an area with high levels of nitrate contamination and fuel contamination, and where the need for clean water transcends racial, geographic, and economic boundaries. I'm pleased to see by your agenda that you will be looking at water quality and the Clean Water Act.

I welcome you to Albuquerque. When I talked with Cathy Ortega Klett, the conference coordinator in Las Cruces, I asked her what type of audience would be in attendance. She said there would be quite a few academicians. I've been in academia a bit and what clicked with me was that I know academicians' pockets are loaded with research money. Albuquerque has many great restaurants and businesses where you can spend all that money, money that subsequently goes into our water conservation program, and helps build more streets, and all the good things governments do. Thank you very much.