

# New Mexico Regional and State Water Planning

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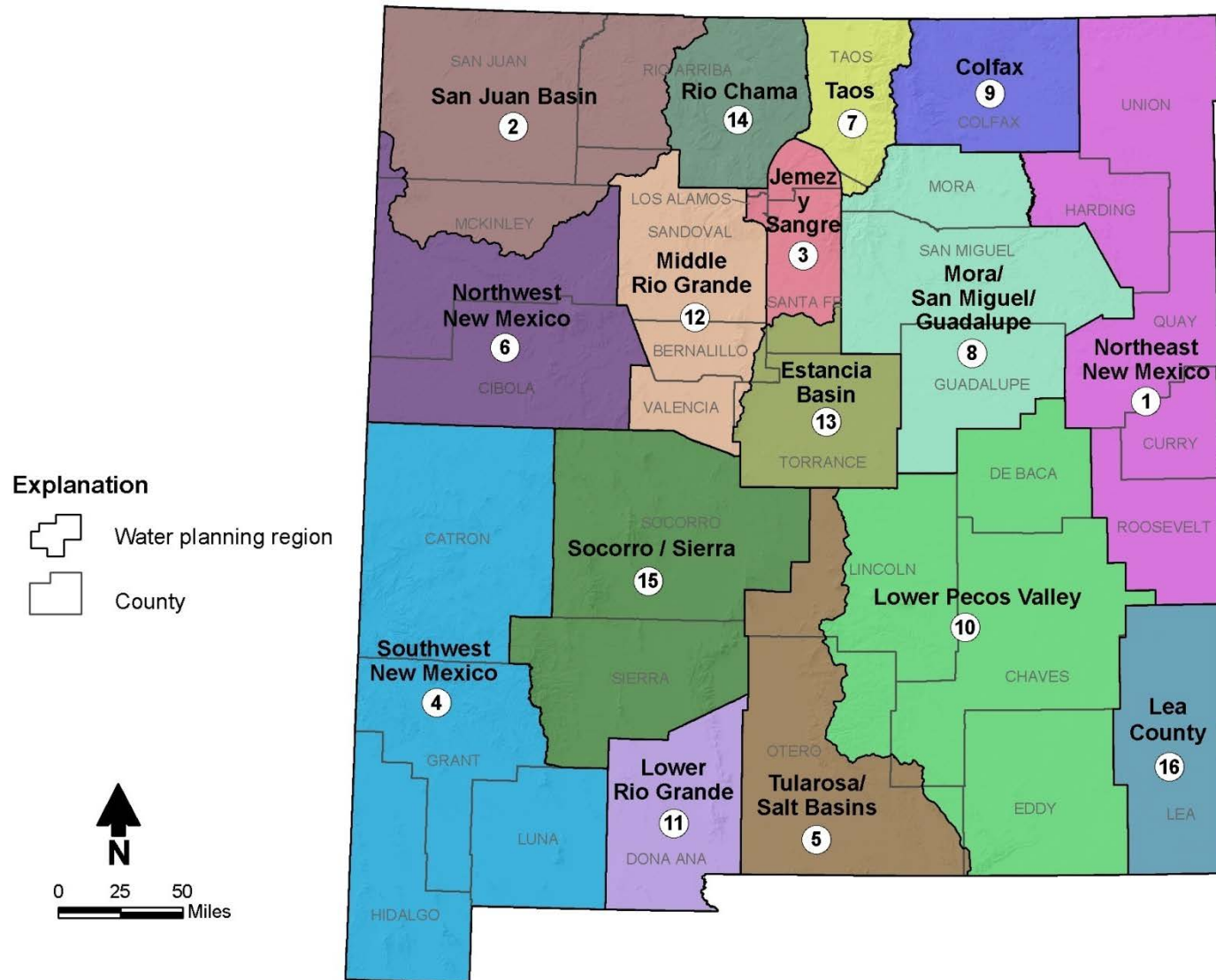
# Today's Discussion

- ◆ Benefits of Water Planning for NM
- ◆ Past Regional/State Water Planning Efforts
- ◆ Regional Water Plan Updates
- ◆ State Water Plan Update

# Why Plan?

- ◆ Stewardship and protection of NM water resources
- ◆ Meet future water needs
- ◆ Incorporate public input on water management policies
- ◆ Integrate water quality (NMED) with water management
- ◆ Provide strategic plans for policy and project development
- ◆ Forecast funding needs for program implementation

# Water Planning Regions



# Regional Water Plans

- ◆ Technical assessment of surface water and groundwater resources
- ◆ Drought vulnerability
- ◆ Projections of future growth and water demand
- ◆ Strategies and alternatives for meeting future needs
- ◆ Have no authority to change laws or water rights
- ◆ Catalyst for ongoing communication among stakeholders
- ◆ Regional water plans contribute to the State Water Planning efforts

# State Water Plans

- ◆ Promote stewardship of the state's water resources
- ◆ Protect and maintain water rights and priority status
- ◆ Protect diverse customs, culture, environment and economic stability of state
- ◆ Protect both water supply and water quality
- ◆ Promote cooperative strategies, based on meeting the basic needs of all New Mexicans
- ◆ Meet the state's interstate compact obligations
- ◆ Provide a basis for prioritizing infrastructure investment
- ◆ Provide statewide continuity of policy and management relative to our water resources.

# Looking Back....

## **Water Planning accomplishments**

- ◆ Established a set of common goals for the state
- ◆ Consolidated significant, relevant data
- ◆ Developed a tool for public education about water issues
- ◆ Provided a framework for implementation of key actions to meet the goals

# Conditions have changed

- ◆ Population Growth
- ◆ Unregulated development of deep saline aquifers
- ◆ New proposed inter-basin transfers of water pipelines
- ◆ Aging infrastructure
- ◆ Managing environmental mandates



# Looking Forward

- ◆ Integration of regional plans into state water plan
- ◆ Link water funding to water plans to promote implementation
- ◆ Encourage regions to collaborate on mutually beneficial solutions to competing water demands
- ◆ \$400,000 Legislative funding due to “exceptional” drought allowed ISC to begin moving forward

# Regional Plan Updates Planning Template

- ◆ Common Technical Platform developed by State
- ◆ Consistency and continuity of each Region's Plan
- ◆ Defined roles of the State and Regions
- ◆ Identify approach for forming a representative steering committee

# Regional Plan Updates Handbook

- ◆ Introduction (State)
- ◆ Public Involvement Planning Process  
(Region + ISC Consultants)
- ◆ Description of Planning Region (State)
- ◆ Legal Issues (State)
- ◆ Water Supply/Demand & Gap (State)
- ◆ Strategies - Proposed Policies, Programs and Projects  
(Region + ISC Consultants)

# Regional Plan Updates Planning Process

- ◆ Updated technical data using consistent sources
- ◆ Identified water management issues in the region
- ◆ Interviewed key individuals regarding economic development and outlook in various sectors.
- ◆ NM Office of the State Engineer input to refine water use projection methodology

# Scope of the Update

- ◆ Builds on existing Regional Water Plans
- ◆ Updates key data to reflect changed conditions
- ◆ Schedule
- ◆ Updated plans more closely tied to Water Trust Board funding process

# Progress so far

- ◆ State and its Consultants
  - ◆ Engagement of stakeholders/representative steering committee developed
  - ◆ Updated technical information from Steering Committee
  - ◆ Identified supply/demand gap
- ◆ Regional Water Planning Steering Committees
  - ◆ Drafted public involvement plan
  - ◆ Preliminarily identified strategies (programs, policies, and projects) to meet future water demand

# Who are the Steering Committees

- ◆ Agricultural (surface water and groundwater users)
- ◆ Municipal and county governments
- ◆ Rural water providers
- ◆ Extractive industry
- ◆ Environmental interests
- ◆ Local businesses
- ◆ Tribal entities (as appropriate)
- ◆ Watershed interests
- ◆ Federal agencies
- ◆ Other groups as identified by the Steering Committee

# Report Input From Regions

- ◆ Population and Economic Data
  - ◆ Recent studies or reports that include population projections
  - ◆ Major projects or initiatives that will affect employment
  - ◆ Significant residential developments
  - ◆ Anticipated changes in key sectors
  - ◆ Key individuals to interview



# Report Input from Steering Committees

## **Address Responsibilities Outlined in Handbook**

- ◆ Public Involvement Plan & Participation
  - ◆ Steering committee meetings, meetings with stakeholders and general public
- ◆ Identification of strategies to address water supply demand gap and regional goals

# Input from Water Dialogue July 28, 2015 Meeting

- ◆ 13 of 16 Regions Represented
- ◆ Feedback
  - ◆ Want more emphasis on policies, not just projects
  - ◆ Perception of a state driven process regarding Common Technical Platform and short timeline
  - ◆ Need more Tribes, Pueblos, and Nation integration
  - ◆ Funding not supportive of effective regional/state water planning
  - ◆ Consider governance which supports on-going, sustained water planning dialogue between regions and state

# Next Steps

- ◆ 16 **Draft** Regional Water Plan Reports - 6/30/2015
- ◆ ISC reviewing draft plans – technical and legal
- ◆ Considerations for addressing feedback from Regions
- ◆ ISC - reconvene regions in Fall 2015 to review plans and hold facilitated meetings
- ◆ 4 regions at a time will begin meeting in October; 4 regions sequentially to follow...
- ◆ Regions to bring plans before ISC for acceptance - 2016

# Linking it all together

- ◆ 16 Updated Regional Water Plans' integrated into State Water Plan update – Tentative: 2017 Completion
- ◆ Prioritizes statewide projects
- ◆ Update technical information
- ◆ Update statewide priorities
- ◆ Coordinate with Statewide Water Assessment at WRRI
- ◆ Need consistent funding

# Thank you

Questions

ISC Water Planning Information  
Office of State Engineer website:  
[www.ose.state.nm.us](http://www.ose.state.nm.us)

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