

Mid-Region Council of Governments

Re: Transmittal of the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan

April 12, 2004

John H. Hooker

Chair, Board of Directors Mayor, Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque Ms. Mary Helen Follingstad, AICP Regional Water Planning Manager Interstate Stream Commission P.O. Box 25102 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-5102 Lawrence Rael Executive Director

Member Governments:

City of Albuquerque

Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority

Albuquerque Public Schools

City of Belen

Bernalillo County

Town of Bernalillo

Village of Bosque Farms

Village of Corrales

Village of Cuba

Town of Edgewood

Village of Encino

Town of Estancia

Village of Jemez Springs

Village of Los Lunas

Los Lunas Schools

Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District

City of Moriarty

Town of Mountainair

City of Rio Rancho

Rio Rancho Public Schools

Sandoval County

Southern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority

Village of Tijeras

Torrance County

Valencia County

Village of Willard

Dear Ms. Follingstad:

This letter transmits the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan in accordance with the Professional Services Agreement between the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) and the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG). All of the services and deliverables pursuant to this Agreement (PSA No. 02-550-P552-0032), including those specified in the Scope of Work described in Exhibit C, are essentially completed and are hereby provided for acceptance by the ISC.

The contents of the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan are in substantial compliance with the <u>Regional Water Planning Handbook</u> published by the ISC. The development process for this Regional Water Plan has sustained technical and public scrutiny in regard to the region's water resources, the identification and analysis of alternatives for water management actions, and selection of recommendations for specific actions to meet the region's future water demands.

A unique characteristic of the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan is that a special subregional planning process was incorporated into the total plan for the region. Specifically, the communities of the Rio Puerco and Rio Jemez watersheds developed area-specific goals, strategies, and recommendations as a subset of the Middle Rio Grande region which is comprised of the Rio Grande valley communities. Generally, region-wide water resource data was established as base information while the identification, analysis, and selection of water management actions were oriented to a more localized level.

The water planning process in this region utilized an organizational structure which involved a partnership between MRCOG and the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly in the design and development of the plan document. The Water Assembly, a non-profit grassroots organization,

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was instrumental in providing for adequate public input to comment on the many alternatives and scenarios for water management considered in the Regional Water Plan. There were many significant agency and technical contributors to the process too numerous to name here but who are identified in the Plan document.

An extensive implementation strategy is proposed in this Water Plan. However, the successful implementation of the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan will be dependent on the continuing cooperation and coordination of the local governments in the region; and will be subject to additional funding, statutory and enabling legislation, and other means of support available to the communities in this regional water planning area. In particular, the ideal situation of adopted water conservation and drought contingency plans at all levels and in all communities is a high priority objective in view of the current drought situation.

The Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan has been endorsed by the Water Assembly, and was approved for distribution to all of the local governments by the MRCOG's Middle Rio Grande Water Resources Board. The Plan was subsequently reviewed and accepted by the local governments throughout the water planning region. Also, the comments and suggestions of the ISC staff are reflected in the final draft documents. Enclosed with this letter are both paper and CD-ROM copies of the Regional Water Plan documentation for ISC consideration and acceptance.

Singerely

Lawrence Rael
Executive Director

LR/JQ

xc: Rhea Graham, Director, Planning and Communications Division

Enclosures: Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan

(2 paper copies, 13 CD-ROM disks)