



WRRI

New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute

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New Mexico Water Planning to be Discussed at WRRI Annual Conference

Every five years, the State of New Mexico undertakes a review of the New Mexico State Water Plan. An update to the water plan is underway in 2009. The New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute will devote its 54th Annual New Mexico Water Conference to state water planning and the update of the State's plan.

Staff members from the Interstate Stream Commission will discuss the 16 regional water plans that are incorporated into the State Water Plan. Representative Andy Nuñez will provide the legislative perspective on funding the State Water Plan in the 2010 legislative session.

The topic of water planning will be looked at from different angles including the planning process itself, how stimulus funding might impact planning, how science is taken into account when planning, and how to make strategic decisions in uncertain times.

Other topics included in this year's program include flood control in urban areas, aquifer storage and recovery, deep water permitting, planning for invasive aquatic species, and energy growth in the Southwest and its implications.

This year's Albert E. Utton Memorial Water Lecture will be given by former ten-term New Mexico Representative Joe Stell. Mr. Stell served as chair of the Agriculture & Water Resources committee and was a member of the Energy & Natural Resources committee during his tenure in the state legislature. Governor Richardson referred to him as "Mr. Water." He will speak at a luncheon on Thursday, October 15. Tickets can be purchased for the luncheon apart from the conference.

The day-and-a-half conference will take place on October 15-16th at the Isleta Casino and Resort. An optional Wednesday afternoon tour of the Isleta Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project and the Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugium is also offered. Everyone is invited to register for the conference online at the WRRI website: <http://wrri.nmsu.edu/> or by calling 575-646-4337.

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The New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute is a nonprofit organization that funds water-related projects at all of New Mexico's universities. Press may attend the conference free of charge; feel welcome to attend.