Les Montoya *is San Miguel County Manager. He is a lifelong resident of Las Vegas and has served in municipal and county government for 20 years, including serving as Las Vegas City Manager for nine years. He owns and operates a local business, Frosty Mountain Ice Company. Les received a B.A. in geology from New Mexico Highlands University.*

Water and Growth Issues
San Miguel County
Presentation Outline

Les Montoya
San Miguel County Courthouse
Annex Building
Las Vegas, NM 87701

San Miguel County Demographics

Area	4,000 square miles
Elevation	3,800-9,000 feet
Population	28,490 (1995)
	22,000 (1980)
Hispanic	80%
Other	20%
Education	68% high school diploma
	16% college degree
Labor force	11,761
Unemployment	7.0%
Annual income	$15,291 per capita
	$28,800 median family

Economic Trends	**1988**	**1998**
Government Transfer Payments (welfare 20%, retirement 80%)	59.0%	38.0%
Farm	1.0%	-
Manufacturing	3.8%	3.0%
Retail	9.4%	-
Government	25.3%	40.9%
Commuting	1.2%	18.0%

Water Systems in San Miguel County

City of Las Vegas Population 18,000
Surface supply:
Gallinas Watershed (84 sq.mi.)
Gallinas River 3100 acre-feet annually
Annual storage at Peterson Reservoir, Bradner Reservoir and Storrie Lake

Multi-media filter plant
10 mil/gal/day capacity

Village of Pecos

Population 1,161
Water source groundwater
? acre feet annually
water system
well and storage tank
distribution system
not metered flat rate

Community Water User Associations

Thirty-five villages and communities exist in San Miguel County. Groundwater provides water for all residents within these areas. Most communities are serviced by wells and storage tanks. Distribution mains are in place in some areas. Many homes or businesses in these communities are serviced with private wells.

Acequias

A total of over 100 designated acequias exist within San Miguel County. Acequias are used to transport water through a series of ditches or canals for use by residents for domestic purposes, farmers for irrigation of field/crops and ranchers for watering of live stock. This historic use and distribution of water continues to take place today.

Priority Water Issues in San Miguel County

Surface water rights:
- litigation on appropriative right off Gallinas River
- state engineer recognizes city possessing 2,600 acre-feet
- City annual river diversion is 3,100 acre-feet
- maintaining water service to existing customers

Water Conservation

- ordinances in place to set controls
- enforcement
- county-wide

Wastewater Re-Use

- irrigation green space
- conserve 230 acre-feet domestic supply
- funding needed for 2nd phase

Village Water Systems

- 35 village water systems
- inadequate or undersized systems
- upgrades required
- training on administration of water associations
- reoccurring revenue sources

Acequias

- historical
- in use today, domestic and agriculture
- respect and include acequia groups in future water planning

Water Quantification of Available Groundwater in San Miguel County

Residential and commercial development:
- I-25 cooridor, north from Pecos to Las Vegas
- lack of technical information on quantity of available groundwater
- present demands impacting exiting users
- city limited water supplies
- local collaboration to obtain funds to quantify groundwater supply in high demand areas
- results may contribute to local shortages of water

Additional water supplies:

- shortages of water supply for present uses in city of Las Vegas
- need to increase surface water supply to meet existing demands and future growth
- local efforts with City to identify available financial resources
- need assistance from Office of the State Engineer, legislators, and congressional delegation on funding
- involve New Mexico Highlands University in the technical approach and grants writing