

*Larry Webb was raised in Hobbs and after graduating from Hobbs High, he spent four years in the Air Force. He received an associate degree from NMSU in Water Utility Operations and then worked for two years in Silver City. Larry has a bachelor's degree in environmental management from University of Houston-Clear Lake. He worked for 17 years with League City, Texas as Director of Utilities. Larry is President-elect of the New Mexico Environmental Quality Association and Vice Chair for the NM Municipal League Domestic Well Task Force. He also is an active member of the American Water Works Association and the Water Environment Federation.*



## THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC WELLS Presentation Outline

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### **Domestic Wells Influence Our Future**

- Limited water resources
- Groundwater quality
- Community planning

### **NMSA 72-12-1**

- Requires State Engineer to approve application
- States rules of “who, where, when”

### **Rural New Mexico**

- 1931 Law

### **Over 106,000 Domestic Wells Permits (1995)**

- 306,000 people on self-supplied wells

### **6,000 Domestic Well Applications Annually**

- 3 acre-feet allocation per well
- 60-70 percent drilled
- 1 acre-foot = 325,851 gallons

### **Compliance with NMSA 72-12-1**

- \$5.00 application fee
- 3 acre-feet or 977,553 gallons

### **Office of the State Engineer**

- lack of resources
- lack of inspection
- lack of follow-up

### **Concerns for Current Situation**

- contamination of aquifer
- unchecked construction
- lack of conservation
- abuse of water use

### **Domestic Wells and our Water Resources**

- Who is watching the domestic wells?
- How much water are we using?
- Water quality issues
- What can we do?

**Water Resources Management**

- Change law
- Allow county and municipal growth in the Middle Rio Grande
- Compliance with local and regional development plans

**Communities with Well Laws**

- Taos
  - adopted July 6, 1994
  - court order March 5, 1973
- Santa Fe
  - Reviews state applications at Office of the State Engineer

**Change NMSA 72-12-1**

- allow local government to help
- increase application fee

**Protect Our Water Resource**

- prevent contamination of aquifer
- track depletion of aquifer