

Paso del Norte Watershed Council

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Watershed Council (Council) will be to investigate, develop, and recommend options for watershed planning and management and explore how water-related resources can best be balanced to benefit the Rio Grande ecosystem and the interests of all watershed stakeholders. The Council will focus on the Paso del Norte Watershed, defined as the Rio Grande basin between Elephant Butte Dam/Reservoir in southern New Mexico and Fort Quitman, Hudspeth County, Texas.

II. OBJECTIVES

The Watershed Council will provide an open and inclusive forum for stakeholders who want to establish and maintain a healthy watershed.

Due to the complexity of interests and jurisdictions in the region, there is a need for a coordinated system to facilitate communication and promote cooperation for the purpose of balancing the needs of all stakeholders. The Council will provide such a system for exchanging data and other information pertinent to watershed management in the Paso del Norte region.

The objectives are:

- (1) Under the direction of the New Mexico-Texas Water Commission, the Council shall serve in an advisory capacity regarding the selection, planning and implementation of environmental enhancements and mitigations associated with the El Paso-Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project.
- (2) The Council shall recommend policies for cooperation, coordination and the sharing of information concerning planning and management activities of projects affecting the Paso Del Norte Watershed.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. COUNCILORS

- (a) The Council will consist of members who support the purposes and objectives of the Council.
- (b) The Council may create an Executive Committee to develop the administrative structure of the Council.
- (c) The elected chairperson of the Council will serve also as a non-voting member of the Management Advisory Committee of the New Mexico-Texas Water Commission.

B. GENERAL ROLE AND ACTIVITIES

The Council shall have the power to:

- (a) adopt bylaws;
- (b) seek technical advisory services, and arrange funding as approved by the Commission and/or other funding agencies;
- (c) create committees and delegate responsibilities; and,
- (d) plan, coordinate, monitor, and make recommendations on watershed issues and projects and coordinate with other planning entities.

C. MEETINGS, HEARINGS AND RECORDS

- (a) All meetings of the Council shall be open to the public.
- (b) The minutes of the Council shall be public record.