

# **New Mexico - Texas Water Commission**

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on behalf of the Paso del Norte Water Task Force

July 26, 2001

Meeting of the Management Advisory  
Committee and the Regional Sustainable  
Water Project Steering Committee

# Creation of the Paso del Norte Water Task Force

- The Paso del Norte Water Task Force convened on April 12, 1999 through grant provided to the Houston Advanced Research Center, NMSU, UACJ, in conjunction with Community NGO representatives: EPCF, Environmental Defense,
- Members of Task Force include: EPWU, JMAS, City of Las Cruces, Irrigation Districts, Universities, private industries, community representatives, etc.
- Paso Del Norte Water Task Force created to conduct joint studies, organize outreach activities, and prepare policy recommendations in regard to regional water planning initiatives.

# Mission Statement

- The Paso del Norte Water Task force unites water managers, water users, experts and citizens working cooperatively to promote a tri-state, bi-national perspective on water issues that impact the future prosperity and long-term sustainability of the region.

# Goals of Task Force

- Identify water issues within the PDN region,
- Convene fact finding groups to study selected issues,
- Convene a forum to facilitate community discussion in regard to water initiatives and obtain recommendations,
- Developed recommendations on improved cooperation in water planning,
- Submit policy recommendations to appropriate authorities in Mexico and the U.S.

# Accomplishments to Date

- Dialogue sessions on Municipal water management by City Water Utilities,
- Dialogue sessions on Irrigation Districts and Field visits to two of the Irrigation Districts,
- Review of water planning practices,
- Identification and ranking of major water issues
- Publications in English and Spanish on water issues in the region,
- Convened the Paso del Norte Water Forum

# Proposed Activities for Paso Del Norte Water Task Force

- Project 1: Identify and compare existing regional plans,
- *Project 2: Prepare a concept paper on a future Paso del Norte Water Planning Entity,*
- *Project 3: Joint ground water management,*
- *Project 4: Examine the links between water quality and water availability in the Paso del Norte.*

# Regional Planning Project # 1

Identify and compare existing regional  
water plans,

Finding opportunities of regional  
cooperation dealing with:

1. Policy criteria and
2. Technical issues

# Findings from the Water Planning Dialogue Sessions

- Response from Task Force members has been very positive,
- Exchange of Information and opening channels of communication between water institutions has been seen as something that would be beneficial to continue,
- Plans use different data assumptions,
- Gaps in information needed for planning,
- Gaps in in information between institutions,
- Regional coordination is needed

# PDN Water Workshop: Key Issues

- Regional Planning,
- Sharing of information; promoting a better understanding among entities in the region,
- Aquifer assessment,
- Water treatment technology ( desalinization, wastewater reuse, brackish water use, etc.),
- Water conservation

**Questions???**