

18:32:56 From Joshua Temple : From South Valley
18:33:02 From Kurt Anderson : Kurt Anderson, Sierra Club, Las Cruces
18:33:09 From Peggy Neff : Reacted to "Albuquerque" with 🙌
18:33:17 From Laurie McCann : Laurie from ABQ
18:33:20 From Kym Hemley : Kym H – Sunland Park
18:34:08 From April Fitzner : April Fitzner – south valley
18:35:01 From CRYSTAL FREDERICKSON : CF – Near North Valley
18:35:18 From Tim Sanders : I wont be able to attend this entire meeting. Will it be available online somehow?
18:35:29 From Gillian Gonda : Reacted to "I wont be able to attend this entire meeting. Will it be available online somehow?" with 🙌
18:35:53 From Gillian Gonda : I wont be able to attend this entire meeting. Will it be available online somehow?
Yes Tim, all of our workshops are recorded and are available on our website within a few days. You will also get an email with the recording.
18:36:08 From Glenn and Sandra Griffin : Sandra and Glenn Griffin, Silver City
18:36:35 From Brittany Gaume : You can find those past workshop recording here: <https://nmwateradvocates.org/past-events/>
18:41:32 From Kurt Anderson : It also specified delivery obligations of Colorado to New Mexico.
18:48:34 From rebecca steele : rebecca steele, albuquerque
18:51:23 From Elizabeth Bardwell : I think Nat Chakeres said that groundwater pumping levels were 90% of current levels in 1978. Can Nat confirm I heard that figure correctly? If I heard correctly, I find that hard to believe given that the significant growth in pecan acreage occurred much later and only after the OSE agreed that pecan growers were entitled to 5AF/AC per year which since 2000 drought years is primarily groundwater pumping.
18:52:31 From Kent Simpson : Yet that purchase program wants folks to give up their ENTIRE groundwater right while paying us for roughly HALF of it.

That's pretty much an illegal "taking" per the 5th Amendment of the constitution!!!

18:55:09 From Arla & John Wilks : Question: What might be the impact on 8+ data centers on potable water availability?

18:55:18 From Kent Simpson : Reacted to "Question: What might be the impact on 8+ data centers on potable water availability?" with 🙌

18:56:11 From Kym H : Can you switch screen focus on the graph versus the 8. Q & Discussion page?

18:56:38 From Arla & John Wilks : Question" Los Alamos Nat'l Lab has junior water right. Will 1.4 million gallons daily be made availability for nuclear weapons production?

18:57:48 From Nat Chakeres : Replying to "I think Nat Chakeres

said that groundwater pumping levels were 90% of current levels in 1978. Can Nat confirm I heard that figure correctly? If I heard correctly, I find that hard to believe given that the significant growth in pecan acreage occurred much later and only after the OSE agreed that pecan growers were entitled to 5AF/AC per year which since 2000 drought years is primarily groundwater pumping."

That is correct. We are irrigating fewer acres than we were then, even if we are irrigating those acres more intensively. The large majority in increases in depletions since 1978 come from municipal uses, not irrigation.

18:58:01 From Kurt Anderson : 2011-2022 Depletion rate of the Mesilla Bolson was at least 220, 000 Af/yers. Reducing that by 18,200 Af/yr seems utterly inadequate.

18:58:22 From CAROL BLUM : Question: is one or two of the voluntary measures that is being considered having pecan growers switch from flood irrigation to drip irrigation? and is there also any focus on decreasing the amount of pecan orchards in existence or limiting new orchards in the Las Cruces area?

18:58:57 From Nat Chakeres : Replying to "Yet that purchase program wants folks to give up their ENTIRE groundwater right while paying us for roughly HALF of it.

That's pretty much an illegal "taking" per the 5th Amendment of the constitution!!!"

The purchase program will be for voluntary sellers. If water rights holders do not think we are offering a fair price, they don't need to sell.

18:59:05 From CAROL BLUM : can we please see Norm rather than Nat at this point?

18:59:21 From Brittany Gaume : Replying to "can we please see No..."

Thank you

19:00:49 From Nat Chakeres : Replying to "It also specified delivery obligations of Colorado to New Mexico."

Yes, and that was stated in the presentation.

19:04:52 From Gillian Gonda : If you haven't introduced yourself, please do as well!

19:05:33 From CAROL BLUM : Carol Blum from Las Cruces

19:06:17 From Cricket - Magdalena, NM : Is the Niagara Bottling Facility in Los Lunas part of this?

19:06:18 From Nat Chakeres : Replying to "Question: What might be the impact on 8+ data centers on potable water availability?"

The short answer is that any data centers will need to find water from existing water rights, so as not to allow overall depletions to increase. The degree of impact will depend on how much water the data

centers will consume. For Project Jupiter, the highest estimate of their water use (although they are claiming lower rates now) is a little more than 1,000 acre-feet per year. (Remember that the overall amount of current pumping is ~350,000 acre-feet per year).

19:07:43 From Eric Perramond : Replying to "Question: What might be the impact on 8+ data centers on potable water availability?"

Eric Perramond (Colorado College), geographer, Colorado Springs
19:07:48 From Nat Chakeres : Replying to "Is the Niagara Bottling Facility in Los Lunas part of this?"

That is in the middle Rio Grande, so no, it is not part of this.

19:08:14 From e h : Given that "the large majority in increases in depletions since 1978 come from municipal uses, not irrigation," what municipal uses are being reduced?

19:08:56 From Elizabeth Bardwell : Replying to "Question: What might be the impact on 8+ data centers on potable water availability?"

The water right that Project Jupiter is leasing currently is one of the most junior water rights in the basin, so as we examine how best to return to sustainability in the basin, transferring junior water rights to the hyperscale data center does not seem advisable. We also don't know how much water the fuel cells will use, unless you have more information than I do.

19:08:59 From e h : Replying to "Is the Niagara Bottl..."

But similar issues -- the MRG has to cut out some 25 kafy!

19:10:57 From Greg White : Greg White, Las Cruces

19:11:41 From Peggy Neff : Reacted to "But similar issues -- the MRG has to cut out some 25 kafy!" with 🤔

19:11:49 From Nat Chakeres : Replying to "Question: is one or two of the voluntary measures that is being considered having pecan growers switch from flood irrigation to drip irrigation? and is there also any focus on decreasing the amount of pecan orchards in existence or limiting new orchards in the Las Cruces area?"

I can't discuss specifics of what's being considered. Also, the depletive effects of transitioning from flood to drip irrigation are not always what you would think. If you google "irrigation efficiency paradox" there is a lot of information on the topic.

19:12:15 From Brittany Gaume : <https://www.facebook.com/nmwateradvocates>

<https://www.instagram.com/nmwateradvocates>

19:12:39 From Susan Kelly : Nat, how does the settlement relate to the adjudication of the LRG?

19:13:13 From Kent Simpson : Replying to "Question: is one or two of the voluntary measures that is being considered having pecan growers switch from flood irrigation to drip irrigation? and is there also any focus on decreasing the amount of pecan orchards in existence or limiting new orchards in the Las Cruces area?"

Texas A&M has done a lot of studies on drip irrigation for tree crops – and they haven't been able to conquer the problem of clogging the drip emitters

19:14:49 From Tim Sanders : Beyond the 18,000 A/F purchase what is the estimated total need to satisfy the amount of water guaranteed to Texas. I.E. What is the NM estimated total purchase amount to balance compact requirements.

19:15:29 From Nat Chakeres : Replying to "Nat, how does the settlement relate to the adjudication of the LRG?"

The settlement resolves some outstanding issues in the adjudication between the US and the State – particularly disputes about the US water rights and supplemental groundwater rights to surface irrigation rights.

19:19:02 From Nat Chakeres : Replying to "Given that "the large majority in increases in depletions since 1978 come from municipal uses, not irrigation," what municipal uses are being reduced?"

I can't discuss specifics about what's being discussed, but municipalities have made considerable improvements in conservation in the past two decades, and we'll be working with them to continue with those efforts.

19:19:08 From Michael Zigmond : Replying to "Nat, how does the settlement relate to the adjudication of the LRG?"

Sounds like Susan was asking about the ongoing LRG water rights adjudication that is being done by the District Court here in Las Cruces.

19:21:37 From Elizabeth Bardwell : Could the Miscellaneous Purposes Agreement allow for purchase of water for environmental flows?

19:21:38 From Nat Chakeres : Replying to "Nat, how does the settlement relate to the adjudication of the LRG?"

Yes, and my answer referred to the portions of that adjudication affected by the settlement.

19:22:16 From e h : Comment: clearly the LRG ill be looking upstream to ensure their compliance with the Settlement.

19:24:09 From Nat Chakeres : Replying to "Comment: clearly the LRG ill be looking upstream to ensure their compliance with the Settlement."

The index delivery obligation is based on releases out of Caballo reservoir – so we can't guarantee compliance by just looking upstream. We have to limit our depletions below the reservoir to comply with this settlement.

19:24:12 From Jan Thompson : The only way out, as I see it, is to buy back water rights and retire pecan farms.

19:24:25 From Peggy Neff : Reacted to "The only way out, as I see it, is to buy back water rights and retire pecan farms." with 👍

19:26:00 From Martin Chavez : How much one time money and how much recurring is needed?

19:28:10 From Elizabeth Bardwell : What concerns me is farmers chose to plant a fixed high water use crop – pecans– and OSE incentivized farmers to do that by agreeing pecan farmers were entitled to 5 AF/A, in the face of climate change and reduction of surface flows, and now the Settlement to mitigate excessive pumping will be funded through public taxpayer dollars.

19:28:56 From CAROL BLUM : Reacted to "What concerns me is farmers chose to plant a fixed high water use crop – pecans– and OSE incentivized farmers to do that by agreeing pecan farmers were entitled to 5 AF/A, in the face of climate change and reduction of surface flows, and now the Settlement to mitigate excessive pumping will be funded through public taxpayer dollars." with 👍

19:29:00 From Jan Thompson : Reacted to "What concerns me is farmers chose to plant a fixed high water use crop – pecans– and OSE incentivized farmers to do that by agreeing pecan farmers were entitled to 5 AF/A, in the face of climate change and reduction of surface flows, and now the Settlement to mitigate excessive pumping will be funded through public taxpayer dollars." with 👍

19:29:10 From Kym H : Reacted to "What concerns me is farmers chose to plant a fixed high water use crop – pecans– and OSE incentivized farmers to do that by agreeing pecan farmers were entitled to 5 AF/A, in the face of climate change and reduction of surface flows, and now the Settlement to mitigate excessive pumping will be funded through public taxpayer dollars." with 100

19:29:47 From Arla & John Wilks : Question: Can you please define "Middle Rio Grande"? Where is that, exactly? Thanks!

19:30:40 From Cirrelda Snider-Bryan : Yes Norm presented a lot of data and a lot of important perspective. Thank you.

19:30:53 From Eric Perramond : From Cochiti Dam (N) all the way to Tor C is the MRGCD governance area...

19:30:59 From Kym H : Reacted to "Yes Norm presented a lot of data and a lot of important perspective. Thank you." with 🙌

19:31:23 From Peggy Neff : Replying to "Question: Can you please define "Middle Rio Grande"? Where is that, exactly? Thanks!"

so TRC is the southern most point of middle Rio Grande

19:31:43 From CAROL BLUM : what I don't hear anyone saying is how the basic human right of having a healthful environment within which to spend one's life, including fresh water for our use and for the plants and animals that make up a healthy environment are being considered at all. It seems to be too much about money, capitalism, profits, who "owns" the water, etc.

19:32:14 From Cirrelda Snider-Bryan : Reacted to "what I don't hear anyone saying is how the basic human right of having a healthful

environment within which to spend one's life, including fresh water for our use and for the plants and animals that make up a healthy environment are being considered at all. It seems to be too much about money, capitalism, profits, who "owns" the water, etc." with 🙌
19:32:38 From Peggy Neff : Replying to "Question: Can you please define "Middle Rio Grande"? Where is that, exactly? Thanks!"

With Cochiti as the most northern point of Middle Rio Grande
19:33:05 From Eric Perramond : Actually I think it reaches south to Socorro Peggy, TorC is in the LRG.
19:33:07 From e h : Replying to "Comment: clearly th..."

true, but life is easier when the LRG receives a full allotment!
19:33:18 From Eric Perramond : Reacted to "With Cochiti as the most northern point of Middle Rio Grande" with 👍

19:33:54 From Edwina Jaramillo : Reacted to What concerns me is ... with "👍"

19:34:17 From Kurt Anderson : The numbers from the Water Master Reports are there and probably to be trusted. Mr.,Gaume has it right. We are in deep dried dung.

19:34:34 From Elizabeth Bardwell : What will excessive groundwater pumping by agriculture in the Lower Rio Grande do the cost of drinking water to the over 100,000 residents in the City of Las Cruces? The City of Las Cruces has a water right that until recently had a priority date identical to EBID until the Settlement and now it is junior.

19:35:35 From Cirrelda Snider-Bryan : Reacted to "What will excessive groundwater pumping by agriculture in the Lower Rio Grande do the cost of drinking water to the over 100,000 residents in the City of Las Cruces? The City of Las Cruces has a water right that until recently had a priority date identical to EBID until the Settlement and now it is junior." with 🙌

19:36:02 From Kym H : Yeah and it's too bad that we can't reach across stateliness...like El Paso-Sunland Park...pulling teeth to get any cooperation/communication!

19:36:22 From Nat Chakeres : Replying to "How much one time money and how much recurring is needed?"

Stay tuned, we'll let folks know when we have our budget asks finalized.

19:36:53 From Kent Simpson : Whiskey is for drinking. Water is for fighting.
--Mark Twain

19:37:01 From Kym H : Reacted to "Whiskey is for drinking. Water is for fighting."

--Mark Twain" with ❤️

19:37:14 From Rene' Horvath : If State buys farmer water rights, what will the state do with those water rights. Will they be

giving it away for more development in the Cities?

19:37:50 From Kent Simpson : Replying to "If State buys farmer water rights, what will the state do with those water rights. Will they be giving it away for more development in the Cities?"

Those rights just disappear – they're gone

19:38:00 From Kurt Anderson : Lawyers can't make water, except in piddling amounts. (Apologies for that.)

19:38:18 From Kent Simpson : Reacted to "Lawyers can't make water, except in piddling amounts. (Apologies for that.)" with 😂

19:38:45 From Peggy Neff : Replying to "If State buys farmer water rights, what will the state do with those water rights. Will they be giving it away for more development in the Cities?"

so what are we doing to slow the roll of new residents and new builds

19:39:20 From Michael Zigmond : Replying to "Question: Can you please define "Middle Rio Grande"? Where is that, exactly? Thanks!"

Maps showing surface and groundwater basins are on the State Engineer's website: GIS Data and Maps – NMOSE

19:39:22 From Nat Chakeres : Replying to "Could the Miscellaneous Purposes Agreement allow for purchase of water for environmental flows?"

That would require a separate contract.

19:40:17 From Eric Perramond : High and Dry is a great book about the Pecos River dilemma during that period.

19:40:24 From Brittany Gaume : Reacted to "High and Dry is a great book about the Pecos River dilemma during that period." with 👍

19:40:31 From Kurt Anderson : Pessimist: Pecan wood makes beautiful furniture.

19:40:48 From Kym H : Reacted to "Pessimist: Pecan wood makes beautiful furniture." with 😂

19:41:09 From Elizabeth Bardwell : The federal government is a party to the Settlement does that constitute a federal action subject in the Settlement to federal environmental laws and review?

19:41:11 From e h : Comment: The senior water rights in the MRG (Otoe Gauge to the bottom of Elephant Butte) are quite different than in the LRG -- including but not limited to Pueblo rights.

19:41:57 From Eric Perramond : Right, and Pueblo (native) rights are "prior and paramount" as long as the federal agencies are actually honoring that language as part of the federal water reserve.

19:43:42 From Eric Perramond : Imagine the work of digitizing (entering) all of the old water adjudication data into a publicly accessible format – it's what Colorado does – but starting from scratch is daunting!

19:44:32 From Nat Chakeres : Replying to "The numbers from the Water Master Reports are there and probably to be trusted. Mr., Gaume has it right. We are in deep dried dung."

The pumping numbers look correct, but the calculation of the index deliveries are what seem off. It's a new index so differences at this point are not surprising.

19:45:46 From Kent Simpson : Mr. Gaume – has the MRG reached out to NM Tech in Socorro for help with running the modeling program?

19:46:05 From Madeleine Gardner : This is Madeleine Gardner, Representative Dows DLA. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at madeleine.gardner@nmlegis.gov and I will get with Representative Dow to help you best we can! Thank you for having me!

19:46:39 From Rene' Horvath : Why are the Cities giving away financial incentives to bring more growth and development to Cities for economic development when our water resources are depleted, and we still owe Texas.?

19:46:50 From Cirrelda Snider-Bryan : Reacted to "Why are the Cities giving away financial incentives to bring more growth and development to Cities for economic development when our water resources are depleted, and we still owe Texas.?" with 🙌

19:47:02 From April Fitzner : Reacted to "Why are the Cities giving away financial incentives to bring more growth and development to Cities for economic development when our water resources are depleted, and we still owe Texas.?" with 🙌

19:47:10 From Nat Chakeres : Replying to "Lawyers con't make water, except in piddling amounts. (Apologies for that.)"

Agree 100%!! I tell people that the less water there is, the more lawyers you'll find.

19:47:29 From Kent Simpson : Reacted to "Agree 100%!! I tell people that the less water there is, the more lawyers you'll find." with 😏

19:47:44 From Kym H : Reacted to "Agree 100%!! I tell people that the less water there is, the more lawyers you'll find." with 😏

19:47:57 From Kent Simpson : Replying to "Lawyers con't make water, except in piddling amounts. (Apologies for that.)"

@Nat Chakeres it's nice to see an attorney with a sense of humor!

19:48:07 From Kurt Anderson : The WRRRI was creating a statewide water and groundwater modeling program. What ever happened to it?

19:54:35 From Elizabeth Bardwell : On the NEPA where is the public input opportunity?

19:54:40 From Cirrelda Snider-Bryan : Great work, Brittany!

19:55:48 From Gillian Gonda : Reacted to "Great work, Brittany!" with ❤️

19:56:02 From William Emmer : Is the Bureau or Reclamations even required to release a Draft EIS or take public comment under the current administration rules? This is the real question

19:56:03 From Eric Perramond : Thanks, Norm, Nat – keep asking

tough questions, folks! This was a great learning opportunity for me and I'll be talking about it in classes here at Colorado College. Cheers, Eric Perramond

19:56:15 From Gillian Gonda : Reacted to "Thanks, Norm, Nat – keep asking tough questions, folks! This was a great learning opportunity for me and I'll be talking about it in classes here at Colorado College. Cheers, Eric Perramond" with ❤️

19:56:17 From Kym H : Reacted to "Thanks, Norm, Nat – keep asking tough questions, folks! This was a great learning opportunity for me and I'll be talking about it in classes here at Colorado College. Cheers, Eric Perramond" with ❤️

19:59:20 From Kent Simpson : I would be in favor of using the Permanent Fund to help small towns/cities fix & modernize their water infrastructure – there are a lot in bad shape & they can't afford to fix it. Some are in dire shape – I'd call that a "rainy day".

19:59:25 From Cirrelda Snider-Bryan : Thank you Nat for anticipating public questions about data centers.

19:59:48 From Kym H : Reacted to "I would be in favor of using the Permanent Fund to help small towns/cities fix & modernize their water infrastructure – there are a lot in bad shape & they can't afford to fix it. Some are in dire shape – I'd call that a "rainy day"." with 🙌

20:01:00 From Cathy Day : Thank you both! This was very informative.

20:01:08 From Fiore Bran Aragon : These are such tough issues. Thank you both for addressing these questions!

20:01:16 From Eileen Everett : Thank you for such a great presentation and for taking the time to answer so many questions!

20:01:26 From Brittany Gaume : <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf1nwGXlJ-G0zrv7VzXXMFTzTz9Ev0eY8LsihyfDuohkGo5QA/viewform?usp=header>

20:02:16 From Nat Chakeres : Replying to "Comment: The senior water rights in the MRG (Otowi Gauge to the bottom of Elephant Butte) are quite different than in the LRG -- including but not limited to Pueblo rights."

Agree

20:02:46 From BRET WILSON : Thanks!

20:02:58 From Martin Chavez : Outstanding. Thank you!

20:03:09 From Carmichael Dominguez : Bravo to NMWA for bringing us all this information.

20:03:18 From Kym H : Reacted to "Bravo to NMWA for bringing us all this information." with 🙌

20:03:37 From Louis Martinez : thank you

20:04:42 From Gillian Gonda : Reacted to "Bravo to NMWA for bringing us all this information." with ❤️

20:04:46 From Gillian Gonda : Reacted to "Outstanding. Thank you!" with ❤️

20:04:49 From Gillian Gonda : Reacted to "Thanks!" with ❤️
20:04:56 From Gillian Gonda : Reacted to "Thank you for such a
great presentation and for taking the time to answer so many
questions!" with ❤️
20:06:05 From Nancy Singham : Reacted to "Bravo to NMWA for
bringing us all this information." with ❤️