

CHRONICLE OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING EFFORTS IN THE SAN JUAN BASIN

The regional water planning program for the San Juan Basin involves those portion of San Juan, McKinley, Rio Arriba and Sandoval Counties, which lie in the San Juan River watershed in New Mexico, referred to as the San Juan Hydrologic Unit for regional water planning purposes. This Unit has an area of approximately 10,000 square miles.

1968	Legislation enacted providing for state participation in national water planning efforts. <i>History: 1953 Comp., § 14-57-2, enacted by Laws 1967, ch. 239, § 2</i>
1976	In response to the 1968 legislation, the Interstate Stream Commission, in cooperation with a number of federal agencies, published the <u><i>New Mexico Water Resources Assessment for Planning Purposes</i></u> .
1981	San Juan County prepared a <u><i>Water Supply Master Plan for San Juan County</i></u> . Funding for the preparation was provided by the Four Corners Regional Commission, Interstate Stream Commission, and San Juan County. Professional services were provided by Black & Veach Engineers-Architect. (\$200,000.00) <i>[Sections 3-56-1 to 3-56-9 NMSA 1978] may be cited as the "Regional Planning Act."</i>
1987	In all practicality, regional planning began in 1987 when the New Mexico Legislature first authorized the ISC to fund regional planning efforts. <i>History: (Laws 1987, ch. 182) (Sections 72-14-43 to 72-14-44 NMSA 1978)</i>
1989	The San Juan Water Commission contracted with Black & Veach Engineers-Architect, to prepare a <u><i>40-Year Regional Water Supply Plan</i></u> . Funding for the preparation of the report was provided by the Interstate Stream Commission and the San Juan Water Commission. (\$32,000) <i>History: (Laws 1987, ch. 182) (Sections 72-14-43 to 72-14-44 NMSA 1978)</i>
1994	The Interstate Stream Commission created a work group (team) to participate in the formulation of a regional water planning template. Randy Kirkpatrick, San Juan Water Commission and Michael Benson, Navajo Nation were members of this team. The Interstate Stream Commission published the <u><i>Regional Water Planning Handbook</i></u> in December, 1994.
1994	The Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (NWNMCOG) prepared a <u><i>40 Year Regional Water Plan</i></u> for San Juan, McKinley, and Cibola Counties. Though McKinley and Cibola County have little or no hydrologic connection with San Juan County; the three-county area was grouped together for political purposes.

1995	<p>The San Juan Water Commission received a \$25,000 grant from the ISC to assist the San Juan Water Commission and the Navajo Nation in their coordinated effort to develop a regional public participation program. The San Juan Water Commission, through a separate agreement* with the Navajo Nation, transferred a portion of the \$25,000 to the Navajo Nation, to prepare a bibliography of sources for existing water use and demographic information, and develop a regional public participation program within the Navajo Nation area in the San Juan Basin.</p> <p>*(Contract # C60435)</p> <p>From 1995 - 1998, a substantial number of public meetings were held by the Navajo Nation and the San Juan Water Commission throughout their respective areas, to inform water resource stakeholders, local officials, private organizations, and governmental agencies about the regional water planning process and to establish a Regional Water Planning Committee.</p>
1996	<p>The San Juan Water Commission received \$30,000 from the ISC for initial data collection and the continuation of the public participation program.</p> <p>The Navajo Nation completed the <u>Navajo Nation San Juan River Basin Bibliography</u> in November, 1996.</p>
1997	<p>The initial effort to develop a public participation program was completed by the Navajo Nation and the San Juan Water Commission, resulting in each drafting an organizational document based on the comments received during the public meetings held in their respective areas.</p> <p><i>(These two draft documents were subsequently used in 2002, to prepare the Agreement Organizing the San Juan River Basin Regional Water Planning Committee for New Mexico to establish the Planning Committee)</i></p> <p>The San Juan Water Commission established a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Department, to develop and maintain a comprehensive water resources data base. The San Juan Water Commission has made the collected data available for purposes of regional water planning, recognizing that a water resources data base was crucial to any decision making process concerning water.</p>
1998	<p>Parsons Engineering completed the draft <u>San Juan Hydrologic Unit Data Collection Study</u> in September, 1998.</p> <p>November 1998, a public meeting was held to establish a planning committee for regional water planning. The effort to establish a planning committee was frustrated by limited funding and by individuals opposing the proposed organizational structure.</p> <p><i>Though work continued, further funding from the Interstate Stream Commission for regional water planning purposes was not available to the San Juan Water Commission and the Navajo Nation until 2000.</i></p>
1999	<p>Though work continued, further funding from the Interstate Stream Commission for regional water planning purposes was not available to the San Juan Water Commission and the Navajo Nation until 2000.</p>
2000	<p>The Navajo Nation received \$50,000 from the Interstate Stream Commission to formulate regional water development alternatives for the Navajo communities in the San Juan Basin.</p>

2001	Legislation enacted to appropriate funds to the ISC for regional water planning. From the total appropriation, the Interstate Stream Committee set aside \$225,000 for regional water planning in the San Juan Basin.
------	---

<p>2002</p>	<p>In January 2002, the contract for regional water planning between the Interstate Stream Committee and the San Juan Water Commission was fully executed and the San Juan Water Commission received authorization from the Interstate Stream Commission to begin the work. The San Juan Water Commission, the Navajo Nation, and the Jicarilla Apache Nation are coordinating their efforts for regional water planning purposes. <i>(Contract No. Professional Services Agreement 02-550-P552-0025)</i></p> <p>February 2002, the San Juan Water Commission accepted the <i>Agreement Organizing the San Juan River Basin Regional Water Planning Committee for New Mexico</i>. <i>(The two documents drafted in 1997 were used to develop this organizational document to establish the Planning Committee.)</i></p> <p>May 2002, the draft <u>Water Supply Assessment for the San Juan Hydrologic Unit</u> was submitted to the ISC.</p> <p>June 27, 2002, a public meeting to establish the Planning Committee was held and individuals interested in becoming members on the Committee were identified.</p> <p>July 18, 2002, the first meeting of the Planning Committee was held.</p> <p>July 25, 2002, a public meeting was held to give the public the opportunity to review the draft <u>Water Supply Assessment for the San Juan Hydrologic Unit</u> with Parsons Engineering, the consulting firm that prepared the document. The draft report <u>Legal Issues</u> was presented and reviewed by attorney Elizabeth Taylor. Parsons Engineering presented preliminary information about the methodology used to prepare the <u>Water Demand Assessment</u>.</p> <p>August 8, 2002, a Planning Committee meeting was held.</p> <p>September 2002, the draft <u>Water Demand Assessment and Water Budget Analysis for the San Juan Hydrologic Unit</u> was submitted to the ISC.</p> <p>September 2002, a public meeting was held to give the public the opportunity to review the draft <u>Water Demand Assessment and Water Budget Analysis for the San Juan Hydrologic Unit</u> with Parsons Engineering, the consulting firm that prepared the document.</p> <p>October 8, 2002, a Planning Committee meeting was held.</p> <p>October 24, 2002, a Planning Committee meeting was held.</p> <p>November 14, 2002, a Planning Committee meeting was held.</p> <p>December 12, 2002, a Planning Committee meeting was held.</p>
-------------	--

2003

January 30, 2003, a Planning Committee meeting was held

May 8, 2003, Volume I - Final Draft San Juan Basin Regional Water Plan was published and distributed to the Planning Committee and the ISC staff.

May 20, 2003, a Planning Committee meeting was held to review Volume I - Final Draft San Juan Basin Regional Water Plan. Several significant revisions were requested by the Planning Committee and the Navajo Nation, and the document was revised and presented to the Planning Committee at a subsequent meeting. (Significant revisions to Volume I were made between May 2003 and October 2003.)

May 21, 2003, a public meeting was held to review and discuss Volume I - Final Draft San Juan Basin Regional Water Plan with Rick Cox from Parsons Engineering Science, and John Leeper, Director of the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources.

June 18, 2003, a Planning Committee meeting was held to consider the Navajo Nation's revisions to Volume I and to continue the review of Volume I - Final Draft San Juan Basin Regional Water Plan. Additional revisions were requested by the Planning Committee and the Navajo Nation, and the document was revised and presented to the Planning Committee at a subsequent meeting. (Significant revisions to Volume I were made between May 2003 and October 2003.)

July 22, 2003, a Planning Committee meeting was held to consider the Navajo Nation's revisions to Volume I and to continue the review of Volume I - Final Draft San Juan Basin Regional Water Plan. Additional revisions were requested by the Planning Committee and the Navajo Nation, and the document was revised and presented to the Planning Committee at a subsequent meeting. (Significant revisions to Volume I were made between May 2003 and October 2003.)

August 27, 2003, a Planning Committee meeting was held to consider the Navajo Nation's revisions to Volume I and to continue the review of Volume I - Final Draft San Juan Basin Regional Water Plan. Additional revisions were requested by the Planning Committee and the Navajo Nation, and the document was revised.

September 2003, revisions to Volume III - Water Supply Assessment for the San Juan Hydrologic Unit and Volume IV - Water Demand Assessment and Water Budget Analysis for the San Juan Hydrologic Unit were completed.

October 4, 2003, revisions to Volume I - Final Draft San Juan Basin Regional Water Plan were completed. The Planning Committee subsequently distributed the Oct. 4, 2003 revision of Volume I to the public, ISC staff, and the governmental entities i.e., Cities, Counties, and the Indian Nations to seek their support and acceptance. The Final Draft San Juan Basin Regional Water Plan, revised Volume's I, II, III, and IV - were available on the San Juan Water Commission's web-site at sjwc.org.

November 2003, the Final Draft San Juan Basin Regional Water Plan (revised October 4, 2003) was distributed to the Planning Committee, the ISC staff, and the governmental entities i.e., Cities, Counties, and the Indian Nations. Arrangements were made for the Planning Committee to present

Updated: November, 2003