

A photograph of a flooded residential area. In the background, there is a two-story house with a light-colored exterior and a white garage door. A white car is parked in the flooded driveway. Several large, dark green trees are scattered around the property. In the far background, a mountain range is visible under a cloudy sky. The foreground is filled with brown, murky floodwater that has reached the base of the trees and the house.

Regional Stormwater Management

Presented on behalf of the
**South-Central New Mexico Stormwater
Management Coalition**
to the Rio Grande Citizens Forum

Valerie Beversdorf, EBID
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Background

- These parties have duties, responsibilities, and ownership of flood control facilities :
 - *Elephant Butte Irrigation District*
 - *Dona Ana Soil and Water Conservation District*
 - *Caballo Soil and Water Conservation District*
 - *Dona Ana County Flood Commission*
 - *Sierra Flood Control Commission*
- Have evaluated the impact of major flood events in 2006 and 2008, and ongoing stormwater and flood control issues or concerns throughout the area

Background – cont.

- We have identified the following issues:
 - *Existing flood control structures (67 in DAC)*
 - Were designed to protect agricultural lands and crops
 - Have reached or exceeded their 50-year design plan
 - Are in need of costly rehabilitating in order to protect urban land uses and roads (as much as \$1 – 3 Million per dam)
 - *New flood control and stormwater management technologies, methods, and techniques are available that should be developed and installed*
 - *While the needs are large; the funds are small*

Background – cont.

- We have realized the need for stormwater management from a regional perspective, and
- We are inviting agencies with similar mandates to collaborate and work toward the goal of implementing regional watershed management
- A group was established in January 2010, known as the Lower Rio Grande Stormwater Watershed Infrastructure Management (SWIM) Task Force, recently changed to the South Central New Mexico Stormwater Management Coalition (Stormwater Coalition)

Stormwater Management from a Regional Perspective

Proposal

- *Existing flood control and stormwater management agencies jointly and cooperatively*
- *collaborate to identify, prioritize, plan, and implement programs and projects that improve the ability to manage stormwater*
- *through the utilization of best practices for Regional Watershed Management.*

Hatch



Rincon



Picacho Hills



Barcelona Ridge Estates
**NO MEANS OF
EVACUATION**

**ABOUT 100 FEET WIDE
RAGING FLOW**



26



Rasaaf Hills



Tres Sendas Flooded



Vado



Anthony



Chaparral





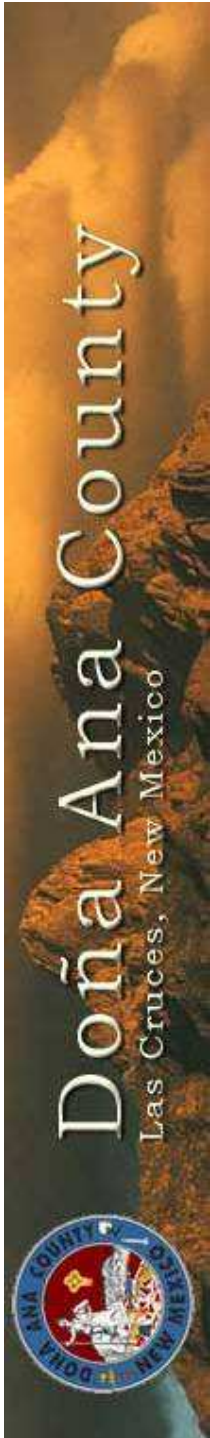
Santa Teresa

How did we get here?

- Available funding is insufficient for required planning
- How we determine flood plans / plains
- Calculated size of watersheds
- Determining upstream/downstream impact
- Lack of coordination between government agencies (and needs of private citizens)
- Jurisdictional boundaries have nothing to do with hydrologic boundaries







Government Maintained Drainage Facilities 2006 Budgets

Doña Ana County

- 25 Structures - \$53,000 annual, minor maintenance

NRCS

- 13 Structures - \$27,000 annual, minor maintenance

EBID

- 29 Structures - \$61,000 annual, minor maintenance

Identified Needs

- Develop Regional Master Plans
- Updating and Maintenance of Flood Control Structures
- Design Flood Control Infrastructure from a watershed perspective
- Construction of Branch Aquifer Recharge Systems
- Construct Canals and Storm Drain Culverts
- Pumping Systems
- Safe Water Storage Reservoirs
- Funding for improvements and projects

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- MOU signed by most in October 2010:
 - **ELEPHANT BUTTE IRRIGATION DISTRICT**
 - **DOÑA ANA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
 - **CABALLO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
 - **SIERRA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
 - **DOÑA ANA COUNTY FLOOD COMMISSION**
 - **OFFICE OF THE SIERRA COUNTY FLOOD COMMISSION**
 - **COUNTY OF DONA ANA**
 - **COUNTY OF SIERRA**
 - **NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY**
 - **VILLAGE OF HATCH**
 - **CITY OF SUNLAND PARK**
 - **TOWN OF MESILLA**
 - **CITY OF ANTHONY**

Regional Watershed Management

- Purpose statement in MOU:
 - a. sharing agency resources, staff time, and available documents and data;
 - b. developing recommendations for a formal assessment of flood control structures and flood sensitive areas;
 - c. drafting proposed legislation authorizing the formation of a regional authority;
 - d. developing a Regional Watershed Plan.

Regional Watershed Management

- Began development of legislation that will create a regional watershed management entity
- Response not favorable to language in proposed legislation – mainly due to taxing authority
- Central ideas are supported

Regional Watershed Management

Central Ideas

- Need for regional stormwater management & flood control
- Acquire funding for projects
- Coordinate with entities to identify problems
- Collaborate on potential solutions

Regional Watershed Management

Next Steps

- Meeting scheduled for January 6, 2011
- Discuss how to proceed
 - Strengthen existing MOU with additional language for a more formal Coalition (i.e., establish a Board with set meeting times & duties)
 - Identify & work together on immediate projects
 - Establish framework similar to the Lower Rio Grande Water Users Organization (LRGWUO)

Questions?

Who says there's no new water in New Mexico?

