

# Position Paper



## Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce **BOARD POSITION**

*Action: APPROVED*

*Date: August 25, 2016*

### **Chamber Supports Water 2120: The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's 100-Year Water Plan**

#### *Position*

The Board of Directors of the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce fully supports the 100-year water plan proposed by the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) entitled WATER 2120: Securing Our Water Future. The Chamber has long recognized water as a critical economic development and quality of life issue for the Middle Rio Grande region and the state as a whole as an abundant water supply is essential for the continued growth of our region and will directly impact our ability to expand the employment, income and tax base of this community.

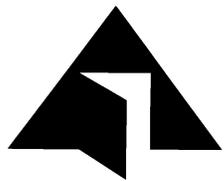
The Chamber believes this Plan is proactive as it builds upon conservation and water preservation efforts that began in the mid-1990s and strives to best utilize, manage and preserve this area's existing water supplies. The Plan is also forward-thinking as it will evaluate the current water situation in Albuquerque and project the community's needs taking into consideration climate changes and population growth which will impact future water resources. The Plan will ensure a long-term supply for the community and secure our area's economic development potential.

The Chamber's Board believes the key elements of the Water 2120 Plan—conservation, a diverse supply portfolio, new storage capacity and groundwater management and preservation—will position the greater Albuquerque area in such a way as to provide a reliable water supply while prudently managing and preserving our aquifer.

The Plan will make careful future investments in conservation, aquifer storage and recovery (ASR), stormwater capture, wastewater reuse and other options with which the community can preserve existing water supplies.

The Chamber urges the approval of the Plan by the Board of Directors of the ABCWUA.

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GREATER  
ALBUQUERQUE  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

## Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce

# BOARD POSITION

### *Background*

The Chamber has long supported the conservation, preservation and proactive management of our area's water resources by the City of Albuquerque. In 1994 the Chamber's Board of Directors supported the City in its efforts to develop and implement a comprehensive water conservation program that would result in a reduction of waste in water use, development of fair industrial water use policies, sharing of technology for conservation and reuse, implementation of water conserving landscape requirements, a comprehensive water education program and coordination of conflicting regulations and requirements.

In 2002, the Board expressed its full support for the City's Drinking Water Project which allowed the City to put its San Juan Chama Project water to full consumptive use while preserving the aquifer and protecting it from continued water table decline. And in 2004, the Chamber re-affirmed its support for the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, which was created in 2003, believing that a coordinated approach to administering water and wastewater would provide a foundation upon which to promote economic development, further conservation efforts, and develop local water plans.

The ABCWUA's 100-year plan will have four key elements: **Conservation**—since the implementation of the Water Authority's conservation plan in the mid-1990s, overall demand for water has dropped despite population growth, the Plan will build upon this success; **a diverse supply portfolio**—the Water Authority currently has six water supply sources—surface water, groundwater, aquifer storage and recovery, non-potable surface water for turf irrigation, and two reuse projects for turf irrigation—and the Plan would expand those sources with the addition of stormwater capture; **new storage capacity**—expanded use of reuse water and the addition of stormwater resources will require new storage capacity; and **groundwater management and preservation**—the Plan will establish a groundwater reserve, a “savings account” into which groundwater deposits will be made during wet periods and withdraws made during wet periods.

The Water Plan was introduced at the Water Board meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup> and will be heard for approval at the September 21, 2016 meeting.