

Summary of Audience Written Responses to Two Questions Asked at the Healthy Waters, Healthy Futures June 26th Community Discussion

Question 1: What is most important to you when you think about our region's water future?

- Many comments on the need to address habitat and environmental flows including ecosystem health, a perennial river, and a healthy bosque.
- Many concerns related to groundwater sustainability and over pumping of our aquifers.
- Many comments related to the need to balance water uses for human, agricultural and environmental uses, and to live within our means sustainably. Particular interest in making sure that all of these perspectives are heard and included in the future.
- Interest in expanding education around water – sharing more science and data, involving the public in conservation, and focusing on solutions.
- Some comments related to municipal water use, conservation and reuse – direct potable reuse, the need to maintain urban treescapes, and sustainable growth to continue to meet citizen's basic needs.
- Some comments about equity and consensus – some wanting to ensure that planning is collaborative and open while others were concerned about the influence of money, capital interests, oil and gas and other issues.
- Some comments on the need to learn from and incorporate indigenous perspectives into agriculture and fire resiliency.
- Different perspectives on the utility of our legal and physical structures – Some concerns about respecting water rights and historic uses and using the tools we have available today and others with concerns about the rigidity of our current system in the face of climate change and the need to reallocate water for the environment.
- Different perspectives about the future of agriculture – the need to reach a sustainable level of use, while supporting our economy and our local food systems that we depend on. Many comments about high vs. low water crops.

Question 2: What taxpayer funded policies, plans and projects would you like to see prioritized in a regional water plan?

- Strong interest in projects that improve habitat, including urban greenspace, wetlands, de-channelizing the river, removing invasives and improving ecosystem health and connectivity
- Strong interest in projects that allocate more water for environmental purposes with a goal of a perennial river.
- Strong interest in programs that increase education and participation.
- Strong interest in projects that support or are based on high quality data and monitoring, and the need to fill information gaps.
- Different perspectives on projects to address agricultural water use – limits on future agriculture, purchasing agricultural water for conservation, providing incentives for lower water use crops, rotational fallowing and the support of southern NM acequia growth etc.
- Strong interest in urban conservation projects – greywater, direct potable reuse, outdoor irrigation, and potential limits to growth.
- Interest in projects addressing stormwater capture and recharge.
- Interest in increased regulation – of the oil and gas industry and their use of water, as well as protecting our surface and groundwater from pollution.
- Interest in projects that support greater access for recreation.