

DRAFT ALBUQUERQUE BERNALILLO COUNTY WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY PROPOSED CONSERVATION MEASURES - Received by Reclamation 7/30/2012

1. Additional Storage of Native Water

The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (Water Authority) proposes to continue developing potential additional storage of native water at Abiquiu Reservoir. While perhaps ten years or more may be required, the Water Authority is proceeding with property lease and condemnation activity as necessary to increase the elevation of water storage at Abiquiu(6220 to 6230 elevation) . The Water Authority has been working with the USACE, starting a project development team at the USACE, determining status of contract modification with the USACE, and evaluating real estate considerations and NEPA analysis. In general, increased storage of water is difficult within the Middle Rio Grande, but could provide additional opportunities for the management of water to benefit endangered species and water users.

2. Conservation Storage Agreements

The Water Authority has agreements with environmental groups to potentially store 30,000 acre feet of water for conservation storage in the facilities where the Water Authority currently stores SJC water. While this activity is currently not allowed under existing permits held by the Water Authority, details are being negotiated with the ISC and the BOR.

3. Lease Supplemental Water

The Water Authority will consider potentially leasing water to the BOR within the Supplemental Water Program. This would depend upon availability of water, timing and amount of lease, environmental compliance considerations, the participation of others in the program and other stipulations. SJC project waivers continue to be a mechanism for BOR to provide fishery and recreational flows on the Rio Chama. Third party sub-contracting of Water Authority SJC water is not currently being done, but remains an option for the Water Authority, and other water users.

4. Continued Efforts Towards Water Conservation

The Water Authority operates a rate payer water conservation program and posts frequent updates. The program continues to meet required and previously determined goals ahead of planned schedules and will be expanded to increase effectiveness.

5. Continued Coordination With Water Releases/Diversions

The Water Authority will continue to coordinate with other entities. Specific releases and amounts of water may occur when it is feasible and can be accomplished with the diversion schedules and amounts necessary to comply with Water Authority operations and requirements. Closer coordination with all Rio Grande water users is called for within the development of the RIP of the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program. The Water Authority participates through development of the BOR Annual Operating Plan, and developing the Adaptive Management framework being considered within the Collaborative Program.