



Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority

Albuquerque
Government Center
One Civic Plaza
Albuquerque, NM 87102

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Approving Supplemental Agreement for INTERA to Continue Work on Water Budget Model and Support for Update to Water Resources Management Strategy

The Water Authority is in the midst of performing the decade (2017) update to the Water Resources Management Strategy (WRMS). The update is based on principles first articulated in the 1997 WRMS, and subsequently brought forward and augmented by the 2007 WRMS update. The current update builds upon and adds to previous WRMS strategies by focusing on ongoing replenishment of the aquifer coupled with a long-term plan for ensuring groundwater sustainability. In addition, the 2017 WRMS update seeks to extend the planning horizon 100 years into the future, while at the same time contemplating the potential effects of climate change to water resources in the region.

An extensive amount of work has been completed over the last five years in support of the 2017 WRMS update by the Project Team, which consists of senior Water Authority staff, INTERA, and several other consultants. The Water Authority is in the process of developing a water budget model for simulation and planning of various supply and demand scenarios, in support of future water planning.

The Water Authority convened a Scientific Task Force (Task Force) to review and evaluate the development of the model. The Task Force consisted of representatives from the Corps of Engineers, the US Bureau of Reclamation, the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and active and retired academic experts from the University of New Mexico. The Task Force included technical experts from a variety of fields including climate change, systems modeling, surface-water modeling, groundwater modeling, habitat management, river management, and economics. The Task Force provided feedback and comments in updating the model. The updates requested have been completed and the Project Team continues to update the water budget model on a regular basis.

The Project Team continues to engage the Water Authority’s Technical Customer Advisory Committee (TCAC) in its process on a regular basis. To date, the TCAC has provided input, advice, and

guidance on demand projections, supply projections, an initial list of possible future water supply alternatives, and the decision analysis criteria that will be used by the Project Team to perform an initial ranking of the alternatives. The Project Team has and will continue to engage the TCAC in all aspects of the work throughout the life of the project.

This contract will allow INTERA to continue supporting the Water Authority and its consultants with the ongoing development, design, evaluation, and communication of the 2017 WRMS.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Budgeted.