

Requests for information regarding the Project, as well as written comments regarding the scope and content of the EIS, should be sent by electronic mail to:

almwater@swca.com

or to:

SWCA Environmental Consultants
Attention:
 Alamogordo Regional
 Water Supply Project
 7001 Prospect Place NE, Suite 100
 Albuquerque, NM 87110.

For further information
 (para más información) contact:

Philip Rhinehart
 Bureau of Land Management
 at (505) 525-4426

When are the meetings?

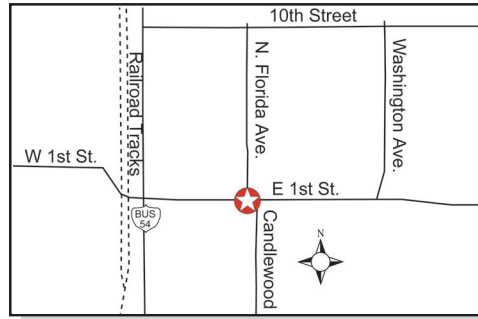
Public Scoping Meetings will be held at the following times and locations:

ALAMOGORDO

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Willie Estrada Civic Center
 800 East First Street
 Alamogordo, New Mexico, 88310

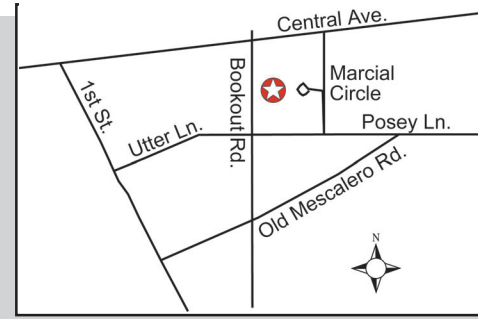


TULAROSA

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Senior Center
 1055 Bookout Road
 Tularosa, New Mexico, 88352



PUBLIC SCOPING NOTICE

ALAMOGORDO REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

This notice is an invitation for you to participate in the identification of issues and alternatives for the Alamogordo Regional Water Supply Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and attend Public Meetings.



History of Water Resource Projects

1983-
 Water Resources Study in Tularosa Basin: Bureau of Reclamation

1985



1992-
 10 million gallon reservoir constructed: City of Alamogordo

1990

1992-
 100 million gallon reservoir constructed: City of Alamogordo

1995

1995-
 Bonito Pipeline Study to explore problems with the line: City of Alamogordo

1996-
 Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Feasibility Study

1995

1998-
 Start of reduced surface water supply from the Sacramento Mountains

1998-
 Reclaimed water program for all public spaces

2000

1998-2000
 Drought that made ASR Project unworkable

2000-
 Covering and lining reservoirs to reduce loss by 500,000 gallons per day

1999-2003
 City uses all available surface water and still runs out

2000

2003-
 Office of State Engineer permit application hearing

2003-
 Desalination Feasibility Study

2005

2002-
 Tularosa Basin Regional Water Plan: City of Alamogordo

2002-
 City of Alamogordo 40-year Water Plan

2002-
 City decides against obtaining agricultural water rights for municipal use

2004-2005
 EIS for the Alamogordo Regional Water Supply Project



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Las Cruces Field Office and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Alamogordo Regional Water Supply Project in Otero County, New Mexico. The City of Alamogordo, New Mexico (City) is sponsoring this project.



BLM, Reclamation, and the City have contracted with SWCA of Albuquerque, a qualified environmental consultant, to assist with the preparation of the EIS.



What is the Alamogordo Regional Water Supply Project?

The current fresh water supply is not sufficient to meet both current and future water demands for the City of Alamogordo and the surrounding region. As a result, the need for the Project is to secure a sustainable fresh water resource for use by the City and the surrounding region.

The Project is proposed to help serve the water supply needs of the Alamogordo region by continuing to ensure water conservation within the City, and by treating saline water from the Tularosa Basin to meet drinking water standards.



The purpose of this EIS is to:

- ◆ Evaluate the potential for environmental and socioeconomic impacts as a result of the Project
- ◆ Provide an Agency decision-making tool that will compare and analyze project alternatives
- ◆ Serve as a public information document
- ◆ Track and document the process used to reach decisions
- ◆ Evaluate the consequences of not developing the project

This EIS will also consider:

- ◆ Proposed locations of Project facilities
- ◆ Potential water-treatment methodologies
- ◆ Procedures for effective regional water management

What Are the Decisions That Will Result from the EIS?



The BLM will decide whether to grant the City use of the proposed right-of-way for project infrastructure based on the results of impacts analysis in the EIS. Reclamation's decision will be whether to partially fund the project based on the results of the impact analysis from the EIS.

How Can the Public Participate in the Project?

This project is scheduled for completion in about 18 months. During this period, there will be opportunities for the public to participate in the EIS process. The first opportunity is to provide comments on issues and alternatives and to attend the upcoming public meetings.

Public scoping meetings will be held in Alamogordo and Tularosa, New Mexico, to present an overview of the Project and to receive input about the Project from interested individuals, organizations, and agencies. Informational mailings and progress notifications will be mailed to stakeholders and interested parties throughout the Project at key milestones to keep you informed of the progress of the Project.

Details about the meetings are provided on the other side of this brochure and will be also be announced in local media. Additional information about the Project is available online at:

<http://www.swca.com/arwsp/>

The pre-addressed and postage-paid comment form accompanying this scoping packet can be used to submit written comments at any time during the scoping period, which ends on October 25, 2004.

Once the Draft EIS has been prepared, the document will be available for public review for a period of 45 days. During that 45-day period, public hearings will be conducted to accept comments on the draft document. Written comments will also be accepted during that period.

Please return the enclosed Comment Card *postmarked no later than Oct. 25, 2004.* Please correct your mailing label if necessary — **If you choose not to return the comment form, your name will be removed from the Project mailing list.**