

VI RECOMMENDATIONS

Although the installation of a water and sewer system for the North Albuquerque Acres area appears to be a worthwhile idea, there are many different factors that come into play in this decision process. One of these is the competition for available funding. The study team believes that this is the primary decision criterion to be used in the installation of water and sewer services in the study area. Currently, Bernalillo County has been working to install or upgrade sewer services in areas in the Valley where groundwater contamination is occurring due to the high groundwater table and the widespread use of on-site septic systems. In comparison, the groundwater in the North Albuquerque Acres area is several hundred feet deep. Therefore, the primary recommendation of this study is that funding not be used for water and sewer systems in the North Albuquerque Acres area that instead could be used in areas for which the threat of and actual groundwater contamination from on-site septic systems is much higher or more imminent.

A summary of the preliminary cost opinions for the work discussed in this document are:

Sewer system cost	\$35.758 million
Water system cost-Rural/Domestic	\$23.951 million
Water system cost-Intermediate	\$25.336 million
Water system cost-Sub-urban	\$30.076 million

If other funding is available for the North Albuquerque Acres area that would not reduce funding for other higher needs areas, we recommend that the sewer system be installed first as it would have the greatest environmental benefit, would require the greatest construction disruption, and would much easier to install on a phased basis. Other recommendations are:

- The sewer system should be installed prior to or concurrently with the water system
- Phasing of the installations should be used.
- Begin sewer construction phasing in the far northwest as this would be the preferred first phase area for water service.
- Coordinate water and sewer services, especially crossings, with future work done on Eubank Boulevard and Alameda Boulevard.
- Coordinate with Sandia Peak Utilities about the possibility of increasing its service area to include 9ER water service. Because of the current location of the Sandia Peak Utility

reservoir and the anticipated difficulty of building a reservoir east of Tramway Boulevard, the study team believes that this is a best option for zone 9ER.

- Work with developers in the installation of water and sewer service to the area but taking care not to trigger the annexation requirement which sole use of private money may do. It should be noted that the zoning requirements from the sector development plan require both community water and sewer. All of the zoned areas that have this requirement are above the 5E water pressure zone and, as such, would require that a storage tank be built to provide this water service.
- Use at minimum the Intermediate scenario for the water system due to the relatively small incremental cost over the Rural/Domestic and the more equal application of fire flows. However, it would be preferred to install the Sub-urban scenario due to the relatively small incremental cost over the Intermediate scenario, the guidelines of the County Fire Marshall, the improved fire protection, and the improved equality of fire protection in the area. One of the primary reasons for the installation of a water system in the area is the fire protection it would provide.