APPENDIX L

CH2M Hill Hydrology Report

City of Albuquerque Public Works Department Water Resources Strategy Implementation

Hydrologic Effects of the Proposed City of Albuquerque Drinking Water Project on the Rio Grande and Rio Chama Systems

Updated for New Conservation and Curtailment Conditions

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Submitted by Prepared by Walter Hines, P.E. and Greg Gates, P.E. under the direction of John M. Stomp, III, P.E. City of Albuquerque, Public Works Department

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Executive Summary

Purpose and Scope

An evaluation was undertaken to estimate and compare the effects of alternative water supply scenarios for the City of Albuquerque (City). The two scenarios examined were the proposed new surface water diversion under the Albuquerque Water Resources Management Strategy (AWRMS) Drinking Water Project (DWP) and a regime of continued ground-water pumping — the No Action alternative. The main purpose was to estimate and compare the hydrologic effects of the DWP and No Action alternatives on streamflow conditions in the Middle Rio Grande (MRG) basin between Cochiti and Elephant Butte Reservoirs, with particular focus on the reach between Angostura and Isleta. Also examined were the DWP and No Action effects on

- The Albuquerque basin aquifer and shallow ground water in the bosque area of the Rio Grande
- Sediment transport and channel conditions in the Albuquerque reach of the Rio Grande
- Reservoir and river control operations in the Rio Chama below Heron Reservoir (referred to herein as the Rio Chama system)

The evaluation forms the basis for addressing hydrologic and related issues to be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) currently under preparation by the City of Albuquerque; and for Application No. 4830 at hearing before the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) for a permit to divert from the Rio Grande and fully consume the City's imported San Juan-Chama (SJC) water.

Opinions and Conclusions

Based on the evaluation summarized in this report, we offer the following major opinions and conclusions:

Overall Intent of DWP

- \Box The proposed facilities and operating plan for the DWP are intended specifically to protect the water rights of others and maintain flows in the Rio Grande, particularly during dry periods. The DWP also is intended to preserve a drought reserve in the local aquifer, minimize changes in shallow water levels in the bosque area of the Rio Grande, maintain the sediment transport regimen of the river, and maintain flows and reservoir levels in the Rio Chama system.
- \Box Based on the scientific and engineering evaluations completed by the City during the last decade, the City's future water supply needs to be built upon a project (i.e., the DWP) that fully consumes its annual allocation of imported SJC water.

Methodology Used in Evaluating Effects

- q Analysis of the Rio Grande hydrologic record indicates that the 1971-98 period provides a representative and appropriate basis for examining the effects of the DWP and No Action alternatives on streamflow conditions in the MRG basin. Use of the 1971-98 record, with the addition of a simulated 3-year drought and appropriate adjustments for the effects of pumping, surface diversions, and wastewater return flows, also provides a logical basis for simulating City water rights offset requirements and balances over the simulated period of 2006-60.
- □ The OSE interim ground-water model of the Albuquerque basin aquifer, coupled with an interactive 'spreadsheet model' of Rio Grande flows (built upon the adjusted 1971-98 hydrologic record), is a sound tool for evaluation and comparison of the hydrologic effects of the DWP and No Action alternatives. The two-coupled models are termed the AWRMS River Model in this report.

Results of Modeling and Hydrologic Evaluations

- q Results of computer runs on the AWRMS River Model indicate that under the No Action alternative (continued pumpage), a simple release of the City's SJC water from upstream storage cannot be effectively utilized to offset net effects on the Rio Grande. That is, with continued City pumpage to meet future demands, the full allocation of the City's SJC water cannot be utilized because the river does not leak to the aquifer at a rate high enough to require the full amount of SJC water [48,200 acre-feet/yr (ac-ft/yr)] to be used as an offset of OSE-calculated effects on the Rio Grande.
- □ Based on the 1971-98 period of record for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) gage at Albuquerque, mean annual flow was 1,410 cubic feet per second (cfs) with monthly means ranging from 2,900 to 3,200 cfs in May and June to 440 to 540 cfs in October and September.
- q Over the 2006-60 period (or 2006-40), the DWP and No Action alternatives will have quite similar effects on overall streamflow conditions in the MRG. In general, relative to No Action, the DWP alternative results in more water (about 65 cfs) in the river above the diversion point in Albuquerque (or Angostura), somewhat less water (10 to 30 cfs) in the reach between the DWP diversion and the City's wastewater return near Rio Bravo, and essentially no difference in flows at Isleta.
- q Evaluation of individual simulated years in the pre-2040 period representative of normal, low-flow, and drought conditions indicates that river flows under the DWP would be essentially the same or several cubic feet per second higher than under No Action. The higher DWP flows are especially prevalent at the most critical times (i.e., during summer and early-fall months of low-flow and drought years).
- **The ability to curtail and/or shut down surface diversions under the DWP offers a** decided advantage in terms of maintaining flows during critical low-flow and drought periods. In effect, the DWP can be operated during such periods to ensure more water in the river than there would be under No Action.
- \Box Simulation of water demands and pumpage under No Action indicates that pumpage would reach or slightly exceed the pumping limit under State Permit RG-960 of

155,000 ac-ft/yr by around 2052. In contrast, well pumpage under the DWP alternative would be about 65,000 ac-ft/yr by 2052.

- □ Projected drawdowns of the Albuquerque basin aquifer in 2040 approach or slightly exceed the OSE-prescribed subsidence threshold of 250 feet in small areas of west Albuquerque and approach 200 feet in small areas of northeast and southeast Albuquerque. Drawdowns in 2040 under the DWP are generally less than 150 feet in the same areas and less than 100 feet elsewhere.
- q If pumpage under No Action continued through 2060, large areas of northeast and east Albuquerque would experience drawdowns from pre-development conditions that exceed 250 feet. Corresponding 2060 drawdowns under the DWP would generally be less than 150 feet with the exception of an isolated area in northwest Albuquerque that could approach 250 feet.
- q Continued pumping of the aquifer under the No Action alternative results in the removal of 2.0 million ac-ft of water from aquifer storage through 2060. Whereas, operation of the DWP results in the addition of 0.2 million ac-ft of water to aquifer storage.
- Q Operation of the DWP will not cause significant changes in water depths and velocities in the Rio Grande below the proposed points of diversion at either Angostura or near Paseo del Norte.
- \Box The sediment transport regimen of the Rio Grande will not be affected significantly by operation of any of the alternative DWP diversion facilities.
- \Box Relative to historical conditions, changes in flows and reservoir operations in the Rio Chama should be minimal relative to historic (i.e., 1971-98) conditions.

Bases of Opinions and Conclusions

Supporting information for opinions and conclusions stated above is summarized below with additional details provided in the remainder of the report.

No Action Alternative

The No Action alternative basically consists of a continuation of the City's ground-water pumping into the foreseeable future with the City's conservation plan fully implemented as scheduled [i.e., 40 percent reduction in average demand from 250 to 150 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) by 2015]. Under No Action, City wells would withdraw water from the Albuquerque basin aquifer for almost all municipal and industrial needs through the year 2060 — with the following exceptions:

 \Box Up to 3,000 ac-ft/yr of City SJC water will be used for the Nonpotable Surface Water Reclamation project (CH2M HILL, 2000a) recently permitted by the OSE. The SJC water will be released from storage in Abiquiu Reservoir and diverted via a subsurface collection facility beneath the Rio Grande just downstream of Alameda Bridge.

 \Box Provision of City SJC water to honor existing contractual lease agreements with other entities totaling up to 2,600 ac-ft/yr through 2011. After 2011, all the lease agreements will have expired and no further releases of SJC water would be made for this purpose.

Although only small quantities of City SJC water listed above are assumed to be in the Rio Grande below Abiquiu Reservoir under the No Action alternative, this does not mean that the City SJC allotment of 48,200 ac-ft/yr would not be taken from Heron Reservoir each year. But because the timing, amounts, and ultimate uses for the City's allotted SJC water (other than the listed quantities) cannot be predicted, the hydrologic evaluation and modeling analyses presented herein address only the amounts specified above.

In effect, the No Action alternative represents what the City would need to do if the DWP project is not constructed. Or, in other words, how the City would attempt to meet customer water demands if the project to use its SJC water cannot be built.

DWP Alternative

Growing water demands in the latter part of the $20th$ century, and new research indicating that the Albuquerque basin aquifer is not as extensive or well-connected to the Rio Grande as previously thought, led the City to propose implementation of the DWP. The DWP will fully consume the City's 48,200 ac-ft/yr of SJC water to

- Move toward a sustainable supply
- Create a drought reserve
- Reduce the reliance on mined (non-renewable) ground water
- Facilitate compliance with the new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard for arsenic
- Greatly reduce the risk posed by large aquifer drawdowns and resulting subsidence damage that could occur under the No Action alternative

Wells would still be used under the DWP, but primarily to meet peak summertime water demands when such demands exceed the capacity of the DWP, and to provide water to areas not readily served by the DWP. Wells also will be used in the event of upstream spills of pollutants and during periods of severe drought and low flows in the river when DWP diversions are curtailed or shut down.

There will be an aquifer storage and recovery element to the DWP (maximum volume of 10,000 to 15,000 ac-ft/yr) whereby treated river water will be injected in City wells during off-peak months. The DWP alternative has the same assumptions for use of non-DWP SJC water as No Action (i.e., honoring of existing lease agreements through 2011 and provision of approximately 3,000 ac-ft/yr for the Nonpotable Surface Water Project).

The proposed DWP, with a start of operation planned for about 2006, is based on release of City SJC water from upstream with diversion in the Albuquerque area by one of three means:

- Use of the existing Angostura diversion dam (5 miles north of Bernalillo) operated by the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD)
- New surface diversion using an adjustable, low-head, crest-gate-type dam just north of the Paseo del Norte Bridge. The recently submitted Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) identifies this as the preferred alternative (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation [USBR], 2002)
- New subsurface diversion (under-river horizontal collectors) located north and south of the Paseo del Norte Bridge

Both the Angostura and new surface diversion options of the DWP would include intakes with fish screens and fishway bypass facilities to minimize impacts on river fishes. No fishrelated facilities would be required for the subsurface diversion option.

General Operating Plan for DWP Diversions

Under the DWP the City will continue to work closely with those agencies having responsibility in managing the flows of the Rio Grande and Rio Chama. These include the USBR, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the OSE, and the MRGCD. More recently, because of the critical habitat designation for the Rio Grande silvery minnow, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has become a more active player in flow management on the river. The City, in concert with the above agencies, will monitor snowpack, reservoir storage, seasonal weather forecasts, and other factors beginning in winter. As the critical warm weather irrigation season approaches (usually beginning in April or May), flow forecasts and river management decisions will be updated and specific plans formulated relative to the City's DWP release and diversion program for the coming year.

As discussed in Section 4, the initial years of DWP operation (from about 2006 to 2016) will, under OSE administrative guidelines, require the payback of additional river effects (i.e., river seepage to the aquifer) caused by the lingering effects of past pumpage. Thus, it is important that the City be able to take delivery and store in Abiquiu all of its annual allotment of 48,200 ac-ft/yr in the years 2003-2005 as a basis for a fully operable DWP in 2006.

Although the City's DWP release-diversion plan will undoubtedly change somewhat from year to year, it was necessary in this document to specify specific values of flow, release, and diversion under a hypothetical operation of the DWP to evaluate hydrologic effects. The scenario described below is intended for that purpose, and represents a worst-case condition for evaluation under the EIS and State Permit 4830. Deviations from the simplified release-diversion plan (which are fully anticipated under active management on the Rio Grande) will result in hydrologic effects less than those estimated in this document.

Assuming a diversion in the vicinity of Paseo del Norte Bridge, a simplified explanation of DWP operations is as follows. A constant release of about 66 cfs of City SJC water will be made from Abiquiu Reservoir. After incurring conveyance losses between Abiquiu and

Albuquerque, approximately 65 cfs of SJC water (on average) will reach the diversion facilities. There, a diversion of 130 cfs will occur throughout the year provided flows are at or above a threshold flow of 260 cfs (195 native, 65 SJC) above the diversion point. The 130-cfs diversion will include 65 cfs of City SJC water, and 65 cfs of native Rio Grande water, which serves as carriage water for the diverted SJC water. The 65 cfs of SJC water will be consumptively used within the City's Water Service Area (WSA). The 65 cfs of native water will be returned to the river at the Southside Water Reclamation Plant (SWRP) outfall below Rio Bravo Bridge about 14 miles downstream of the Paseo del Norte diversion point.

Under the DWP and No Action, there will be a reach (about 14 miles) of the Rio Grande between the point of diversion and point of return that will be depleted relative to native flows by around 70 to 100 cfs on average. (Actually, this reach is already being depleted by permitted pumpage under RG-960). Estimates are that DWP flows in the 14-mile reach will generally average 10 to 30 cfs lower than No Action flows (see Figures 5-6 and 5-7; and Table 5-2, Section 5).

To ensure that DWP diversions do not dry up or otherwise adversely affect the riverine ecology between the diversion and return flow points, the City proposes to implement a curtailment strategy as described below.

For the full operation of the DWP under a constant release-diversion scenario, the flow at the diversion point (assumed here to be just north of the Paseo del Norte Bridge) must be at least 260 cfs based on the following:

- A diversion rate of 130 cfs comprised of 65 cfs of SJC water and 65 cfs of native water
- A fishway bypass flow of 50 cfs on the west side of the river
- A flow of 20 cfs at the outlet of the sluiceway on the east side of the river to provide for downstream movement of sediment and fish past the intake screens

The minimum flow bypassing the DWP diversion will be 130 cfs, which is considered sufficient to prevent river drying downstream.

Thus, the total flow required to fully operate the DWP at 130 cfs is $(130 + 50 + 20) = 200$ cfs. However, in consideration of low flows recorded in 2002, if the river flow above the diversion point is less than 260 cfs, the flow to the intake will be curtailed to ensure proper operation of the sluiceway and fishway facilities, and to minimize depletion effects in the 14-mile reach between the diversion and the SWRP. This curtailment threshold ensures that the Albuquerque reach (diversion to SWRP outfall) will remain wet when the DWP is in operation. This curtailment threshold allows a factor of safety for unusual conditions and higher-than-anticipated depletions over the Albuquerque reach; it also ignores any inflows (e.g., Central Avenue wasteway from the Riverside Drain) that ordinarily occur but might be less-than- normal during low-flow conditions.

When native river flows at the diversion point fall below 195 cfs (total flow of 260 cfs with 65 cfs SJC in the river), the City will begin curtailing the quantity of the diversion by 1 cfs for each cfs of decrease in native flow, but will continue to release and divert the full 65 cfs of SJC water. As native flow continues to drop, DWP diversions will be reduced accordingly. When native flow reaches 130 cfs above the diversion, DWP diversions will cease entirely.

During periods of curtailment, the City will provide increasing amounts of water to the WSA from existing City wells. During periods of complete shut down of river diversions, the WSA will be supplied entirely from City wells.

If the DWP diversion point were at Angostura rather than near Paseo del Norte, the above plan would be identical except that the threshold for curtailment would be about 50 cfs higher (250 cfs after diversions by MRGCD) to account for additional losses in the reach between Angostura and Paseo del Norte.

Hydrologic Baseline

The hydrologic evaluation presented herein uses a hydrologic baseline developed from the 1971-98 streamflow and reservoir record for gages throughout the MRG and Rio Chama basins. This record was chosen because it is representative of (1) the long-term (>100-year) record for key Rio Grande accounting gages at Embudo and Otowi, and (2) the most recent operational program for reservoirs, river facilities, and SJC water importation and use that began in 1971.

The 1971-98 streamflow record was adjusted and aligned so that 1971 became 2006, 1972 became 2007, etc. to simulate future hydrologic conditions with the DWP or No Action alternatives in place. Adjustments to the historic record included:

- Removal of the historical (1971-98) City SJC water that was in the river at and below Albuquerque based on a detailed evaluation of Federal, State, and City records. A supporting evaluation detailing the historical release and use of City SJC water was produced for this purpose (CH2M HILL, 2002a).
- Correction for differences between historical (1971-98) and adjusted future (simulated 2006-60) pumping-induced effects on the river. Such corrections were made using the OSE interim ground-water model of the Albuquerque basin aquifer.
- Correction for differences between historic (measured 1971-98) and adjusted (simulated 2006-60) wastewater returns at the SWRP.
- Addition of a simulated 3-year drought to the record based on three 1972s placed 'backto-back' in the baseline so as to depict an extended drought similar to that experienced in the 1950s. Such a drought is otherwise missing from the 1971-98 period.

Evaluation of Hydrologic Effects

The proposed release-diversion schedule for the DWP was imposed on the adjusted record to determine the differences (or effects) of the DWP and No Action alternatives on river flows at key gaging locations above and below Albuquerque. Hydrologic effects were examined and compared for the simulated 2006-60 period as a whole, for the period 2006-40, and in more detail for selected years of normal flow, low-flow, and the extended 3-year drought scenarios. Analysis of water quality effects is provided in a separate report (CH2M HILL, 2002b).

Potential impacts on flow depths and velocities in the 'depleted reach' of the Rio Grande between the DWP diversion and the SWRP return flow point also were assessed. For the DWP subsurface diversion option, we also evaluated the likely impacts on riverfront

ground-water levels, particularly in the bosque area. Using the OSE interim ground-water model, estimates were made of 2040 and 2060 drawdowns induced in the Albuquerque basin aquifer for the No Action and DWP alternatives.

A preliminary evaluation of sediment transport issues was undertaken relative to the possible operations of the surface diversions at Angostura and Paseo del Norte.

Finally, a series of runs were made using the Riverware® SJC model to simulate No Action and DWP effects in the Rio Chama (in selected dry and normal years) on the ability to make deliveries to all SJC contractors, reservoir operations and water levels, specified fisheries flows, and recreational rafting releases.

The major results of all these evaluations are as follows:

Rio Grande Streamflows

• Mean Effects Over the 2006-60 Period — Mean DWP flows are generally higher than No Action flows by about 65 cfs upstream of Albuquerque, 10 to 30 cfs less in the reach between the diversion and SWRP return, and virtually identical downstream of the SWRP return. Also, examination of 'low-flow thresholds' of 130 cfs (representative of about 195 cfs in terms of historical flows) at the Albuquerque gage, suggests little difference between the No Action and the DWP. Under both alternatives, a monthly flow of less than 130 cfs occurs about 7 percent of the time at Albuquerque.

The simulated effects on river flows actually vary over the 2006-60 time period due to the interplay between ground-water pumping, the lingering effects of past pumping, wastewater returns, the quantities of ground water in wastewater returns, and the amounts of SJC water released over time. For example, during the first decade of the DWP, considerably more than an annual average of 66 cfs of SJC water will be released from Abiquiu by the City to compensate for residual seepage into the aquifer caused by past ground-water pumping and because less mined ground water will be discharged to the river in the form of return flow at the SWRP.

- **Normal Year (2023, based on adjusted 1988)** DWP flows are about 65 cfs higher than No Action above Albuquerque, about 22 cfs lower at Albuquerque, and essentially the same downstream of Albuquerque.
- Low-Flow Year (2040, based on adjusted 1977) DWP flows are about 67 cfs higher than No Action above Albuquerque, 26 to 29 cfs lower at Albuquerque except during months of curtailment when they are up to 40 cfs higher, and 60 to 70 cfs higher downstream of Albuquerque.
- Extended Drought (2024 to 2026, based on three-1972s) DWP flows are about 67 cfs higher than No Action above Albuquerque, 28 to 35 cfs lower at Albuquerque except in the May-August period of curtailment when flows are 0 to 32 cfs higher, and generally 25 to 43 cfs higher than No Action at sites below Albuquerque.
- **Curtailment Periods --** The higher flow conditions during periods of curtailment simulated for 2024-26 and 2040 above are typical of the improvements and flexibility possible under the DWP during low flows and drought.

Effects on Ground Water and River 'Net Effects'

The No Action alternative is based on ground-water pumping to meet all future City demands, except for the small quantities mentioned previously for the Nonpotable Surface Water Reclamation Project. As such, No Action will have a larger effect than the DWP alternative on the Albuquerque basin aquifer in terms of total drawdowns and drawdown rates. By 2040 drawdowns approach or slightly exceed the OSE-prescribed subsidence threshold of 250 feet in small areas of west Albuquerque and approach 200 feet in small areas of northeast and southeast Albuquerque. Under the DWP, 2040 drawdowns are generally less than 150 feet in the same areas and less than 100 feet elsewhere. By 2060, under No Action pumping, drawdowns throughout most of Albuquerque (Figure 6-3) are predicted to be more than 200 feet [including virtually the entire area recently designated as the critical management area or CMA (OSE, 2000)]. Corresponding DWP drawdowns in 2060 are simulated to be less than 150 feet, with the exception of small areas in northwest Albuquerque where drawdowns are simulated at more than 250 feet.

Localized drawdowns in the critical bosque and riverside drain areas along the river are difficult to model, but review of runs made on the OSE interim ground-water model suggests that bosque-area drawdowns under the No Action alternative could be 1 to 3 feet more than the DWP alternative by 2040 and beyond.

The subsurface collection facility is the only diversion option of the three under consideration for the DWP that will have a significant impact on shallow, riverfront ground water. Up to 3.5 feet of localized drawdowns under the bosque in the Paseo del Norte Bridge area is predicted under the subsurface diversion option.

Effects on River Flow Depths and Velocities

Relative to No Action flows, DWP flows will generally be 60 to 65 cfs higher above the diversion point and a maximum of about 45 cfs less in the reach immediately below the diversion point. However, the effects on flow of either the DWP or No Action alternatives will be quite similar over the entire reach covering the Paseo del Norte (or Angostura) to SWRP outfall section of the river.

An analysis of flow, cross section, and discharge measurements made by the USGS and the USBR were used to establish flow conditions and typical channel characteristics of the 40-mile Albuquerque reach. The method of Leopold, et al. (1964) was used to calculate 'hydraulic geometry' characteristics that were, in turn, coupled with the selected flow conditions to estimate changes in water depths likely to be caused by proposed DWP releases and diversions (again which would be quite similar to those changes caused by No Action pumpage on the river). Results indicated that maximum changes in water depths in the Albuquerque reach caused by DWP will be quite minor \sim on the order of ± 0.1 foot during a mean low monthly flow condition. During severe low flows (e.g., 100 cfs at Albuquerque gage), water levels could be reduced by up to 0.3 foot (relative to historic conditions, probably only about 0.1 foot relative to No Action) in narrowest sections of the river under the DWP diversion scenario.

Inspection of historic discharge measurements made in the river in the vicinity of the Albuquerque gage at Central Avenue (a narrow section) suggests that the reduction in flows of up to 65 cfs (from 135 to 70 cfs) immediately below the DWP diversion would have the following effects:

- Velocity—0.1 to 0.2 foot per second (ft/s) reduction within a typical range of 1.0 to 1.4 ft/s
- Width—20 to 30 feet reduction within a typical range of 70 to 130 feet, respectively

Effects on Sediment Transport

For the DWP alternative, the sedimentation questions relate to how the operation of a surface diversion at the existing dam at Angostura, or of a new diversion near Paseo del Norte, might affect sediment transport in the Rio Grande. Although specific hydraulic evaluation based on actual size and design of the diversion facility will be needed to fully answer such questions, several preliminary conclusions were made based on review of USGS and USBR sediment data and a report by Dr. Richard Heggen (2001):

- The relatively minor amounts of additional SJC water in the Rio Grande caused by operation of the DWP will have no measurable effect on sediment transport characteristics of the river.
- Operation of a renovated Angostura Dam (if selected as the DWP diversion alternative) to divert 130 cfs for the AWRMS project should have virtually no effect on the existing sediment transport regime of the river.
- Operation of a new 3-foot-high adjustable diversion facility near Paseo del Norte (if selected as the DWP diversion alternative) will effect sediment transport, but locally and temporarily rather than reach-wide and permanently.
- Below the diversion structure at the exit of the sluiceway and fishway, there may be accumulations of material; or in some areas, scour holes. Such conditions will be localized and manageable with monitoring and periodic maintenance activities.

Effects in the Rio Chama System Upstream of Cochiti Reservoir

To evaluate and compare the effects of the DWP and No Action alternatives on hydrologic conditions in the Rio Chama system, a simplified version of the SJC Riverware© model was used (CH2MHILL, 2001c) based on a computer code developed by the multi-agency Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model (URGWOM) Team (2000). The model focused on evaluation of effects on flows in the Rio Chama, particularly the capability to maintain historic summertime recreational rafting releases and winter fishery releases.

The DWP scenario evaluated by the Riverware[®] model had the full City allotment of 48,200 ac-ft/yr in the system, whereas the No Action scenario assumed no City SJC water in the system. As noted previously, there will be at least limited amounts of City SJC water in the system under No Action. However, the amounts are so small as to not be reasonably simulated in the SJC Riverware[®] modeling analysis done for this report. Thus, evaluation of the No Action alternative without City SJC in the system (CH2M HILL, 2001c) brackets the full range of possibilities for comparing hydrologic effects in the Rio Chama system.

Comparisons were made between simulated conditions with the DWP and the No Action alternatives based on the 1971-98 hydrologic record. As was the case for the evaluation of flows at the MRG gaging stations mentioned previously, 1977 and 1988 were chosen as representative of low-flow and normal years, respectively, for simulation by the SJC Riverware© model. A 3-year drought period was simulated by running 1972 'back-to-back' three times. Curtailed SJC deliveries (as described previously) occurred during both the 1977 and 3-year drought modeling scenarios.

Model runs for the Rio Chama system were used to compare the following:

- 1. Ability to maintain rafting releases in the Rio Chama below El Vado.
- 2. Ability to maintain winter fisheries releases in the Rio Chama below El Vado and Abiquiu.
- 3. Reservoir levels i.e., maximum and minimum volumes and elevations for the DWP and No Action simulations relative to each other and to those experienced during the historic (1971-98) period.

Results of the SJC modeling analysis are summarized as follows (see Section 7 for details):

- Summertime rafting releases and winter fisheries releases are maintainable under the DWP alternative. However, under the worst-case No Action assumption (no SJC water available), simulations suggest that some of the rafting releases could not be made in low-flow and drought periods.
- Rafting releases in summer under the DWP scenario require the early delivery of considerable quantities of City SJC water to Abiquiu Reservoir during the peak period of reservoir evaporation. Preliminary evaluation suggests that meeting the historical schedule of rafting releases could cause an additional evaporative loss of several hundred acre-feet per year of City SJC water (in some years) that would diminish the quantity of water available for the DWP. Obviously, the City would need such losses to be fully replaced or compensated to ensure a fully operable DWP.
- Regarding reservoir levels, model simulations suggested that the DWP alternative should not markedly change historic maximum and minimum storage volumes and water surface elevations of SJC reservoirs.

Section 1 Introduction

SECTION 1 Introduction

Purpose

The Drinking Water Project (DWP) and the No Action alternative (continued pumping), their operation and their effects on Rio Grande flows and the Albuquerque basin aquifer, are the focus of the evaluation presented in this report. Of particular importance are the estimated hydrologic effects of the DWP and No Action scenarios on streamflow conditions in the Middle Rio Grande (MRG) basin between Cochiti and Elephant Butte Reservoirs (with a focus on the reach between Angostura and Isleta). Also examined are potential hydrologic effects on reservoir and river control operations in the Rio Chama below Heron Reservoir (referred to herein as the 'Rio Chama system').

Background

The City of Albuquerque (City) plans to implement the Albuquerque Water Resources Management Strategy (AWRMS), of which the Drinking Water Project (DWP) is the key element, to provide a sustainable municipal and industrial water supply into the middle of the 21st century. Approved by the City Council in 1997 (CH2M HILL, 1997a), AWRMS is a multi-faceted project that involves diversion and use of imported San Juan-Chama (SJC) water for most of the City's future drinking water supply. Besides the Drinking Water Project (DWP), the overall AWRMS program includes a conservation program, aquifer recharge, reclamation and reuse of wastewater for irrigation and industrial needs, and several other elements.

The SJC water used in the DWP will provide a new surface supply for conjunctive management with the ground-water resources of the Albuquerque basin aquifer. Without the new SJC supply, continued pumpage by City wells would cause the aquifer to be seriously depleted and potentially subject to subsidence problems over the next 50 to 60 years (see subsequent section**,** *Effects of No Action and DWP Alternatives on the Albuquerque Basin Aquifer*). Ground water will still be used to help meet peak summertime demands and to provide most of the City's water during periods of drought or low flow in the river when DWP diversions are curtailed or shut off. In winter months when customer demands are low, treated river (SJC) water will be recharged into the aquifer using City wells.

Using one of three alternatives for diverting water from the Rio Grande, the DWP will allow the City to consumptively use its full allotment of SJC water for municipal and industrial purposes. A brief summary of the three diversion alternatives follows below. Refer to Figure 1-1 for location of near-river features. For additional details of DWP alternatives summarized below, see CH2M HILL (2001a and b).

- A. Angostura Diversion This alternative involves diversion of river water at the existing Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) dam near Algodones about 5 miles upstream from Bernalillo. The Atrisco feeder and/or the Albuquerque main canal would be used to convey water to a proposed pump station just north of the confluence of the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA) North Diversion Channel and the Rio Grande (about 1.5 miles upstream of the Alameda Bridge). A 66-inch-diameter pipeline would convey water from the pump station along the north and east sides of the AMAFCA North Diversion Channel to the City's proposed Chappell Drive water treatment plant (WTP) near the intersection of Chappell Drive and Osuna Road in northeast Albuquerque.
- **B.** New Surface Diversion Diversion would occur by means of a new low-head, adjustable-height dam located north of the Paseo del Norte Bridge. Conveyance would be by 66-inch pipeline along the north side of Paseo del Norte and the east side of the AMAFCA North Diversion Channel, and then to the Chappell Drive WTP. This is the preferred alternative identified in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the DWP [U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), 2002].
- **C.** Subsurface Diversion This alternative would be a subsurface (under-riverbed) diversion using perforated pipes or well screens ('horizontal collectors') constructed in trenches backfilled with gravel. The collectors would be buried beneath the bed of the Rio Grande south and north of the Paseo del Norte Bridge over a 1.5-mile reach. Conveyance would be by 66-inch-diameter pipeline along the north side of Paseo del Norte and the east side of the AMAFCA North Diversion Channel to the Chappell WTP.

In terms of effects on Rio Grande flows, the New Surface Diversion and Subsurface Diversion alternatives are considered essentially identical. The Angostura Diversion alternative, by virtue of its location some 19 miles upstream of Paseo del Norte Bridge, would have somewhat different effects on river flows (see subsequent discussion).

Each of the three DWP diversion alternatives would meet the same basic criteria:

- **Capable of reliable delivery of 94,000 acre-feet per year (ac-ft/yr), 130 cubic feet per second (cfs) or 84 million gallons per day (mgd) on average, of water from the river to the City.** This is about twice the City's usable SJC allotment (assumed herein at 47,000 ac-ft/yr) after delivery losses from Heron Reservoir). Diversion of twice the SJC allotment allows full consumptive use of SJC water with roughly 47,000 ac-ft/yr of 'borrowed' Rio Grande (or native) water returned at the City's wastewater treatment plant outfall below Rio Bravo Bridge.
- Pumping and treatment facilities are **sized for a nominal hydraulic capacity of 92 mgd,** or about 143 cfs, to permit flexibility in operation, response to unusual short-term demands, and to provide for continuous operation at 92 mgd in the future if water is available and demand warrants. Diversion and conveyance pipeline facilities are sized such that they could hydraulically handle future flow rates up to 120 mgd or 186 cfs. During peak diversion a maximum of 65 cfs of native water would be diverted and returned to the Rio Grande at the City's wastewater treatment plant outfall below Rio Bravo Bridge.

• **Diversion facilities must be 'fish friendly' to the extent possible**. The Angostura and New Surface Diversion alternatives assume the need for a fishway bypass and for a fish screen on intake facilities to minimize impacts on the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow (RGSM) and other fishes. The fishway bypass assumes the need for a minimum flow of about 50 cfs in a shallow 'V-shaped,' riprap-lined channel similar to a design developed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) River Analysis Group in Albuquerque (verbal communication, Drew Baird, USBR, 2000). A fish screen facility will be part of either of the two surface diversion alternatives.

Scope

The scope of this report is summarized below:

- Summarizes historical Rio Grande streamflow conditions, the importation of SJC water, and the City's use of and rights to water in the MRG basin (Sections 2 and 3).
- Documents annual and monthly flows of the river at gaged locations between Otowi and San Marcial and estimates the contribution of imported SJC water to native Rio Grande flows during the period of operation of the SJC project from 1971 to 1998 (Section 3).
- Defines the No Action and DWP alternatives, including an operational scheme for release and diversion of SJC and native Rio Grande water beginning in the assumed first full year of DWP operation in 2006 (Section 4).
- Defines a 'hydrologic baseline' using various adjustments to the 1971-98 streamflow record, including the historical effects of City well pumpage and wastewater returns on river flows and the use of the City's SJC water by others. This analysis is based on a coupled series of streamflow spreadsheets and a ground-water model [Office of the State Engineer (OSE) interim model] of the Albuquerque basin, which we have collectively termed the AWRMS River Model (Sections 4 and 5).
- Uses the AWRMS River Model to compare the effects on Rio Grande flows caused by the No Action and DWP alternatives in dry and normal (near average) years, and under a simulated 3-year drought (Section 5).
- Addresses the effects of the No Action and DWP alternatives on flows between the proposed diversion points (at Angostura or the Paseo del Norte vicinity) and the wastewater return outfall below Rio Bravo Bridge in south Albuquerque (Section 5).
- Estimates the potential effects of DWP and No Action diversions on depths and velocities of the Rio Grande in the Albuquerque reach (Section 5).
- Evaluates the effects of the DWP and No Action alternatives on water depths and flow velocities in the Albuquerque reach of the river (Section 5).
- Provides an overview of sediment transport issues related to DWP diversion facilities (Section 5).
- Compares the effects of the DWP and No Action alternatives on aquifer-wide water levels and changes in aquifer storage; and evaluates changes in localized, shallow water levels along the Rio Grande (Section 6).
- Uses the recently developed Riverware[®] model of the Rio Chama system formulated by a multi-agency group [Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model (URGWOM) group] (2000) to examine the effects of the No Action and DWP alternatives on reservoir levels, rafting water releases, fisheries releases, etc (Section 7).

Besides the narrative, tables, and graphs in the main body of the report, there are five appendices. Appendix A provides background on major river control facilities and operating procedures. Appendix B gives a summary of historical amounts of total SJC water and City SJC water in the river at Otowi and Albuquerque for the 1971-98 period. Appendix C includes historical annual and monthly streamflow data summaries for a number of MRG gages. Appendix D summarizes simulated No Action and DWP flows at a number of MRG gaging sites for the period 2006-60 and discusses 'loss factors' for SJC water used in the simulations. Appendix E provides an overall water balance summary (including OSE-calculated 'net effects') of the DWP and No Action alternatives for the simulated 2006-60 period.

Section 2 Water Resources Background

SECTION 2 Water Resources Background

The MRG basin encompasses approximately 12,000 square miles and extends some 150 miles from Cochiti Reservoir on the north to Elephant Butte Reservoir on the south (see Figure 1-1). The Rio Chama basin, adjoining the northwest portion of the MRG basin, is also of importance since it provides the means for conveyance of the imported SJC water to the Rio Grande above the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) gaging station at Otowi. As used in this report, the Rio Chama system includes those river and reservoir facilities on the Rio Chama that are operated to store and convey imported SJC water to the Rio Grande at Espanola (several miles above Otowi).

River Management and Control Facilities

The management of streamflow in the Rio Grande, including SJC water, occurs within the framework of the Rio Grande Compact. The Compact Commission, established in 1929, is composed of a Federal chairperson and one representative each from Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado. The USBR, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and the International Boundary and Water Commission are involved in determining the timing and amount of flow by management of reservoir releases from Cochiti Reservoir on the Rio Grande, and Abiquiu, Heron, and El Vado Reservoirs in the Rio Chama basin. As a result, for most years and seasonal conditions, and particularly during droughts or periods of debit or noncompliance as defined by the Compact, there are specific operating rules on the river.

Major river control facilities include two dams on the Rio Grande main stem — Cochiti on the north and Elephant Butte on the south. Above Cochiti there are two major dams on the Rio Chama— El Vado and Abiquiu, and Heron Reservoir on Willow Creek (see Figure 1-1). As detailed in Appendix A, Cochiti and Abiquiu Reservoirs are operated by the Corps primarily for flood control purposes, although there is over-year storage allowed at Abiquiu for up to 170,900 ac-ft of City SJC water (200,000 ac-ft, total).

Irrigation Facilities and Croplands

Between Cochiti and Elephant Butte Reservoirs on the Rio Grande, there are three diversion dams Angostura, Isleta, and San Acacia (diversions also occur immediately below the outlet works at Cochiti Dam). These structures divert water from the river to the MRG Project system of canals and laterals for irrigation of 50,000 to 65,000 acres of croplands, including up to 8,300 acres of Pueblo croplands. A series of riverside drains intercept and collect water, both surface water and shallow ground water, and convey it back to the river at numerous locations (wasteways)**.** Additional information on cropped acreages and a schematic of diversion and return flow points on the main channel of the Rio Grande between Cochiti and San Acacia is included as Figure A-2 in Appendix A. Note that in Figure A-2, there are no diversions for MRGCD irrigation on the Rio Grande between the

proposed alternate points of DWP diversion at either Angostura or in the vicinity of the Paseo del Norte Bridge.

Presently, much of the land bordering the river in the MRG basin (of which 50,000 to 55,000 acres has been irrigated in recent years) is managed for irrigated agriculture by the MRGCD. The MRGCD operates a vast irrigation network (known as the Middle Rio Grande Project) that includes more than 800 miles of canals and 380 miles of drains between Cochiti and the north boundary of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge above San Marcial. Riparian areas along the river are owned or managed by the MRGCD, Indian Pueblos, USBR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Corps, U.S. Forest Service, City Open Space, and several State agencies.

The aforementioned Federal and State agencies (including MRGCD) and local interests have all invested heavily in facilities to manage the flows of the Rio Grande. Since 1905, when Congress authorized the Rio Grande Project to control the area below Elephant Butte Reservoir, the river

"… has been converted from an essentially natural stream to a highly modified water storage and conveyance system with extensive flood control structures. More recent changes … enhance conveyance and irrigation … . Dams and levees have all but eliminated former seasonal floods … . Former floodplain regions have been converted to productive agricultural lands and, more recently, to urban communities. Irrigation diversions create low-flow conditions, and at times a dry river bed, in much of the reach downstream of Bernalillo." (Bullard and Wells, 1992).

Potential acreages served by the major diversions based on most recent MRGCD records are approximately as follows:

- Cochiti 6,300 acres (Cochiti Division)
- Angostura 12,000 acres (Albuquerque Division)
- Isleta 33,000 acres (Belen Division)
- San Acacia 12,800 acres (Socorro Division)

A graphical summary of MRGCD croplands for the last several decades — total, irrigated, and fallow lands — is provided as Figure A-1 in Appendix A. As indicated in Table 2-1, in recent years more than half the irrigated acreage in the MRG Project system was in the Belen Division.

Division	1997 Irrigated Acreage	% of Total	1998 Irrigated Acreage	% of Total
Cochiti	3,770	7	3,440	7
Albuquerque	7,210	14	7,180	14
Belen	29,100	56	28,600	56
Socorro	11,700	23	11,900	23
Total	51,800	100	51,100	100
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TABLE 2-1 Irrigated Acreage in the MRGCD System

Source: Bill Miller, URGWOM Team (written communication), November 2000.

A typical MRGCD irrigation year includes the following general schedule and operation.

March through May — The irrigation season formally opens in early March when the MRGCD begins diversions to 'prime' the main canals and ditches below the major diversions at Cochiti, Angostura, Isleta, and San Acacia. This is normally the beginning of the spring snowmelt period and average flow from Cochiti is more than 1,100 cfs, an amount sufficient to meet these initial diversion needs. Because actual irrigation is limited during early March, much of the water diverted for 'priming' flows back to the river via wasteways and drain returns. As more lands are irrigated in late March, river flow has increased correspondingly, and the river below San Acacia continues to flow. By mid-April, flows out of Cochiti are normally >2,000 cfs so that irrigation demand is usually easy to meet. Thus, the river normally has a strong flow past San Acacia. However, in dry years such as 1996 and 1999 when there was little snowmelt runoff in the early spring, the MRGCD demand can take most or all of the natural flow by San Acacia. The MRGCD's stored Rio Chama ('native' water) and imported SJC water is held in storage at El Vado. The MRGCD takes delivery of its allotment of SJC water annually and stores 'native' water as it is available, usually by capture during the spring runoff. With snowmelt runoff generally peaking in late May to early June, full MRGCD irrigation demand is ordinarily met with natural flow without the need for water from storage.

June to Mid-July — Natural flow in the river is usually sufficient to meet the MRGCD irrigation demand at least until the end of June to early July. This is often the hottest period of the year, and consumptive use by crops, riparian vegetation, water surface, and wettedsoil evaporation is at a maximum. Further, June is one of the driest months of the year in the MRG basin. July usually brings a recession of the runoff to the point that 'native' flows reach, and then fall below, MRGCD demand. Historically, this has led to dry reaches of river below the Isleta and San Acacia diversions, although in most years, the Isleta-to-San Acacia reach continues to flow from return flows from wasteways and drains. Return flows below San Acacia go to the low-flow conveyance channel (LFCC) rather than the river, again sometimes resulting in dry spots between San Acacia and San Marcial. Whereas in June there are usually few thunderstorms to provide local runoff to 're-wet' dry sections of

river, the monsoonal thunderstorms are more common in July; and wetting and reconnecting the dry sections of river is more likely to occur. When the natural flow drops below irrigation demand, water (both 'native' and SJC) stored in El Vado is released by the MRGCD.

Mid-July through October — Hot weather and high consumptive loss of water often continues in the MRG Project area through early September. However, this also is the peak of the monsoon season and there are periodic inputs of thunderstorm runoff that add to the flow of the river. Even with thunderstorms, the MRGCD must commonly supplement river flow with release of water from storage in El Vado throughout the mid-July to October period. Low-flow (or dry) portions of the river normally lengthen, except that thunderstorms can lessen the frequency and duration of such reaches in some years. The irrigation season ends formally on the last day of October, but irrigation demand diminishes considerably by mid-month. Curtailment of diversions, and returns and seepage to the river, cause increases in river flows beginning in late October. Release of water from storage in El Vado is correspondingly curtailed, allowing any water remaining in storage to be carried over to the following year. From the end of October through March of the following year, the MRG Project irrigation diversions cease (diversions in Colorado and northern New Mexico have also stopped) and base flow of the river insures a continuous flow throughout the Cochiti-to-Elephant Butte reach.

City's Water Resources

Water resources potentially available to the City include:

- Ground water from the Albuquerque basin aquifer. The City has a master well permit (OSE RG-960) that allows pumping of up to 155,000 ac-ft/yr of ground water so long as the effects of that pumping on flow of the Rio Grande are offset.
- Surface water from the aforementioned SJC project. The City has rights to fully consume its allocation of 48,200 ac-ft/yr delivered from Heron Reservoir.
- Vested and acquired surface water rights in the MRG basin amounting to approximately 24,019 ac-ft/yr as of December 2002 (the 2001 amount of 23,347 ac-ft/yr has been used for computational purposes throughout this document). These are consumptive rights obtained over the years for use by the City.
- Treated effluent from the Southside Water Reclamation Plant (SWRP), which discharges to the river just below the Rio Bravo Bridge (see schematic in Appendix A). The City receives return flow credit for this discharge.

Ground Water, Well Pumpage, and Relation to River Flows

Presently, ground water provides all of the City's potable water. The water comes from the Albuquerque basin aquifer, comprised of extensive sand and gravel deposits beneath the Rio Grande valley and adjoining mesas. These deposits extend from north of Bernalillo to south of Belen. The City currently pumps about 110,000 ac-ft/yr from the aquifer from a system of more than 90 wells located throughout the service area. In the recent past

(e.g., 1989) before implementation of a conservation program, City ground-water pumpage was more than 128,000 ac-ft/yr.

Customer demands, based on population trends [Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER), 1993], tempered by an ongoing water conservation program, are expected to grow to more than 160,000 ac-ft/yr by 2040, and to nearly 200,000 ac-ft/yr by 2060 (CH2M HILL, 1995). This assumes that per capita demands from 2005 to 2060 will be about 175 gallons per day and that population will increase at a declining rate varying from about 1.8 percent in the first decade to about 1.0 percent after 2040. With the implementation of a 150-gallons-per-capita-per-day goal, customer demands are expected to be nearly 140,000 ac-ft/yr by 2040, and to exceed 165, 000 ac-ft/yr by 2060.

The Rio Grande and the basin aquifer are connected hydrologically. That is, pumping of the aquifer lowers the ground-water table, which causes river water to infiltrate (or recharge) the aquifer. Thus, in the 1950s the OSE recognized the possible impacts of river water 'lost' to the aquifer and not available to downstream users or for Rio Grande Compact deliveries to Texas and Mexico. Consequently, the OSE began estimating the need for Albuquerque's water rights required to offset the net effects of the City's pumping on Rio Grande flows. Essentially, these effects are the estimated reduction in flow caused by ground-water pumping, less the wastewater effluent returned to the river at the SWRP below the Rio Bravo Bridge.

Technical studies in the '50s and '60s by the USGS suggested the City's pumping would begin having a negative net effect on Rio Grande flows in the late 1980s (subsequently revised to the mid-1990s). These studies also determined that river and mountain-front recharge and the large size of the Albuquerque basin aquifer provided the City with a virtually limitless supply of ground water. However, hydrogeologic studies and modeling investigations performed in the '90s (New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, 1992; USGS, 1993, 1995) suggested otherwise. Essentially, the size of the highly productive zone in the aquifer was found to be smaller than previously estimated. The new work further suggested that the effects on Rio Grande flows caused by pumping were less (i.e., less seepage from the river to the aquifer) than originally assumed.

The most recent published work by USGS and the OSE (Kernodle, 1998; Barroll, 1999) has added more refinement to the 1995 USGS ground-water model. The OSE interim model, based on the USGS computer code MODFLOW, is a three-dimensional model that simulates aquifer conditions in the Albuquerque basin. This model has been used by CH2M HILL in this report to evaluate the effects of City well pumpage on infiltration of water from the river to the aquifer. Selected details of the OSE interim model are summarized below:

- Number of Modeled Layers and Cells = 6 and 40,680, respectively
- Hydraulic Conductivity of Undifferentiated Rio Grande Alluvium, 150 feet per day. This value is considered to be on the 'high side' of values obtained from aquifer tests. So, use of the value of 150 feet per day in the OSE interim model leads to high estimates of losses of river water to the underlying Upper Santa Fe deposits.
- Hydraulic Conductivity of Upper Santa Fe Unit (overall, the most important layer in the model in affecting infiltration from the river to the aquifer) $= 15$ feet per day
- Specific Yield and Specific Storage $= 0.20$ and 1.0E-6/foot, respectively
- Anisotropy Ratio = 750 (ratio of horizontal to vertical hydraulic conductivity)

A complete description of the modeled area, boundary conditions, and other details of the model is provided by its authors (USGS, 1995; Kernodle, 1998; Barroll, 1999).

San Juan-Chama Water

Besides the irrigation needs of the MRGCD, the City, and other users in New Mexico recognized a need for additional water to ensure reliable future municipal supplies. Consequently, New Mexico Senator Clinton Anderson led an effort to approve the SJC project that led to preliminary Congressional authorization in 1956 within the *Colorado River Project Storage Act, PL 84-485.* The SJC project became a reality with *PL 84-485*, authorization of the companion Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, and initial funding of both projects through passage of *PL 87-483* in 1962.

The USBR built the SJC project (completed in 1970) to provide water to supplement native Rio Grande flows for irrigation and for municipal/industrial needs in the MRG; and to provide limited quantities of water to users above Otowi, such as the towns of Taos, Red River, Espanola, etc. The need for supplementing native flows of the Rio Grande grew first from the realization (as early as the 1930s) that the available river flows were inadequate for irrigated agriculture in the MRG Project area - a situation that reached critical proportions during the prolonged drought of the early and mid-1950s. Also, by the 1950s, it became obvious that additional municipal and industrial water would be needed for the rapidly growing Albuquerque area.

The completed SJC project (Figure 1-1) includes facilities to divert water from the San Juan River basin in southern Colorado, convey it through 26 miles of tunnels under the Continental Divide, and discharge it into Heron Reservoir located on the Willow Creek drainage, a tributary of the Rio Chama. Heron Reservoir was built specifically to accept and store the diverted San Juan water. The diverted SJC water is subsequently released and conveyed for additional storage at El Vado (for the MRGCD) and Abiquiu Reservoirs (for the City) before release via the Rio Chama into the Rio Grande at Espanola. The Nambe Falls Dam and Reservoir operate as part of the SJC project by storing and using native Rio Grande flows with offsets provided by SJC releases. Cochiti and Jemez Canyon Reservoirs (while not part of the SJC project) have been involved in the storage and management of some SJC water - although to a considerably smaller degree than El Vado and Abiquiu.

The Albuquerque Area office of the USBR, Water Operations Division, is responsible for operation and water accounting of the SJC project in accordance with project purposes and the Rio Grande and Upper Colorado Interstate Compacts. The diversion, storage, conveyance, and delivery of SJC water is accomplished by the USBR with technical review by the Engineering Advisors of the Rio Grande Compact Commission who represent each of the states of New Mexico, Colorado, and Texas. This is done to ensure that SJC and native waters are properly accounted for under terms of the various compacts.

Following passage of *PL 87-483*, the City executed a contract for SJC water with the United States in 1963 and amended in 1965. Construction began several years later and was
completed in 1971. The City's contract did not provide for its full 48,200 ac-ft/yr allocation to be taken immediately. Rather, for the first 10 years (1972-1981) only 17,700 ac-ft/yr was available, with the remaining portion of the City's allotment used to fill Heron Reservoir to ensure a firm yield for future SJC deliveries to all contractors. In 1982, the full 48,200 ac-ft/yr amount was first provided for release from Heron Reservoir to the City. Deliveries of City SJC water from Heron have occurred every year from 1972 through 1999, as have MRGCD deliveries (which also occurred in 1971).

To date (2002), City SJC water has not been used to offset river depletions (i.e., OSE net effects), except for 1994 when small releases of some 2,000 ac-ft were made based on offset requirements for 1992 and 1993 as calculated by the original OSE method (subsequently superceded by the OSE interim model). Since the mid-1990s, the City's vested and acquired native water rights have more than offset the calculated depletions. Because the City has not yet needed SJC water for municipal purposes or for offsetting depletions (despite City expenditures of some \$45 million on the SJC project), most of its SJC allocation not stored in reservoirs has been made available for other users (primarily the MRGCD) since 1972. MRGCD used about 41 percent of the City's SJC allocation of 0.94 million ac-ft between 1971 and 1998. Evaporative losses, water in storage (primarily at Abiquiu Reservoir), and City SJC water used by others (primarily upstream of Albuquerque) under other agreements also have made up more than 40 percent. Other uses, minor losses, and unaccounted water make up the remainder. Refer to Appendix B for a brief summary accounting of City SJC water over the period 1971-98. Additional details are presented elsewhere (CH2M HILL, 2002a, in press).

Rio Grande Surface Water Rights

The City became vested with ground-water rights based upon its history of ground-water pumping prior to the OSE declaration of the Rio Grande Underground Water Basin in November 1956. The 1956 OSE declaration resulted in a quantification of City's vested consumptive rights for Rio Grande ('native') water at 17,875 ac-ft/yr. The City also has acquired additional consumptive rights of about 6,144 ac-ft/yr as of December 2002. Thus, the total consumptive native rights owned by the City as of 2002 were 24,019 ac-ft/yr. As of 2001, the City had a total of 23,347 ac-ft/yr of vested and acquired rights. The 23,347 ac-ft/yr is used throughout this document for computational purposes.

Treated Effluent

The fourth component of the City's existing water resources is the treated effluent discharged at the SWRP and returned to the Rio Grande below Rio Bravo Bridge. Somewhat less than half (about 46 percent based on most recent City records) of the water pumped by the City is used consumptively. This is water that evaporates, is transpired by vegetation, or ends up as deep percolation, some of which may eventually recharge the aquifer. The rest — currently about $60,000$ ac-ft/yr — is discharged as treated wastewater to the river. Based on population trends and assuming that 46 percent of the water is consumptively used, return flow to the wastewater treatment plant is projected to increase to nearly 82,000 ac-ft/yr by 2040 and 98,000 by 2060 (see Appendix E).

Example Water Rights Balance

An example of how a total water rights balance might be calculated for City water resources in the year 2000 is summarized in Table 2-2.

TABLE 2-2

Estimates of City Water Rights and Effects on Rio Grande Flows Based on OSE Interim Model, Year 2000

The year 2000 was selected for analysis using the OSE interim model, the latest groundwater model of the Albuquerque basin. As shown in Table 2-2, application of the OSE interim model method indicates that in 2000 the net effect of the total City pumping on river flows was about 9,788 ac-ft/yr; and that the total water available to the City for future consumptive use was about 56,788 ac-ft/yr.

In actuality, the above water balance will change in each future year. If the DWP is successfully implemented in 2006, the water balance calculation will become more complicated owing to the use of diverted native and SJC water and a reduced level of pumping from the Albuquerque basin aquifer. However, the logic of the water rights balance will remain unchanged as shown below return flows at the SWRP plus the available native and SJC rights must be equal to or greater than the OSE calculated pumping effects on the river plus the net surface water diversion.

Rio Grande Water Balance

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE, HYDROLOGIC EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED AWRMS-DWP ON RIO GRANDE AND RIO CHAMA SYSTEMS, JULY 2003 PAGE 2-8 UPDATED FOR NEW CONSERVATION AND CURTAILMENT CONDITIONS

Section 3 Historical River Flows and Hydrologic Baseline

SECTION 3 Historical River Flows and Hydrologic Baseline for OSE Permit

For purposes of evaluating and comparing the effects on river flows of the DWP alternative versus the No Action alternative, it is necessary to define a hydrologic baseline. We concluded that the streamflow record for the 1971-98 period would best serve for such a baseline for several reasons:

- Representative of the long-term (>100-year) record of gaged Rio Grande flows, with the exception of the prolonged drought such as occurred in the 1950s;
- Representative of the period of imported SJC water in the river with Heron Reservoir in operation;
- Period of upstream regulation by Abiquiu and Cochiti Reservoirs and engineered channel improvements for flood control and low-flow conveyance;
- The most recent period and for which good correlative data on ground-water pumping, wastewater return flows, MRGCD diversion data, and other hydrologic information are available;
- The 1971-98 record had sufficient low-flow years to allow construction of an artificial 3-year drought similar to that experienced in the 1950s.

Evaluation of Historical Flows

To validate the use of 1971-98 period for hydrologic baseline, we undertook an evaluation of historical records from selected Rio Grande streamflow gages. The USGS gaging stations at Embudo, Otowi, and San Marcial provide some of the oldest continuous records of streamflow available in the United States - portions of which date to the 1880s. Other gages on the Rio Grande and Rio Chama have records that started in the 1930s or 1940s. In general, there are good coincident records of streamflow from gages in the Otowi-to-San Marcial reach for the period 1943-98. Good records for gages at Embudo, Otowi, and San Marcial are coincident to about 1900. A summary of available streamflow records for key stations on the river, tributaries, and irrigation/flood channels is provided in Appendix C.

The long-term record of annual flows at Otowi (Figure 3-1) shows that river discharge just above Cochiti has averaged 1,518 cfs during the 1900-98 period. Over the pre-SJC importation period of 1900-70, flows at Otowi averaged 1,492 cfs. For the period 1971-98, Otowi flows averaged about 1,585 cfs. As detailed in Appendix B, the 1971-98 period includes imported SJC water at Otowi that averaged 73 cfs. Subtraction of 73 cfs of SJC water from the 1971-98 flows at Otowi results in a mean flow of native water of 1,512 cfs for 1971-98 — within 1 percent of the mean native flow (1,492 cfs) for the 1900-70 period.

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It should be noted that by 1900, most of the irrigated development in Colorado and northern New Mexico was already in place. Thus, the 1900-98 record (at least on an annual basis) is reasonably representative of present-day conditions except for the added SJC water. Construction and operation of Abiquiu, Cochiti, and Jemez Reservoirs have undoubtedly had an effect on late summer and early fall river flows (more sustained) and in attenuating spring snowmelt peak flows. However, these reservoirs have had little effect on annual flows. As evidenced by Figure 3-2, there is an excellent correlation between the annual flow sequence for the Otowi and Albuquerque gages over the 1943-98 period. Thus, we reasoned that since the 1971-98 record at Otowi is representative of the last 100 years of flows on the Rio Grande, so is the 1971-98 record at the Albuquerque gage.

The gaged record at Albuquerque (Figure 3-3 and Appendix C) indicates that the river flows at Albuquerque have averaged about 1,410 cfs over the 1971-98 period. Based on our evaluation of SJC water in the Rio Grande since 1971 (Appendix B), approximately 19 cfs (13,494 ac-ft/yr) of this flow on average (and about 32 cfs in the July-October period) has been City SJC water — much of which has been used by the MRGCD for irrigation purposes. (See Appendix B, Table B-5 for a summary of estimated SJC water at Albuquerque and other MRG stream gages.)

What is lacking in the 1971-98 record at Albuquerque is a multi-year drought similar to that which occurred in the 1953-57 period (see Figure 3-1). As discussed subsequently, we inserted a multi-year drought into the 1971-98 hydrologic record at Albuquerque to simulate such a drought and the effects that the No Action and DWP alternatives would have on river flows during such a period.

The seasonal runoff pattern of the Rio Grande at Albuquerque is shown in Figure 3-4. The snowmelt runoff season generally begins in April and proceeds to a peak (typically >3,000 cfs in May or June). After June, streamflow usually declines through July and August and stays below 1,000 cfs (on average) through January before increasing again in March and April.

Relationship of Flows Between Gaging Stations

To further examine the 1971-98 record of river flows and its suitability as a hydrologic baseline, the relationship of monthly flows from gaging stations at Otowi, San Felipe, Albuquerque, Bernardo, San Acacia, and San Marcial were compared. The intent was to evaluate the record of monthly flows and the 'apparent losses' (differences in measured flows) between the gages and whether or not there were trends in such losses.

Mean Monthly Flows for 1971-98

Table 3-1 summarizes mean monthly flows for six gaging stations in the MRG basin for the period 1971-98. Flows at three of the stations—Bernardo, San Acacia, and San Marcial were based on addition of flows in the river channel and the adjacent low-flow conveyance channel (LFCC). At all gages, flows are generally highest in May (snowmelt peak) and lowest in October (prior to the end of irrigation season and after the summer thunderstorm season). Overall, there is a net decrease in measured flow in the downstream direction with one exception. San Acacia generally has more flow than Bernardo because of inflows of the

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Month	Otowi (cfs)	San Felipe (cfs)	Albuquerque (cfs)	Bernardo (cfs)	San Acacia (cfs)	San Marcial (cfs)
January	824	893	939	971	1,033	998
February	948	1,042	1,060	1,082	1,172	1,121
March	1,403	1,356	1,298	1,152	1,163	1,156
April	2,299	2,110	2,011	1,635	1,625	1,600
May	3,778	3,334	3,230	2,923	2,892	2,739
June	3,354	3,207	2,888	2,620	2,468	2,407
July	1,597	1,882	1,527	1,255	1,284	1,312
August	1,002	1,069	809	575	757	770
September	906	850	590	427	637	606
October	841	740	496	406	495	530
November	983	940	991	1,055	1,142	1,072
December	951	968	1,019	1,047	1,136	1,078
Annual Average	1,574	1,533	1,405	1,262	1,317	1,282

TABLE 3-1 Mean Monthly Flows at Rio Grande Stations, 1971-98

Rio Puerco and Rio Salado (and probably ground-water inflows) between the two gages. Note that numbers in Table 3-1 may differ slightly from those presented in the more detailed summaries in Appendix A and from numbers cited on various figures due to rounding and depending on whether averaging was based on daily or monthly data.

The 'apparent losses' between gaging stations for 1971-98 are as follows:

- Otowi to San Felipe 41 cfs
- San Felipe to Albuquerque 128 cfs
- Albuquerque to Bernardo 143 cfs
- Bernardo to San Acacia 55 cfs (gain from ground water and tributary inflows)
- San Acacia to San Marcial 35 cfs

An analysis was performed on the 1971-98 streamflow record for the above gaging stations to examine whether there was a trend in 'apparent losses' between upstream and downstream stations in Table 3-1. Results, based on graphical and statistical inspections of the records, indicated no trends. Thus, the above summary of 'apparent losses' between Otowi and San Marcial and between individual stations for the 1971-98 period suggests a relative stability in the total consumption of water by irrigation, riparian vegetation, water surface evaporation and/or losses to deep seepage to the ground-water system.

Although the 1971-98 period shows a stable relation of flows between gaging stations, a previous analysis (CH2M HILL, 1999a) suggested that the total conveyance of water to San Marcial from Otowi has become perhaps 10 percent more efficient over the 1971-98 period as compared to the 1943-70 period. This is probably attributable to improved conveyance management and the presence of the LFCC, which even though not receiving

direct river diversions since 1985, has acted to intercept seepage from the main channel (floodway) and convey it past San Marcial more efficiently than would have otherwise occurred. Another factor making downstream conveyance more efficient in recent decades is the channelization projects completed in the 1960s and 1970s by the Corps. Such projects have tended to shorten channel length and retard formation of oxbows and meanders.

Section 4 Hydrologic Baseline and Operating Assumptions for the No Action and DWP Alternatives

SECTION 4 Hydrologic Baseline and Operating Assumptions for the No Action and DWP Alternatives

To evaluate the hydrologic effects of the DWP alternative and compare them to effects caused by the No Action alternative, it is necessary to define operations under both alternatives, and their associated hydrologic assumptions and conditions. As explained below, the use of an 'adjusted' 1971-98 hydrologic record, coupled with projected water demands, forms the basis for simulating and comparing the hydrologic effects under each alternative over the period 2006-60.

No Action

The No Action water supply alternative for the City basically consists of a continuation of ground-water pumping into the foreseeable future. As discussed in Sections 5 and 6, such pumpage will result in increasing quantities of river water seeping into the Albuquerque basin aquifer and substantial amounts of water removed from aquifer storage (with attendant large water-level drawdowns). From a water rights perspective, the net effect of the increased river seepage (despite increased return flows at the SWRP at Rio Bravo) will be a loss of flow in the river in the Albuquerque reach.

Under the No Action alternative, City wells would withdraw water from the Albuquerque basin aquifer for almost all municipal and industrial needs through the year 2060 –- with the following exceptions:

- q Up to 3,000 ac-ft/yr of City SJC water would be used for the Nonpotable Surface Water Reclamation Project (CH2M HILL, 2000a) recently permitted by the OSE. This water would be released from storage in Abiquiu Reservoir and diverted via a subsurface collection facility on the Rio Grande just downstream of Alameda Bridge.
- \Box The provision of City SJC water to honor existing contractual lease agreements with other entities amounts to about 2,600 ac-ft/yr through 2011. After 2011, the lease agreements would expire and no further releases of SJC water would be made for this purpose.

Although only the limited quantities of City SJC water listed above are assumed to be in the Rio Grande below Abiquiu Reservoir, No Action does assume that the City's SJC allotment of 48,200 ac-ft/yr is taken from Heron Reservoir each year. But because the timing, amounts, and ultimate uses for the City's allotted SJC water (other than the listed quantities) cannot be predicted, the hydrologic evaluation and modeling analyses presented herein address only the amounts specified above.

In effect, the No Action alternative represents what the City would need to do if the DWP project is not constructed. Or, in other words, how the City would attempt to meet customer water demands if the project to use its SJC water cannot be built. No Action

assumes that the City's conservation plan is fully implemented as scheduled (i.e., 40 percent reduction in average demand from 250 to 150 gallons per capita per day over the period 1995 to 2015).

The No Action hydrologic baseline was developed in the following three steps:

- 1. Adjust the 1971-98 gaged streamflow record by removing historic City SJC water from the record (see Appendix B for summary of historical City SJC water).
- 2. Subtract from the adjusted 1971-1998 streamflow record the effects of historical City ground-water pumping and the effects of SWRP returns on river flows. This is based on running the OSE interim ground-water model to estimate historical pumping-induced river seepage and using the City's record of wastewater return flows.
- 3. Subtract or add to the flows determined in step 2 the projected future effects (2006 through 2060) of continued, full-scale, ground-water pumpage (using the OSE interim model) and SWRP return flows on river flows. Also, included in the baseline are: variable SJC releases made for existing City leases (up to about 2,600 ac-ft/yr) through termination in about 2011 and approximately 3,000 ac-ft/yr in SJC releases for the City's Nonpotable Surface Water Reclamation Project (through 2060); see Table E-1, Appendix E).

DWP Alternative

As discussed previously, the three DWP diversion alternatives are a modified surface diversion at the existing Angostura diversion dam, a new surface diversion in the vicinity of the Paseo del Norte Bridge, and a subsurface collector facility spread over a 1.5-mile reach of river both north and south of the Paseo del Norte Bridge. In a normal year of DWP operation, each of these alternatives would divert a total of 94,000 ac-ft/yr (or 130 cfs on a continuous basis) from the river, with about 47,000 ac-ft/yr (or 65 cfs) returned to the river at the SWRP below Rio Bravo Bridge. The most significant difference among the three DWP alternatives is the length of river that is affected (or depleted) with respect to Rio Grande flow. In the case of the Angostura alternative, the affected reach is about 32 miles – and some 14 miles for the new surface or subsurface collector facility near Paseo del Norte. (Note that under the No Action alternative there is also a depleted reach through the Albuquerque area due to the effects of pumping on river flows; see subsequent discussion in Section 5.)

The DWP hydrologic baseline was developed in the following steps:

- 1. Adjust the 1971-98 gaged streamflow data by removing historic City SJC water from the record (see Appendix B for summary of historic City SJC water).
- 2. Subtract or add to the adjusted record developed in step 1 the effects of historical City ground-water pumping and SWRP returns on river flows.
- 3. Subtract or add to step 2 flows the projected future effects (2006 through 2060) of the reduced level of ground-water pumpage (i.e., less than No Action effects) as calculated by the OSE interim model and SWRP return flows on river flows.

4. Add or subtract from item 3 flows the proposed release and diversion amounts for the DWP alternative. Again, in a normal year this will involve the constant release of about 66 cfs from the City SJC pool in Abiquiu Reservoir (reduced to about 65 cfs at Albuquerque after conveyance losses) and a constant diversion of about 130 cfs, half of which is returned at the SWRP. As was the case for No Action, included in the DWP simulation are: SJC releases made for existing City leases (up to about 2,600 ac-ft/yr in some years) through termination in about 2011, and approximately 3,000 ac-ft/yr in SJC releases for the City's Nonpotable Surface Water Reclamation Project through 2060; see Table E-2, Appendix E.

General Operating Plan for DWP Diversions

As has been the case since the inception of the SJC project in 1971, under the DWP the City will continue to work closely with those agencies having responsibility in managing the flows of the Rio Grande and Rio Chama. These include the USBR, the Corps, the OSE, and the MRGCD. More recently, because of the critical habitat designation for the Rio Grande silvery minnow, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has become a more active player in flow management on the river. With the evolution of the multi-agency sponsored Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model (URGWOM), and continued conference calls and meetings during critical times of year, the management of the SJC project and river flows and reservoirs on the Rio Chama and Rio Grande should become more efficient.

The City, in concert with the above agencies, will monitor snowpack, reservoir storage, seasonal weather forecasts, and other factors – particularly in the late-winter and early spring-periods leading up to the irrigation season (which begins in March). Preliminary decisions and action plans will be formulated as to how the City's SJC water will be managed, particularly in the case of likely low-flow or drought conditions, and whether or not surface diversions under the DWP will be curtailed or shut down entirely for several months in the coming year. As the critical warm weather irrigation season approaches (usually beginning in April or May), flow forecasts and river management decisions will be updated using URGWOM and specific plans formulated relative to the City's DWP release and diversion program for the coming year.

Objective and Conservative Basis for Evaluation of Hydrologic Effects Caused by DWP Diversions

To provide for an objective evaluation of hydrologic effects on the Rio Chama and Rio Grande through Albuquerque and down river, it is necessary to specify specific values of flow, release, and diversion under a hypothetical operation of the DWP. The releasediversion scenarios described below are intended for that purpose, and represent a worstcase condition for evaluation under the EIS or OSE Permit No. 4830. Deviations from the simplified release-diversion plan (which are fully anticipated under active management on the Rio Grande), will result in hydrologic effects less than those estimated in this document.

Diversion in Vicinity of Paseo del Norte Bridge

Figure 4-1 provides a simplified overview of how the DWP will be operated in most years assuming a diversion (either by surface or subsurface diversion) in the vicinity of Paseo del Norte Bridge. A constant release of about 66 cfs of City SJC water will be made from Abiquiu Reservoir. After incurring conveyance losses between Abiquiu and Albuquerque, approximately 65 cfs of SJC water will reach the diversion facilities. There a constant diversion of 130 cfs will occur throughout the year provided flows are more than or equal to a specified 'threshold flow' of 260 cfs just above the diversion point. The 130-cfs DWP diversion will include 65 cfs of SJC water and 65 cfs of Rio Grande water. The 65 cfs of SJC water will be consumptively used within the City's Water Service Area (WSA). The 65 cfs of Rio Grande water will, in effect, be returned to the river at the SWRP outfall near Rio Bravo.

Under the above plan, and assuming a diversion near Paseo del Norte (either surface or subsurface), there will be a reach of the Rio Grande between the point of diversion and point of return flow (about 14 miles) that will be depleted relative to native flows. (As shown subsequently in Section 5, the No Action alternative has a similar effect in terms of depletion.) To ensure that DWP diversions do not dry up or otherwise adversely affect the riverine ecology between the diversion and return flow points, the City proposes to implement a curtailment strategy as described below.

For "normal" operation of the DWP under a constant release-diversion scenario, the flow at the diversion point (assumed here to be just north of the Paseo del Norte Bridge) must be 260 cfs or more based on the following:

- A diversion rate of 130 cfs comprised of 65 cfs of SJC water and 65 cfs of native water
- A fishway bypass flow of 50 cfs on the west side of the river
- A flow of 20 cfs at the outlet of the sluiceway on the east side of the river to provide for downstream movement of sediment and fish past the intake screens
- A minimum flow of 60 cfs over or through the adjustable crest-gate dam

Therefore, under "normal" operation, the minimum flow bypassing the DWP diversion will be 130 cfs $(50 + 20 + 60 = 130 \text{ cfs})$, which is considered sufficient to prevent river drying in the Albuquerque reach, based on observations made in 2002.

Thus, the 260-cfs flow above the dam becomes a curtailment threshold intended to ensure that the Albuquerque reach (diversion to SWRP) will remain wet when the DWP is in operation. This curtailment threshold allows for potential depletions over the Albuquerque reach and ignores any inflows that would potentially vary during low-flow conditions.

Under "curtailment" operation, when native river flows at the diversion point fall below 195 cfs (total flow of 260 cfs with 65 cfs SJC in the river), the City will begin curtailing the quantity of the diversion by 1 cfs for each cfs of decrease in native flow, but will continue to release and divert the full 65 cfs of SJC water. As native flow continues to drop, DWP diversions will be reduced accordingly. When native flow reaches 130 cfs above the diversion, DWP diversions will cease entirely.

The actual quantity of diversion would be based on the equation shown in Figure 4-1. From the diversion dam to the SWRP return flow point, minimum flows will be about 130 cfs, minus seepage and evapotranspiration losses plus any gains due to returns, thereupon increased by the amount of the return flow at the SWRP.

During periods of curtailment, the City will provide increasing amounts of water to the WSA from wells. During periods of complete shut down of river diversion, the WSA will be supplied entirely from wells.

Diversion at the Existing Angostura Diversion Dam

Figure 4-2 depicts the DWP release/diversion scenario assuming that the diversion points were at Angostura rather than at Paseo del Norte. In this case we estimate a threshold flow of about 310 cfs (after MRGCD diversions for irrigation) at the diversion and a curtailment strategy similar to that described above for the Paseo del Norte diversion point.

Operations During Initial Years of the Project

When the DWP begins operation in 2006, there will still be a lingering effect of historical City pumping on the river. In other words, the City's past pumping has lowered the water table in the aquifer inducing continued seepage of native Rio Grande water into the adjacent aquifer. The effects of this additional seepage will continue for about a decade. In accordance with the conditions on the City's existing ground-water permits under No Action and the *Guidelines for Review of Water Right Applications in the Middle Rio Grande Administrative Area*, the City must offset both current and historical pumping effects. The City will meet these conditions by releasing City SJC water stored in Abiquiu. The estimated total water needed to offset the residual pumping effects, as calculated using the OSE interim model, for the period from 2006 to 2017 is about 102,000 ac-ft (see Table E-2). This quantity is obtained by summing the estimated annual release amounts and does not account for storage losses in Abiquiu. Accounting for seepage and evaporative losses, the estimated quantity of City SJC water needed in storage to offset the residual pumping effects and fully implement the DWP, including up to 3,000 ac-ft/yr of SJC for the Nonpotable Surface Water Reclamation Project, is on the order of 167,000 ac-ft or more, as described below.

At the end of 2002, the USBR indicated that the City had approximately 31,000 ac-ft of SJC water remaining in Abiquiu. For the years 2003 through 2005, the City's annual allotment of SJC water totals 144,600 ac-ft (approximately 136,000 after evaporative losses for storage to 2006). The total amount of water available in 2006 in Abiquiu will be essentially equal to the amount necessary to fully implement the project as illustrated in Table 4-1.

Part of the reason for the 102,000 ac-ft offset required over the 2006-16 period relates to the fact that not as much ground water will be returned to the river via the SWRP outfall as previously returned. Thus, the residual pumping effects and the lower ground-water return

Figure 4-2. Summary of Release/Diversion Scenario for DWP and Relation to River Flows Assuming Diversion at Angostura Diversion Dam Above Bernalillo

TABLE 4-1 Summary of City SJC Water Needed and Potentially Available for Full Operation During the Initial Years of the Project

will combine to make a water rights deficit of 20,000± ac-ft in early DWP years (shown as Future "Deficit" in Figure 4-3 (a)). The City will mitigate this deficit with additional (or supplemental) releases of SJC water (again, some 102,000 ac-ft in total) from storage in Abiquiu Reservoir during the first decade of the project (as indicated in Table 4-1) and through use of its vested and acquired water rights. As the effects of historical City pumping on the river are dissipated, and under much reduced levels of pumping under the DWP, the seepage rate and deficit will decline such that additional releases of SJC will no longer be needed after about 2017 (see Table E-2, Appendix E).

Besides the additional releases of SJC in early project years, the DWP also will have an aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) component. Details of ASR operation, including an operating permit from OSE, have yet to be worked out. However, the general scheme in Figure 4-3(b) shows how the proposed ASR will be operated on a seasonal basis. The Chappell WTP will operate at an essentially constant rate of 84 mgd or 130 cfs. Peak summer demands, which are considerably higher than WTP capacity (shown at 200 mgd as representative of about 2006 or 2007 in Figure 4-3(b)) would be met with City well pumpage. During low-demand periods, typically October through March, the WTP would be producing sufficient water to allow the wells to be turned off. During this period, recharge would be affected by injection into City wells. The water available for recharge would be highest (about 10,000 to 15,000 ac-ft/yr) during early project years, and gradually decline to zero in later years. The amounts of water involved, number of recharge wells, and other aspects of the ASR program are currently (August 2003) under development.

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(a) Summary of DWP Water Balance with Future Deficit Year Depletions Made Up With Extra Release of City SJC from Storage

(**b) Under DWP, City Wells will be Turned On in Warm Months to Meet Peak Demands and Turned Off and Used for Aquifer Recharge in Cool Months**

Figure 4-3. Summary of DWP Water Balance In Early Project Years and Seasonal Scheme for Well Pumpage, Recharge, and Surface Diversion

Section 5 Effects of No Action and DWP Alternatives on River Flows

SECTION 5 Effects of No Action and DWP Alternatives on River Flows

Evaluation Approach—Coupling the OSE Interim Model with the 1971-98 Adjusted Flow Record

Based on the adjusted hydrologic baseline used for the 1971-98 period described in Section 4, monthly river flows were developed for the No Action and DWP alternatives at the following gaging sites between Cochiti Reservoir and San Marcial on the Rio Grande:

- San Felipe
- Albuquerque
- Isleta
- San Acacia
- San Marcial

As mentioned previously, the Isleta flows are estimated (i.e., flows are not actually gaged at this location) and based on development of a record with additions and subtractions to the 1971-98 gaged record at Albuquerque. These additions and subtractions include those made for SJC releases (see Appendix D for discussion of SJC loss factors used), DWP diversions, river effects (leakage to the aquifer) due to City ground-water pumping, wastewater returns at the SWRP outfall below Rio Bravo Bridge, and an assumption of MRGCD drain return flows of about 220 cfs above the Isleta diversion dam. Such return flows are, in fact, variable from month to month and year to year, but have been assumed as 220 cfs for purposes of consistency in this analysis.

Essentially, the approach for evaluating the effects of the No Action and DWP alternatives on Rio Grande flows involved coupling of the OSE interim ground-water model with the hydrologic baseline of river flows for the 1971-98 period described in Section 4.

The OSE interim model is integrated with a number of output processing tools and spreadsheets as described in detail in CD_README.doc, distributed as part of the CD ROM titled *City of Albuquerque Data Distribution for OSE Diversion Permit Application No. 4830*. In general, OSE model results of predicted aquifer head and predicted inflow to the aquifer from the surface water system (OSE river effects) are used to examine the total drawdown from pre-development and the City's portion of predicted river effects, respectively.

The OSE interim model was used to simulate the effects of future pumping on river flows (i.e., pumpage induces leakage from the river, which reduces river flows through the Albuquerque reach). The changes in leakage estimated by the OSE interim model were used to adjust the Albuquerque gage record as a basis for comparison of flows under the No Action and DWP alternatives over the 2006-60 simulated period.

The OSE interim model utilizes an annual time step whereas the baseline river flows are monthly. Although City pumpage varies monthly, the effects of pumpage on river leakage are delayed and tend to be relatively constant over the year. Thus, the annual estimates of leakage generated by the interim model were assumed to occur evenly in 12 increments from which subtractions could be made from the baseline of monthly streamflow values.

With the pumping-induced adjustments and future return flows input into the 1971-98 baseline flow data, the basic approach was to align the first year's adjusted flow record (1971) with the anticipated DWP starting year 2006, then put 1972 as 2007, ... 1985 as 2020, etc. A 3-year drought was inserted (based on 3-1972s) as future years 2024, 2025, and 2026. The adjusted 1971-98 record was repeated again beginning in 2034 (i.e., 1971 became 2034, 1972 was 2035, and 1985 was 2048, etc.). The 3-year drought was not repeated in the second array.

Comparison of flows for the No Action and DWP alternatives was then completed for the 2006-60 period as a whole and for dry, normal, and extended drought conditions.

Effects at Gaged Sites, 2006 to2060

Figures 5-1(a - e) depict hydrographs of No Action and DWP effects at five sites on the Rio Grande between San Felipe and San Marcial over the entire 2006-60 period. At the graphical scale used, there is no discernable difference between No Action and DWP flows for the simulated period of 2006 to 2060. Comparison of summary statistics in Appendix D suggests that average DWP flows over the 2006-60 period are essentially identical to No Action flows for all stations downstream of Albuquerque. At Albuquerque where the gage is in the temporary 'depleted reach' between Paseo del Norte and Rio Bravo, DWP flows are, on average, 22 cfs less than No Action flows (see Figure 5-2 and Tables D-2 and D-4 in Appendix D). Above Albuquerque at San Felipe and Cochiti, DWP flows are generally 65 cfs higher than No Action flows owing to the SJC releases from Abiquiu.

To examine hydrologic effects in more detail, we focused on differences in flow caused by the No Action and DWP alternatives in terms of the low-flow thresholds described previously in Section 4. The full operation of the DWP alternative for a diversion near Paseo del Norte will require a flow of 260 cfs (195 cfs native and 65 cfs SJC) at the diversion point above the Paseo del Norte Bridge. A flow of 260 cfs at the diversion point is 'historically equivalent' to a flow of about 195 cfs at the Albuquerque gage. As shown in Appendix C and Figure 5-2, a flow of 195 cfs is considerably less than the mean monthly low for the 1971-98 period of 492 cfs.

Figure 5-1a - Hydrograph for Rio Grande at San Felipe - 2006-2060

Figure 5-1b - Hydrograph for Rio Grande at Albuquerque - 2006-2060

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Figure 5-1d - Hydrograph for Rio Grande at San Acacia - 2006-2060

AWRMS DWP No Action Γ

Figure 5-1e - Hydrograph for Rio Grande at San Marcial - 2006-2060

As depicted in Figure 4-1, after flows drop below 260 cfs, DWP diversions will be curtailed and eventually shut down when flow at the Albuquerque gage reaches about 130 cfs. It is difficult to put a valid statistical perspective on the frequency of a flow of 195 cfs at Albuquerque given the upstream reservoir regulation (since the early 1970s) and the additions of SJC water (especially since 1981) during the seasonal low-flow periods. Our evaluation of the record suggests that a mean monthly flow of 195 cfs at Albuquerque (reduced to 130 cfs with the DWP in operation) will probably have a recurrence interval of about once every 7 to 10 years.

Table 5-1 summarizes the number of times that a flow of less than 130 cfs was calculated to occur over the simulated 2006-60 period at Albuquerque, for the No Action and DWP alternatives. Again, there is virtually no difference in the alternatives. In 47 to 46 months out of 660 (about 7 percent of the months), flows are less than 130 cfs at Albuquerque for either No Action or DWP alternatives, respectively.

Hydrologic Effects During Selected Years

We used the array of annual flows at Albuquerque for the 1971-98 period to select normal, low-flow, and extended drought years for closer comparison of the effects of No Action and DWP alternatives on river flow.

Normal Year ¾ 2023

The year 1988 (adjusted as described previously) was inserted into our baseline array as 2023. The mean gaged flow at Albuquerque in 1988 was about 1,210 cfs as compared to 1,410 cfs for the 1971-98 gaged record as a whole.

Figures 5-3(a – e) use the adjusted record for 1988 (2023 in the adjusted array) to compare No Action vs. DWP hydrographs on a monthly basis for San Felipe, Albuquerque, Isleta, San Acacia, and San Marcial. The hydrographs at all stations generally show only small differences between DWP vs. No Action flows:

- San Felipe DWP flows generally about 65 cfs higher than No Action
- Albuquerque DWP flows generally 22 cfs lower than No Action
- Isleta, San Acacia, San Marcial DWP and No Action flows essentially identical

Low-Flow Year ¾ 2040

The year 1977 (adjusted as described previously) was inserted into our baseline array as 2040. The mean gaged flow at Albuquerque in 1977 was about 340 cfs as compared to a mean flow of 1,410 cfs for the 1971-98 period.

Table 5-1. Effects of RG-960 and DWP on Low Flows in Albuquerque Reach

Figure 5-3a - Hydrograph for Rio Grande at San Felipe, 2023 (Adjusted Normal Year, 1988)

AWRMS DWP No Action Г.

Figure 5-3b - Hydrograph for Rio Grande at Albuquerque, 2023 (Adjusted Normal Year, 1988)

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Figure 5-3c - Hydrograph for Rio Grande at Isleta, 2023 (Adjusted Normal Year, 1988)

- AWRMS DWP No Action

Figure 5-3d - Hydrograph for Rio Grande at San Acacia, 2023 (Adjusted Normal Year, 1988)

Figure 5-3e - Hydrograph for Rio Grande at San Marcial, 2023 (Adjusted Normal Year, 1988)

AWRMS DWP No Action E

Figures $5-4(a - e)$ use the adjusted record for 1977 (or 2040) to compare No Action vs. DWP on a monthly basis for San Felipe, Albuquerque, Isleta, San Acacia, and San Marcial. The hydrographs at all stations show considerably more differences than for a normal year (2023) between DWP vs. No Action alternatives:

- San Felipe DWP flows generally 67 cfs higher than No Action, except in the April-May and September-October period when flows are coincident because of DWP curtailment caused by low flows at Albuquerque.
- Albuquerque DWP flows generally 26 to 29 cfs lower than No Action, except during periods of diversion curtailment in April-May and September-October when DWP flows are 39 cfs higher in April-May and 0 to 31 cfs higher in September-October. Note that flows for No Action are at or near zero in September and October.
- At Isleta, San Acacia, and San Marcial, DWP flows are about 3 to 6 cfs higher in January-March and November-December, 0 to 12 cfs lower in June-August, and 30 to 70 cfs higher during curtailment months of April-May and September-October. Note that at San Acacia and San Marcial, flows are at or near zero in May, June, July, and October for both No Action and DWP scenarios.

Extended Drought ¾ 2024 to 2026

The year 1972 (adjusted as described previously) was placed back-to-back and inserted into the baseline array as 2024-26 to simulate an extended drought. As shown in Table C-3, Appendix C, the mean annual flow in 1972 (478 cfs) is in the range experienced during the severe drought of 1953-56 (296 to 494 cfs). The monthly flows in 1972 at Albuquerque were at or near zero in May, June, July, and August and at or near-zero at San Acacia and San Marcial in April, May, June and July. Thus, 1972 was in many ways more severe than 1977 in terms of zero or near-zero flows.

Figures 5-5(a - e) use the adjusted record for 1972 (repeated thrice in our adjusted array as 2024, 2025, and 2026) to compare No Action vs. DWP on a monthly basis for San Felipe, Albuquerque, Isleta, San Acacia, and San Marcial. The hydrographs at all stations generally show only small difference between DWP vs. No Action flows:

- San Felipe DWP flows generally 67 cfs higher than No Action, except in the May-August period when DWP releases and diversions are curtailed because of low flow in the Albuquerque reach.
- Albuquerque DWP flows generally 28 to 35 cfs lower than No Action, except in the May-August curtailment periods of each year when they are 0 to 32 cfs higher.
- Isleta, San Acacia, and San Marcial DWP flows range from slightly higher (about 3 cfs) to slightly lower than No Action flows (about 10 cfs) except during curtailment months when DWP flows are from 25 to 43 cfs greater than No Action flows. Flows at San Acacia and San Marcial are near zero for May and June for all 3 drought years.

Figure 5-4a - Hydrograph for Rio Grande at San Felipe, 2040 (Adjusted Low Flow Year, 1977)

AWRMS DWP No Action E

Figure 5-4c - Hydrograph for Rio Grande at Isleta, 2040 (Adjusted Low Flow Year, 1977)

E - AWRMS DWP No Action

Figure 5-4d - Hydrograph for Rio Grande at San Acacia, 2040 (Adjusted Low Flow Year, 1977)

Figure 5-4e - Hydrograph for Rio Grande at San Marcial, 2040 (Adjusted Low Flow Year, 1977)

- AWRMS DWP No Action Ŀ

Figure 5-5a - Hydrograph for Rio Grande at San Felipe - 2024,25,26 (Adjusted extended drought, 1972 repeated 3 times)

Figure 5-5c - Hydrograph for Rio Grande at Isleta - 2024, 25, 26 (Adjusted extended drought, 1972 repeated 3 times)

Figure 5-5d - Hydrograph for Rio Grande at San Acacia - 2024, 25, 26 (Adjusted extended drought, 1972 repeated 3 times)

0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200 1400 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 **Month Flow (cfs) AWRMS DWP** No Action

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE, HYDROLOGIC EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED AWRMS-DWP ON RIO GRANDE AND RIO CHAMA SYSTEMS, JULY 2003 PAGE 5-16 UPDATED FOR NEW CONSERVATION AND CURTAILMENT CONDITIONS

Summary of River Effects

Using the previously described OSE interim ground-water model and the various releasediversion scenarios and adjustments to the 1971-98 hydrologic record, graphs and tables were produced summarizing effects of the No Action and DWP alternatives on the Rio Grande.

Effects in Individual Years, Diversion in Vicinity of Paseo del Norte

Figures 5-6 and 5-7 show the relative effect of the No Action and DWP alternatives in terms of river depletions in the Albuquerque reach between the Bernalillo County line (about 1.5 miles north of Alameda Bridge) and the I-25 Bridge a few miles north of Isleta. Figure 5-6 depicts the effects on river flows in 2030, a near normal runoff year for the Rio Grande. Note the average annual depletion in flows of 130 cfs (65 cfs of native water and 65 cfs of SJC water) occurs at the assumed DWP diversion point above Paseo del Norte Bridge, and that the depletion is almost entirely restored by the return flow from the City SWRP just below Rio Bravo Boulevard. The depletion caused by the No Action alternative is quite similar, with flow a few cubic feet per second lower below Rio Bravo and I-25 Bridge.

Figure 5-7 depicts river flows in 2040, a severe dry year for runoff in the Rio Grande (2040 is built upon the 1977 hydrologic record). As with Figure 5-6, Figure 5-7 shows depletion from a zero baseline to compare the differences in effects due to DWP vs. the No Action alternative. Added to Figure 5-7 is a red line that depicts the depletions that would occur during a month of curtailment in diversion under the DWP alternative. As was the case for the 2030 conditions, the average depletions in flows are similar across the Albuquerque reach for both No Action and DWP scenarios. The No Action alternative results in a lower flow (5 to 20 cfs lower) in the river below Rio Bravo. Note that there is a marked improvement (about 66 cfs more than No Action) in flows during a curtailment month under the DWP alternative (see red line). This improvement points to a clear advantage of the DWP alternative in low-flow months. That is, because of the ability to stop diversions under the DWP alternative, flow depletions in the Albuquerque reach would be considerably less than under the No Action alternative. Also, flows at downstream gaging stations on the river would be higher during curtailment periods under DWP than for the No Action alternative.

Effects in Individual Years, Diversion at the Existing Angostura Dam

Figures 5-8 and 5-9 show the relative effect of the No Action and DWP alternatives in terms of river depletions in the Albuquerque reach between the Angostura Dam and the I-25 Bridge a few miles north of Isleta with an assumed DWP diversion at Angostura. As with Figure 5-6, Figure 5-8 depicts the effects on river flows in 2030. Again, the average annual depletion in flows of 130 cfs (65 cfs of native water and 65 cfs of SJC water) occurs at Angostura, and that depletion is almost entirely restored by the return flow from the SWRP just below Rio Bravo. The depletion caused by the No Action alternative is less in the reach between Angostura and the Bernalillo County line, but more pronounced than the DWP depletion from the County line to Rio Bravo. After the SWRP return, No Action flows are quite similar to DWP flows at Isleta (I-25) and below. Figure 5-9, depicting 2040 flows with

Figure 5-6. Simulated Average Flow Depletions, 2030, in Albuquerque Reach of Rio Grande
Under DWP and RG 960 Alternatives

Figure 5-8. Simulated Average Flow Depletions, 2030, in Albuquerque Reach of Rio Grande Under DWP and No Action Alternatives (Diversion at Angostura) Figure 5-9. Flow Depletions in the Albuquerque Reach of Rio Grande During a Simulated Curtailment of DWP Diversion, 2040, Under DWP and No Action Alternatives(Diversion at Angostura)

a curtailment month in red line, follows a pattern that combines those previously described for Figures 5-7 and 5-8.

Summary of Depletions, 2006-60

The depletions across the Albuquerque reach caused by either the No Action or DWP alternatives are not static and change with time. Tables 5-2 and 5-3 summarize conditions in 2006, 2012, 2020, 2030, 2040, and 2060 at four locations from the Bernalillo County line to the I-25 Bridge under an assumed DWP diversion at Paseo del Norte and Angostura, respectively.

TABLE 5-2

Comparison of Effects of DWP and No Action Alternatives on Rio Grande Flows in the Albuquerque Reach, 2006-2060 for Diversion at Paseo del Norte

TABLE 5-3

Comparison of Effects of DWP and No Action Alternatives on Rio Grande Flows in the Albuquerque Reach, 2006-2060 for Diversion at Angostura

The incremental annual and monthly differences in Rio Grande flows shown in Figures 5-6 through 5-9, and summarized in Tables 5-2 and 5-3, are based on comparison of DWP and No Action flows to a baseline that would have occurred without any City effects (i.e., no well pumpage, no surface diversions, no wastewater return flows, etc.). Thus, for example, at the Bernalillo County line the assumption is that relative to the baseline, No Action flows are a few cfs (3 to 4 cfs) higher to account for SJC releases for the Nonpotable Surface Water Project (about 3,000 ac ft/yr through 2060). In contrast, DWP flows at the Bernalillo County line are much greater owing to the release of SJC water for the DWP. For example, in 2006 SJC releases for the DWP are 85 cfs more than for No Action at the County line because of the extra SJC water released in early project years to offset the lingering effects of historical pumpage. DWP flows at the County line are normally 65 cfs more in most other years except when less SJC water is released in years of curtailed diversion (e.g., 2012 and 2040).

Because of the 'borrowing' of 65 cfs of native water along with 65 cfs of SJC water at the DWP diversion point, No Action flows are always higher (about 10 to 30 cfs more) than DWP flows at Central Avenue. At Rio Bravo, just above the SWRP return flow, No Action flows are generally slightly higher on average than DWP flows until several decades into the project. At the I-25 Bridge (Isleta), No Action and DWP flows are very similar until after 2020 when the effects of continued ground-water pumpage cause more depletions under No Action than under the DWP scenario.

Overall Water Balance and Net Effects

The OSE interim ground-water model of the Albuquerque basin was used to simulate the overall effects of the No Action and DWP alternatives on the Rio Grande on an annual basis throughout the 2006-60 project period. Spreadsheets summarizing the ground-water model runs and resulting water balances are provided in Appendix E. Population and water demand assumptions were based on the 'continued trends with conservation' scenario described in CH2M HILL (1995, Appendix A).

Figure 5-10 shows the steady increase in City pumping from ground-water wells over time with the No Action scenario (i.e., pumping increases with increases in population to meet overall demand). Likewise, the net effect on the river increases over time as aquifer drawdowns cause more river seepage.

Under No Action, the net effect on the Rio Grande increases from about 12,380 ac-ft/yr in 2006 to 21,280 ac-ft/yr in 2060 (see Table E-1). The OSE's present limit on allowable pumpage is 155,000 ac-ft/yr, a level that would be exceeded by about 2052 under the No Action scenario.

Figure 5-10 - Effect of RG-960 Alternative (continued pumping) on Rio Grande

Figure 5-11 shows the City pumping from ground-water wells (much less than No Action), SJC releases, and the net effect on the river over time with the DWP operating according to the previously stated (Figures 4-1 and 4-2) operational criteria. (Note that as described previously [see discussion for Figures 4-3(a)], extra releases are made in early DWP years to counter the lingering effects of historical pumping on river seepage and the reduced quantities of ground water returned to the river at the SWRP outfall.) When flow in the Rio Grande drops below 260 cfs, project diversions are curtailed, and wells are pumped more heavily. This causes the upward 'spikes' in pumping shown in Figure 5-11. Net effects on the Rio Grande also are changed by these curtailments. During years of curtailed diversions, additional ground water is returned to the river through the SWRP outfall below Rio Bravo. Because increased seepage of the Rio Grande due to additional pumping will generally not occur in the year of increase (but later), the river will be 'surcharged' with water (and net effects will go down) in years of curtailment (i.e., during low-flow years or extended drought periods).

Figure 5-11 indicates that under DWP, the net effect on the Rio Grande is 23,347 ac-ft/yr from 2006 through 2011 and varies between about 23,000 ac-ft/yr and 4,000 ac-ft/yr between 2011 and 2060. Note that ground-water pumpage under the DWP never reaches the present OSE allowable level of 155,000 ac-ft/yr and that the City's current vested and acquired rights are always sufficient to offset the net effects on the river. It should be realized, however, that ground-water pumping under the DWP could exceed the

Figure 5-11 - Effect of DWP Operation on Rio Grande

limit of 155,000 ac-ft under RG-960 in any year after about 2052 if the DWP surface diversion were shut down for an entire year rather than the few months assumed in the present analysis.

Effects on 'Hydraulic Geometry' of the Albuquerque Reach

As described previously, the DWP release/diversion scheme will cause a reach of the river between the diversion point and the SWRP to be 'depleted' relative to historical flow (1971-98 gaged flows). On the other hand, the DWP will cause the reach from Cochiti to the diversion point to be 'surcharged' relative to historical flow. In either case, the maximum change will (in most years) be ±65 cfs relative to 'historical gaged' flows. Relative to No Action flows, DWP flows will (in most years) be a maximum of about 65 cfs higher above the diversion point and a maximum of 30 to 47 cfs less in the reach between the DWP diversion and the SWRP outfall below Rio Bravo. The question arises as to how such changes will effect the water depths and velocities of flow between Angostura and Isleta (termed the Albuquerque reach).

A study was undertaken (CH2M HILL, 2000c) to estimate changes in wetted channel characteristics ('hydraulic geometry') of the Albuquerque reach that may be caused by implementation of the DWP. As evidenced by previous discussion and comparison of simulated hydrographs, there will be little difference in DWP and No Action flows at gaging stations in the MRG basin. Although the No Action alternative (like the DWP) will cause a depleted section of the Albuquerque reach relative to historical flows; such depletion will be spread throughout the reach and will increase with distance below Paseo del Norte until the return flow point for SWRP effluent below Rio Bravo (see Figures 5-6 through 5-9). In contrast, the DWP depletions will occur immediately below Paseo del Norte and then increase slightly downstream until the SWRP outfall.

To be conservative in our analysis of the effects of DWP diversions on the 'hydraulic geometry' of the Albuquerque reach, we chose to compare DWP effects to historical gaged (1971-98) conditions. Such effects are of interest (primarily) for assessing possible environmental impacts (covered in the City's Draft EIS for the DWP) on the Rio Grande silvery minnow.

The river channel in much of the Albuquerque reach is comprised of a mobile, sandy bed that is generally confined within a 500- to 600-foot-wide (±) engineered floodway. Inspection of USBR aerial photographs of the river taken during a sustained, low-flow period in February 1992 shows that the channel is somewhat narrower and more 'single channeled' from Angostura to Bernalillo and wider and more braided from Bernalillo to the Isleta diversion dam.

Based on the 1971-98 flow record of the USGS gage at the Central Avenue Bridge, mean annual flow at Albuquerque has been 1,410 cfs, whereas mean low monthly flows (typically October) were about 490 cfs. An analysis of flow, cross section, and discharge measurements made by USGS and USBR was used to establish flow conditions and typical channel characteristics of the 40-mile Albuquerque reach. The method of Leopold, et al. (1964) was used to calculate 'hydraulic geometry' characteristics that were, in turn, coupled with the selected flow conditions to estimate changes in water depths likely to be caused by proposed DWP releases and diversions.

We concluded that the *d* (depth) vs. *Q* (flow or discharge) relations for the entire 40-mile Albuquerque reach vary within a range of $d = 0.1 Q$ and $d = 0.1 Q^{0.47}$. These equations were applied to 1971-98 gaged flows at Albuquerque with appropriate ±65 cfs changes made to simulate DWP operations. Results are summarized in Table 5-4 on the following page.

Using the *Q vs. d* equations and flows summarized above suggests that maximum changes in water depths in the Albuquerque reach caused by DWP will be quite minor — on the order of ± 0.1 foot during a mean low monthly flow condition. During severe low flow (170 cfs equivalent at Albuquerque gage), water levels could be reduced by up to 0.3 foot (relative to historical, less relative to No Action) in narrowest sections of the river under a constant DWP diversion of 130 cfs.

Inspection of historical discharge measurements made in the river in the vicinity of the Albuquerque gage at Central Avenue (a narrow section) suggests that the reduction in flows of up to 65 cfs from 135 to 70 cfs immediately below the DWP diversion, or from 170 to 105 cfs at the Albuquerque gage (see Figure 4-1), will have the following effects:

- Velocity -0.1 to 0.2 foot per second (ft/s) reduction within a typical range of 1.0 to 1.4 ft/s
- Width 20 to 30 ft reduction within a typical range of 70 to 130 ft, respectively

TABLE 5-4

Estimated Water Depths in Albuquerque Reach of Rio Grande With and Without Constant DWP Diversion of 130 cfs

a During periods of non-curtailment, flows could be 135 vs. 70 cfs below DWP diversion. In this case, depths in narrow section could be reduced from 1.0' (at 135 cfs) to 0.7' (at 70 cfs) – i.e., a 0.3' difference.

Effects on Sediment Transport

For the AWRMS-DWP project, the sedimentation questions relate to how the operation of a surface diversion at the existing dam at Angostura, or of a new diversion near Paseo del Norte, might affect sediment transport in the Rio Grande. While additional specific and design-related hydraulic and sediment transport evaluations are required to fully answer such questions, several preliminary conclusions have been made.

- The relatively minor amounts of additional SJC water in the Rio Grande caused by operation of the AWRMS project will, in and of itself, have no measurable effect on sediment transport characteristics.
- Operation of renovated Angostura Dam to divert 130 cfs for the AWRMS project should have virtually no effect on the river sediment transport regime.
- The subsurface diversion alternative would have no effect on the river sediment transport regime.
- Operation of a new 3-foot-high adjustable diversion facility at Paseo del Norte will effect sediment transport, but locally rather than reach-wide. Larger-sized particles in the medium sand-sized range and some of the finer-sized suspended and bed material, will tend to settle out in the 1,000- to 2,000-foot-long pool behind the dam. However, because the dam will be lowered to river bottom elevation during high flows, much of

this deposited material will be resuspended and moved downstream – thus returning the river bed to its equilibrium level. Moreover, localized accumulations on either side of the diversion dam in the immediate upstream pool can be flushed by lowering individual sections of the adjustable dam face.

• Below the diversion structure at the exit of the sluiceway and fishway, there may be accumulations of material, or in some areas, scour holes. Areas of engineered bank protection through the diversion section will be needed to control possible bank cutting during high-flow events. Such concerns and conditions will be localized and manageable with monitoring and periodic maintenance activities and will not alter the overall sediment transport regime in the Albuquerque reach of the Rio Grande.

Section 6 Effects of DWP and No Action Alternatives on the Albuquerque Basin Aquifer and Riverfront Ground Water

SECTION 6 Effects of DWP and No Action Alternatives on the Albuquerque Basin Aquifer and Riverfront Ground Water

To evaluate and compare the effects of the DWP and No Action alternatives on the Albuquerque basin aquifer, runs were made on the OSE interim ground-water model to examine two issues for the 2006-60 period:

- 1. The water level drawdowns in the main basin aquifer caused by each alternative
- 2. The amounts of water derived from aquifer storage

A second, more detailed and localized model based on the MicroFem $^\circ$ code was developed to evaluate riverfront (bosque) water level declines caused by the subsurface alternative.

Drawdowns in the Basin Aquifer

The OSE interim ground-water model of the Albuquerque basin aquifer was run under the No Action and DWP scenarios to compare the effects on water level drawdowns. Projected pumping by the City (and others) through 1994 was the same for both models and is summarized in USGS (1995). Pumpage from 1995 through 2001 was based on City records, and after 2001 on projections derived from estimated per capita demands and population estimates (CH2M HILL, 2002b). Beginning in 2006, the No Action and DWP scenarios diverge in terms of the quantities of pumping (see previous discussion in *Summary of River Effects*).

Figure 6-1 shows the simulated drawdowns from pre-development conditions through 2040 in the Albuquerque basin aquifer under the No Action alternative. Projected drawdowns approach or slightly exceed the OSE-prescribed subsidence threshold of 250 feet in small areas of west Albuquerque and approach 200 feet in small areas of northeast and southeast Albuquerque. Drawdowns in 2040 under the DWP (Figure 6-2) are generally less than 150 feet in the same areas and less than 100 feet elsewhere.

By 2060 under No Action pumping, drawdowns throughout most of Albuquerque (Figure 6-3) are predicted to be more than 200 feet [including virtually the entire area recently designated as the critical management area or CMA (OSE, 2000)]. Large areas in northwest and east Albuquerque exceed 250 feet of drawdown. The 250-foot drawdown level is the generally accepted level for potential subsidence problems. The amount of water removed from aquifer storage ('aquifer mining') by the No Action alternative is estimated to be about 2.0 million ac-ft over the 2006-60 period. Table 6-1 presents pumping, river effects, change in aquifer storage, and SJC use for the No Action and DWP alternatives for the 2006- 2060 period.

Figure 6-4 depicting drawdowns under the DWP alternative in 2060 indicates that most of northeast and southeast Albuquerque will have drawdowns of less than 150 feet. A small area of west Albuquerque is projected to have drawdowns of more than 250 feet. The DWP, as shown above in Table 6-1, results in the addition of 0.19 million ac-ft to aquifer storage through 2060. Thus, relative to the No Action alternative, the DWP would result in the savings of 2.2 million ac-ft of aquifer storage through 2060. This quantity of water is in effect an additional amount of water available to City customers during drought conditions that would not be available without the DWP.

Effects on Riverfront Ground-Water System

The Angostura or new surface diversion options under the DWP alternative should have minimal impact on shallow ground-water levels along their respective riverfront areas. This is based on the fact that the river is in direct hydraulic contact with the adjacent shallow bosque ground-water system; and that shallow ground-water level changes related to DWP-induced flow changes in the Albuquerque reach of ±65 cfs are virtually not measurable. However, implementation of the subsurface diversion alternative would affect the local ground-water system. The subsurface diversion would involve more than a mile of 400- to 500-foot-long perforated pipes (three 11-armed collectors of 400 to 500 feet spaced about 200 feet apart) buried some 15 feet beneath the riverbed upstream and downstream of the Paseo del Norte Bridge. The concern would primarily be on the viability of trees (especially cottonwoods) if the drawdowns became too great.

Figure 6-5, based on a modeling analysis using the Micro Fem° model and hydrogeologic data collected along the Rio Grande riverfront by USGS and the City (CH2M HILL, 1999b), indicates that maximum drawdowns in the bosque area will be on the order of 3 to 3.5 feet with the subsurface collectors in operation. Each of the three 11-armed collector systems would cause similar localized drawdowns. By spacing the three systems properly, it appears that mutual interference (and additive drawdowns) can be avoided. Whether or not the projected 3 to 3.5 feet of local drawdowns is an issue for the viability of bosque trees is a question that is under evaluation in the City's DWP EIS.

It is possible that continued pumping of the deep aquifer under an No Action scenario could, by 2040 or 2060, cause drawdowns of bosque water levels by several feet. However, the scale and time step (yearly) of the OSE interim ground-water model makes simulation of these localized effects problematic.

Section 7 Effects of DWP and No Action Alternatives on the Rio Chama System

SECTION 7 Effects of DWP and No Action Alternatives on the Rio Chama System

To evaluate and compare the effects of the DWP and No Action alternatives on hydrologic conditions in the Rio Chama system, a simplified version of the SJC Riverware[®] model was used (CH2M HILL, 2001c) based on a computer code developed by the multi-agency Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model (URGWOM) Team (2000). The model focused on evaluation of effects on flows in the Rio Chama, particularly the capability to maintain historic summertime recreational rafting releases and winter fishery releases. The effects on storage volumes and water levels in El Vado, Abiquiu, and Cochiti Reservoirs also were examined relative to historic conditions (although because of the limited number of years simulated, this evaluation is not considered definitive). DWP simulations were based on a typical pattern of delivery of City SJC water from Heron Reservoir to Abiquiu Reservoir, which is commonly done to minimize evaporative losses while still participating in administrative borrowing and trading for the benefit of the overall SJC system. SJC water for the DWP was simulated as a constant release from the City pool at Abiquiu resulting in a continuous flow of about 66 cfs at Otowi.

For purposes of the SJC Riverware© model, two scenarios were run. The first (the DWP scenario) had the full City allotment of 48,200 ac-ft/yr in the system. An No Action scenario also was evaluated wherein there was no City SJC water in the system. As noted previously, there will, in fact, be limited amounts of City SJC water in the system under No Action for the AWRMS Nonpotable Surface Water Project, for existing leases, and to offset pumpage-induced river effects after about 2050 when vested and acquired rights become inadequate. However, the amounts are so small as to not be reasonably simulated in the SJC Riverware© modeling analysis done for this report. Thus, evaluation of the No Action alternative without City SJC in the system (CH2M HILL, 2001c) brackets the full range of possibilities for purposes of comparing hydrologic effects in the Rio Chama system.

The simulations under the DWP and No Action scenarios assumed full use of individual allocations for other contracted SJC users (i.e., MRGCD, City of Santa Fe, Indian Pueblos) with releases made in accordance with when they were made historically (often, large amounts released at the end of the allocation year); or when they would be made logically given an assumed use (e.g., MRGCD irrigation, Santa Fe Buckman wellfield pumping offsets, etc.). All model runs were made assuming SJC deliveries from Heron Reservoir occurred either within a particular calendar year 'without waivers' or under a scenario 'with waivers', which allows a delay of releases through April of the following calendar year (waivers have been widely used in past years).

Comparisons were made between simulated conditions with the DWP and the No Action alternatives based on the 1971-98 hydrologic record. As was the case for the evaluation of flows at the MRG gaging stations mentioned previously, 1977 and 1988 were chosen as representative of low-flow and normal years, respectively, for simulation by the SJC

Riverware© model. A 3-year drought period was simulated by running 1972 back-to-back three times. Curtailed SJC deliveries (as described previously) occurred during both the 1977 and 3-year drought modeling scenarios. For each of the examined scenarios, computer runs were made with starting reservoir levels at Abiquiu selected as low and high, 50,000 and 170,000 ac-ft, respectively. Similarly, El Vado starting levels were assumed at 80,000 ac-ft (low) and 160,000 ac-ft (high) levels.

Model runs for the Rio Chama system were used to compare the following:

- 1. Ability to maintain rafting releases in the Rio Chama below El Vado. In recent years, such releases have been based on maintenance of a specified flow during weekdays (600 cfs) and weekends (1,000 cfs) in July and August, normally over a 6-week (7 weekends) period beginning in mid-July.
- 2. Ability to maintain winter fisheries releases in the Rio Chama below El Vado and Abiquiu. At El Vado, such releases are based on maintenance of a specified minimum flow of 185 cfs in winter months, except during low-flow and drought years when 100 cfs (the release flow during the drought year of 2000-01) has been the specified minimum. Minimum fishery releases below Abiquiu were set at 70 cfs.
- 3. Reservoir levels i.e., maximum and minimum volumes and elevations for the DWP and No Action simulations relative to each other and to those experienced during the historic (1971-98) period.

Results of the SJC modeling analysis for rafting and fishery releases are provided in Table 7-1(a) and (b) and are summarized as follows:

- Summertime rafting releases and winter fisheries releases are maintainable under the DWP alternative, either with or without waivers and regardless of initial storage conditions in Abiquiu and El Vado. However, under the No Action scenario, simulations suggest that some of the rafting releases could not be made in low-flow and extended drought years.
- Rafting releases in summer under the DWP scenario mean, in effect, the early delivery of considerable quantities of City SJC water to Abiquiu Reservoir during the peak period of reservoir evaporation. Preliminary evaluation suggests that meeting the historic schedule of rafting releases could cause evaporative losses of several hundred ac-ft/yr in City SJC water available for the DWP. Obviously, the City would need replacement or compensation for such losses to allow a fully operable DWP.
- Regarding reservoir levels, model simulations suggest that the DWP alternative will not markedly change historic maximum and minimum storage volumes and elevations of SJC reservoirs. The simulations based on the three selected periods (normal year, dry year, and 3-year drought) are not sufficient to simulate long-term storage conditions. Consequently, it will take a fully developed URGWOM model and a simulation of longterm (e.g., 50-year) hydrologic record to fully assess the effects of the No Action and DWP alternatives in terms of reservoir levels, shoreline area, depths, etc.

Results of all simulations are provided in the CH2M HILL report (2001c) on the effects of the DWP (and No Action) alternatives on the Rio Chama and Upper Rio Grande.

TABLE 7-1

Comparison of Effects of No Action and DWP Alternatives on Rio Chama System (with waivers) *(a) Rafting Weekends and Minimum Fish Releases – With Waivers*

TABLE 7-1 (CONTINUED)

Comparison of Effects of No Action and DWP Alternatives on Rio Chama System (without waivers) *(b) Rafting Weekends and Minimum Fish Releases – (Without Waivers)*

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Appendix A Supplemental Information on Rio Grande Operational Procedures and River Control Facilities

APPENDIX A Supplemental Information on Rio Grande Operational Procedures and River Control Facilities

Heron Reservoir

In 1962, Congress authorized the diversion of Colorado River Basin water into the Rio Chama, a tributary to the Rio Grande. The project, operated by USBR, diverts water from three streams in the headwaters of the San Juan River through tunnels in the Continental Divide into Heron Reservoir on the Rio Chama (see Figure 1-1 in main report). Heron Reservoir has a capacity of 400,000 ac-ft and cannot store any water that is native to the Rio Chama. The project is authorized to develop 96,200 ac-ft/yr of SJC water on a 'firm yield' basis, about half of which is for the City of Albuquerque, 25 percent for MRGCD, and the remainder for other users.

The SJC contract provides that the water allotment for any given year be delivered out of Heron Reservoir by December 31. Current USBR policy is to require delivery of the allotment from Heron the same year. However, to the extent that waivers are desirable in the future, USBR may again waive this condition for operational, environmental, and fishery enhancement reasons.

El Vado Reservoir

El Vado Reservoir is owned by the MRGCD and operated by the USBR under an agreement with the MRGCD. El Vado, with a capacity of 186,000 ac-ft, was constructed for water conservation storage. When New Mexico is not in 'debit' status under the Rio Grande Compact, the MRGCD may hold spring runoff flows in El Vado for use to supplement supplies to its irrigators when natural flow in the Rio Grande through the middle valley is low. When New Mexico is in 'debit' status under the Compact, any native water in El Vado up to the amount of the 'debit' must be held for subsequent delivery to Elephant Butte Reservoir. A portion of the water in El Vado is annually reserved to ensure that the prior and paramount irrigation rights of the Pueblos within the MRGCD are met. From the inception of the SJC project, the MRGCD has taken delivery of its SJC water (and through various arrangements) has allowed storage of limited quantities of water for contractors, including the City into El Vado. Storage of imported SJC water in El Vado is not subject to the constraints that exist on native water under the Rio Grande Compact. The outlet works of El Vado were enlarged as part of the SJC project to provide for increased flow from the imported water. Los Alamos County has built a run-of-the-river hydroelectric power generator at the dam.

The Rio Chama has been designated as a Wild and Scenic River downstream of El Vado and into the upper reaches of Abiquiu Reservoir. Accordingly, any changes in the flow patterns in this reach have to take into account environmental and public interest concerns relating to this status.

Abiquiu Reservoir

Abiquiu Reservoir was constructed and is operated for flood and sediment control purposes by the Corps. While the reservoir could hold 1.2 million ac-ft before it spills, the design flood for the reservoir is 500,000 ac-ft. Abiquiu Reservoir is operated to prevent flooding in the Rio Chama (which has a channel capacity of about 1,800 cfs); and, in conjunction with Cochiti and Jemez Reservoirs, to prevent flooding on the Rio Grande. The Corps must pass native water through Abiquiu and release flood storage at all times as fast as downstream conditions permit. However, the operational requirement regarding carryover of stored water at Cochiti (discussed below), is applied to Abiquiu as well. That is, after June 30 when natural flow at Otowi drops below 1,500 cfs, stored flood water in Abiquiu is held until November 1. This 'held' water must be fully evacuated by the following March. The intent of this exception is to prevent downstream diversion of the stored water by irrigators to preserve the pre-reservoir delivery of water for Rio Grande Compact purposes.

In cases where Elephant Butte Reservoir has no additional capacity, the Abiquiu flood protection mandate and operation can extend south of Elephant Butte. Abiquiu Reservoir has authorized sediment pools with an original capacity of 63,000 ac-ft covering an area owned by the United States in fee simple. The land inundated by stored flood water is privately owned, encumbered by easements that allow the land to be flooded as necessary for flood control operations.

Since 1974, the City arranged with the Corps to store SJC water within the sediment pool. In 1981 Congress authorized the storage of 200,000 ac-ft of SJC water in Abiquiu (*PL 97-140*). Under an agreement with the Corps, the City can store up to 170,900 ac-ft of SJC water in Abiquiu. This water is held within the 500,000 ac-ft flood pool, and the City has acquired leases from private lakefront property owners to allow this storage. In the event of a design flood, the Corps may pre-spill stored SJC water if necessary for its flood control operations.

In *PL 100-522*, Congress authorized storage of native water in Abiquiu when it was no longer needed for storage of SJC water. Such storage would face the same Rio Grande Compact restrictions that apply to El Vado. The City has filed an application with the State Engineer for storage of native water in Abiquiu.

Cochiti Reservoir

Cochiti Reservoir, with a capacity of 500,000 ac-ft, was built by the Corps for flood and sediment control. In addition, Congress authorized a recreation pool for fish and wildlife enhancement through dedication of 5,000 ac-ft/yr of SJC water to maintain a pool of about 50,000 ac-ft.

The limiting-channel capacity below Cochiti is about 7,000 cfs. When this capacity is used for flood releases, no SJC water may be delivered. The flood control criteria on Cochiti are similar to Abiquiu. Flood water must be passed as soon as possible, except that flood water in storage must be carried to November 1 following the drop of the natural flow at Otowi gage to below 1,500 cfs after June 30, *if there is at least 212,000 ac-ft of space in Cochiti for regulation of summer floods*. This requirement can be waived with the consent of the Rio Grande Compact Commission and in emergency situations.

Elephant Butte Reservoir

Elephant Butte Reservoir, with a capacity of 2.2 million ac-ft, is a USBR-constructed facility used to store water for downstream use in New Mexico and Texas and to assure delivery of required water to Mexico. In the 1970s, Congress authorized creation of a 50,000 ac-ft recreation pool in Elephant Butte and its maintenance for 10 years using SJC water. The pool was intended to allow for recreation coincident with full use of stored native water by downstream users in dry periods. To maintain the pool after the initial 10 years, the State of New Mexico contracted with the City to maintain the pool through 2010. Due to successive wet years, the pool has spilled twice, the last time in 1994, but will be recreated as needed. The City has a contract with USBR to store an additional 50,000 ac-ft of City water in Elephant Butte and had small amounts stored under this agreement before Elephant Butte spilled in 1985. Since then, either because storage space was not available or its use was not needed, this storage has not been used.

Diversion Dams

Water is diverted into irrigation canals at Cochiti Dam and at three downstream low-head diversion dams built solely for that purpose. The Cochiti diversion is located 31 miles north of Albuquerque; Angostura 15 miles north of Albuquerque; Isleta 10 miles south of Albuquerque; and San Acacia 14 miles north of Socorro. Water outside the river channel flows through more than 800 miles of canals and channels maintained by the MRGCD.

MRGCD Croplands

Historic records of MRGCD croplands are not available on a consistent, accurate basis. Figure A-1 shows the estimated total, irrigated, and fallow acreages developed by the URGWOM team (Bill Miller, November 2000, written communication) during recent investigations. Until the mid-1990s, it appears total MRGCD acreage was fairly constant at just less than 70,000 acres. Of that total 55,000 to 60,000 acres was actually irrigated and the remainder in fallow. Since about the mid-1990s, it would appear the total MRGCD acreage is trending down toward 60,000 acres with a corresponding downward trend in irrigated and fallow to about 50,000 and 10,000 acres, respectively.

Regarding the historic distribution of MRGCD acreages amongst the Cochiti, Albuquerque, Belen, and Socorro Divisions, only generalized data are available; estimated that total acreages in the various divisions were about as follows:

- \bullet Cochiti -6.300 acres
- Albuquerque $-12,000$ acres
- \bullet Belen $-33,000$ acres
- $Socorro 12,800 acres$

Low-Flow Conveyance Channel

The LFCC between San Acacia and Elephant Butte Reservoir was designed and built to minimize seepage and evaporation losses in the main channel of the river below the San Acacia diversion dam during low-flow periods. The USBR built the LFCC in the 1950s when the river channel was closed in four places by the intrusion of vegetation and a prolonged drought, which had left little water in Elephant Butte Reservoir. The LFCC, and a new river channel, were constructed to the 'narrows' section of Elephant Butte to which (and below) the reservoir had receded during the prolonged drought of the 1950s. The more efficient conveyance of water in the LFCC increased New Mexico's ability to satisfy its Compact obligations to Texas and helped the United States to meet its Treaty obligations to Mexico.

While all the required flow, weather, and other monitoring devices are not available to do a detailed annual accounting of the water actually salvaged by the LFCC system, it would appear that 40,000 and 50,000 ac-ft/yr is a reasonable estimate.

The lower 35 miles of the LFCC were put into operation in the early 1950s and the upper 40 miles in 1958. Originally, the LFCC was intended to carry up to 2,000 cfs, but not all of this capacity was available for water diverted at San Acacia. In the lower reaches of the LFCC, about 400 cfs of the capacity was occupied by water that enters the channel through seepage and irrigation return flows. Hence, operationally, the original LFCC could (in early year operations) handle about 1,600 cfs of flow diverted at San Acacia.

In 1975 the LFCC was truncated by about one-half, with water returning to the river channel at Tiffany Junction near San Marcial. In 1981, the remaining LFCC went out of operation as Elephant Butte Reservoir filled and inundated the lower reaches of the LFCC virtually to San Marcial. The channel subsequently operated for a short time, but was impaired by 1985 due to the deposition of sediment. Since 1985, the LFCC system below San Acacia has functioned primarily as a drain with maximum flows of several hundred cubic feet per second rather than several thousand. Consequently, since 1985 the floodway (or natural channel) of the Rio Grande has conveyed the vast majority of water passing San Acacia and San Marcial.

In 1996, the USBR constructed a connection between the LFCC and the river channel about 10 miles below the San Acacia diversion dam. Currently, both the USBR and the Corps have undertaken studies to evaluate the options regarding the future of the LFCC.

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Appendix B Historical Data on Imported San Juan-Chama Water

TABLE B-1. TOTAL SJC FLOWS AT OTOWI, 1971-1998 (AC-FT)

Water Accounting\SJC_Otowi

TABLE B-2. CITY SJC FLOWS AT OTOWI, 1971-1998 (AC-FT)

Water Accounting\SJC_Otowi_ABQ

TABLE B-3. MONTHLY CITY SJC FLOWS AT ALBUQUERQUE, 1971-1998 (AC-FT)

Water Accounting\SJC_ABQ

TABLE B-4. AGGREGATE SUMMARY OF DISPOSITION OF CITY SJC WATER, 1971-98 (AC-FT)

Water Accounting\Table 5 (2)

Appendix C Historical Data on Rio Grande Streamflows at Major Gaging Stations

Middle Rio Grande Streamflow Stations

1900-1970 Summary

TABLE C-1. MONTHLY RIO GRANDE FLOWS AT OTOWI, 1900-1970 Append B All Gages\Table C-1 Otowi

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1971-1999 Summary

TABLE C-1. (CONT.) MONTHLY RIO GRANDE FLOWS AT OTOWI, 1971-1999 Append B All Gages\Otowi cont

TABLE C-2. MONTHLY RIO GRANDE FLOWS AT SAN FELIPE, 1943-1998 Append B All Gages\Table C-2 San Felipe

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2,068
2,146
1387 2,883
3,371
2134 1,547
B15
1522 **TABLE C-3. MONTHLY RIO GRANDE FLOWS AT ALBUQUERQUE, 1943-1998** Append B All Gages\Table C-3 Abq

2046

937
849
358

1,065

 $rac{834}{679}$

Mean

Median

Std. Dev.

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 765
 617

623

 492
 442
 377

420

 $\frac{996}{1,000}$

451

1,026

901

422

TABLE C-4. MONTHLY RIO GRANDE FLOWS AT BERNARDO, 1943-1998 Append B All Gages\Table C-4 Bernardo

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TABLE C-5. MONTHLY RIO GRANDE FLOWS AT SAN ACACIA, 1943-1998 Append B All Gages\Table C-5 San Acacia

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TABLE C-6. MONTHLY RIO GRANDE FLOWS AT SAN MARCIAL, 1943-1998 Append B All Gages\Table C-6 San Marcial

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Appendix D Summary of Simulated Rio Grande Streamflows and SJC Loss Factors Used in the Analysis of No Action and DWP Alternatives

Table D-1 Summary Statistics for Simulated RG-960 River Flows (cfs), 2006-2040

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Table D-2. Summary Statistics for Simulated RG-960 River Flows (cfs), 2006-2060

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Table D-3. Summary Statistics for Simulated DWP River Flows (cfs), 2006-2040

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Table D-4. Summary Statistics for Simulated DWP River Flows (cfs), 2006-2060

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Loss Factors Used for City SJC Water Included in Monthly Flows in Tables D-1 to D-4

Tables D-5 and D-6 summarize the loss factors used in this report and the AWRMS River Model as a basis for estimating SJC water at various locations in the Rio Grande, both in developing and modifying the historical 1971-98 hydrologic baseline; and in future simulations using the AWRMS River Model.

Table D-5 is a summary of loss factors for SJC water in common use by the USBR for management in the Rio Grande basin. The USBR and the Rio Grande Compact Engineering Advisors (Advisors) have developed and agree on year-round loss factors for SJC water purposely released for delivery to points between Heron and the Rio Grande confluence with the Jemez River. The USBR and the Advisors also agree on non-summer loss factors for SJC water to be delivered to Elephant Butte. Note that the loss rates in Table D-5 are relatively low because released SJC water is assumed to "ride on top" of native water. In effect, this means that SJC water incurs losses caused by the larger surface area of the flowing water, but essentially no seepage or other losses.

A summary of the status and past work done in developing the SJC loss factors in Table D-5 is provided in a memorandum from Karl Martin(Martin, 1996), USBR Albuquerque to Bill Miller , New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission and Gary Daves and Norm Gaume, City of Albuquerque, October 10, 1996. The memorandum, entitled *Supporting Documentation for SJC Loss Rates* includes a number of exhibits, historical data, study summaries, flow measurements, estimates of channel and evaporative losses, etc. made over the years by various investigators and agencies in relation to conveyance of SJC water between various points on the Rio Chama and Rio Grande.

The factors in Table D-5 are considered to be appropriate for water rights accounting purposes based on precedence and accepted practice in the Rio Grande basin.

Table D-6a provides loss factors applied to simulated releases of City SJC water between Heron Reservoir and Albuquerque. These are the factors employed in the AWRMS River Model (in the present report) for simulated delivery of SJC water to Albuquerque for the DWP. Note that the Albuquerque loss rates in Table D-6a vary between 0.97 in cooler months to 0.92 in summer months. Extrapolated loss factors from Jemez to Albuquerque based on the year-round rates given in Table D-5 would suggest that 0.97 is appropriate for year-round Albuquerque deliveries. However, in order to ensure a conservative analysis of effects on streamflows at Albuquerque and below, we chose to use the higher loss rates in Table D-6a.

Similarly, conservative loss factors given in Table D-6b were used to adjust the simulated 2006-60 streamflow record for the AWRMS river model in this report to account for:

- River Effects projected changes in flows below Albuquerque caused by estimated City pumping. It is assumed any loss from the river near Albuquerque due to City pumping is native water and, therefore, the effects on downstream gages must be accounted using 'non-SJC' loss factors;
- Return Flow projected changes in flows below Albuquerque from wastewater returns that are based on projections of future water demands. This is accounted as 'native' water using 'non-SJC' loss factors;
- Additional City SJC Releases projected changes in flows below Albuquerque due to the residual effects from past pumping over the 2006-16 period. These effects which will be

offset with releases of additional City SJC water from Abiquiu storage over the 2006-16 period amount to more than 90,000 ac-ft are summarized in Table E-2, column 20.

Table D-6c summarizes loss factors that were used to adjust the historical 1971-98 record by accounting for City SJC water at various locations on the Rio Grande. Note that two types of loss factors are applied:

- Non-Irrigation Loss Factors applied to all historical releases made for specific deliveries for other than MRGCD irrigation; these are generally consistent with those in Table D-5;
- Irrigation Loss Factors applied to all water released to MRGCD through leases, contracts, borrowing, or other arrangements. These loss factors are generally consistent with typical MRGCD diversions and consumption via irrigated acreages served by each of the diversions at Cochiti, Angostura, Isleta, and San Acacia. Note that at the San Acacia gage and below, their is no SJC water (i.e., loss factor of zero) in keeping with the Law of the River that SJC water has to be consumptively used above Elephant Butte Reservoir.

SJ-C LOSS FACTORS AND LAGS

FROM					
	EL VADO	ABIQUIU	OTOWI	COCHITI	JEMEZ
HERON	1.0000	0.9890	0.9800	0.9767	0.9765
	no lag	1 day	2 day	2 day	2 day
EL VADO		0.9890	0.9800	0.9767	0.9765
		1 day	2 day	2 day	2 day
ABIQUIU			0.9910	0.9877	0.9875
			1 day	1 day	1 day
COCHITI					0.9998 1 day

Condition A: RG flow 400 to 1400 cfs. SJ-C flow 0 to 2000 cfs. RG+SJ-C <= 3000 cfs	
Ref. 1/85 USBR report.	

Condition B: RG flow 400 to 1400 cfs. SJ-C flow 0 to 1400 cfs. RG+SJ-C <= 1800 cfs Flows routed through low flow convevance channel. Ref 1/85 USBR repo

Table D-5. USBR Loss Rates for SJC Releases in Rio Chama and Rio Grande

Table D-6. (a) Loss Factors for Heron to Albuquerque SJC Releases for DWP

(b) Loss Factors Used to Adjust Simulated Record for Changes in City Return Flow, River Effects, and Additional City SJC Releases

(c) Loss Factors Used to Estimate Historical City SJC Water at Locations Below Otowi

^b Assumes all SJC water diverted above gage.

Appendix E Water Balance Summary of DWP and No Action Alternatives, 2006-60

Guide to Tables E-1 and E-2 (Appendix E)

Tables E-1 and E-2 include results of computer runs made on the OSE interim ground-water model for the No Action and DWP scenarios. The tables include estimates of river seepage, estimates of well pumpage, wastewater return flows, the effects of other city water projects, etc. The key result of these simulations is the "net effect" on the Rio Grande (column 18). The following is a column by column summary to the results provided in Tables E-1 and E-2. All results are in terms of ac-ft.

Year (1)

The year or projected year of the simulation.

Aquifer Pumping (2)

The City ground-water withdrawals for the scenario.

Industrial Reuse (3)

The quantity of water provided for irrigation and industrial reuse from the nonpotable industrial reuse project. It is assumed that this water offsets demand for deep aquifer ground water and that reusing this water will reduce return flows. This project has been constructed and begin operation in the year 2000.

Nonpotable River Use (4)

The quantity of water provided for irrigation and industrial use from the North I-25 nonpotable project. Water will be diverted from the Rio Grande through subsurface collectors. This project is scheduled to begin operation in 2004 and is assumed to offset demand for deep aquifer ground water.

Southside Reclaimed Effluent (5)

The quantity of water to be reused from the City's Southside Wastewater Reclamation Plant (SWRP) for nonpotable irrigation use. It is assumed that this water offsets demand for deep aquifer ground water and that reusing this water will reduce return flows. This project is scheduled to begin operation in 2005.

Shallow Ground Water (6)

This quantity of water estimated from the shallow ground-water project, where shallow ground-water pumping will be utilized for irrigation. The shallow ground-water project is scheduled to begin operation in 2005.

Mesa del Sol Reclaimed Effluent (7)

The quantity of water to be reused from the City's Southside Wastewater Reclamation Plant for nonpotable irrigation use in the Mesa del Sol area. The Mesa del Sol project is scheduled to begin operation in 2010. The Mesa del Sol Project will reduce return flow.

Total Nonpotable (8)

This column sums the total quantity of water provided to offset demands through the nonpotable projects (Industrial Reuse, Nonpotable River Use, Southside Reclaimed Effluent, Shallow Ground Water, and Mesa del Sol Reclaimed Effluent columns).

DWP River Supply (9)

This column is the quantity of water to be diverted by the DWP (0 for the No Action alternative).

Total Demand/Supply (10)

The total City demand in any given year. These demands are met through ground-water withdrawals and the nonpotable projects.

Ground-water Return (11)

The amount of ground water that is returned at the City's SWRP outfall. Ground-water returns are the amount of water returned after all native surface water diverted has been returned.

River Return (12)

The native river return at the City's SWRP outfall (zero for No Action scenario).

Return Flow to WWTP 54% (13)

This column is the total return flow based on the historic relationship with overall demand.

Return Flow to River (14)

The return flow to the SWRP is reduced in this column to reflect the effects of the nonpotable projects such as the Industrial Reuse project. This project takes water that would be discharged to the sanitary sewer and reuses it, therefore reducing returns to the river.

Total Surface Water Diversion (15)

This column sums the quantity of surface diversion (surface water supply column) and the diversions for nonpotable river use to arrive at a net diversion of surface water.

OSE River Effects (16)

The OSE interim Middle Rio Grand Administrative Area model calculated river effects due to City pumping. The OSE model was run with and without City pumping and volumetric budgets were subtracted to arrive at the City's effect.

Net Effect (17)

The net effect is the actual return flow minus the total surface water diversion minus the river effects plus any SJC release. This number is calculated to ensure that the City holds sufficient surface water rights for all water consumed in a given year.

Excess Return Flow (18)

This is the quantity of the City's vested and acquired rights remaining after offsets have been made against net effect. In years when this column is negative, the City would be required to make up the difference with releases of SJC water.

Project SJC Release (19)

This is the annual quantity of SJC water released to meet DWP and nonpotable demands.

Additional SJC Release (20)

Additional SJC water released from storage to meet water rights requirements.

TABLE E1-SUMMARY OF HYDROLOGIC EFFECTS UNDER NO ACTION

TABLE E2-SUMMARY OF HYDROLOGIC EFFECTS WITH DWP

