

A wide, shallow river with sandy banks and sparse vegetation under a blue sky. The river flows from the right towards the center, with a large sandy area in the foreground. The background shows a flat landscape with some utility poles in the distance.

State & Regional Water Planning in New Mexico:
Regions Determining Their Priorities

Upper Colorado River
Basin Water Forum

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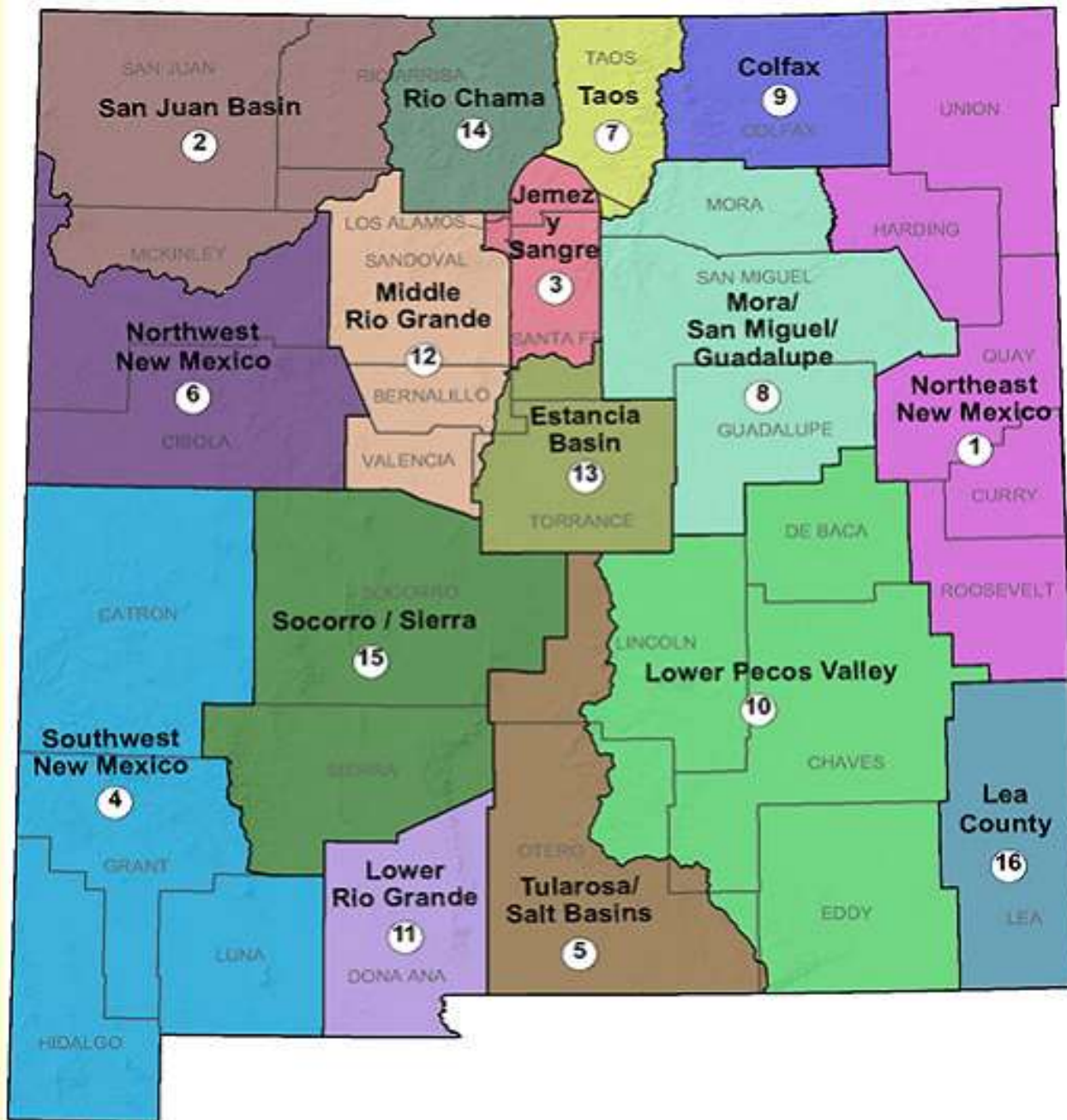
History of Planning in New Mexico

1. *El Paso v. Reynolds*, 597 F. Supp 694 (1984)
2. *Sporhase v. Nebraska*, 458 U.S. 941 (1982)
3. 1987 statute—regional water plans
4. 2003 statute—state water plan



A landscape photograph featuring a bright blue sky filled with large, white, fluffy cumulus clouds. The foreground shows a line of green trees and shrubs, with rolling hills or mountains visible in the distance under a clear sky.

State and Regional Water Plan Nexus



First State Water
Plan and early
regional water
planning efforts





Lessons learned from early planning...

An Improved Approach to State and Regional Water Planning



Key Features of Improved Approach

- Common technical platform – enables regions to focus on priorities
- Representative Stakeholder Steering Committees
- Provides Link between regional and State Water Plans



Regional Planning Priorities are the Prerogatives of the Regions



State and Regional Water Planning

Policy blueprints using best available science and conservation practices while increasing available water supply and prioritizing funding for water infrastructure.



New Mexico water planning and the Colorado River



Conclusion

