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SLIDES: The Urbanizing West: Limits to Water, Limits to Growth

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The Urbanizing West – Limits to Water, Limits to Growth

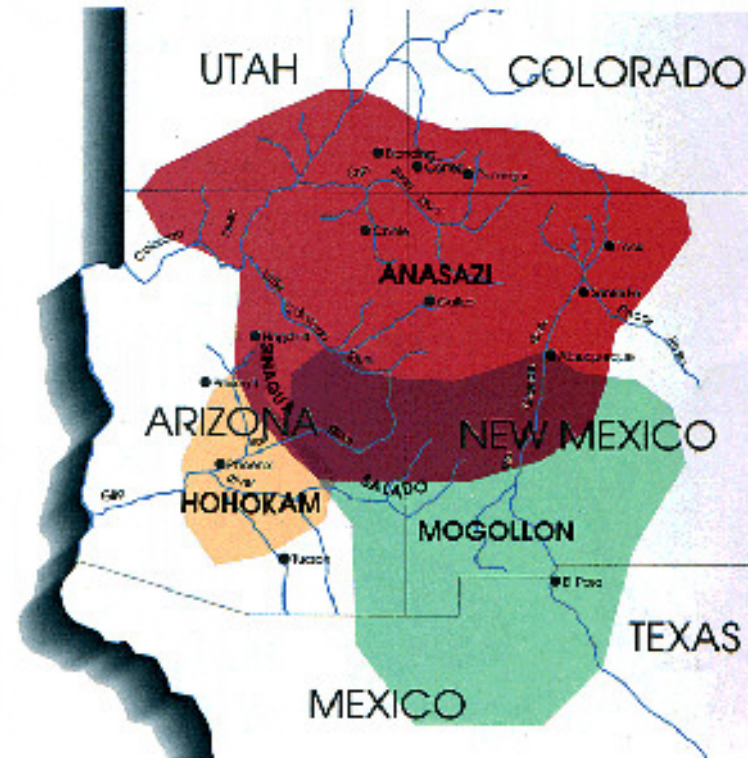
Lora A. Lucero, AICP
American Planning Association

Not a new story!



MAJOR PREHISTORIC INDIAN CULTURES

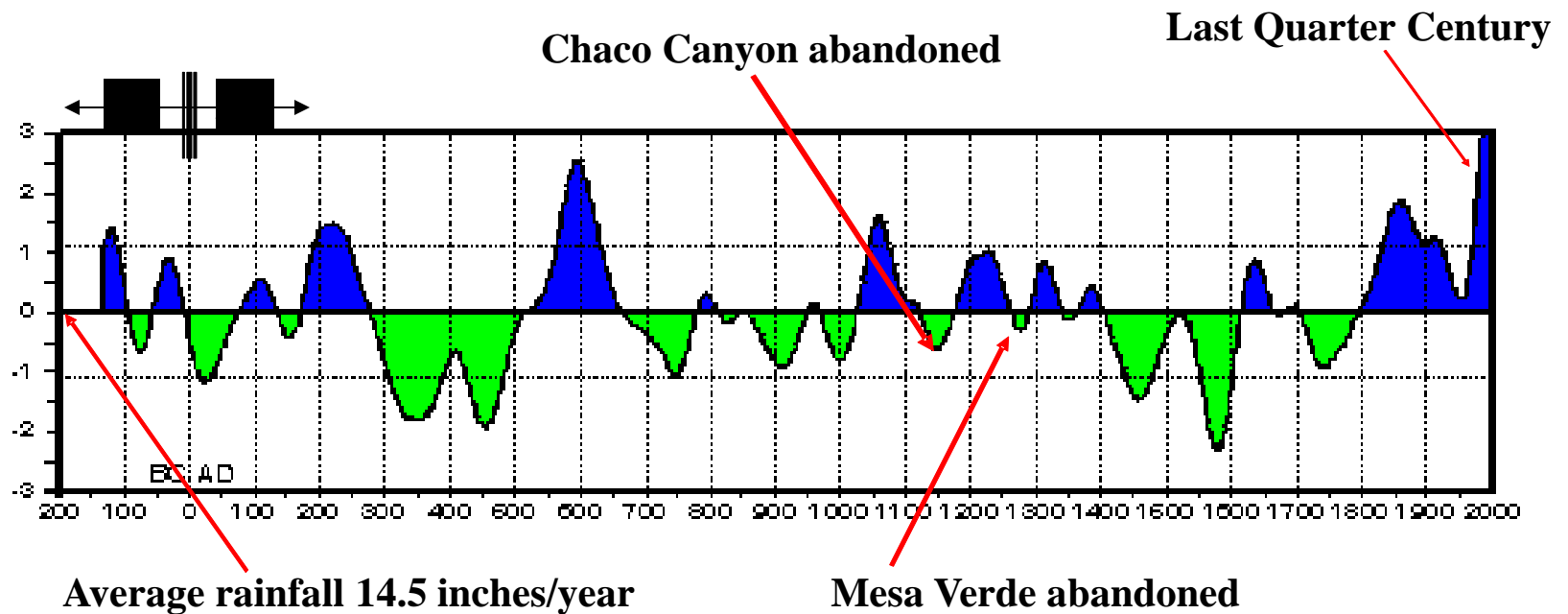
The three major Indian cultures in the prehistoric Southwest were the Hohokam, who lived in river valleys in the southern desert and were an agricultural group; the Mogollon, who were hunter-gatherers; and the Anasazi, who were cliff dwellers. The Sinagua lived near Flagstaff and the Verde Valley and comprised traits from all three major cultures. The Salado lived in east-central Arizona and are thought to be a blend of two or more major cultures.



Wettest Quarter Century in 2000 Years

Rainfall Over 2000 Years in New Mexico

Tree rings from El Malpais National Monument (Henri Grissino-Mayer)



Future Challenge: Population Growth in the Southwest 2005-2025

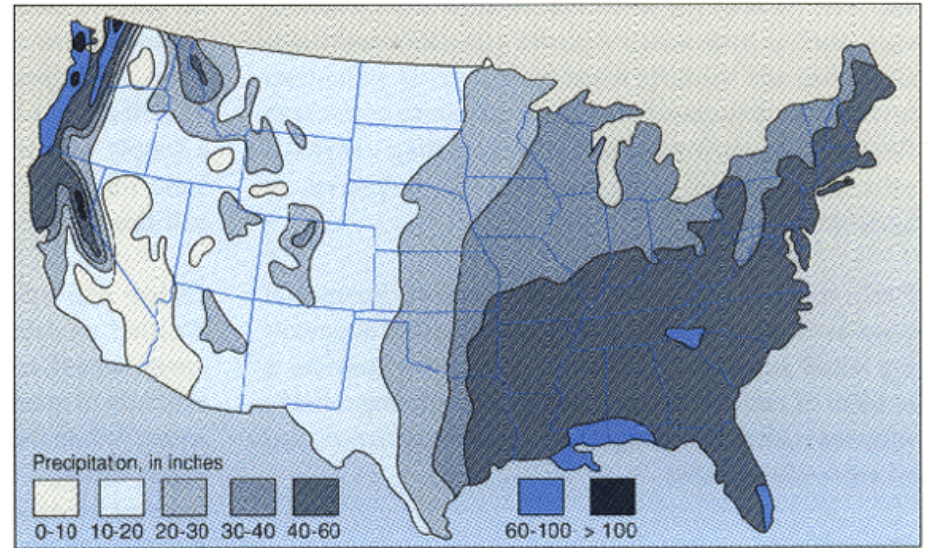
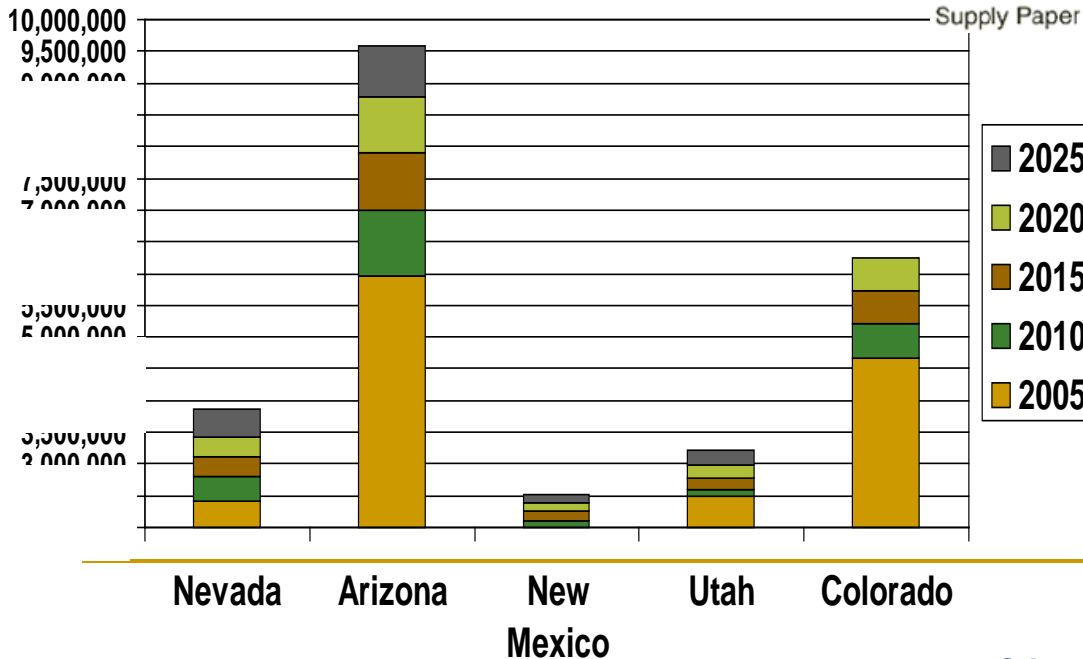
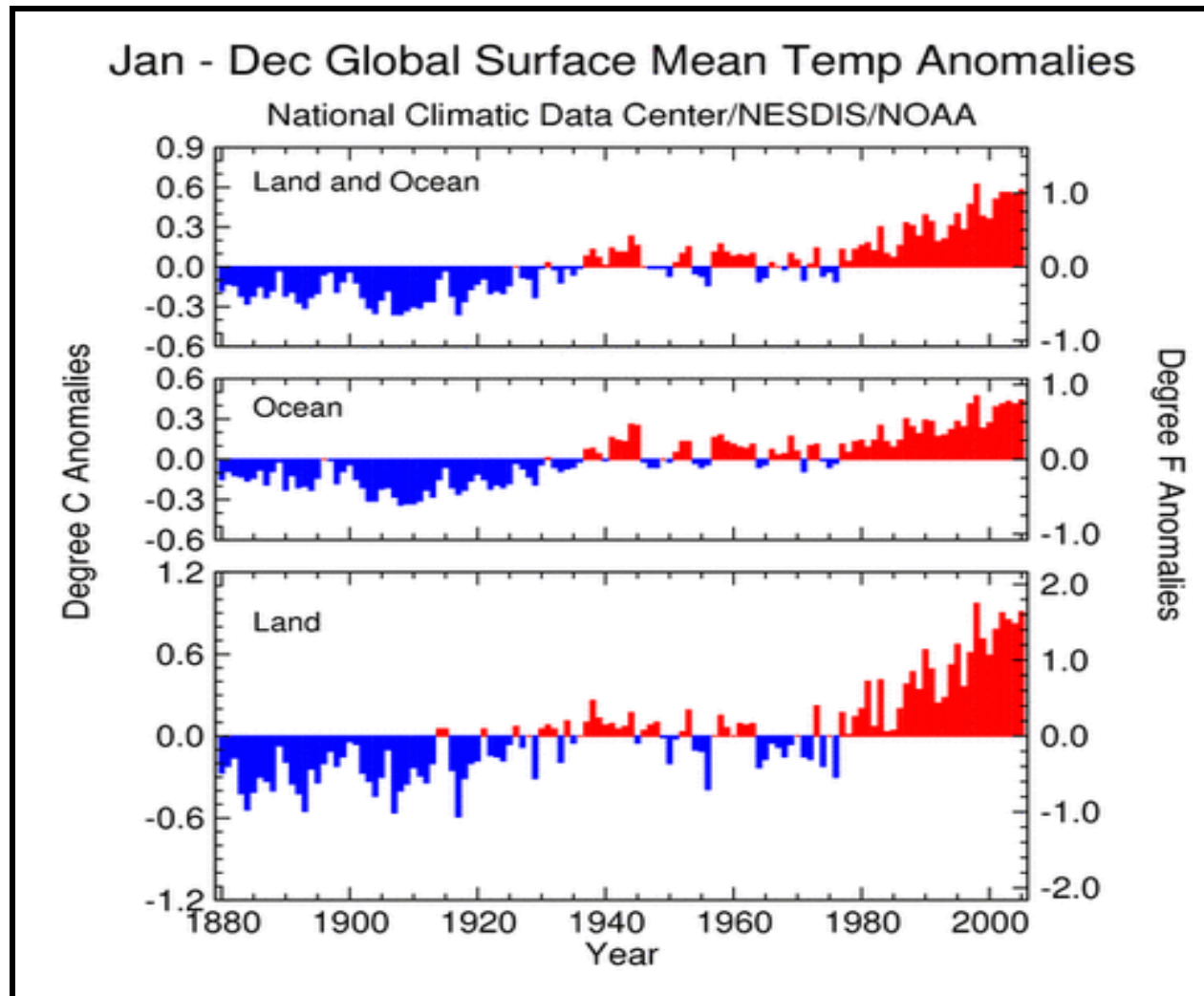


Figure 2 Average annual precipitation in the conterminous U.S., from U.S. Geological Survey, National Water Summary 1983—Hydrologic Events and Issues: USGS Water-Supply Paper 2250 (1983).



Expect a Reduction in Surface Water Inflows







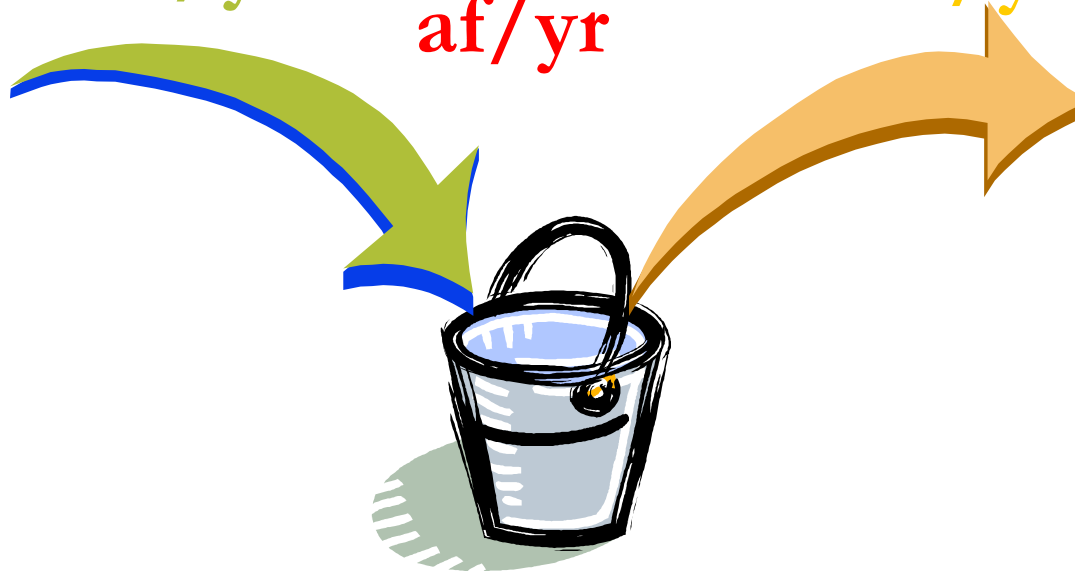
- Three Counties; Three Watersheds
- 12 Tribes
- 18 Local Governments
- More than 130 public water supply providers
- More than 30 acequias
- 40% of the state's population
- Substantial agricultural interests
- Habitat for several endangered and threatened species
- More unadjudicated paper water than wet water

Ongoing Deficit Spending of Water 15-20% Last Quarter of the 20th Century

Inflows
261,000 af/yr

Deficit
55,000
af/yr

Consumption
316,000
af/yr

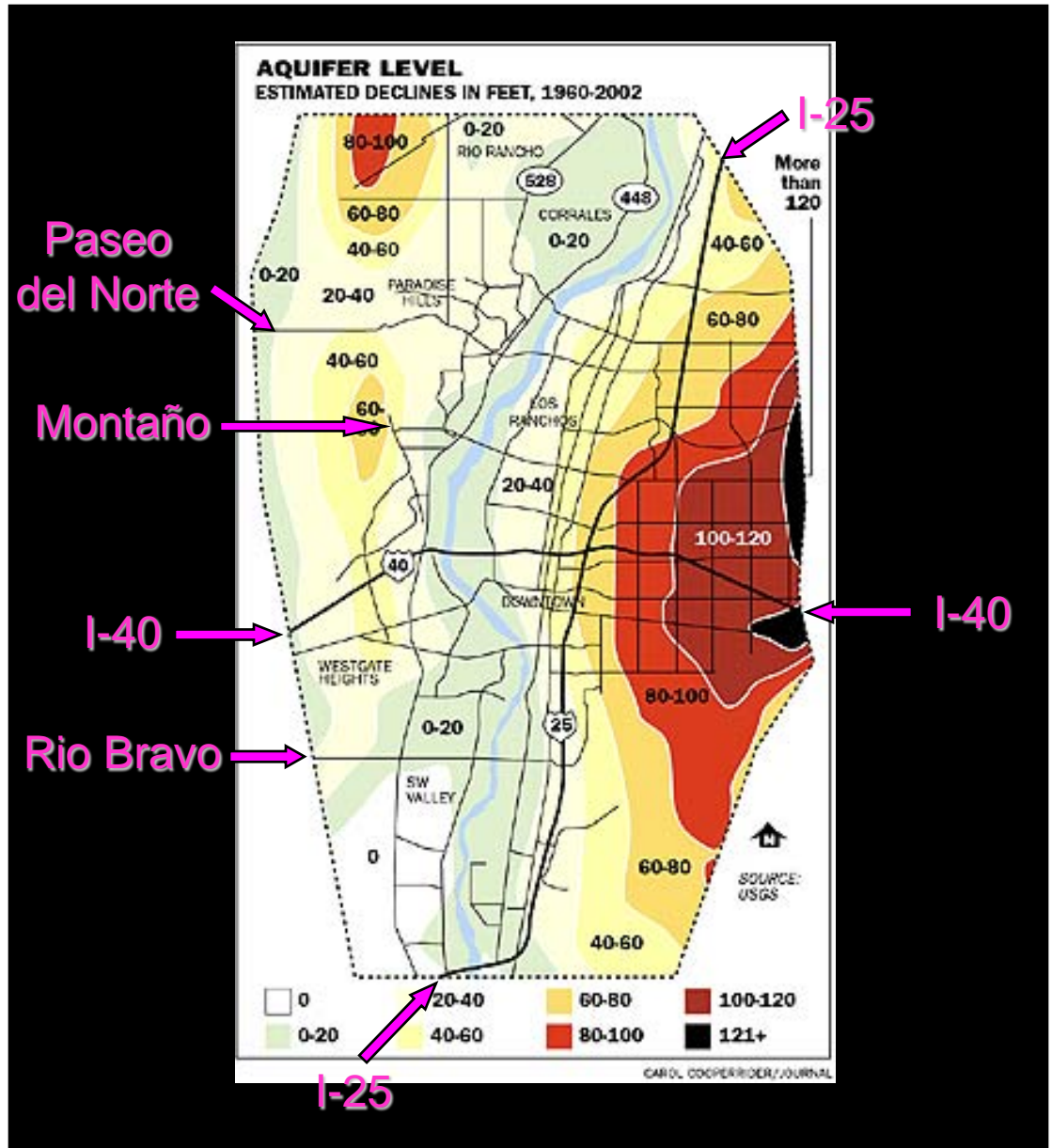


55,000 Acre Feet is 18 Billion Gallons

Enough to Fill a Football Field 7 Miles Deep, Every Year !

Aquifers in the Albuquerque Area are Drawn Down 1960 to 2000

Source: U.S. Geological Survey - 2003



puts a Substantial Drain on River Flows

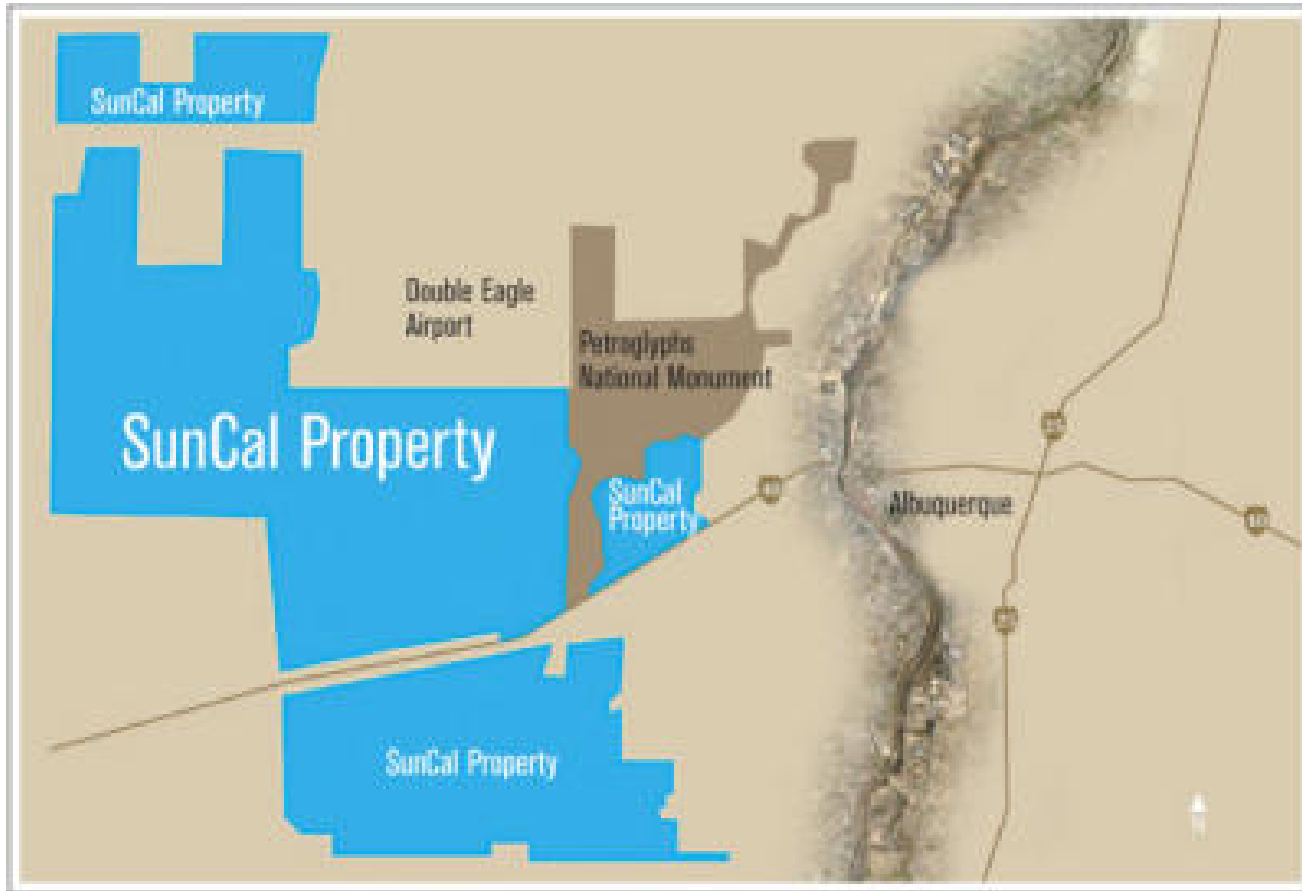


**Is this the
Rio Grande?**

**... or is this the
Rio Grande?**



SunCal to develop 55,000 acres!



Power struggle for the future of the region



Plans Galore!



- State Water Plan
- Regional Water Plans
- 72-1-9 water dev't plans
- Local water plans
- Comprehensive plans
- Regional land use plans
- Transportation plans



The Disconnects

- Outcomes not connected to plans.
 - Development regulations not connected to the plan.
 - Development decisions and budget expenditures inconsistent with the plan.
 - Conflicting plans and regulations within the same jurisdiction.
 - Gaps and conflicts between jurisdictions.
-

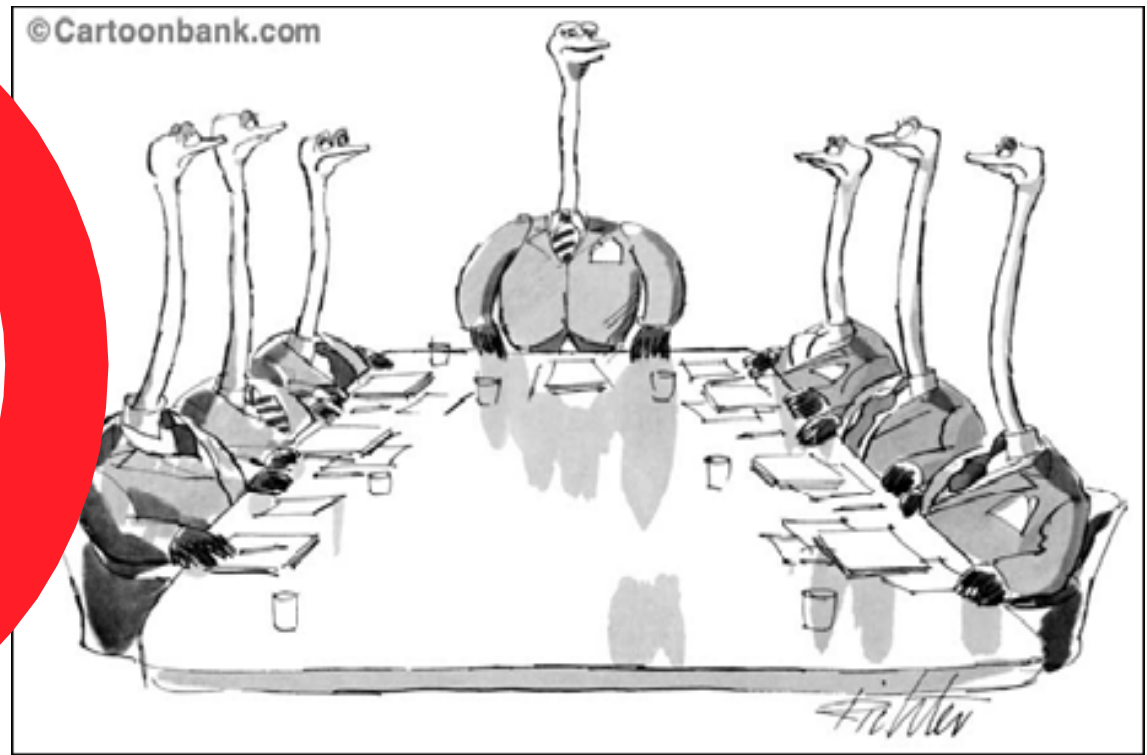
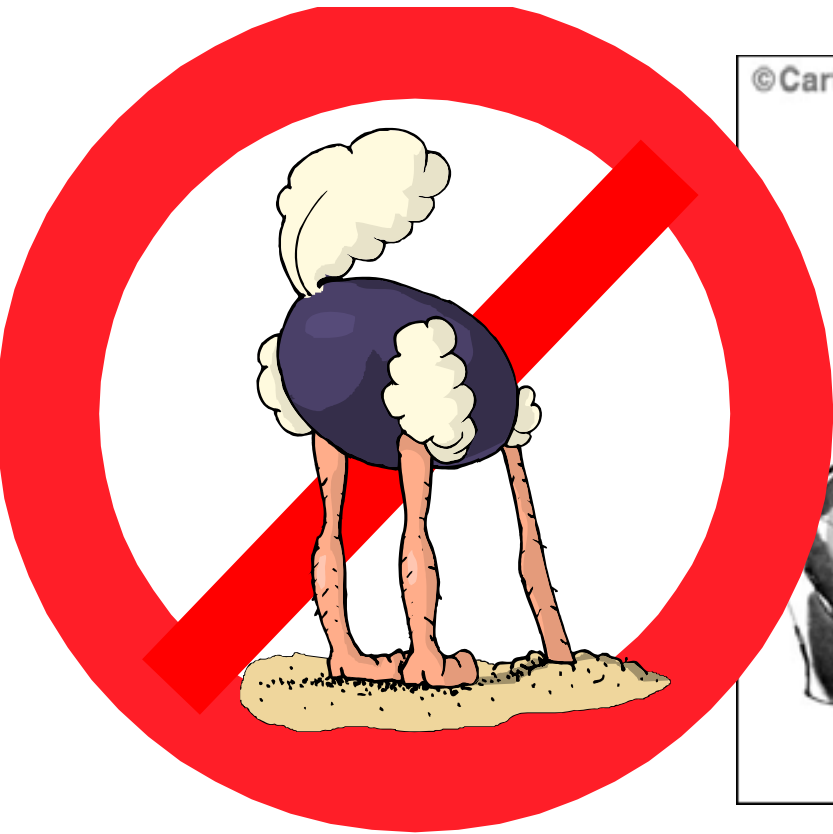
Connecting land, water & growth in the 21st century requires:

- Breaking down silos
 - Connecting federal, state, sovereign tribal governments, local governments, farmers, and a multitude of others in a new way
 - Connecting plans, regulations, development decisions and actions as well as financial resources
-

A smarter process requires, at a minimum:

- Integrated planning systems
 - Inclusive and participatory processes
 - Informed decision-making consistent with the plan(s)
 - A feedback loop and mitigation monitoring
-

“The motion has been made and seconded that we stick our heads in the sand.”



Hundredth Monkey

