



## **American Planning Association – New Mexico Chapter**

February 19, 2005

### **RE:HB 285 & SB120: Active Resource Management and Designation of Critical Management Areas**

Dear Representative Varela and Senator Cisneros

The New Mexico Chapter of the American Planning Association supports HB 285, which provides for Active Resource Management and Designation of Critical Management Areas. This bill is needed to ensure that water is available for future development. The bill reinforces the relationship between water and land use as set forth in the New Mexico State Water Plan (Section C.7). That relationship is important because it assures that New Mexico uses its water in a way that promotes long-range economic development, protects homeowners' investments, and maintains a high quality of life for its residents. Tough problems require innovative solutions – if this issue is not dealt with now, it will need to be dealt with in the future when the water problems are even more critical.

NMAPA is also opposed to SB 451(Smith) and HB 500 (King) because these bills would prohibit the State Engineer from setting a limit of less than .5 acre feet per year in critical management areas. Since the average use is .35 acre feet per year, these bills, if passed, would prevent meaningful limitations on new domestic wells in critical areas.

The New Mexico Chapter of the American Planning Association (NMAPA) is one of the top 20 trade organizations in the state with a membership of over 300 planning professionals working in the public and private sector, planning officials, and educators. We promote the art and science of sound and responsible planning for our communities.

If NMAPA can provide you with further information or support for this bill, please contact me at 577-2319 or [dpava@sprynet.com](mailto:dpava@sprynet.com)

Sincerely,

Daniel Pava, AICP  
President NMAPA