

**Economic Growth and Sustainability:
Water Resources in the Paso del Norte Region**

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Brief Presentation Notes

Water is essential for economic growth, sustainability, health and quality of life

Half of the population in the upper basin, majority in Paso del Norte region

Shared water resources in region – El Paso, Juarez, S. NM

Rio Grande is the only source of surface water – highly variable

Agriculture owns and uses more than 80% of surface water

Rio Grande provides more than 50% of total El Paso annual demand in full supply year

Have been in drought 15 years, full supply only 3 of last 12 years

Rely on groundwater – Juarez and Las Cruces urban demand 100% groundwater

Aquifer depletion in region

El Paso compares well – economic incentives, education, regulations effective

Comparison of water use to other cities

Success in conservation/reducing water consumption in El Paso

Complex management – Cooperation needed – Examples of collaboration

Growth – Strategies for Sustainable Water – Increasing Cost of New Supplies

Economic Competitiveness Summary

Paso del Norte Region is very competitive

Water costs are low compared to other regions

Recognize the cost of water will increase

Multi-jurisdiction and private-public collaboration are needed

To continue to be competitive must maintain and build infrastructure

New development pays cost of “new” water

Perception of sustainability major issue – education is needed