



On the Water Front

August 2016 | A Message from John Balliew, P.E., President/CEO

Water, the final frontier

No slight intended to Star Trek fans, but the notion that we must forge ahead as pioneers and explore new and renewable sources of water should not be lost.

El Paso is blessed. It's a desert city that relies on three sources of water—the Rio Grande, and two aquifers. Advancements in technology have also allowed us to reclaim and reuse water. These sources however, are not enough to support a County population that is projected to grow to 1.4 million by 2070. With our current water portfolio, we would only meet 86 percent of that demand.

Decades ago, El Paso Water had the foresight to begin exploring and pursuing different options — conservation and education, water reuse, desalination and plans for water importation.

Recent land purchases

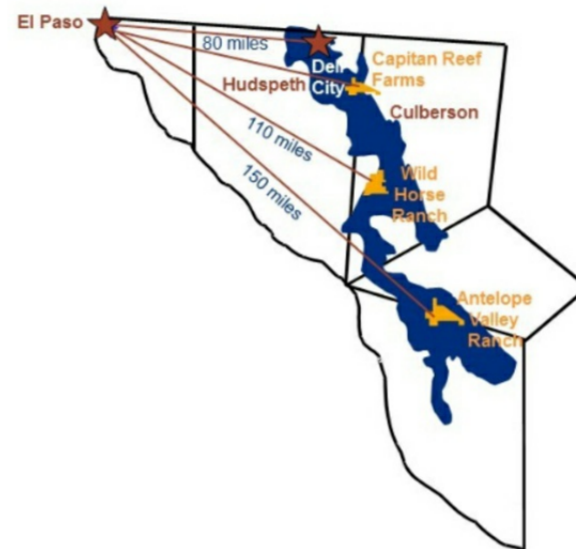
With the land purchases we've made recently, our main objective was and always has been to search for renewable sources of water.

That's why the purchase of property in Dell City was critical and more Hudspeth County purchases are planned. The underground water resources with natural recharge will play a key role in the sustainability of our region.

We will operate or lease the purchased lands in Dell City for agricultural and other uses. That way, we'll contribute to the local economy. Even when we do eventually import water, we will limit what we take so that water supports sustainability of both Dell City and El Paso.

These purchases are part of an estimated \$600 million water importation strategy that is expected to begin in 2050. Pipelines, pumping stations and water treatment plants will also be part of the larger investment.

If we don't move on land purchases now, with the assistance of loans and historic low-rates, the land and infrastructure could be too expensive and burdensome for our rate payers. Even worse, we would lose out on a renewable water supply for future El Paso generations.



On the Water Front is a publication of El Paso Water.
Contact Christina Montoya at 915.594.5596 or cmontoya@epwu.org with any comments or questions.

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