

Water privatization not a good idea

It seems that there is more and more talk about water privatization in various publications touting its advantages. So you would not think this is a bad scheme. Why wouldn't we want our water privatized?

This is what the Augustin Plains Ranch, LLC would like to have happen with the water under the Plains of San Augustin. If this is such a good idea why not have the rest of the Southwestern New Mexico also undergo privatization? In reality part of the Southwestern New Mexico is already privatized, because of the adjudication that the Gila –San Francisco Rivers underwent a few years back.

The people that had their water adjudicated now actually own the water that was granted to them. So in essence that water is privatized.

The problem with allowing landowners to privatize water that is not going to be used for beneficial use on the overlying land is that that water can be shipped as commercial water elsewhere. This could have adverse effects on adjacent land owner who could not afford to undertake this same scheme. Many states are abdicating the control of water to private entities because the states can't manage their own resources.

This state is on its way to being one of those that doesn't have finances or man power to manage its water. Who is going to be hurt by this scheme? It is you and I.

When all water is nothing more than a commodity to be sold to highest bidder we in the rural areas are the one who will suffer the most.

The southwestern part of the state needs to be classified as an "area of origin" so that we don't have our water taken under various schemes to be used elsewhere. This was done in California and was challenged in court where the courts ruled against the "area of origin" because the federal government was involve with the Central Valley Project.

However, this is not the case here where it is just the counties asserting their rights and the will of the people. Area of origin is a way to describe the source area of water, be it the headwaters of a watershed or a groundwater basin. These areas should be protected from developments that would use the water for inter basin transfers and not benefit the local population.

I know that water is not evenly distributed in the southwest, but the rural areas have just as much right to the water in their back yards as do the urban areas that have more power and influence. We need to become advocates for protecting our resources. This means becoming involved with our county governments and making our voices heard.

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