



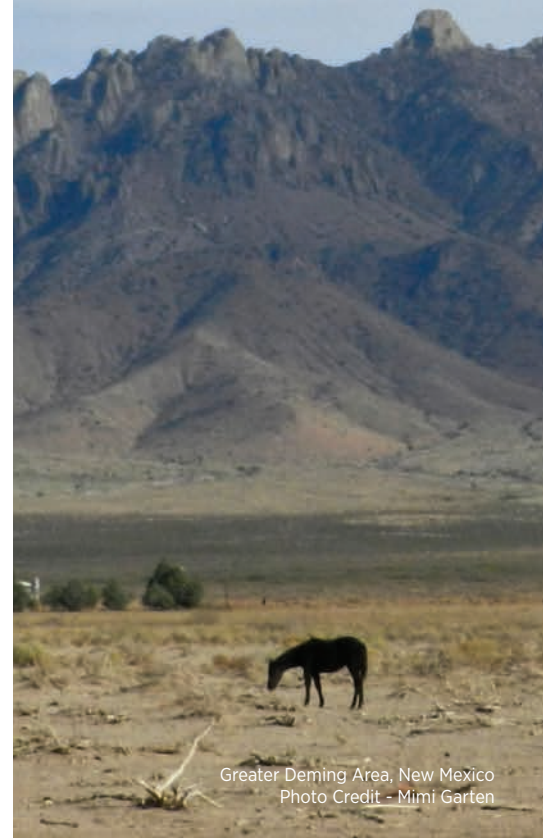
PROTECTING THE WEST'S LAND, AIR, AND WATER

An Affordable and Secure Future Water Supply for the City of Deming

A LOCAL WATER CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY ALTERNATIVE TO IMPORTING WATER FROM THE GILA RIVER

The City of Deming is located in the arid Southwest. Deming's future depends on the efficient and responsible use of a limited water supply. New Mexico's rivers, including the Gila River, are experiencing record low flows. Drought and climate change are decreasing snowpack, runoff, and streamflow. In a recent public opinion survey of New Mexico voters, **91 percent** listed low river levels as a major concern when it came to water. We need to pursue water conservation strategies to ensure a secure water future for our communities like Deming, and eliminate unnecessary diversions from our sacred rivers to protect the future health of our state.

WATER IN NEW MEXICO CAN GO FROM SCARCITY TO ABUNDANCE, IF WE WORK TOGETHER TO IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABLE WATER CONSERVATION AND RIVER MANAGEMENT POLICIES.



Greater Deming Area, New Mexico
Photo Credit - Mimi Garten

In May 2018, Audubon New Mexico and Western Resource Advocates published a technical report titled, *An Affordable and Secure Future Water Supply for the City of Deming: A Local Water Conservation and Efficiency Alternative to Importing Water from the Gila River* (our “water alternative”).

The report outlines how Deming and Luna County can secure a sustainable water supply past 2060 by investing tens of millions of dollars of current federal Arizona Water Settlement Act (AWSA) funds in:

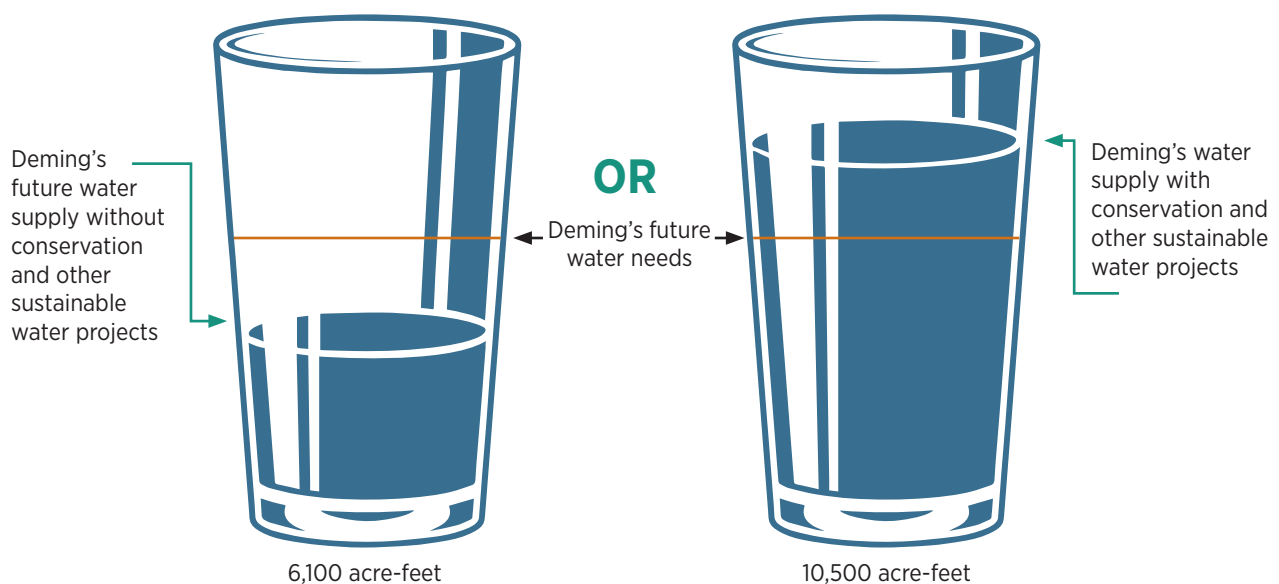
- Sustainable groundwater management
- Water conservation
- Water loss control
- Water reuse
- Planned agricultural to municipal water transfers

This shovel-ready water alternative would create jobs and position Deming and Luna County as an attractive and water-secure hub for new businesses in arid southwestern New Mexico.



Gila River, New Mexico
Photo Credit - Avelino Maestas

Water Conservation, Reuse, and Planned Ag-Urban Transfers Significantly Exceed the Estimated Water Needs for Deming





Kayaking on the Gila River

Local city and county elected officials have tapped just over \$2.5 million of the \$66 million available for community water needs. Our water alternative identifies more than \$33 million dollars of water conservation and efficiency projects that would meet Deming’s future water needs.

These sound water management practices—sustainable groundwater management, water conservation, and reuse—are **cheaper, faster, and better** options to secure drinking water for Deming families and future generations while strengthening the city and county’s economic resilience to long-term drought without having to divert the Gila River.

BY USING FEDERAL FUNDS TO PURSUE THIS SHOVEL-READY WATER ALTERNATIVE, DEMING TAXPAYERS AND RATEPAYERS CAN MEET THEIR FUTURE WATER NEEDS AND SAVE MILLIONS IN COSTS.

These Local Water Conservation and Efficiency Alternatives Are Cheaper and Provide Greater Water Supply Reliability to Deming Than Any Gila River Diversion Project

STRATEGIES	COST
Sustainable Management of Mimbres Basin	\$7,800,000
Water Conservation Program	\$5,000,000
Water Loss Control Projects Planned by Deming	\$7,800,000
Reuse Projects Planned by Deming	\$12,800,000
TOTAL	\$33,400,000

Deming and Luna Country face a fork in the road: how to best spend significant federal and municipal funds to secure the city's future water supply. To date, some city, county and state elected officials support spending tens of millions of dollars of federal AWSA funding to divert the Gila and San Francisco Rivers, and not on local water conservation and efficiency projects like our water alternative.

The Gila River, with its abundant fish and wildlife, is an irreplaceable local resource for New Mexican and Deming families, and is one of the crown jewels of New Mexico's multibillion-dollar outdoor recreation economy.

The proposed Gila River diversion projects would be too harmful to the environment and would provide minimal benefit for Deming taxpayers. **Much better options exist**, like our water alternative, that are closely aligned with what New Mexican residents actually want: prioritizing water conservation and reuse before diverting more water from New Mexico's rivers (2018 Conservation in the West Poll).

GET INFORMED

- To learn more about our water alternative, visit www.nm.audubon.org.

GET INVOLVED

- Attend one of the public meetings on the river diversions.
- Contact your city, county, and state elected officials, ask them to:
 - Use available federal AWSA funds to increase water security for you and your family by funding local water conservation and efficiency projects and not diverting more water from rivers.
 - Oppose the Gila River diversions to protect our recreational economy, our future generations' ability to enjoy the Gila River, and our fish and wildlife.



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**"I URGE SOUTHERN
NEW MEXICO TO LEAVE
THE GILA INTACT SO
THAT IT MAY CONTINUE
TO NOURISH THE
HEARTS AND SOULS
OF OUR CHILDREN
AND GRANDCHILDREN,
AND TO SEEK MORE
COST EFFECTIVE AND
REASONABLE WAYS TO
SECURE WATER FOR
OUR RESIDENTS."**

—Most Reverend Bishop Oscar Cantú,
Bishop of Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces

Gila River | Photo Credit - Sandy Feutz