

Stormwater

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food control commissions, the Doña Ana and Caballo Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Elephant Butte Irrigation District.

Delk said the task force is working toward three preliminary goals:

- A comprehensive assessment of storm water infrastructure conditions
 - Investigate the options of organizing a regional flood control authority
 - Determine the implications of the proposed Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Wilderness Act in the area watersheds
- Valeria Beversdorf, EBID computer and geographic information service manager, showed how vulnerable valley communities are to flooding from storms.

The storm flood waters rush down from 11,000 square miles in the Rio Grande and Mimbres watersheds. Sub-basins in Las Cruces and El Paso are not controlled, she said.

“We need more information and incorporate it into a master plan to show how that information can be used,” Beversdorf said. “Many of those dams have been in use beyond their 50-year span, and we need new designs and standards.”

She also noted that many arroyos are adjacent to the new high school east of the city off Dripping Spring Road and the 50-year-old Tortugas Dam.

EBID manager Gary Esslinger reported the EBID and El Paso County Water Improvement District have opened discussions about how storm water could be retained and stored for irrigation downstream.

“It’s an opportunity to capture and manage the storm water,” he said.