

**A Message from the Chairman
(From the November 2005 Urban Water Council Newsletter)**



Mayor Martin Chavez
Albuquerque, NM

The Urban Water Council (UWC) has just concluded its first decade of operation, having been established in August of 1995. I am proud to step up as Chairman of the UWC as it begins its second decade of serving members of The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM).

The 2005/2006 Program is ambitious. This Newsletter provides articles covering the Fall 2005 Urban Water Summit that I hosted here in Albuquerque. As you can see from the articles, the Summit covered a broad range of water issues, including: rehabilitation of aging water infrastructure, water system security, water conservation, and asset management. The Summit coincided with Albuquerque's Balloon Fiesta, which is the premiere world ballooning event held each year in our city. Not only did participating mayors learn about water resources "Best Practices", they also enjoyed exciting balloon rides and other cultural attractions such as the new Balloon Museum where the UWC was first to hold a professional conference.

This year the UWC released its Mayor's Guide to Water and Wastewater Partnership Agreements: Terms and Conditions. The Guide, which can be found on the USCM website, is intended to provide mayors with information on how to structure water partnerships that yield public benefits including cost-savings, value-added services and environmental compliance. The Guide took over a year to develop, and took advantage of the best thinking of public sector and private sector water expertise. It provides a much-needed reference for mayors who are making important decisions to provide affordable and adequate water supplies and services.

The UWC also conducted a national survey of America's principal cities on water resource issues in the first quarter of 2005. A record 414 cities responded to the survey questionnaire, and staff has spent a considerable amount of time and effort to verify survey responses, analyze the information and prepare a final report. The report is due to be released shortly, and will also be available on the USCM website.

The UWC will convene a business meeting in December to discuss the meetings schedule for 2006. I will convene UWC meetings in January in conjunction with the USCM Winter Meeting in Washington, DC, and in June in conjunction with the USCM Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. I anticipate holding a regional seminar in the Spring, and the Annual Urban Water Summit in the Fall. The times and locations of these meetings are now under consideration. I

want to invite all Mayors and their staff to attend and participate in these meetings because we all have water problems and expertise to share.