

## Middle Rio Grande MS4 Watershed-Based Pilot Program

Albuquerque, New Mexico

### CLIENT

Phase I Permittees  
(Albuquerque Metropolitan  
Arroyo Flood Control  
Authority, City of  
Albuquerque, University  
of New Mexico and New  
Mexico Department of  
Transportation)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Multiple agency collaboration
- Performing water quality monitoring and sampling
- Sampling Plan and Quality Assurance Plan development

DBS&A has been at the forefront in providing stormwater engineering and compliance services to the major parties involved with the Middle Rio Grande MS4 Watershed Based Pilot Project. The Middle Rio Grande is one of only three watershed-based stormwater permit pilot programs in the country designated by the U.S. EPA. Watershed-based NPDES permitting strives to address watershed stressors within a hydrologically-defined drainage basin holistically, rather than individual pollutant sources on a discharge-by-discharge basis.

Watershed-based permitting requires collaboration between permittees and may involve synchronizing permits within a basin or developing water quality-based effluent limits using a multiple discharger modeling analysis. The ultimate goal is to develop and issue NPDES permits that better protect entire watersheds.

DBS&A is working under contracts for the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority, the City of Albuquerque, the University of New Mexico and the New Mexico Department of Transportation -- all of the Phase I permittees in the watershed. Our activities for these various clients include assisting with permit requirements for both the current and new watershed-based MS4 permits, overseeing stormwater monitoring and sampling as required under the current MS4 Permit, developing the Field Sampling Plan and Quality Assurance Project Plan based on water quality sampling requirements under the new watershed based MS4 Permit, evaluating stormwater BMPs and sediment transport in stormwater, and implementation of the City's illicit discharge detection and elimination program. DBS&A's involvement with all these entities serves to increase coordination of data and collaboration between groups, leading to increased efficiency for all of them.



DBS&A performs water quality monitoring and sampling throughout the watershed.