

# SLV Pastors Discuss Water Issues and Stewardship

By Elliott Graves

On Saturday October 19th, as part of the celebration "Dia Del Rio", pastors from various churches throughout the San Luis Valley met for three hours with Jerry Freeman, Director of Education and Natural Resources of Citi-

zens for San Luis Valley Water, and Ray Wright, President of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District.

During the meeting the group viewed a video (Keeping the Earth: Religious and Scientific Perspectives on the Environment). They discussed

issues concerning religion and the environment, stewardship and theological perspectives relating to the stewardship of God's creation.

Ray Wright from the Rio Grande Water Conservation District spoke about the new proposal by Gary Boyce

of Stockman's Water to transport water from the San Luis Valley to communities on the Eastern slope of the Rockies. Wright pointed out that 80 percent of any excess water used in the Valley now recycles back into the aquifer. Any water removed from the Valley to be used elsewhere will be "100 percent gone." There was serious discussion concerning the theological as well as the practical implications of removing water from the Valley.

It was agreed by every-

one present that further meetings will be held to continue discussion and develop action programs to deal with the concerns about removing water from the Valley. It was further agreed that members of churches, as well as community members throughout the Valley, should be included in such programs.

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