INTRODUCTION

The aquifer system in the Albuquerque metropolitan area is one of several large-scale baseflow-producing aquifers in the United States. It includes the Santa Fe Group, which is composed of Cibola, Sandoval, and Bernalillo Counties in Central New Mexico. It is the second-largest baseflow-producing aquifer in the United States, providing an estimated 40% of the drinking-water supply for the metropolitan area of central New Mexico. The aquifer system is composed of the most productive groundwater-bearing units, the Frio, Map, and Peralta formations. The Frio formation is the most productive unit, providing about 35% of the water used by the metropolitan area. The Map formation is the second most productive, providing about 25% of the water used by the metropolitan area. The Peralta formation is the third most productive, providing about 25% of the water used by the metropolitan area.

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