

# **Sustainable Basin Integrity**

Senior Water Resource Manager Ethan Schuth

**Choctaw Nation Division of Legal and Compliance** 

Living out the Chahta Spirit FAITH . FAMILY . CULTURE



### Sustainability, What Is It and Why Does It Matter?

- "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."
   -UN Commission on Environment and Development
- "The integration of environmental health, social equity and economic vitality in order to create thriving, healthy, diverse and resilient communities for this generation and generations to come. The practice of sustainability recognizes how these issues are interconnected and requires a systems approach and an acknowledgement of complexity."
  - -UCLA Sustainability Committee
- "The balance of preservation and utilization of natural resources for the long-term benefit of the economy, environment, and the Choctaw culture that allows for equitable multi-generational access to those resources, and their benefits."
  - -Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



#### **Whole System Recognition**

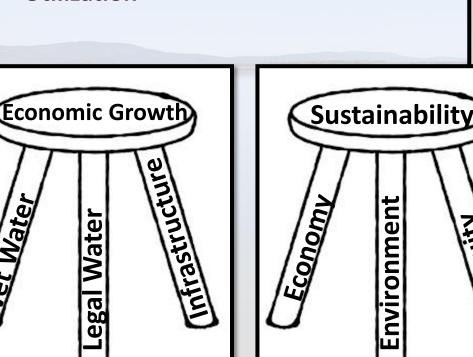
Replacement Rate



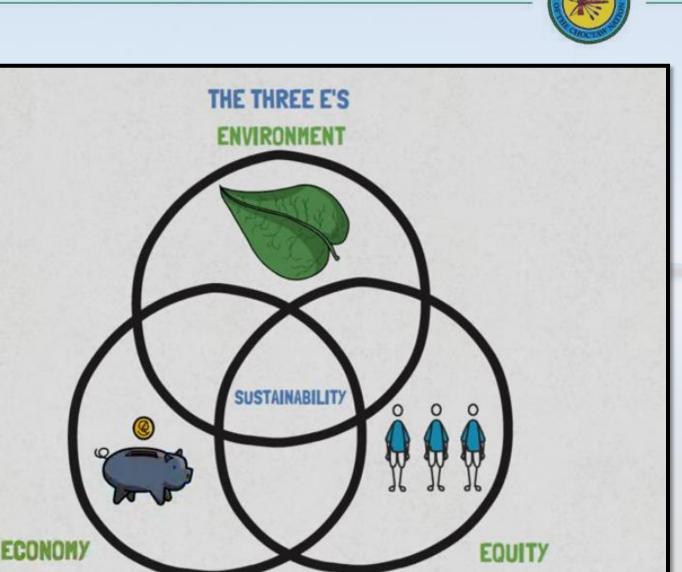


# Sustainability, An Oklahoma & **Cultural Value**

Sustainable Basin Development and Utilization



Ainb



Wet Water

# **Sustainable Basin Flows**

- "The quantity, quality, and timing of flows required to sustain freshwater ecosystems and those that depend on them"
- Sustainable basin flows <u>limit</u> potential environmental disruptions.

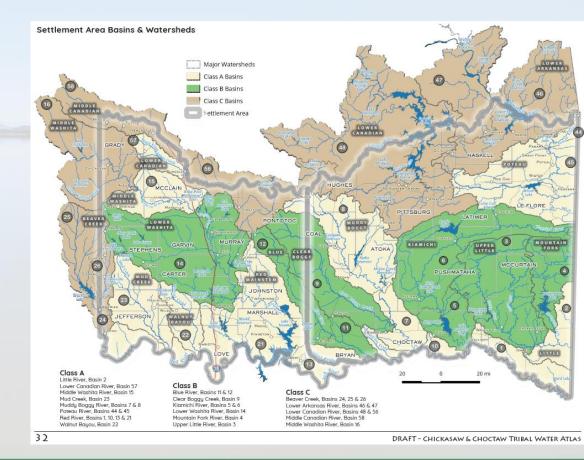




# Water Settlement Agreement

- Common Interest in Sustainability
- **Protection of Basin Hydrology**
- Promotes Technical Studies for Informed Decision-Making

9.1.2 Common Interest – The State and Nations have a common interest in the
long-term sustainability of Settlement Area Waters and supporting water planning with sound
science, best available information, and stakeholder input. The State and Nations recognize
the value inherent in communicating and coordinating on technical studies and other planning
efforts related to Settlement Area Waters. Nothing in Section 9 creates any enforcement right
under Section 3.





*"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."-George Bernard Shaw*