

2026 LEGISLATIVE GOALS

ACTION ITEMS

1

Increase budget for the State Engineer to improve water rights enforcement, **Active Water Resources Management** implementation, and water metering and monitoring.

RECURRING
WE SUPPORT THE LFC REQUEST OF
\$37.2M (NMED) AND RECOMMEND
INCREASING THE LFC RECOMMENDATION
TO \$40.3M (OSE-ISC)

2

Increase budget for the Interstate Stream Commission for implementation of the Regional Water Security Planning Act, including funding for a grants and loans program to support community education, engagement, and action.

NON-RECURRING
WE REQUEST THE LFC SUPPORT THE
EXECUTIVE REQUEST OF \$5,000,000

3

Increase funding for Water Data Initiative and aquifer mapping.

NON-RECURRING
WE SUPPORT THE LFC AND EXECUTIVE
REQUEST OF \$22,000,000

4

Increase appropriations to the Strategic Water Reserve.

NON-RECURRING
WE SUPPORT THE LFC
RECOMMENDATION OF \$15,500,000

5

Support funding for the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources.

NON-RECURRING
WE SUPPORT THE LFC
RECOMMENDATION OF \$7,600,000

6

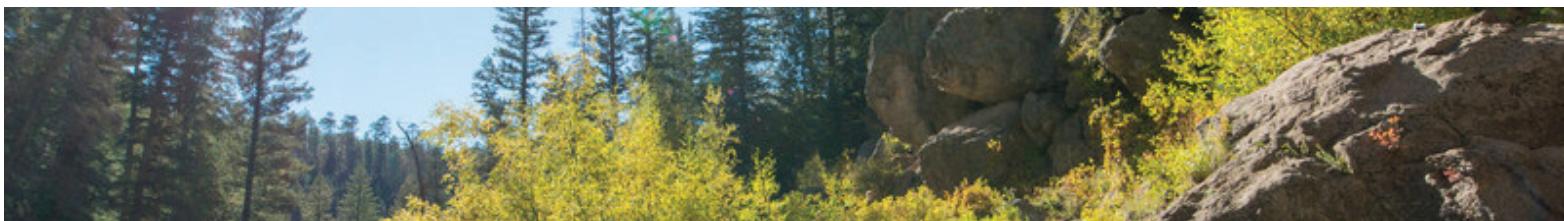
Provide predictable, dedicated funding for local, Tribal, rural, and regional water capacity, including technical assistance, planning staff, and implementation support to carry out water management, conservation, and resilience strategies consistent with state water goals and regional planning initiatives.

NON-RECURRING
WE RECOMMEND INCREASING THE LFC
RECOMMENDATION BY \$5M (DFA)

7

Increase funding for programs that support agricultural communities, acequias, irrigation entities, and Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations in adopting water-smart, climate-resilient practices that conserve water while sustaining agricultural viability, rural economies, local food security, and ecological values.

NON-RECURRING
WE RECOMMEND INCREASING THE LFC
RECOMMENDATION BY \$5M



NEW MEXICO FEATURED LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



We are grateful for the New Mexico Legislature's leadership and for the historic amounts of funding recommended this session and in previous sessions. This sustained investment positions New Mexico to move from planning to action.

Items 1-8 originated from the Water Task Force and are now being advanced by the Water Ambassadors.

1 Create a Water Infrastructure Projects Authority with a dedicated funding stream to provide communities with the resources and support they need to help them meet current needs and adapt to climate change.

Progress: Partially achieved through 2024 Water Project Funding Act + DFA Infrastructure Bureau startup.

2 Promote and incentivize regional collaboration – from informal to formal arrangements – by drinking water and wastewater systems through administration of existing funding programs, prioritization of technical assistance investments, and clear laws and processes that preserve local flexibility.

Progress: Mostly achieved through 2024 Partial Funding for Implementation of SB1, NM Integrated Water Financing Project, and 2025 NM Integrated Water Financing Plan.

3 Tackle local capacity challenges through predictable state investments in expanded technical assistance and strategic actions to grow the water workforce of the future.

Progress: Expansion of technical services for drinking and wastewater systems partially achieved through 2024 NMFA technical assistance prog. \$3.5M and 2025 NMFA technical assistance prog. \$3.5M (HB206); Appropriate resources to grow water workforce to meet demands of water and wastewater systems partially achieved through 2024 and 2025 DWS Climate Workforce Program (HB240).

4 Close the gap for drinking water and wastewater systems that need targeted funding to address emergency needs, such as shortterm water outages brought on by wildfires and extreme drought.

Progress: Emergency fund for water emergencies partially achieved through some emergency funding passed in 2023 (HB2).

5 Elevate water planning, through statutory clarification of its purpose, and proper funding of its work, and through empowerment of regional and local water agencies, to set clearly identified goals for permanent and escalating reductions in water use over the coming decades.

Progress: Mostly achieved through the 2023 passage of SB337 and 2024 implementation of SB337.

6 Support the resilience of the state's diverse agricultural communities with effective water rights administration by the Office of the State Engineer, inclusion of agricultural stakeholders in water management, and consideration of equity, conservation, and sustainability.

Progress: Include agricultural and rural stakeholders in the creation of regionally adapted, locally developed strategies to address water conservation and supply/demand imbalances somewhat achieved through the 2023 passage of SB337 and 2024 implementation of SB337, and the 2025 development of HB117 Pilot Ag Water Resilience Program (\$5M) and subsequent WRRI implementation of the program.

7 Advance our scientific understanding of groundwater through measuring, monitoring, and models to protect the quantity and quality of groundwater resources.

Progress: Advance scientific understanding and monitoring to support groundwater resources partially funded in 2023 (HB2) and 2024 (HB2); HB2 in 2025 provided \$7.5M for aquifer monitoring and mapping.

8 Capitalize a new state fund needed to capture and leverage the bounty of federal funding currently available for needed state and local water infrastructure.

Progress: Increase New Mexico's ability to leverage federal funds for water resilience partially achieved through 2024 HB177 NM Match Fund (\$75M) and 2025 SB2 NM Match Fund (\$7.2M); Provide sufficient capacity to fulfill existing statutory mandates by utilizing existing authorized tools partially funded in 2023 and 2024 (HB2); HB2 in 2025 provided \$300,000 for NMSU Acequia and Community Ditch Fund and \$2M for NM Tech Water Data Act.

CALL OR EMAIL FOR
MORE INFORMATION

MIKE HAMMAN
(505) 206-6378
nmwater585@gmail.com