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January 18, 2023

Memorandum

TO: Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
FROM: Mike A. Hamman, P.E. 
State Engineer and Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force Chairman

Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force Membership

SUBJECT: Transmittal of the Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force Report

On behalf of the 29-member Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force, I am very pleased to provide you this report culminating seven months of thoughtful and dedicated work that provides 17 recommendations detailing a comprehensive approach in addressing New Mexico's water future. The Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force membership (listing with signatures attached) are water and policy experts, stakeholders, and government staff representing all regions of the state along with a broad and diverse water user constituency.

This report both informs, is complimentary to, and further addresses the 10 key recommendations and critical action steps that are described within the final draft of the 50-Year Water Plan that has received input from many of the same constituencies that have contributed to this report. In particular, the Indian Affairs Department (IAD) was a great partner with the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) in providing extensive input through participation of the Tribal Water Working Group that developed its own report that speaks to indigenous communities views relative to the preservation, uses and traditional values of water and other natural resources within their homelands. Their report is reference in the 50-Year Water Plan and a number of the recommendations were incorporated in the Plan. I have been informed by IAD that the Tribal Water Working Group report will be released to the public at Indian Day, February 3, 2023.

I wish to acknowledge the valuable contribution from the Thornburg Foundation for providing resources to advance the process and the final work product through a grant provided to the Utton Center for a variety of support services that included the editing and publication of this report. The ISC engaged New Mexico First to provide meeting logistics and facilitation services that was instrumental in driving the consensus-based process to this very successful and highly informative conclusion. Many other contributors noted in the report provided technical assistance and research for the task force membership.

The report is organized by providing an Executive Summary, a description of the current drought and predicted climatological impacts to temperature rise, the organization and process of the Task Force's work, identified problems and proposed solutions, long-term opportunities, the Task Force's view on the draft 50-Year Water Plan, and the technical appendices. This work defines comprehensive and impactful solutions to water resources problems that have been plaguing New Mexicans for decades that will only get worse if corrective actions are not taken starting today and well into the future utilizing an "all of government" approach. Capacity development is a common theme identified within all three of the major categories investigated and it is the hope of this membership that the current level of state and federal resources are dedicated in a thoughtful and well-planned approach setting up long-term benefits that secures New Mexico's water future well into the next century.



The Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force has achieved its Phase 1 goals in developing these recommendations and conveying them to the decision makers. Phase 2 of our work will now shift to serving as Water Ambassadors in their respective regions conveying the findings of our work and advocating for implementation and they offer their support to the Governor's Office to assist in advancing New Mexico's water policy and infrastructure agenda going forward.

MAH/kme





Attachments

WATER POLICY AND INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE TEAM



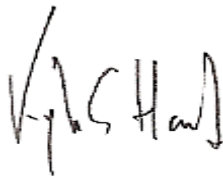


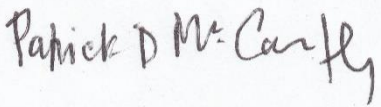

Executive Committee

Mike Hamman State Engineer Office of the State Engineer	
Hannah Riseley-White Deputy Director, Interstate Stream Commission	
Rebecca Roose Deputy Cabinet Secretary of Administration New Mexico Environment Department	Resigned from NMED December 2022
Marquita Russel Chief Executive Officer NM Finance Authority	/s/ Marquita Russel

Task Force

Elizabeth Anderson Chief Planning Officer Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority	/s/ Elizabeth Anderson
Aron Balok Superintendent Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District	
Carleton Bowekaty Lt. Governor Zuni Pueblo	/s/ Carleton Bowekaty
Jennifer Bradfute Senior Counsel Marathon Oil Company	/s/ Jennifer Bradfute
Aaron Chavez Executive Director San Juan Water Commission	
Dr. Ladona Clayton Executive Director Ogallala Land and Water Conservancy	
Bill Conner Executive Director NM Rural Water Association	/s/ Bill Conner
Dr. Nelia Dunbar State Geologist New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources	
Joy Esparsen Executive Director, New Mexico Counties	/s/ Joy Esparsen
A.J. Forte Executive Director, New Mexico Municipal League	/s/ A.J. Forte

Task Force

Paula Garcia Executive Director, NM Acequia Association	
Norm Gaume President, Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates	
Kyle Harwood Water Rights Attorney Santa Fe	
Dr. Phil King Retired NMSU Professor & Consultant Elephant Butte Irrigation District	
Todd Leahy Deputy Cabinet Secretary and Tribal Liaison NM Department of Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources	/s/ Todd Leahy
Priscilla Lucero Executive Director SWNMCOG	
Patrick McCarthy Water Policy Officer, Thornburg Foundation	
Debbie Romero Cabinet Secretary NM Dept. of Finance & Administration	Retired December 2022
Michael Sloane Director NM Department of Game and Fish	/s/ Michael Sloane
Ryan Swazo-Hinds Biologist, Environment Department, Pueblo of Tesuque	/s/ Ryan Swazo-Hinds
Paul Tashjian Director of Freshwater Conservation Audubon	
Lynn Trujillo Cabinet Secretary NM Indian Affairs Department	Left IAD December 2022
Daryl Vigil Water Administrator Jicarilla Apache Nation	/s/ Daryl Vigil
Ralph Vigil NM Acequia Commission	/s/ Ralph Vigil
Jeff Witte Cabinet Secretary NM Department of Agriculture	