

2023 Water Legislation

- Regional Water Resilience Planning Act
- Special Appropriations to Implement Task Force Water Agency Capacity Recommendations
- State Engineer Enforcement Authority
- Forest and Watershed Health—3 bills
- Water Projects Implementation Authority
- **Strategic Water Reserve \$25 million appropriation**
- **Voluntary organization of small water systems into regional water authorities**
- **Interstate Stream Commission appointments**
- **Water Project Fund \$250 million appropriation**

Red = prefiled



Task Force Recommendation 2.1

Water Management and Planning

Water Agencies' Capacity

“Equip state agencies, especially the Office of the State Engineer (OSE), the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC), and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED),

to effectively address New Mexico's 21st Century emerging water security challenges and realize resilient adaptation

through enhanced agency capacity, organizational alignment, cross-agency coordination, modernized business processes, information systems, and accountability.”

- Proactive legislation—OSE/ISC mission and functions to address climate driven water scarcity
- Enforcement against illegal water use
- Capacity (STEM) to do the jobs they have already been given and address new challenges
 - Competitive salaries
- Modern technology and business processes
- Build local capacity to plan, design, and build water projects
- much more ...

Task Force Recommendation 2.2

Water Management and Planning

Regional Water Planning

“Empower state agencies and regional/local water resilience planning entities

to set clearly identified goals for permanent and escalating reduction in water use over the coming decades.

Provide data and decision tools,

develop inclusive and well-supported plan development processes, and

establish pathways and commit resources to ensure plan implementation and systematic evaluation of outcomes.”

- Amend the existing regional water planning statute
- Leverage record surpluses to fully fund a robust, state-led regional water planning program
- Create community-based and science-informed sustainable groundwater management plans
- Develop protocols for integrating reliable science and data.
- Provide support to underserved tribal governments and disadvantaged communities.
- Establish conservation, resilience and sustainability criteria for approval of regional water plans

Regional Water Resilience Planning Act—2023

- Drafted by the Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates In consultation with Water Task Force members
 - Sen. Liz Stefanics has agreed to sponsor
 - Status—At sponsor’s direction, currently refining concepts and language in cooperation with the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission staff so it is acceptable to these agencies
 - Presentation to the Interstate Stream Commission at January 17
 - Should be dropped near the beginning of the 2023 Legislative session
- State and regional statutory requirements for regional water resilience planning program
 - High-level Interstate Stream Commission roles, responsibilities, and rules or guidelines to fill in details
 - Regional Water Resilience Planning Entities
 - Creation
 - Entities establish goals
 - \$ to prepare detailed work plans
 - After approval of work plans, \$\$ to prepare regional water resilience plans and plans for at-risk communities with the region
 - Rigorous review and approval of submitted plans
 - Projects, activities, and policies vetted and prioritized in approved plans recommended by ISC for state-matching \$\$ maximizing use of federal \$\$.
 - Regions to implement their plans

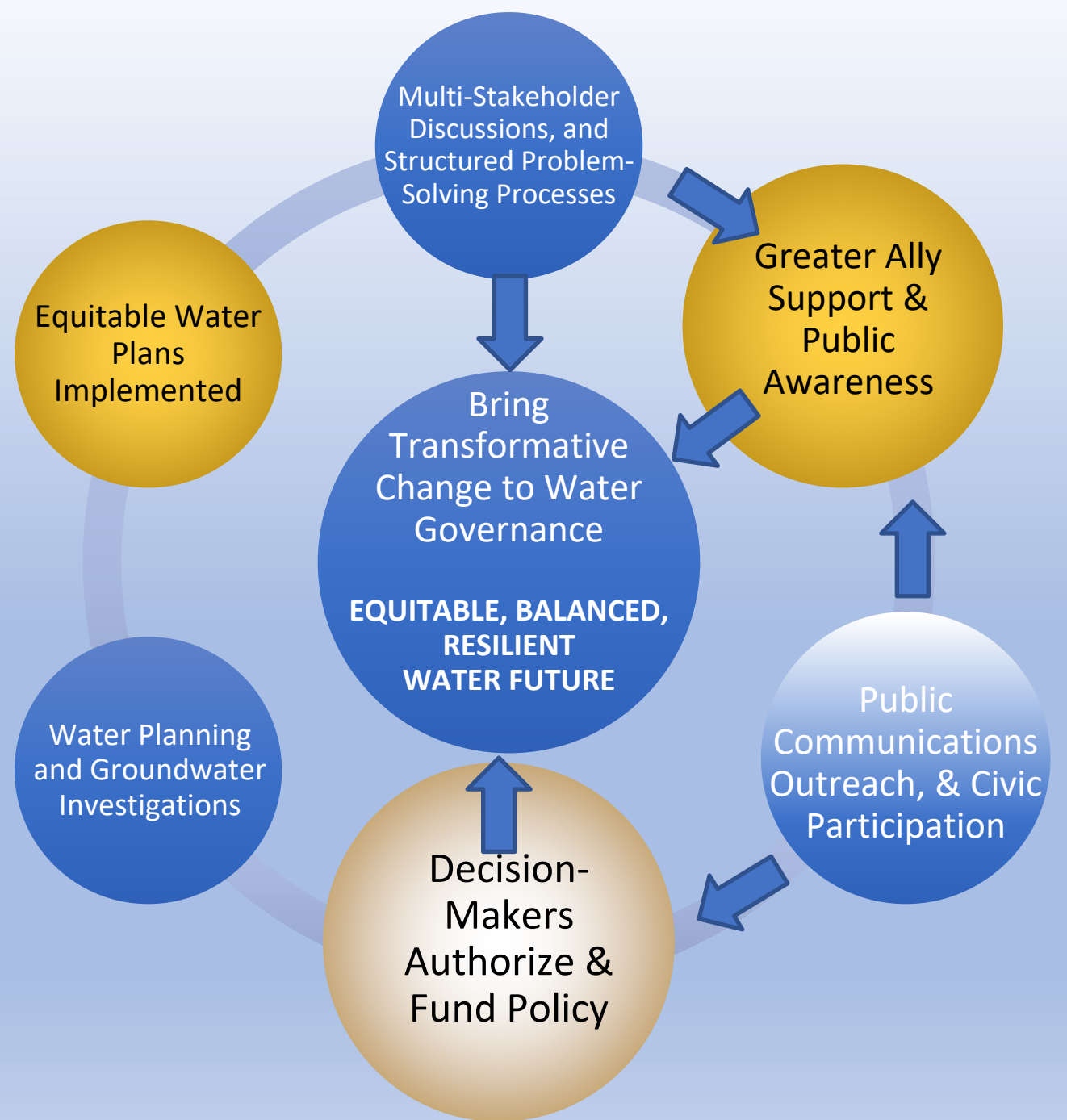
Use Special Appropriations for the State Engineer to develop multi-year plans for critical work

- Increase agencies' staff capacity
- Improve local, regional, and tribal capacity
- Modernize technology and business processes
- Fully implement Water Data Act
- Protect water supplies where water demand exceeds the supply with active management
- Use of technology and business processes to improve water use information availability
- Complete regional water resilience plans or sustainable groundwater management plans
- Deploy the Strategic Water Reserve at scale
- Improve agencies organization alignment, accountability, and cross agency coordination to achieve initiatives funded by the Legislature.
- Fill groundwater resource data gaps and improve or build models
- Streamline adjudication process
- Produce water budget data compilations and interpretations for regional water resilience planning and the public



MIDDLE RIO GRANDE WATER ADVOCATES

THEORY OF CHANGE





Think Water – Act Now

Secure New Mexico's Equitable Water Future

- Keep water in your daily conversations
- Contact your state senator and state representative—ask them to support our water agencies to implement the 50-Year Water Plan and the Water Task Force recommendations
- Attend the Water Advocates Roundhouse Water Rally at the Capitol—January 26, 11 AM
- Take two minutes to complete the survey that will appear in your browser when you leave the Zoom meeting
- Nominate yourself or someone else for election to the Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates Board



Contact us info@mrgwateradvocates.org