



The NM Water Ambassadors are water policy and management experts, stakeholders, and local and Tribal government officials representing all regions of New Mexico and a broad and diverse constituency. Ambassadors served as members of the 2022 State-authorized NM Policy & Infrastructure Task Force (WPITF), which produced 17 recommendations* for government action.

Appropriations Request to the 2024 New Mexico Legislature to Secure Our Water Future

Purpose	Description	Agencies	Recurring Funds	Non-Recurring Funds	Related Legislation in 2024 Session	WPITF Rec.
State Water Agency Capacity Building	Staff and fund OSE, ISC, & NMED at levels sufficient to meet the challenges of our time: climate change, aridification, water scarcity, and emerging contaminants. **	OSE, ISC, NMED	\$3.7M OSE/ISC \$6.2M NMED		Protect State Waters (SB111)	2.7
Water Data	Implementation of the 2019 Water Data Act: 17 new staff positions + modernization of state water agencies' IT infrastructure and data processes. ***	OSE, ISC, NMBGMR, NMED, EMNRD	\$2.875 million	Five-year \$30 million fund to support implementation of the 2023 Water Security Planning Act		2.8
Aquifer Mapping & Monitoring	Funding for a statewide network of strategically located monitoring wells over the next 10 years @ \$10M/yr.	NMBGMR	\$1.2 million	FY25 five-year special appropriation of \$50 million + \$9 million (ARPA funds)		2.8, 3.2
Water Leaders Education	Funding to continue the Water Leaders Education Prog. for decisionmakers.	NMBGMR	\$250,000			3.4
Regional Water Planning	(A) Water conservation public education campaign to support implementation of the 2023 Water Security Planning Act. (B) Grants to support the organization of inclusive and representative regional water planning entities.	OSE/ISC		(A) \$4.5 million (ARPA funds) (B) \$5 million over 5 years		2.2
Leveraging State Funds	Create a state matching fund to implement regional water planning entities' consensus priorities for water security investments.	Water Trust Board		Create a \$250 million More Arid Days Water Incentive Fund.		2.2
Leveraging Federal Funds	Create a reliable & flexible source of funding for state, tribal, & local entities that require matching funds to be eligible for a federal grant. Offer opportunities to receive additional funds for project administration.	DFA		\$100 million	NM Match Fund (HB177)	2.3
Emergency Management	Establish a fund to be used for immediate support during water emergencies with clear protocols and strategies to mobilize resources.	DFA Local Govt. Division		\$100 million	Rural Infrastructure Crisis Response (SB49)	1.4
Water Infrastructure Modernization	Expand the Water Trust Fund and improve the State's ability to plan, design, and construct drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, irrigation, storage, and natural/green infrastructure projects.	Water Trust Board		\$100 million	Water Trust Fund (SB1) Water Project Prioritization (HB211)	1.1, 1.3, 2.6
Acequia Capacity & Infrastructure	Increase resources for the Acequia & Community Ditch Fund and the Acequia & Community Ditch Infrastructure Fund.	NMDA, ISC, DFA	\$1.5 million	\$5 million special appropriation (DFA)		2.4
Tribal Water Rights	Support & fund Indian water rights settlements.			\$35 million (ARPA funds)		2.4
Water Quality Protection	Provide additional resources to protect surface water quality through (a) monitoring & enforcement of existing regulations and (b) mapping to better understand how changes to the federal Clean Water Act affect NM.	NMED		\$840,000 plus \$600,000 special appropriation	Protect State Waters (SB111) Gen. Approp. Act (HB2)	2.7
River & Watershed Restoration	Bolster the Conservation Legacy Fund. Increase funding for the River Stewardship Program (NMED). Extend the spending deadline for the 2023 appropriation of \$7.5 million for the Strategic Water Reserve (ISC).	EMNRD, NMED, ISC		\$300 million (SB9) \$5 million (River Stewardship Program)	Conservation Legacy Fund (SB9)	3.1, 3.3
Water Law Enforcement	Bolster the authority and capacity of the Office of the State Engineer to enforce existing water law, including water rights.	OSE			Water Law Violation Penalties (SB101)	2.1
Advance WPITF Recommendations	Develop, track, and carry out an integrated multi-agency plan to fully implement the 2022 WPITF recommendations.	OSE, ISC, NMED, EMNRD	1.0 FTE agency staff	\$300,000 for contractual services.		All

*See the final report of the New Mexico Water Policy & Infrastructure Task Force: <https://mainstreamnm.org/data-and-reports/>

**See OSE/ISC & NMED budget handouts for the Water and Natural Resources Committee, November 7, 2023, Items 1 & 6: https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts_List?CommitteeCode=WNR&Date=11/6/2023

***See 2023 New Mexico Water Data Report, September 2023, <https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/WNR%20100323%20Item%204%202023%20Water%20Data%20Plan.pdf>