



# New Mexico Integrated Water Financing Plan

Update and Feedback Session | March 26, 2024



# Agenda

Time	Agenda Item
9:00 – 9:05	Welcome and introductions
9:05 – 9:15	Overview of State Water Priorities
9:15 – 9:25	New Mexico Integrated Water Financing Plan Overview and Update
9:25 – 9:40	Selection of Pilot and Additional Candidate Activities
9:40 – 9:55	Questions and feedback
9:55 – 10:00	Wrap-up and next steps

# Zoom Etiquette



Webinar is being recorded



Microphones are muted



Chat feature is not being monitored



Submit questions via Q&A during the presentation

- Click the Q&A button
- A box will pop up
- Type your question
- Click send
- We will answer clarifying questions via Q&A/verbally



Q&A

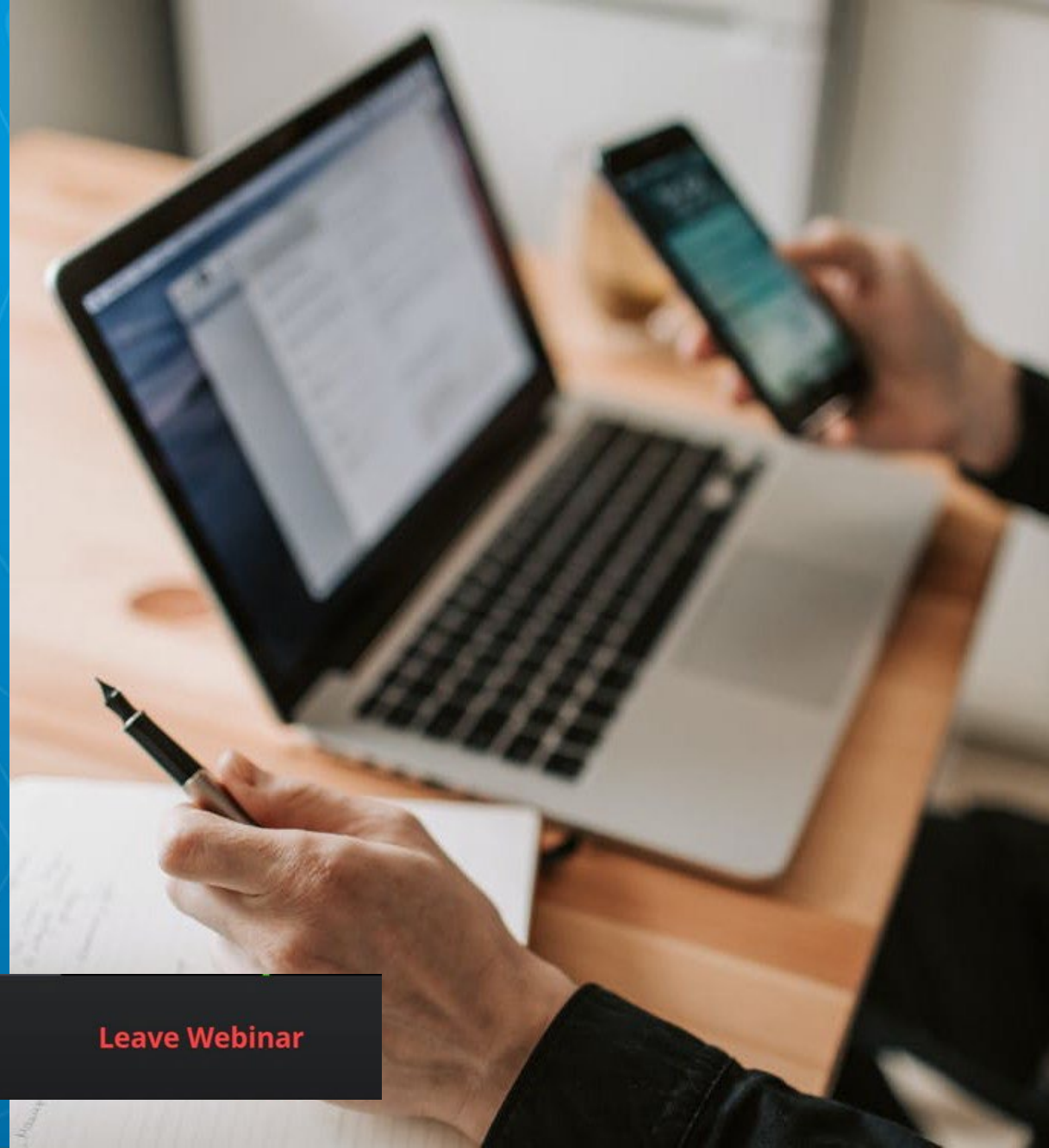


Chat



Raise Hand

Leave Webinar





# **New Mexico Integrated Water Financing Plan – Overview and Update**

Update and Feedback Session | March 26, 2024

# Project Purpose

*Maximize federal funding including from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) invested in New Mexico's water resources.*

*Strengthen connections between state and federal agencies.*

*Share lessons learned with New Mexico stakeholders and with other western states.*



# Project Partners



## STATE OF NEW MEXICO

**Agencies, Water Ambassadors,  
Stakeholders**

NM OSE/ISC, NMED, EMNRD, Governor's Office



## ERICA GADDIS

**Project Manager**

SWCA Environmental Consultants



## WENDY BLACKWELL

**Coordination and Facilitation Lead**

SWCA Environmental Consultants



## MICHELLE BUSHMAN

**Deputy Director & General  
Counsel**

Western States Water Council



## MADELINE FRANKLIN

**Federal Liaison to Western States  
Water Council**

Western States Federal Agency Support Team

WestFAST





# INFORMATION GATHERING

- Survey responses:
  - 12 responses received (Dec – present) from local and state agencies
- One-on-one conversations:
  - 10+ people
- Review of state plans:
  - Water Task Force Report
  - 50-Year Water Action Plan
  - Intended Use Plans
  - State Forest Action Plan
  - Nonpoint Source Plan
  - State Hazard Mitigation Plan
  - Climate Strategy Report
  - Acequia Water Planning Working Group recommendations
  - Tribal Water Working Group recommendations
- Dozens of activities inventoried

\*Activities: Water programs, projects, and initiatives

# Revised Work Plan and Timeline

	2023	2024								
TASK	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
Coordination Sessions	●			●	●	●			●	
Survey of New Mexico Water Funding Needs										
Follow-up Engagement with Agencies and Stakeholders										
Draft Integrated Water Finance Plan										
Agency Review										
Final Integrated Water Financing Plan										
Draft Grant Applications										

**COORDINATION SESSIONS**

- Introductory Webinar
- Update and Feedback Session
- Pilot Activity Work Sessions (virtual)
- Lessons Learned and Implementation Workshop





# **New Mexico Integrated Water Financing Plan – Selection of Pilot Activities**

Update and Feedback Session | March 26, 2024

# Considerations for Activity Selection



**Impact:** Widespread impact to people, communities, and water resources in New Mexico.



**Equity:** Beneficiaries include communities with socially vulnerable and economically disadvantaged populations.



**Tribal priorities:** Reflect needs and priorities of Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations.



**Diversity:** Project types, geography, state programs, size, rural/urban, etc.



**Alignment:** State water plans including 50-year Water Action Plan and Water Task Force report.

\*Activities: Water programs, projects, and initiatives



**Long-term funding challenges:** Previous funding efforts have been unsuccessful.



**Urgency:** Addresses urgent water resource problems.



**Project stage:** Developed enough to begin identifying eligible funding.



**At least one activity:** Colorado River basin; nature-based solutions; Integrated Water Resources Management.

# FACING NEW MEXICO'S 21ST CENTURY

# WATER

## CHALLENGES

A REPORT OF THE  
NEW MEXICO WATER POLICY  
AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE

Community drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure capacity and finance.

Water resources management and planning.

River, aquifer, and watershed health.

## 50-YEAR WATER ACTION PLAN



Office of the Governor  
MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

### WHAT WE ARE DOING TO INCREASE WATER SECURITY:

#### 50-Year Water Action Plan.

The Water Plan actions will help address the reality of a reduced supply in the future.

#### Water Conservation

EST. IMPACT:  
660,000 AF PER YEAR

- A1 Develop a public education campaign
- A2 Incentivise agricultural water conservation
- A3 Reduce leaks in drinking water infrastructure and increase municipal conservation
- A4 Improve water storage and delivery systems

#### New Water Supplies

EST. IMPACT:  
150,000 AF PER YEAR

- B1 Establish a \$500M strategic water supply to spur investments in desalination and wastewater treatment
- B2 Adopt policies to expand potable and nonpotable water reuse
- B3 Improve groundwater mapping and monitoring

#### Water and Watershed Protection

- C1 Cleanup contaminated groundwater sites
- C2 Protect surface water by controlling pollution through a discharge permitting program
- C3 Modernize wastewater treatment plants and stormwater infrastructure
- C4 Protect and restore watersheds

3

Incorporate recommendations from: Tribal Water Working Group, Acequia Water Planning Working Group, Leap Ahead Report, EPA Drinking Water Infrastructure Assessments, New Mexico 2020 Forest Action Plan

# PILOT ACTIVITY: DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

Community drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure capacity and finance.

**A3** Reduce leaks in drinking water infrastructure and increase municipal conservation

## Challenges:

Acute water shortages and aging drinking water infrastructure in small communities (<10,000) threaten public health, constrain economic development, and contribute to system inefficiencies that waste clean municipal water.

Small community infrastructure is difficult to finance with traditional water loan funds due the high cost per household for small systems.

Regionalization opportunities require high levels of initial investment.

## Pre-workshop research tasks:

- Inventory small community drinking water needs and costs
- Identify known regionalization opportunities and interest
- Identify communities with recent acute water shortages
- Tribal priorities

**State agencies:** NMED, DHSEM, OSE/ISC, and others

**Federal agencies:** EPA, FEMA, BIA, NIDIS, BOR, USDA RD, and others

**Other stakeholders:** Small communities; water providers with regionalization projects; and others

Water resources management and planning.

**B3** Improve groundwater mapping and monitoring

## PILOT ACTIVITY: AQUIFER MAPPING AND MONITORING

### Challenge:

Comprehensive management of the state's groundwater resources requires an integrated statewide monitoring program and data management system.

Aquifer mapping and monitoring is currently managed across multiple projects and agencies without comprehensive long-term funding.

### Potential Benefits:

- Comprehensive and integrated groundwater management
- Aquifer storage and recovery opportunities
- Supports regional water planning
- Comprehensive evaluation of groundwater contamination

### Pre-workshop research tasks:

- Identify short and long-term financing needs
- Compile list of existing programs, data sources, and databases

**State agencies:** NMBGMR, OSE/ISC, NMED, EMNRD, and others

**Federal agencies:** USGS, NASA, NIDIS, and others

**Other stakeholders:** Drinking water providers, water districts, and others

### Specific funding needs:

- Drilling of new wells
- Establishment of long-term telemetered monitoring sites
- Data consolidation and management system

### More information:

[2024 Aquifer Mapping Program Info.pdf \(nmt.edu\)](#)

River, aquifer, and watershed health.

## PILOT ACTIVITY: IN DEVELOPMENT

**C4** Protect and restore watersheds

### Challenge:

New Mexico's rivers, aquifers, and watersheds are experiencing unprecedented stress, depletion, and degradation. – *Water Task Force Report*

New Mexico's surface waterbodies, forested watersheds, and groundwater resources are polluted or at risk of degradation due to human activity, natural disasters, extreme weather, and other threats. – *50-Year Water Action Plans*

Significant resources and coordination are required to protect healthy waters while also cleaning up legacy contamination and restoring river ecosystems and forested watersheds.



# OTHER CANDIDATE ACTIVITIES

Community drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure capacity and finance.

- Wastewater infrastructure projects in small communities
- Large Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery projects
- Stormwater infrastructure including nature-based solutions

Water resources management and planning.

- Multisector demand management pilot projects
- Modernize water management infrastructure and operations
- Groundwater Conservation Easements

River, aquifer, and watershed health.

- Riparian and Aquifer Connectivity Projects
- New Mexico Reforestation Center
- Groundwater contamination clean-up
- Statewide landscape scale stewardship strategy
- Post-fire watershed restoration and forest preservation

## Considerations for Activity Selection

 **Impact**

 **Equity**

 **Tribal priorities**

 **Diversity**

 **Alignment**

 **Long-term funding challenges**

 **Urgency**

 **Project stage**

 **Colorado River tributaries**

 **Nature-based solutions**

 **Integrated Water Resources Management**

# FUTURE ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Activity generation via survey



Pilot activity research



Pilot activity workshops (virtual)



Follow-up interviews and discussions



Integrated Water Financing Workshop





With thanks to funding partners of the  
New Mexico Integrated Water Financing Plan



**FOR QUESTIONS OR FEEDBACK, CONTACT:**

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**SURVEY LINK:**

[New Mexico Integrated Water Financing Plan Survey \(arcgis.com\)](https://www.arcgis.com/surveys/new-mexico-integrated-water-financing-plan-survey)



# ACRONYMS

## State Agencies

- **DHSEM** - Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- **EMNRD** - Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department
- **NMBGMR** - New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources
- **NMED** - New Mexico Environment Department
- **NM OSE** - New Mexico Office of the State Engineer
- **NM OSE/ISC** - New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, Interstate Stream Commission

## Federal Agencies

- **BIA** - Bureau of Indian Affairs
- **BOR** - Bureau of Reclamation
- **EPA** - Environmental Protection Agency
- **FEMA** - Federal Emergency Management Agency
- **NASA** - National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- **NIDIS** - National Integrated Drought Information System
- **USDA** - US Department of Agriculture
- **USDA RA** - US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
- **USGS** - US Geological Survey