

Water Can't Wait!

The Eastern New Mexico Groundwater Crisis

New Mexico Water Dialogue 29th Annual Statewide Meeting
Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
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*Dr. Ladona K. Clayton, Executive Director
Ogallala Land & Water Conservancy*

A CALL TO ACTION

“Water planning is the process through which we potentially can equitably determine how best to minimize, mitigate, and potentially adapt to the pending water shortages projected for our State” (Water Advocates).

A CALL TO ACTION

- Water issues affect every legislative district - and every New Mexican.
- There is broad acknowledgement that the state faces a groundwater challenge that requires urgent action.
- In eastern New Mexico, groundwater from the Ogallala Aquifer is the sole source of potable water, and it is finite and depleting rapidly.

To Plan or Not to Plan?

- Ogallala Aquifer: Sole source of potable water
- NM Tech (NMBGMR) Aquifer Mapping Program research conducted in 2018: Roosevelt and Curry County
- Effluent Reuse System (Clovis is fully functional and saving 4 million gallons per day; the Portales system has stalled.)
- Expecting delivery of surface water from Ute Reservoir by 2030 (Infrastructure ready?)
- Regional/local water resilience planning (SB337 Water Security Planning Act)

Planning for Success

- Begin with the end in mind! It is a race to the bottom.
- Engage the community to create ownership. Honor the voices of a cross-section of the community.
- Gather data. What are my water sources? What is my hydrologic reality?
- Create a water portfolio
- Ensure infrastructure can support transmission of water
- Plan, implement, evaluate, revise

LOCAL + REGIONAL WATER PLANNING (SB337)

- **Community Identity.** Local water resources can be integral to a community's identity, culture, and history, making their preservation and management critical.
- **Community engagement creates community ownership.** Regional and local water planning recognizes and cultivates community involvement and decision-making; it invites adequate input and ensures the needs and decisions of residents are considered.
- **Firmly based in sound science.** Data-driven decision making serves communities best.
- **Forecasting the impacts of climate change.** Helps communities adapt to changing weather patterns and extreme events, such as droughts.
- **Water Quality Improvement.** Planning to improve water quality, reduce pollutants, and enhance the safety of water sources.

LOCAL + REGIONAL WATER PLANNING (SB337)

- **Resource Sustainability.** Local and regional water planning ensures the sustainable use and management of water resources, safeguarding them for future generations.
- **Economic Stability.** Water planning supports local economies by ensuring a stable water supply for agriculture, industry and businesses, reducing the risk of disruptions.
- **Local Innovation.** Recognizes that novel ideas can show great promise in solving water issues.
- **Action Plans.** Well-designed plans and a timeline for implementation are approved.
- **Implementation and Accountability are Essential.** Success is found in the overall plan's implementation, evaluation, and revision process.

Water issues affect every legislative district - and every New Mexican, but they are not getting the attention they deserve. That must change, starting now.

Water can't wait.

Questions?