

Water Security Planning Act Vision + Potential



Water Dialogue Annual Meeting

January 11, 2024

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Water Security Planning Act

A photograph of a dry riverbed with a person walking a dog in the water. The background shows a hilly landscape under a clear sky. The image is used as a background for the text.

Planning is critical to help New Mexico ensure water supplies for future generations.

Resilience = the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions

Implementation of the Act presents an **opportunity** to shape together regional water planning in New Mexico for decades to come.

Water Planning Program

Original Statute Passed in 1987

- Original Statute Passed in 1987
- Water Security Planning Act of 2023
 - Replaces 1987 statute
 - Water Task Force recommendation
 - Transforms regional water planning

State Water Plan Act of 2003

- State Water Plan Act of 2003
- 2023 State Water Plan Review
- Incorporates climate change considerations for the first time

New Mexico
Interstate
Stream
Commission

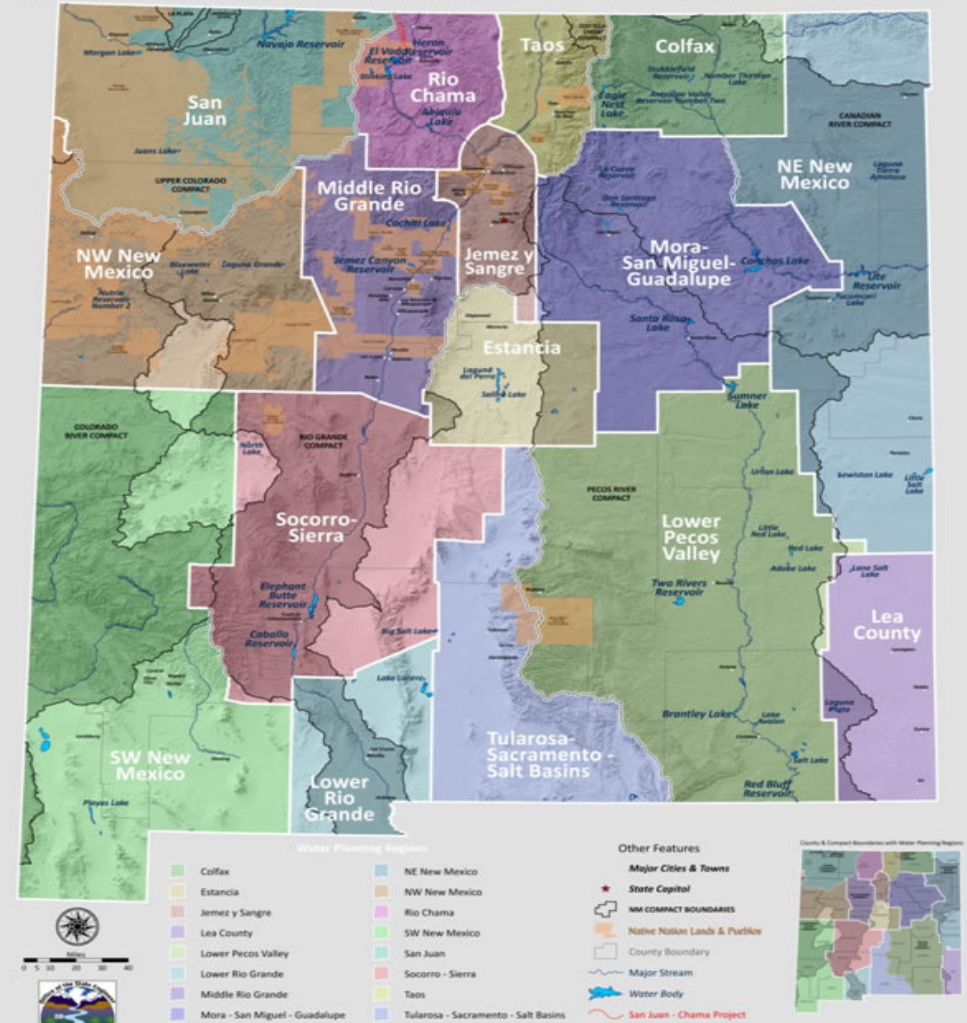
Water Security Planning Act of 2023

Regional Water Planning in NM



- **Original Statute Passed in 1987**
- **16 Existing Water Planning Regions**
 - Combination of Administrative and Hydrologic Boundaries
- **Two Full Rounds of Regional Plans Completed between 1999 and 2017**
 - *First round* = bottom up, but no ability to integrate into a state plan
 - *Second round* = top down, but lack of local buy-in and concerns with technical platform
- **Challenges in Implementation**
 - No prioritization within plans
 - Lack of funding
 - Coordination / roles for implementation

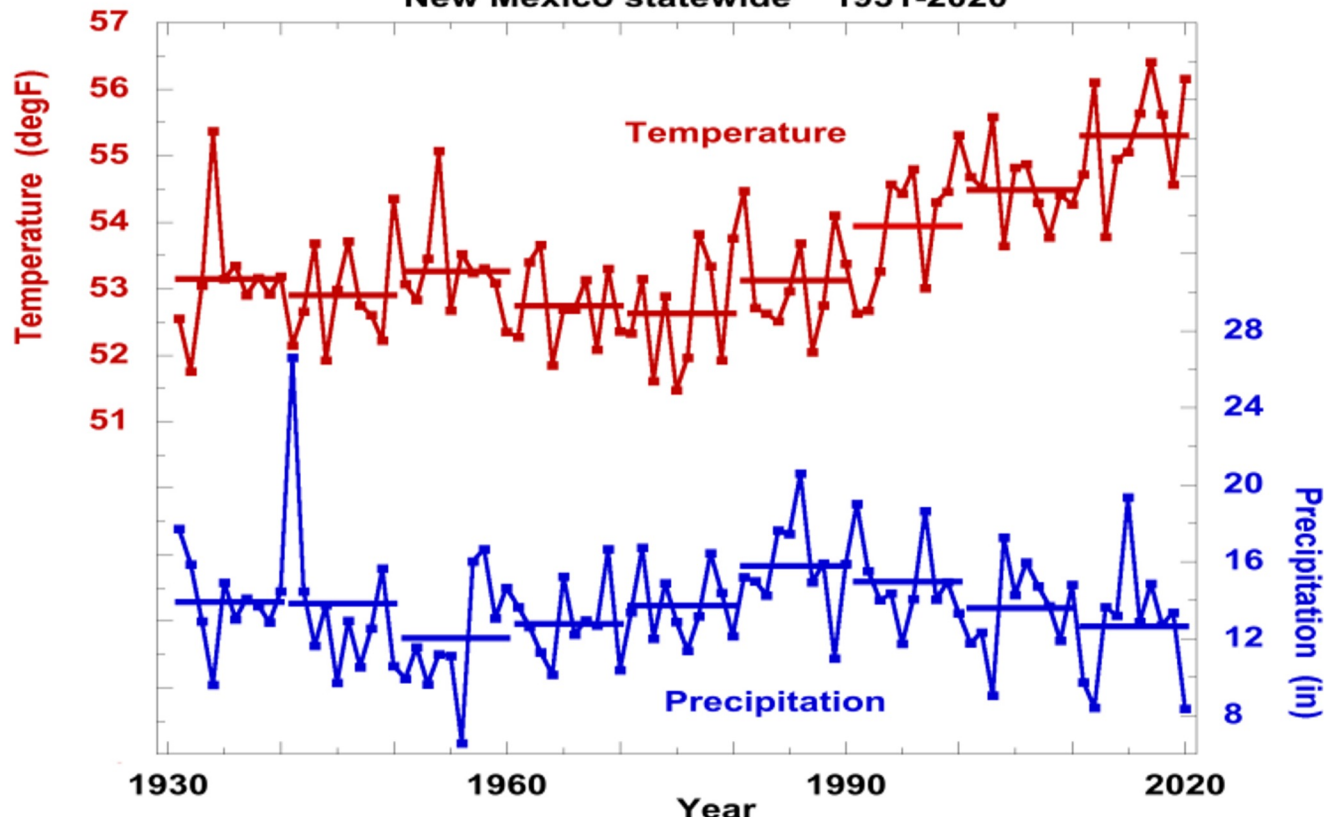
New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission WATER PLANNING REGIONS *with Native Nation Lands, Pueblos and Interstate Compact Boundaries*



New Mexico's Water Future = Drier/More Variable



Annual Average Observed Temperature and Precipitation
New Mexico statewide 1931-2020



Anticipated continued changes in climate will mean less water is available while demands continue to increase.

Given this new reality, *we must plan ahead* to ensure continuing economic development and the needs of all New Mexicans are met.

Temperature Change in New Mexico



- **Temperature increase will occur throughout the entire state.**
- **Especially high in the Northwest part of the state.**

Annual average temperature simulated by 20 CMIP5 climate simulations by different models, spatially averaged over the state of New Mexico. Temperature change is defined as the difference between two thirty-year averages: (2040-2069) minus (1971-2000); the central years of these averaging periods are 70 years apart, so this plot represents 70-year temperature changes across the state.

Higher Emissions (RCP 8.5) 2040-2069 vs. historical simulation 1971-2000, mean change

Multi-model mean derived from 20 downscaled CMIP5 models

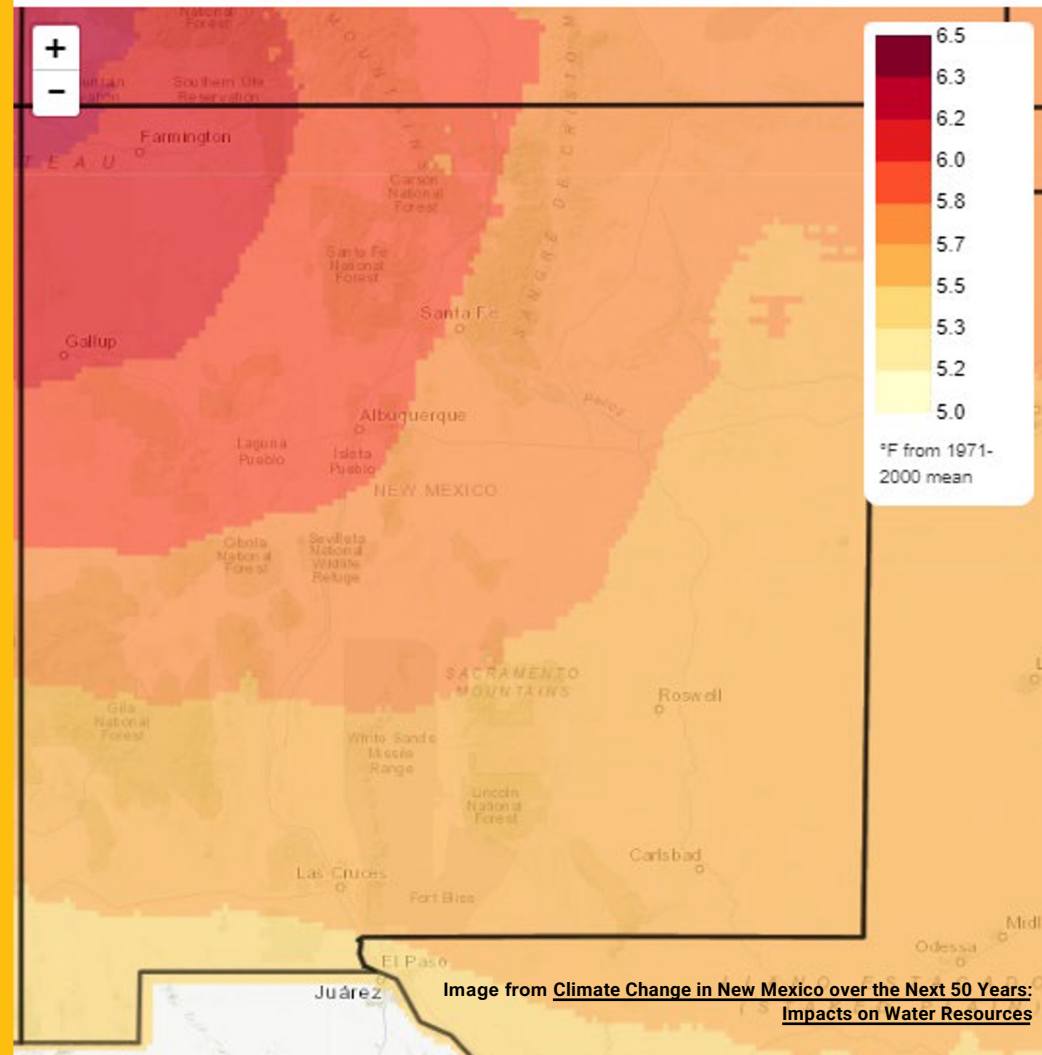
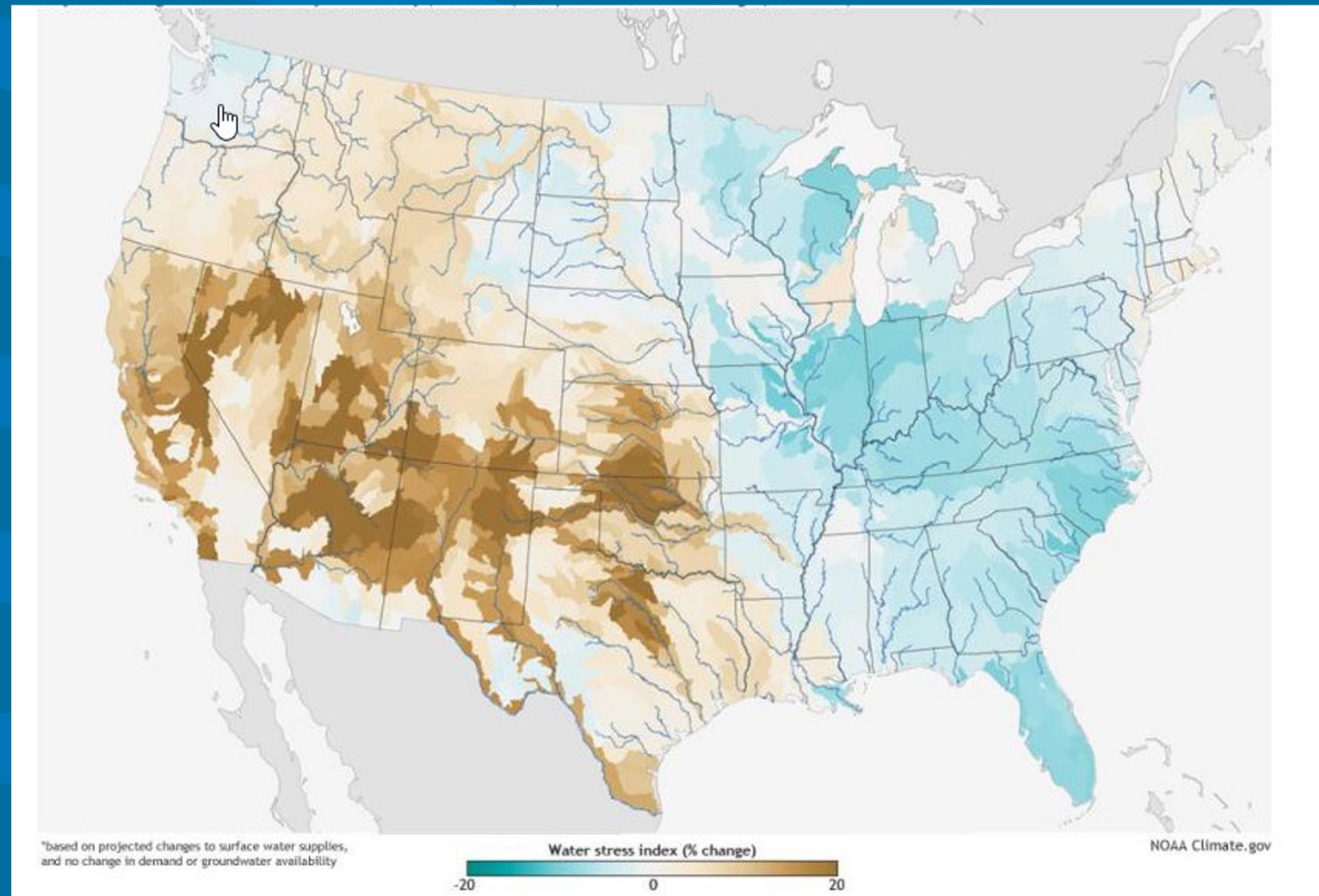


Image from Climate Change in New Mexico over the Next 50 Years: Impacts on Water Resources

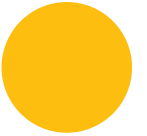
Climate Change: National Water Stress Index

- The eastern half of the country can expect more water
- The west can expect more water stress.

Projected change in water stress by mid-century (2040-2061) compared to historical average (1900-2068 1970). Lindsey, 2013.



Magic Moment?



- Urgency of climate change
 - Unprecedented forest fires in 2022
 - Statewide impacts of prolonged drought
- Support from executive and legislative leadership
- Unprecedented state and federal funding
- Passage of the Water Security Planning Act of 2023

Passed unanimously. Will transform and reinvigorate regional water planning in New Mexico.

New statute requires that regional water planning will:

- Ensure scientific integrity through the best available data, science and models
- Support implementation through prioritization of projects and activities, and reporting mechanisms for decision-makers
- Build on and incorporate existing planning efforts, and not be redundant
- Be grounded in state water law, including respecting existing water rights and the doctrine of prior appropriation
- Develop local capacity through increased and more consistent support
- Involve robust public engagement every step of the way

Implementation of effective solutions requires engagement with local communities.

Water Security Planning Act

Vision for WSPA



Long-term, we hope implementation of this Act will:

- Provide a framework for ongoing and effective regional water planning.
- Empower communities to substantively increase their resilience, and avoid conflict, given increasing water scarcity.
- Provide for integration of regional and state planning efforts.
- Ensure planning is an ongoing process.
- Effectively link planning to implementation, including funding for projects and programs.

We want to hear from you:

- ***What do you hope this act will achieve?***
- ***How do we get there together?***

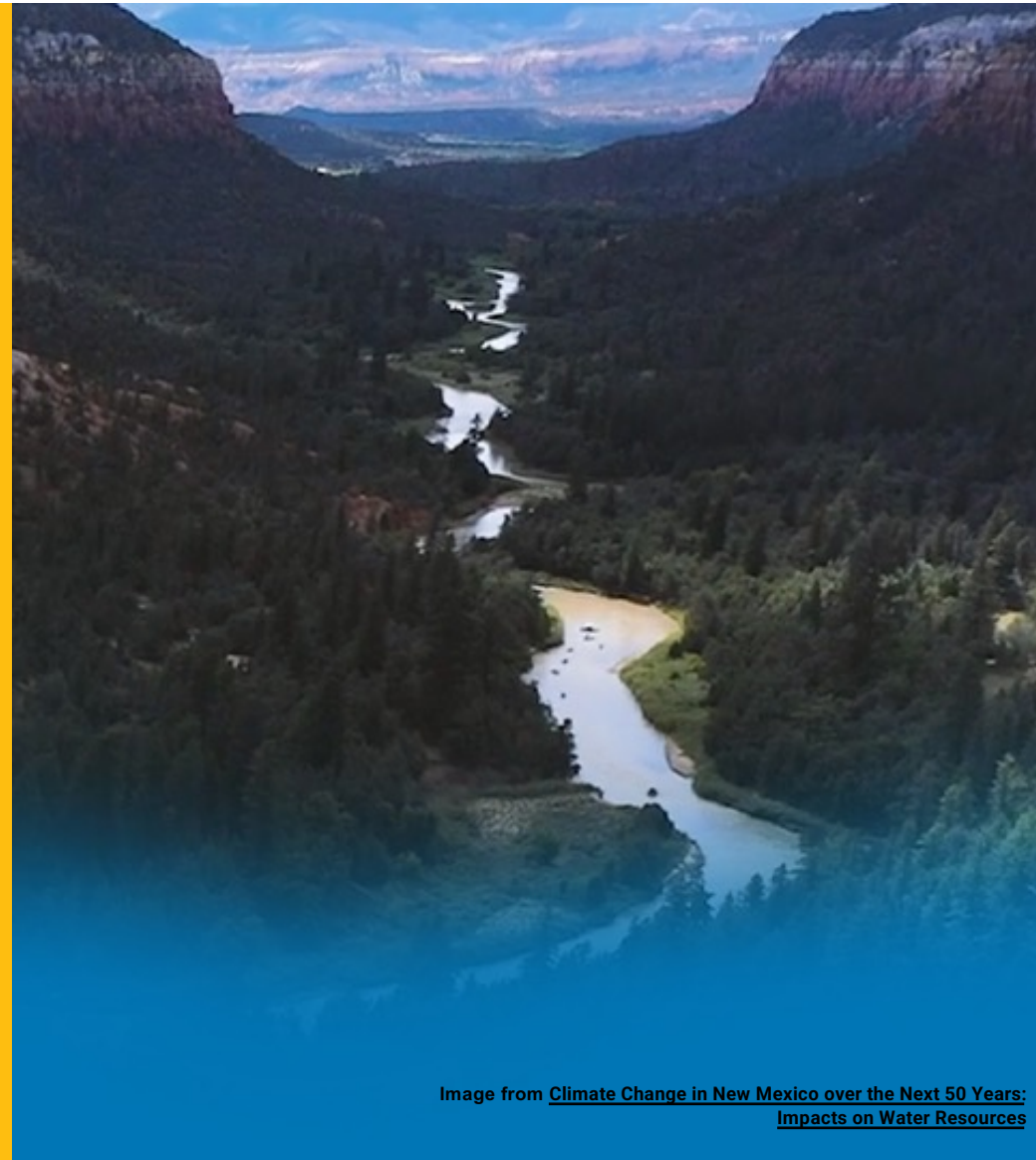


Image from [Climate Change in New Mexico over the Next 50 Years: Impacts on Water Resources](#)



Water Security Planning Act (WSPA) Next Steps

WSPA Implementation Requires:

- NMISC to complete rulemaking and guidelines adoption
- Formation of a Tribal Advisory Council in coordination with Indian Affairs Department
- Robust public involvement - *all-hands-on-deck moment*

Context - Momentum on Water Task Force Recommendations:

- Funding mechanisms for water infrastructure
- Federal funding - ensuring NM takes full advantage of currently available \$\$
- Groundwater data and management
- State and local capacity development
- Supporting water planning next steps

WSPA Implementation Schedule



1

Complete and On-going

- Bill Drafting & Passage: Jan – Apr '23
 - Strategy & Contracts for Public Engagement in 2024: Mar – Sep '23
 - Communications, Data Visualization, Outreach & Input Process: Aug '23 – Mar '24
 - WSPA Website Launch with Initial Survey: Dec '23
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2

Upcoming

- Conduct Public Meetings & Web-Based Input to Inform Rules and Guidelines: Mar – Sep '24
 - Rule & Guideline Development Based on Input Received: Sep – Dec '24
 - Promulgate Rules & Adopt Guidelines: Dec '24 – Mar '25
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3

Future

- WSPA Schedule - Determine Intervals for Plans & Support Needed: Jan– Aug '25
 - Development & Implementation of Regional Water Plans : July '25 - ongoing
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**MAIN
STREAM
NEW MEXICO**

WEBSITE IS UP

Please check for updates at
www.mainstreamnm.org

Main Stream New Mexico is your guide to revitalized regional water planning under New Mexico's Water Security Planning Act of 2023 (SB337). It is a campaign of the Interstate Stream Commission Water Planning Program.

**Plan.
Conserve.
Thrive.**

Despite the water shortages and challenges we will face

We want to hear from you:

TAKE THE SURVEY

(Coming Soon)

Time for Action: What can you do?



Learn

1

- **Your Water Supply** – Where does the water you depend on at home and work come from and how does it get to you? What can you do to conserve?
 - **Your Community's Needs** – What are the water related interests in your area that will need be included in any future water planning?
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Engage

2

- **WSPA Implementation** – Read the Act, sign up for the email list, participate in public engagement activities in 2024. *Provide input.*
 - **Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force Report** – Read the report and help advance its recommendations. Multi-year effort.
 - **Climate Change in NM: Impacts on Water Resources Report** - Read and share.
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Motivate / Lead

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- **Reach a Broader Audience** – Help us engage a broader audience, particularly communities not typically engaged on water issues.
 - **Promote WSPA Outreach Opportunities** – Help spread the word. Communities support what they help create.
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Time to work together

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