

# Ask the Senate to fund “shovel-ready” steps to improve NM water and economic security

## The 2025 Legislature must fund implementation of three critically important laws, not funded in the Governor’s or the House budget

### Water Data Act Compliance

- Funding: \$2.5 million
- Build new real-time water use data collection and automated reporting application
- Make water data publicly and internally available

### Water Security Planning Act Implementation

- Funding: \$2.4 million
- \$250,000 block grant to each planning region to self-organize and prepare work plan
- Evidence-based local water projects & policies

### Active Water Resource Management (AWRM)

- Funding: \$2 million
- Implements court-approved water allocation rules
- Prevents a new SCOTUS lawsuit by Texas, which under this federal administration would be a particularly bad outcome

## Why Strong Water Governance Matters

- New Mexico must act decisively to secure its water future
- Good governance requires political will to enable sound, science-based management
- Adequately funded management and planning prevent crisis-driven decision-making

**2025 Senate Focus:** Appropriate \$6.9 million of non-recurring funds to strengthen the Office of the State Engineer’s and Interstate Stream Commission’s water management, development, and planning missions and build a statewide real-time water uses application for the 2019 Water Data Act.

- Water Data Management – Understanding our water supplies and uses for problem-solving
- Rio Grande Compact Compliance – Preventing multi-million-dollar lawsuits due to water mismanagement
- Water Security Planning - Evaluating ideas and prioritizing the best for state funding and implementation assistance



**Finish What's Started:**

# Fund the Water Security Agenda

**To protect New Mexico's water future, the Legislature must accelerate:**

- 2023 Water Security Planning Act
- 2019 Water Data Act
- 2012 Aquifer Mapping Program
- 2003 Active Water Resource Management authority

**Additionally, funding is required for:**

- Workforce Development & Training
- Water Education & Public Engagement
- Statewide Community Participation in Planning



## The Cost of Inaction is Too High

The House budget bill HB2 lacks funding for water data, regional water planning and water rights enforcement but instead prioritizes:

- \$44M for brackish water treatment subsidies and produced water treatment research
- \$19M for aquifer mapping (important, but not enough)
- Only \$6.5M for the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) and the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) to implement three water security laws that are critical to New Mexico's water future.
  - 2023 Water Security Planning Act
  - 2019 Water Data Act
  - 2012 Active Water Resources Management Program

This underinvestment in proactive water management and planning threatens to bring interstate litigation in the Middle Rio Grande and will reduce long-term water security opportunities. Investing now is far more cost-effective than responding to future crises. We urge the Senate to fund the New Mexico Water Security Agenda.

**A Call to Action:**

## Invest in Water Security Now

- New Mexico's budget surplus presents a historic opportunity to secure our water resources.
- Legislative investment today ensures a water-resilient New Mexico for future generations.
- Delays will lead to water insecurity, economic instability, and legal conflicts.

Presented by:  
New Mexico Water Advocates  
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