

Revised: August 18, 2025

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
THIRD MEETING
of the
WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**August 18-20, 2025
Stan Fulton Athletics Center
New Mexico State University
1815 Wells Street
Las Cruces**

Monday, August 18

- 9:30 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Senator Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Chair
—Representative Matthew McQueen, Vice Chair
- 9:45 a.m. (1) **Welcome and Local Updates**
—Valerio Ferme, Ph.D., President, New Mexico State University (NMSU)
—Eric Enriquez, Mayor, City of Las Cruces
—Christopher Schaljo-Hernandez, Commissioner, District 1, and Chair,
Dona Ana County Board of County Commissioners
- 10:45 a.m. (2) **Impact of Federal Funding Cuts on New Mexico Food Systems**
—Austin Davidson, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Finance Committee
—Les Owen, Deputy Director, New Mexico Department of Agriculture
(NMDA)
—Michael A. Chavez, Director, Student Success and Wellness Bureau,
Public Education Department (PED)
—Niki Kozlowski, Acting Deputy Secretary, Health Care Authority
—Sarah E. Flores-Sievers, Chief, Food and Nutrition Bureau, and Director,
Women, Infants and Children and Farmers' Market Nutrition
Programs, Department of Health (DOH)
—Denise King, Director, Aging Network Services Division, Aging and
Long-Term Services Department
- 12:00 noon **Public Comment***
- 12:15 p.m. **Lunch**

- 1:00 p.m. (3) **Local Food Access: Suppliers, Community Partners and the Role of State Agencies**
- Alena Paisano, Director, Approved Supplier Program, New Mexico Farmers' Marketing Association
 - Erin Ortigoza, Program Manager, Food, Hunger, and Agriculture Program, Economic Development Department
 - Veronica Griego, Manager, Women, Infants and Children and Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs, DOH
 - Liz Anichini, Healthy Universal School Meals Program Manager, Student Success and Wellness Bureau, PED
 - Mario Holguin, Manager, Farm Fresh Program, La Semilla Food Center; Farmer and Owner, Rio Abajo Farm
 - Johannes Lencer, Chief Operating Officer, National Center for Frontier Communities
- 2:15 p.m. (4) **Water and Natural Resources Workforce Development, Part 1: Archaeological Review Training, Agriculture and Water Technology Programs**
- Sarita Nair, Secretary, Workforce Solutions Department
 - John Taylor-Montoya, Ph.D., Executive Director, Office of Archaeological Studies, Cultural Affairs Department
 - Jessie Greenspan, Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Government Relations, Cultural Affairs Department
 - Max Henkels, Director, Agricultural Programs and Resources Division, NMDA
 - Debbie Hughes, Farmer, Rancher and Co-Owner, Hughes Ranch; Executive Director, New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts
 - Monica F. Torres, Ph.D., Chancellor, Dona Ana Community College
- 3:15 p.m. (5) **In-State Meat Processing: Progress and Challenges**
- Kayla Sjoberg, Deputy Director, Meat and Poultry Inspection, New Mexico Livestock Board
 - Nicholas Frazzini, Senior Agriculture Marketing Specialist, Marketing and Development Division, NMDA
 - Michelle Thomas, President, New Mexico Meat Processors Association, Co-Owner, A & M Meat Processing LLC
 - John Richardson, Owner, Slash Ranch; Owner, Fiesta Meats Processing
 - Manny Encinias, Ph.D., Owner, Trilog Beef Community LLC; Owner, Buffalo Creek Ranch; Executive Director, Santa Fe Farmers' Market Institute

- 4:30 p.m. (6) [Weather Stations, Water Resilience and the Impacts of Drought and Extreme Weather on Agriculture](#)
—Dave Dubois, Ph.D., State Climatologist, Office of State Climatologist, NMSU
—Sam Fernald, Ph.D., Director, New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute
—Debbie Hughes, Farmer, Rancher and Co-Owner, Hughes Ranch; Executive Director, New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts

5:15 p.m. **Recess**

Tuesday, August 19

- 9:00 a.m. (7) [State Parks Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department: Economic Impact and Contribution Analysis](#)
—Toby Velasquez, Director, State Parks Division, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
—Kramer Winingham, Ph.D., Program Director, Arrowhead Center, NMSU
- 9:45 a.m. (8) [Las Cruces Electrification Plan, Community Solar and Community Energy Efficiency Development Projects](#)
—Jenny Hernandez, Sustainability Officer, City of Las Cruces
—Angie Rodriguez, Manager, Electrification, El Paso Electric
—Lucas Herndon, Energy Policy Director, ProgressNow New Mexico
- 10:45 a.m. (9) [Lower Rio Grande Water Management and Conservation Strategies](#)
—Hannah Riseley-White, Director, Interstate Stream Commission
—Joshua L. Smith, Treasurer-Manager, Elephant Butte Irrigation District
—Adrienne Widmer, Utilities Director, City of Las Cruces
- 11:45 a.m. (10) [Texas v. New Mexico Status Update](#)
—Nat Chakeres, General Counsel, Office of the State Engineer (OSE)
—Hannah Riseley-White, Director, Interstate Stream Commission
- 12:00 noon **Public Comment***
- 12:15 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. **Tour of the El Paso, Texas, Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination and Blue Brine Plants (Legislators and Staff Only)**

Wednesday, August 20

- 9:00 a.m. (11) **Fifty-Year Water Action Plan**
—Tanya Trujillo, Deputy State Engineer, OSE
—John S. Rhoderick, Deputy Secretary for Administration, Department of Environment (NMED)
—Sam Fernald, Ph.D., Director, New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute
- 10:00 a.m. (12) **Strategic Water Supply: Brackish Water Development**
—Tanya Trujillo, Deputy State Engineer, OSE
—John S. Rhoderick, Deputy Secretary for Administration, NMED
—Pei Xu, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, NMSU
- 11:00 a.m. (13) **Surface Water Quality Permitting Program Implementation**
—Shelly Lemon, Chief, Surface Water Quality Bureau, Water Protection Division, NMED
—John Rhoderick, Deputy Secretary for Administration, NMED
—Steven Perez, Deputy Director, Regulatory Compliance, Utilities Department, City of Las Cruces; Member, Surface Water Advisory Panel
—Tricia Snyder, Director, Rivers and Waters Program, New Mexico Wild
—Dalva "Dal" Moellenberg, Gallagher & Kennedy; Representative, New Mexico Oil and Gas Association and New Mexico Mining Association
- 12:15 p.m. **Adjourn**

*Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Additional Information" section of the Water and Natural Resources Committee [web page](#).