

# NMED SURFACE WATER QUALITY PERMITTING PROGRAM-MUNICIPAL PARTICIPATION

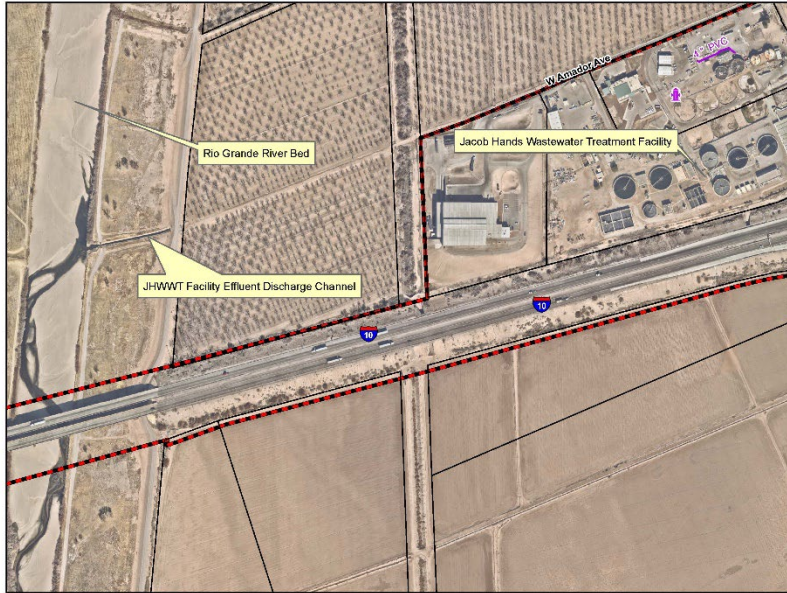
Water & Natural Resources Committee  
Steven Perez  
Las Cruces Utilities Deputy Director  
Regulatory Compliance  
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 CITY OF LAS CRUCES



Photo Credit- Molzen  
Corbin

# SURFACE WATER PERMITTING-NPDES TO NMPDES



EMWRF = 1.0 MGD Capacity

NMED-GWQB-Discharge Permit - Reclaimed Water to 2 Parks, Recreational Facility, Restoration Site, Golf Course, High School, City Medians, Closed Landfill, excess returned to Rio Grande via JHWWT

NPDES-Treated Effluent can be discharged to Southfork Arroyo

JHWWT = 13.5 MGD Capacity  
9.5 MGD Average Treatment  
Returns effluent to Rio Grande 24/7/365



# SURFACE WATER ADVISORY PANEL PARTICIPATION

- ▶ Participated in SWAP meetings, Fall 2024'
- ▶ Great Opportunity for collaboration between stakeholders and NMED
- ▶ Opportunity to influence policy and regulations
- ▶ Broad range of professionals who offered valuable input towards development of State Permitting Program (private/public sectors, non-profits, legal, etc.)
- ▶ End Goal – Ensuring cleaner and safer water for NM

# BENEFITS OF SWPP FROM MUNICIPAL PERSPECTIVE

- ✓ State Led Program
- ✓ Local administration and expertise
- ✓ Increased clarity and consistency
- ✓ More efficient permitting
- ✓ Reduced Reliance on Federal oversight
- ✓ Ensuring Clean and Safe Surface Waters (WOTUS and Waters of the State)

# MUNICIPAL CONCERNS OF SWPP

- Potential logistical and financial implications (Unfunded mandates)
  1. Permit Fees & Fines
  2. Need for more staffing, administrative and/or legal costs
  3. Unregulated contaminants
  4. Potentially lower contaminant limits than federal
- Will NMED be able to keep up with their costs and workload to ensure effective customer service and an efficient permitting process.

**QUESTIONS?**