



# Strategic Water Reserve Updates

Water and Natural Resources Committee  
September 28, 2026

Anjali Bean Senior Policy Advisor, Healthy Rivers

# SWR 2005 to 2023

*Where we came from*



## Funding

**\$8 million invested over 18 years**

**½ expired or clawed back**



## Staff

**No full-time staff at ISC  
Dependent on bureau staff**



## Administration

**Outdated legislation  
Limited reporting and transparency**



# Demonstrated Success with Limited Resources



- ❖ Despite the challenges, the SWR made progress prior to 2023
- ❖ Including 2022 lease agreement with the Jicarilla Apache Nation – the program's largest transaction to date

| Purchase or Lease Agreements                                                                                                                                      | River Reach or Groundwater Basin    | Consumptive Use Amount acre-feet/year (af/yr) | Purchase or Current Lease Price | Priority Date | Type of Water Rights | OSE Permit File Number                  | Reserve Purposes                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lease agreement with Property Control Division of the NM General Services Department</b><br>Executed: 12/21/2006<br>Extended: 9/16/2016<br>Expires: 12/21/2026 | Middle Rio Grande Groundwater Basin | 23.87                                         | \$1593.50 /year (\$50/af/yr)    | 1927          | Groundwater          | "Atrisco" (RG-85365-B into RG-5847-S)-T | Benefit threatened or endangered species in the Middle Rio Grande (mundate and offset depletions from Atrisco habitat project); comply with Rio Grande Compact. |
| <b>Lease agreement with Village of Los Lunas</b><br>Executed: 1/11/2011<br>Renewed: 6/24/2022<br>Renewed: 4/27/2023<br>Renewed: 2/13/2024<br>Expires: 2/13/2029   | Middle Rio Grande                   | 921.328                                       | \$110,559 / year (\$120/af/yr)  | Pre-1907      | Surface water        | (RG-17065-Enlgd into SP-05052)-T        | Benefit threatened or endangered species in the Middle Rio Grande; comply with Rio Grande Compact.                                                              |
| <b>Lease agreement with US Bureau of Reclamation and Town of Bernalillo</b><br>Executed: 11/18/2017<br>Expires 1/4/2029                                           | Middle Rio Grande                   | 139.61 (up to)                                | Lease cost paid by Reclamation  | Pre-1907      | Surface water        | (RG-2478 et al. into SP-05052)-T        | Benefit threatened or endangered species in the Middle Rio Grande.                                                                                              |
| <b>Purchase Agreement with Summer Winds Associates MHP LLC</b><br>Executed: 12/9/2024                                                                             | Lower Rio Grande Groundwater Basin  | 72.19                                         | \$400,000 (\$5,540.94/af)       | 1969          | Groundwater          | LRG-05221-1                             | Compliance with Rio Grande Compact.                                                                                                                             |

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|                                                                                                                      |                         |         |                         |      |             |                      |                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Purchase Agreement with Vaughan Ranch Inc. for 525.9 acres of land</b><br>Executed: 5/2/2006<br>Amended: 8/1/2006 | Pecos Groundwater Basin | 757.30  | \$1,342,206 (\$1772/af) | 1953 | Groundwater | FS-14 & FS-32 Comb   | Pecos River flow augmentation to benefit threatened or endangered species and compact compliance. |
| <b>Purchase Agreement with Richard N. Vaughan for 89.20 acres of land</b><br>Executed: 5/2/2006<br>Amended: 8/1/2006 | Pecos Groundwater Basin | 128.448 | \$107,040 (\$833.33/af) | 1956 | Groundwater | FS-21 & FS-22-Comb-d | Pecos River flow augmentation to benefit threatened or endangered species and compact compliance. |
| <b>Purchase Agreement with Cibola Ranch Inc. for 154.1 acres of land</b><br>Executed: 5/2/2006<br>Amended: 8/1/2006  | Pecos Groundwater Basin | 221.90  | \$393,295 (\$1772/af)   | 1962 | Groundwater | FS-14 & FS-32 Comb   | Pecos River flow augmentation to benefit threatened or endangered species and compact compliance. |

# SWR 2023 to Now

*Where We Are*



## Funding

**\$21 million invested**

**Non-reverting**



## Staff

**SWR Technical Lead**

**Leveraging Bureau  
Expertise**



## Administration

**Updated Legislation  
Expanded Reporting and  
Transparency**



# SWR Annual Report



## Strategic Water Reserve

### 2025 Annual Report

to the New Mexico Senate Conservation Committee, House Agriculture, Acequias and Water Resources Committee, and House Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee

New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission

January 2026



# SWR 2026 and Beyond

*Where We're Going*



## Funding

**Sustained investment**  
**Demonstrated Results**



## Staff

**Integrated Approach**  
**SWR Part of a Rivers  
Toolbox**



## Administration

**Updated Rule**  
**Strengthening  
Partnerships**



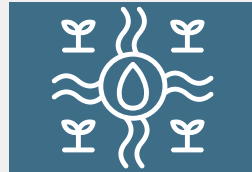
# Future Opportunities



GREATER PARTNERSHIPS  
WITH WATER USERS –  
WATER TRUST MODEL



OPPORTUNITIES TO  
CONSIDER WETLAND-  
RELATED TRANSACTIONS



EXPANDING THE MULTI-  
BENEFIT APPROACH



BUILDING A TOOLBOX OF  
RIVER RELATED TOOLS



# Thank You!

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EMAIL: [Anjali.Bean@westernresources.org](mailto:Anjali.Bean@westernresources.org)

WEBSITE: [WESTERNRESOURCEADVOCATES.ORG](http://WESTERNRESOURCEADVOCATES.ORG)