



Smart Investments, Strong Communities: Municipal Water Infrastructure Needs

NMFA Oversight Committee

July 8, 2025

NMML & NMSIF Support All Cities, Towns, and Villages in New Mexico

OUR VISION

We envision thriving New Mexico communities through effective and informed local governance and decision making

OUR MISSION

To protect and promote municipal interests with a unified voice through advocacy, education, and comprehensive risk management

- The **New Mexico Municipal League** (NMML) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that represents all 106 incorporated municipalities across the state. For more than a century, NMML has worked to protect and promote local governance through legislative advocacy, training, and technical assistance. The League also supports 12 professional subsections
- Through the **New Mexico Self Insurers' Fund** (NMSIF), we provide property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance coverage for 94 municipalities and several other governmental entities. We also deliver a wide range of risk management services to members to reduce liability, enhance workplace safety, and ensure accountability

Professional Subsections

- Airport Managers
- Attorneys
- City Managers
- Clerks and Finance Officers
- Environmental Quality Association
- Fire Chiefs
- Government Finance Officers
- Judges
- Librarians
- Municipal Court Clerks
- Police Chiefs
- Zoning Officials



New Mexico Municipal League Resources



Subsection Support

The League provides administrative and other support for municipal professional groups

<u>Subsection</u>	<u>Staff Liaison</u>
Airport Managers	Mariah Valdez
Attorneys	Clinton Nicley
City Managers	Rebecca Martinez
Clerks & Finance Officers	Rebecca Martinez
Environmental Quality	Mariah Valdez
Fire Chiefs	Jackie Portillo
Government Finance Officers	Mariah Valdez
Judges	Clinton Nicley
Librarians	Jackie Portillo
Court Clerks	Clinton Nicley
Police Chiefs	Fran Dunaway
Zoning Officials	Mariah Valdez



Legislative Advocacy

The League advocates for municipal interests in the legislature and provides information and analysis about bills and other policy issues

AJ Forte, Executive Director
Alison Nichols, Deputy Director



Member Services & Communications

The League maintains an up-to-date directory of municipal officials and staff across the state and shares timely information with members through multiple channels

- Email Listservs (for elected officials and subsection membership); Member Directory: **Jackie Portillo, Support Services Coordinator**
- Events Calendar, Event Registration & General Event Info: **Mariah Valdez, Director of Operations**
- Website Job Postings: **Mariah Valdez, Director of Operations**
- Municipal Reporter (Quarterly Newsletter): **Alison Nichols, Deputy Director**



Training & Education

The League offers regular training opportunities for elected officials and municipal staff, including Newly Elected Officials training and Municipal Officials Leadership Institute training, as well as training on relevant statutory, policy, management, and leadership topics

Alison Nichols, Deputy Director
Rebecca Martinez, Sr. Policy Analyst



Grant & External Funding Support

The League helps members identify, research, and apply for state and federal grants and other external funding

Alison Nichols, Deputy Director
Rebecca Martinez, Sr. Policy Analyst



General Inquiries & Research

The League helps members with questions on a range of municipal topics, drawing on legal and other professional expertise

AJ Forte, Executive Director
Rebecca Martinez, Sr. Policy Analyst

For staff contact information, please refer to the other side of this page

For more details and up-to-date information on Municipal League & Self-Insurers' Fund services and resources, please visit our website: www.nmml.org



New Mexico Self-Insurers' Fund Resources



Coverage

The Fund provides various coverages, including Workers' Compensation, general liability, law enforcement, civil rights, errors and omissions, auto liability, auto physical damage, and property and volunteer coverage

- Coverage & Policies: **Clinton Nicley, Risk Services Director**
- General Claims Questions: **Stephen Casey, Claims Manager**



Public Safety Training & Support

The Fund provides a range of services and resources to member public safety agencies, including:

- Mental health resources for police, fire, EMS, and dispatch personnel and their families (*members can contact Dr. Troy Rodgers directly*)
- Reimbursement for body-worn cameras
- Crisis response and recovery support
- Law enforcement department accreditation

Tim Johnson, Public Safety Director



General Questions & Legal Inquiries

The Fund provides advisory opinions to members, as well as support for mediations, discussions and presentations for governing bodies, and research on issues related to Fund coverage policies

AJ Forte, Executive Director
Paul Kippert, General Counsel



Loss Control

The Fund offers in-person and virtual training and education to members on a variety of risk management topics, including:

- Defensive driving
- NSC First Aid/CPR/AED
- OSHA 10 – General Industry
- OSHA 10 – Construction
- Other topics (see website)
- Safety & risk consultations

Erica Olguin, Loss Control Director

Staff Contact Information

New Mexico Municipal League & New Mexico Self-Insurers' Fund

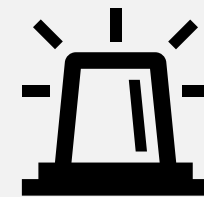
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Casey, Steven	Claims Manager	scasey@nmsif.org	505-303-4915
Dunaway, Fran	Operations Coordinator	fdunaway@nmml.org	505-992-3512 505-930-4918
Forte, AJ	Executive Director	ajforte@nmml.org	505-699-6944
Johnson, Tim	Public Safety Director	tjohnson@nmsif.org	505-946-7207
Kippert, Paul	General Counsel	pkippert@nmsif.org	505-992-3528
Martinez, Rebecca	Senior Policy Analyst	rmartinez@nmml.org	505-690-3278
Nichols, Alison	Deputy Director	anichols@nmml.org	505-470-3931
Nicley, Clinton	Risk Services Director	cnicley@nmsif.org	505-490-7699
Olguin, Erica	Loss Control Director	eolguin@nmsif.org	505-490-7098 505-992-3529
Portillo, Jackie	Support Services Coordinator	jportillo@nmml.org	505-992-3518
Valdez, Mariah	Operations Manager	MValdez@nmml.org	505-992-3523

For a full staff directory and the most up-to-date contact information, please refer to our website: www.nmml.org/directory

NMFA is a Strong Partner for Our Communities

Water Project Fund, Public Project Revolving Fund Critical Funding Sources for Communities

- NMFA's flexibility and commitment to supporting communities make it an ideal – and essential – funding source, especially for smaller, rural communities
- PPRF provides low-interest loans for essential municipal projects, including emergency vehicles and equipment
- Revenue streams like the ***Fire Protection Fund***, ***Law Enforcement Protection Fund***, and ***EMS Fund*** can be used to secure loans for fire trucks, police vehicles, ambulances and more, providing additional purchasing leverage for municipalities with limited revenue
- The Water Trust Board awarded ~\$165 million to public water systems in 2025



Investments in Local Water Projects are Investments in Community Health, Safety, Economic Development

Municipal Water Infrastructure Needs Are Significant and Urgent

- Statewide drinking water infrastructure needs exceed \$3 billion
- Municipalities alone face at least \$1.2 billion in unfunded needs (FY25–FY28) – *these are only the projects that cities have identified – how much is unidentified?*¹

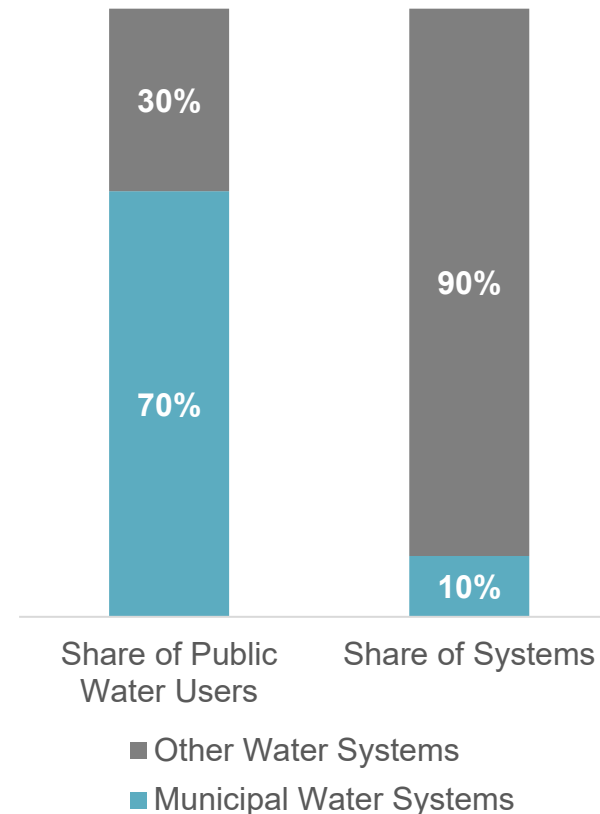
Expanding Water Project Fund Eligibility to Include Wastewater is Positive – But Increases Demand

- Wastewater inclusion (HB211 – 2024) is a needed change, especially for smaller municipalities
- ...but will increase demand for WPF monies

Investing in Municipal Water Systems Delivers High ROI

- Municipal systems make up 10 percent of public water systems in the state, but serve nearly 70 percent of the population
- Investments support economic development and public health
- Reducing water loss and increasing operational efficiency saves money long-term

Municipal Water Systems Serve ~70% of Users Statewide



City	Identified, Unfunded Drinking Water Projects
Albuquerque	\$294,145,000
Gallup	\$90,572,349
Alamogordo	\$52,701,500
Silver City	\$43,350,000
Santa Fe	\$28,050,000
Tucumcari	\$24,752,183
Roswell	\$7,315,491
Espanola	\$6,930,425
Taos	\$3,505,000
Des Moines	\$1,905,000

¹ Estimated need based on drinking water-related projects identified in municipal ICIPs (FY25-FY28) and WTB NOIs (2022-2024); duplicate projects removed

Municipal GRT Revenue (FY23)

Based on distribution month, in thousands

GRT > \$10 million		GRT \$1 million - \$10 million		GRT < \$1 million	
City	2023 (in thousands)	City	2023 (in thousands)	City	2023 (in thousands)
Albuquerque	\$602,141	Loving	\$9,516	Questa	\$949
Santa Fe	\$151,628	Bernalillo	\$9,474	Peralta	\$896
Las Cruces	\$124,296	Grants	\$9,276	Carrizozo	\$792
Los Alamos	\$86,427	Portales	\$8,552	Hagerman	\$762
Farmington	\$72,309	Sunland Park	\$7,525	Logan	\$760
Rio Rancho	\$67,205	Edgewood	\$7,158	Capitan	\$759
Carlsbad	\$65,624	Eunice	\$6,863	Elephant Butte	\$731
Hobbs	\$57,895	Aztec	\$6,334	Rio Comm.	\$711
Roswell	\$44,079	Socorro	\$6,193	Pecos	\$666
Los Lunas	\$40,917	Bloomfield	\$5,989	Dexter	\$663
Gallup	\$33,380	Angel Fire	\$5,900	Springer	\$623
Clovis	\$32,088	Raton	\$5,571	Ft Sumner	\$512
Alamogordo	\$30,761	T or C	\$5,413	Texico	\$511
Artesia	\$26,905	Ruidoso Downs	\$4,905	Eagle Nest	\$496
Jal	\$23,426	Corrales	\$4,862	Columbus	\$464
Ruidoso	\$18,800	Tucumcari	\$4,517	Mountainair	\$458
Taos	\$15,528	Los Ranchos	\$3,899	Tatum	\$446
Silver City	\$14,914	Moriarty	\$3,315	Cimarron	\$427
Deming	\$12,738	Red River	\$3,278	Santa Clara	\$403
Las Vegas	\$12,136	Milan	\$3,214	Williamsburg	\$359
Espanola	\$11,163	Santa Rosa	\$3,078	Jemez Springs	\$352
Belén	\$11,141	Anthony	\$2,533	Encino	\$341
Lovington	\$10,841	Bosque Farms	\$2,283	Magdalena	\$330
		Lordsburg	\$2,184	Vaughn	\$303
		Clayton	\$2,136	San Jon	\$300
		Mesilla	\$1,939	Reserve	\$236
		Taos Ski Valley	\$1,893	Melrose	\$225
		Cuba	\$1,765	Hurley	\$207
		Estancia	\$1,461	San Ysidro	\$201
		Cloudfcroft	\$1,445	Corona	\$173
		Tijeras	\$1,386	Lake Arthur	\$120
		Kirtland	\$1,363	Elida	\$106
		Hatch	\$1,289	Wagon Mound	\$105
		Bayard	\$1,275	Des Moines	\$102
		Chama	\$1,147	Maxwell	\$91
		Tularosa	\$1,123	House	\$87
				Roy	\$78
				Dora	\$75
				Hope	\$72
				Virden	\$62
				Willard	\$49
				Mosquero	\$47
				Grady	\$44
				Floyd	\$42
				Causey	\$23
				Folsom	\$21
				Grenville	\$16

Shading indicates municipality received funding from Small Cities Assistance Act in FY23

Source: DFA data (FY23)

Getting Water Money Into Communities Quickly Should Be Priority

Legislative Authorization Requirement for Water Project Fund Monies Delays Project Delivery

- Requiring legislative authorization during legislative session creates delays for shovel-ready projects
- WTB evaluates project applications by end of October, but legislative authorization means money isn't released until March or April (post-bill signing)
- Idle capital incurs real costs: inflation, supply chain constraints, and missed opportunities; communities may miss construction windows



Recommendation: Consider Suspending Legislative Authorization Requirement for 3 Years

- Allow NMFA to approve eligible WPF projects directly for a three-year pilot period
- Maintain transparency and oversight through existing NMFA vetting processes
- Faster delivery of funds leads to improved project outcomes

Thank You!

Questions?

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