

New Mexico Water Advocates' Suggested Water Resources Management and Planning Goals for the 2026 Legislature

Support Regional Water Planning

- Appropriate grant funding with an ISC mandate to make modest grants available in every New Mexico water planning region to support local initiative and self-organization toward forming regional water planning councils empowered under the Water Security Planning Act.

• Enforce Water Rights

- Develop a compliance plan for the Rio Grande Compact violation due to Middle Rio Grande water overuse that will occur in 2026 in the absence of a weather miracle.
- Increase staffing and budgets at the Office of the State Engineer to defend Middle Rio Grande state water rights and meet the demands of high stakes SCOTUS litigation while also effectively addressing New Mexico's dire water situation and the things we must do.
- Pass the State Engineer's enforcement bill.
- Staff a new Middle Rio Grande water rights enforcement team.

• Provide Reliable Data

- Fully implement the State Engineer's two Water Data Act compliance systems that received 1/6th of the needed funding from the 2025 Legislature:
 - (1) the long-overdue replacement of the WATERS database for water rights information, and
 - (2) a newly initiated online system for real-time and historical water use data access.
- Pass bill to fund the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources to contract with Water Data Act Directing Agencies to make the essential water planning data sets they own publicly accessible through the online New Mexico Water Data Catalogue
- Drill one-third of the 100 statewide Aquifer Mapping Program research and monitoring wells in the next four years.
- Fund a management information system for the Office of the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission