

# Settlement Implementation and Opportunities for Innovation to the Legislative Finance Committee

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# Overview

- **Desired Outcomes and Role for the State**
  - Compliance with new Rio Grande Compact delivery obligations for the LRG
    - Depletion Management
    - Stormwater Management
    - Brackish Water
- **Review of work ahead for the State**
  - Addressing need for depletion reductions
  - Work on improving habitat
  - Continue improving aquifer health
- **Essential Partners**
  - Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID)
  - United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)

# Depletion Management



- **Groundwater Leasing Program**
  - "Bridge" to begin reducing water depletions long term
  - ~\$13 m for 5 years for 3,500 acres (\$750 per acre/year)
- **GW Only Acquisition Program**
  - Parallel task with leasing
  - Early phase of designing program
    - Development of this Program will require significant public involvement
  - ~\$63 m (7,000 acres, \$9,000 per acre)
- **Surface Water Lease or Purchase**
  - Needs further evaluation
  - Preliminary discussions are being held with USBR and EBID
- **Other depletion management strategies**
  - DROP, rotational fallowing
  - Others?
- **Land management – Healthy Soils Initiative**
  - NMISC, NMDA, NMSU

# Stormwater Management

- **Climate Change**
    - Increased high intensity and short duration storm flow management
    - Prepare and optimize the management of this new precipitation pattern
  - **Stormwater management**
    - Proposed Consent Decree accounting – 1,000 cfs and above limitation
  - **Regional dam initiative**
    - **Rapid assessment**
      - Evaluate storage expansion to retain stormwater
    - Off-channel development
      - Habitat improvement
      - Assist in rerouting storm water to RG Project
      - Cooperative effort with EBID and USBR
- Evaluate potential to optimize drain system
- **Draft Report regional infiltration opportunities**
  - **Pilot Infiltration Study**
  - Coordinating with EBID



# Brackish Supply

- **Brackish Water**
  - Working with USBR for a regional assessment brackish water characteristics
    - NMISC submitted grant application to support this work
    - Announcement of award is anticipated shortly
- **Importation of Brackish Water**
  - Salt Basin
    - Initial assessment
      - Groundwater modeling
      - Very preliminary engineering is underway
      - This FY we will begin public outreach
    - USBR Grant - \$ 0.750 m
  - Westside Mesilla aquifer characterization
    - Need sampling plan for aquifer characterization
      - ~\$ 0.250 m
    - Implement the sampling plan
      - TBD



# Time Line of Tasks

High level list of tasks	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	FY 31	FY 32	FY 33	FY 34
<b><u>Depletion Management</u></b>											
3-5 year Groundwater Leases											
Develop an acquisition program											
Explore other options (example, cooperative management with managing SW, DROP)											
Land management (Healthy soils initiative with NMDA and NMSU)											
<b><u>Stormwater</u></b>											
Dam Assessment for dam safety and potential conversion to a stormwater storage facility											
Work with EBID on evaluating storm water management for aquifer benefit, additional source for EBID, protect public health and safety											
Off-channel development											
Improve habitat											
Cooperation with EBID and USBR											
<b><u>Brackish Water</u></b>											
Regional assessment of potential sources											
Importation											
Salt Basin											
Mesilla Basin west of the LRG valley											