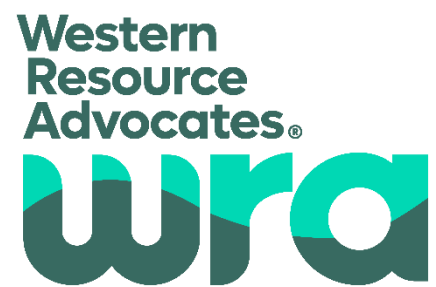


STRATEGIC WATER RESERVE 2025 UPDATE



Anjali Bean
Healthy Rivers Senior Policy Advisor
Anjali.bean@westernresources.org
505-226-2806





Strategic Water Reserve

WHAT IT IS

Tool that provides a mechanism for the state to purchase or lease water rights and hold in public trust.

ESTABLISHED IN 2005

The SWR was established through broad bipartisan support nearly 20 years ago.

AUTHORIZED PURPOSES

The SWR can currently be used for three purposes: to promote compact compliance, to benefit endangered species, including to prevent the listing of new species, and now aquifer recharge.

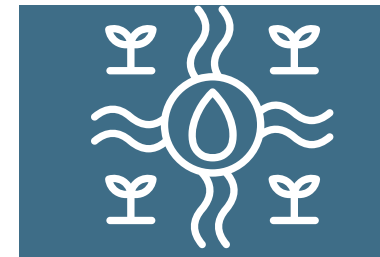
KEY COMPONENTS



VOLUNTARY TRANSACTIONS,
NOT THROUGH CONDEMNATION



ACQUISITIONS IN PRIORITY
BASINS SET BY ISC



PROTECTIONS FOR ACEQUIAS
AND WATER DISTRICTS



WATER RIGHT SENIORITY AND
BENEFICIAL USE



APPROVED BY COMMISSION
AND MANAGED BY ISC STAFF



Key Challenges

FUNDING

Historically the legislature has appropriated small amounts of funding and then clawed it back when not immediately expended. From 2005 - 2022 about \$8 million was appropriated to the SWR, with half eventually being clawed back. In 2023, the largest ever appropriation for the SWR was secured, \$7.5 million.

PRIORITIZING MULTI-BENEFIT TRANSACTIONS

We believe the path forward in finding solutions to our water challenges requires thinking about how to stretch the same amount of water further by prioritizing transactions that provide multiple benefits.

SB-37: SWR Amendments



Long-term funding
with \$15m cap

THANK YOU SPONSORS!!

Sen. Stefanics
Rep. Dixon
Rep. McQueen
Sen. Wirth



Adds a third purpose
to allow for aquifer
recharge



Allows prioritization of
transactions with
multiple benefits

2026 and Beyond

WELCOME PAM HOMER

- First program Technical lead
- Outreach & Education
- Basin Study Coordination

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTEGRATION

- Regional Water Planning
- Aquifer Mapping
- Lower Rio Grande Settlement Implementation

2026 Legislative Priority

- Fill the \$15 million non-reverting fund



Questions?

