



# Regional and State Water Planning Update

Water and Natural Resources  
Committee

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# New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission Water Planning Program

*Planning is critical to help New Mexico ensure water supplies for future generations.*

*Resilience = the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions.*

## REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

### **SB 337 - Water Security Planning Act**

- Water Task Force recommendation
- Transforms regional water planning

## STATE WATER PLANNING

### **2023 Review of the State Water Plan**

- Incorporates climate change considerations for the first time





# SB – 337 Water Security Planning Act

*Passed unanimously. Will transform and reinvigorate regional water planning in New Mexico.*

New statute requires that regional water planning will:

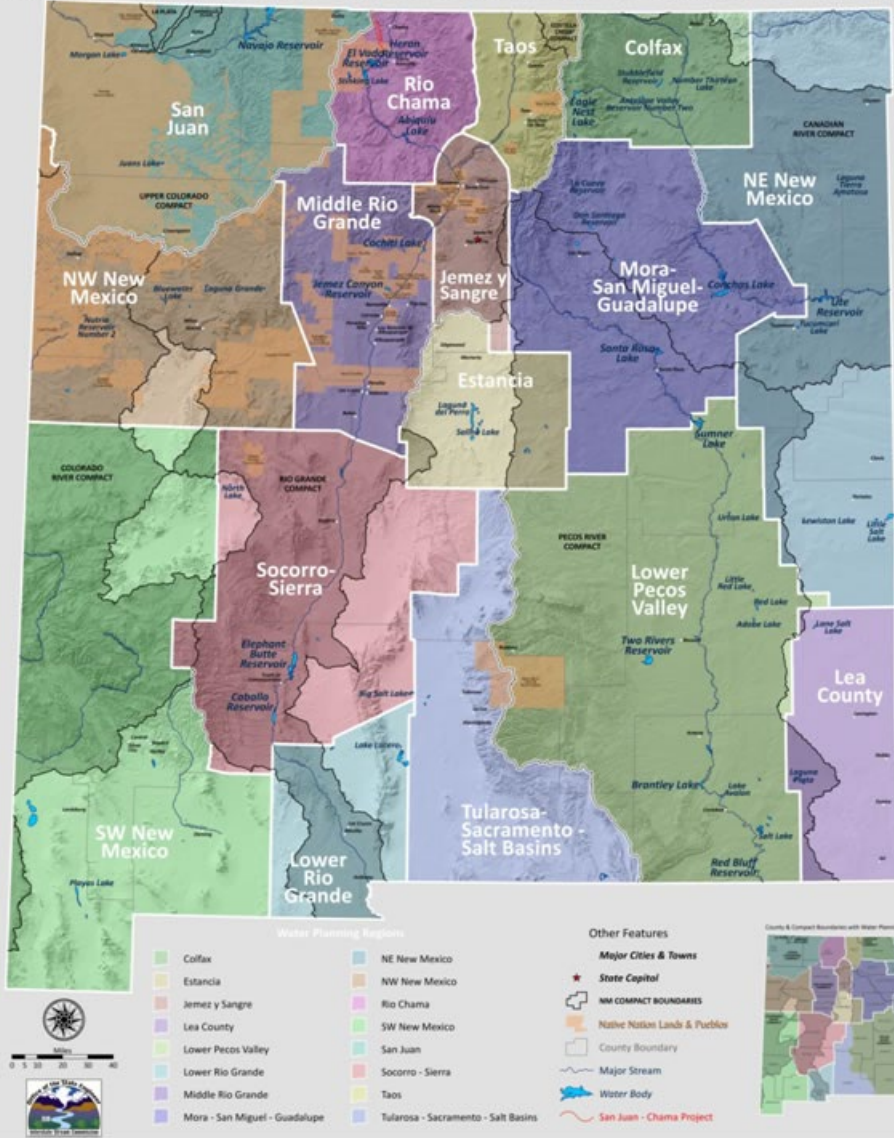
- Ensure scientific integrity through the best available data, science and models
- Support implementation through prioritization of projects and activities, and reporting mechanisms for decision-makers
- Build on and incorporate existing planning efforts, and not be redundant
- Be grounded in state water law, including respecting existing water rights and the doctrine of prior appropriation
- Develop local capacity through increased and more consistent support
- Involve robust public engagement every step of the way

***Implementation of effective solutions requires engagement with local communities.***



# New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission WATER PLANNING REGIONS

with Native Nation Lands, Pueblos and Interstate Compact Boundaries



## Regional Water Planning in NM

- Original Statute Passed in 1987
- Existing 16 Water Planning Regions
- Combination of Administrative and Hydrologic Boundaries
- Two Full Rounds of Regional Plans Completed between 1999 and 2017
  - Challenges in implementation - no prioritization within plans
- Meetings to be Held in Each Region in 2023 for Water Security Act Implementation
  - Legislator engagement welcome



# Water Security Planning Act (WSPA)

## Next Steps

### **WSPA Implementation Requires:**

- NMISC to complete rulemaking and guidelines adoption
- Formation of a Tribal Advisory Council
- Robust public involvement - *all-hands-on-deck moment*

### **Context - Momentum on Water Task Force Recommendations:**

- Funding mechanisms for water infrastructure
- Federal funding - ensuring NM takes full advantage of currently available \$\$
- Groundwater data and management
- State and local capacity development
- Supporting water planning next steps

# WSPA Implementation Schedule

## Complete and On-going

- Bill Drafting & Passage: **Jan – Apr '23**
- Strategy & Contracts for Public Engagement in 2024: **Mar – Sep '23**
- Communications, Data Visualization, Outreach & Input Process: **Aug '23 – Mar '24**

## Upcoming

- **WSPA Website Launch with Initial Survey: Nov '23**
- Conduct Public Meetings & Web-Based Input to Inform Rules and Guidelines: **Mar – Sep '24**
- Rule & Guideline Development Based on Input Received: **Sep – Dec '24**
- Promulgate Rules & Adopt Guidelines: **Dec '24 – Mar '25**

## Future

- WSPA Schedule - Determine Intervals for Plans & Support Needed: **Jan– Aug '25**
- Development & Implementation of Regional Water Plans : **July '25 - ongoing**

# The New Mexico State Water Plan: 72-14-3.1

“It is the intent of the legislature that the NMISC, in collaboration with the OSE and the Water Trust Board, prepare and implement a comprehensive state water plan.”



<https://law.justia.com/codes/new-mexico/2021/chapter-72/article-14/section-72-14-3-1/>

# The New Mexico State Water Plan: 72-14-3.1

- Common priorities, goals, and objectives
- Public welfare
- Vision and policy direction for active water management
- Inventory of water quantity and quality
- Population projections + water demand projections under a range of conditions
- Water budgets for all river systems
- Water conservation strategies to maximize beneficial use and promote nonforfeiture of water rights
- Drought management plan
- Recognition of the relationship between water and land use
- Promote river and watershed restoration
- Balance customs, culture, environment and economic health with efficient transfers
- Promote strategies for coordination with all levels of government
- Integrate regional water plans
- Integrate local water plans
- Identify water infrastructure and management needs
- Promote collaboration with national labs and research institutions



**Part I:  
Policies**

**2018  
New Mexico  
State Water Plan**

**Part II:  
Technical  
Report**

**Part III:  
Legal  
Landmarks**

Adopted by the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission  
December 6, 2018

**CLIMATE CHANGE IN  
NEW MEXICO OVER THE  
NEXT 50 YEARS: IMPACTS  
ON WATER RESOURCES**

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**New Mexico  
State Water Plan  
5-Year Update**

New Mexico Office of the State Engineer  
Interstate Stream Commission  
NM Stat § 72-14-3.1 (2003)

**2023**

**2023 Addendum to the 2018 New Mexico State Water Plan**  
*circa 2023*



Questions?