

Land Grant Committee Meeting Tierra Amarilla

New Technologies Supporting Rural New Mexico in OSA Reporting



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New Technologies Supporting Rural New Mexico in OSA Reporting

- Rural New Mexico's small local public bodies, such as Land Grants and Acequias, often face unique challenges in meeting financial reporting requirements to the Office of the State Auditor. Limited staffing, inconsistent internet access, and long distances to professional services can make compliance difficult.
- The following technologies are helping bridge these gaps for rural communities, strengthening transparency and accountability.



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- **OSA-Connect Portal: Centralized and Accessible**

- The updated **OSA-Connect** system gives rural entities a single online location to register, manage contracts, and submit reporting documents. This means fewer trips to city offices and a faster, more direct way to stay in compliance, even from remote areas.

- **Mobile Document Scanning**

- Apps like **Adobe Scan** and **Genius Scan** let staff and volunteers use smartphones to capture bank statements, receipts, and contracts as clear PDFs. These tools:
 - Eliminate the need for costly desktop scanners.
 - Allow documents to be prepared from the field or a home office.
 - Reduce mailing delays that can cause missed deadlines.

- **Secure File Exchange**

- Platforms like **Suralink**, or shared cloud folders via **OneDrive** or **Google Drive**, allow rural offices to transmit documents safely to Independent Public Accountants (IPAs) and OSA staff. This cuts down on back-and-forth mailing, prevents lost paperwork, and speeds up the Auditing process.



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- **E-Signature Tools**

- With **OSA Connect E-Signature, DocuSign, or Adobe Acrobat Sign**, governing boards can approve contracts, certifications, and engagement letters without waiting for in-person meetings. This is critical for rural boards that meet infrequently or have members spread across large geographic areas.

- **Expanded Broadband and Satellite Internet**

- These technologies bring reliable, high-speed internet to areas where wired service is unavailable or inconsistent. For rural entities, this means:
 - Reliable access to the OSA-Connect portal.
 - Faster file uploads to auditors.
 - The ability to attend virtual meetings with oversight agencies without travel.



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- **The Impact**

- By adopting these technologies, rural New Mexico communities are:
 - Reducing the cost and time needed for compliance.
 - Overcoming barriers caused by distance and limited connectivity.
 - Increasing the accuracy and timeliness of financial reports.
 - Building local capacity so communities can manage their own records without relying solely on outside assistance.

- In short, technology is leveling the playing field—allowing small, rural public bodies to meet the same accountability standards as larger, urban entities while preserving local control and autonomy.



Thank You



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