

**2022 PROPOSED
WORK PLAN AND MEETING SCHEDULE
for the
WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Members

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Sen. Crystal R. Diamond	Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
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Sen. Linda M. Lopez	Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez
Rep. Rod Montoya	Rep. Nathan P. Small
Rep. Roger E. Montoya	Sen. Mimi Stewart
Rep. Greg Nibert	Sen. Peter Wirth

Work Plan

The Water and Natural Resources Committee was created by the New Mexico Legislative Council on April 26, 2022. The committee will focus on the following topics, as scheduling permits:

A. reports from water- and natural resources-related executive agencies regarding initiatives, legislation passed and budget and staffing needs;

B. topics concerning water, including:

1. statutory reports from the Office of the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission, including reports on the New Mexico Unit Fund, the Strategic Water Reserve and state water planning;

2. implementation of the Water Data Act;
3. the status of drought in the state and policy to address drought conditions, including weather modification;
4. climate and water administration challenges;
5. water system governance status and reform;
6. the development and implementation of regional water systems;
7. brackish water and desalination;
8. implementation of the Abeyta Settlement Agreement;
9. Middle Rio Grande water use and compliance with the Rio Grande Compact;
10. water quality and quantity concerns of communities downstream of wastewater treatment facilities;
11. plans to transfer water from the Mississippi River to the southwest;
12. initiatives to protect thirty percent of the world's oceans, lands, rivers, lakes and wetlands by 2030;
13. the effects of feral cattle on riparian habitats along the Gila River;
14. environmental flows;
15. updates on the stream access rule litigation;
16. water deliveries to Indian nations, tribes and pueblos and the status of Indian water rights litigation and settlements;
17. produced water updates;
18. issues pertaining to acequias, including the Acequia and Community Ditch Infrastructure Fund;
19. contaminated ground water sites;
20. surface water protections, including discharge permitting and the impacts of the federal Clean Water Act of 1977;

21. updates on *Texas v. New Mexico* and other water-related litigation;
22. water quality and supply issues in areas affected by wildfire; and
23. water line easements across state land;

C. topics concerning energy, including:

1. green hydrogen development and potential;
2. the implementation of the Community Solar Act;
3. geothermal developments and opportunities;
4. public power in New Mexico;
5. electric vehicle incentives and charging;
6. an update on the implementation of the Community Energy Efficiency Development Block Grant Program;
7. state-based appliance standards and savings;
8. carbon capture sequestration costs and effectiveness;
9. resources needed for orphan well cleanup;
10. the status of the merger between Avangrid and the Public Service Company of New Mexico;
11. methane regulations;
12. hydrogen hub development;
13. the state solar tax credit;
14. building codes and building electrification;
15. home electrification funding and needs;
16. reform of electrical transmission;
17. modernization of the Oil and Gas Act; and

18. blue hydrogen development and potential;

D. topics concerning agriculture, land management and animals, including:

1. the Food, Farm and Hunger initiative;
2. fire coordination and federal compensation for fire losses;
3. state support for farming and ranching management tools;
4. issues involving land for grazing, including the meadow jumping mouse;
5. plans for a Rio Grande Trail;
6. climate-informed reforestation efforts and watershed restoration projects;
7. state parks improvements and recommendations;
8. plans to help farmers and ranchers;
9. the development and potential of outdoor recreation;
10. the use of pesticides;
11. fireworks, drought and wildfire risk;
12. wild horse management legislation;
13. the use of off-highway vehicles;
14. the implementation of the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act; and
15. prescribed burn opportunities, practices and precautions; and

E. other topics concerning natural resources, including:

1. state funding for conservation and restoration projects;
2. a proposed green amendment;
3. state funding for environmental regulations;
4. an update from New Mexico State University College of Agricultural,

Consumer and Environmental Sciences on weather stations, education and research centers;

5. new state environmental standards;
6. climate change and building resiliency in New Mexico;
7. climate change on Indian nations, tribes and pueblos;
8. state climate legislation;
9. climate change, oil and gas extraction and health;
10. the status and needs of uranium mine cleanup;
11. plastic use, recycling and responsibility; and
12. policies and practices to address the use of plastics and plastic pollution.

**Water and Natural Resources Committee
2022 Proposed Meeting Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 23	Santa Fe
July 25-26	TBD
August 25-26	TBD
September 29-30	TBD
October 27-28	Santa Fe