



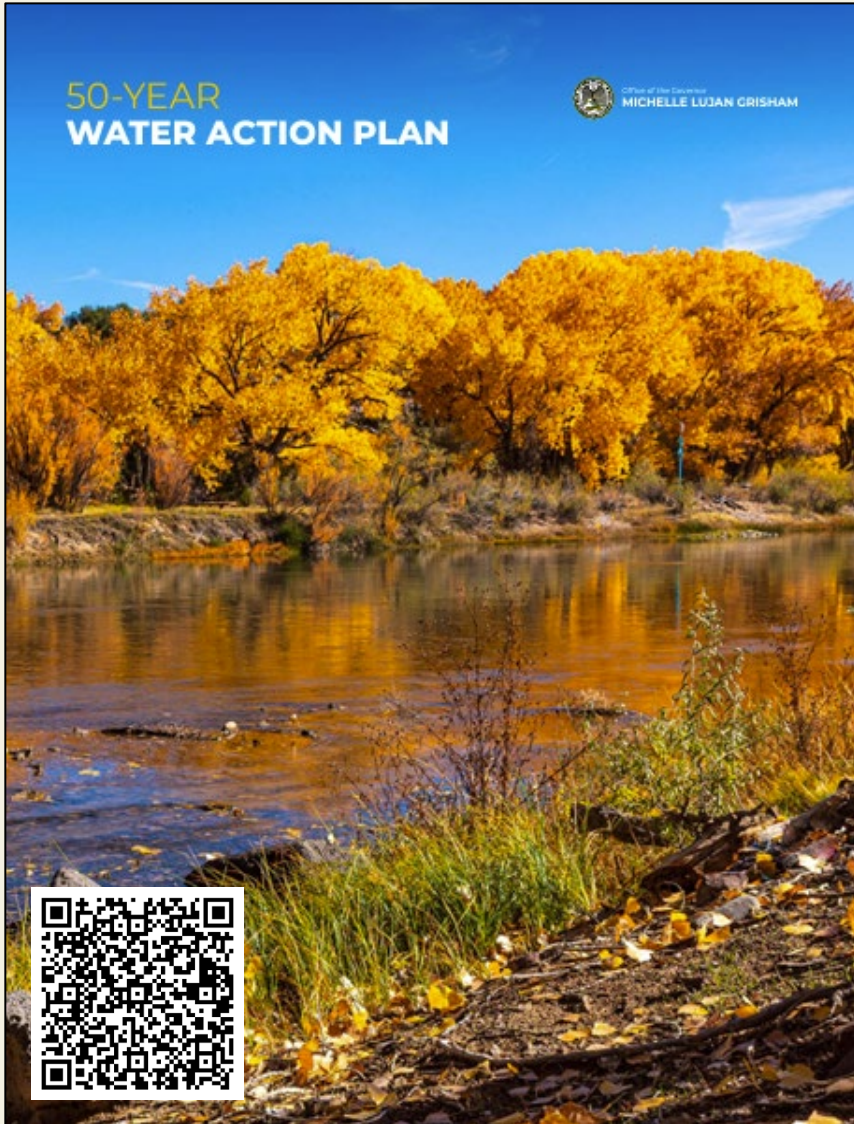
New Mexico Environment Department

Strategic Water Supply 2026 Water Leader's Workshop

Jonas Armstrong, Director, Water Protection Division
April 21, 2026



50 Year Water Action Plan Item B1

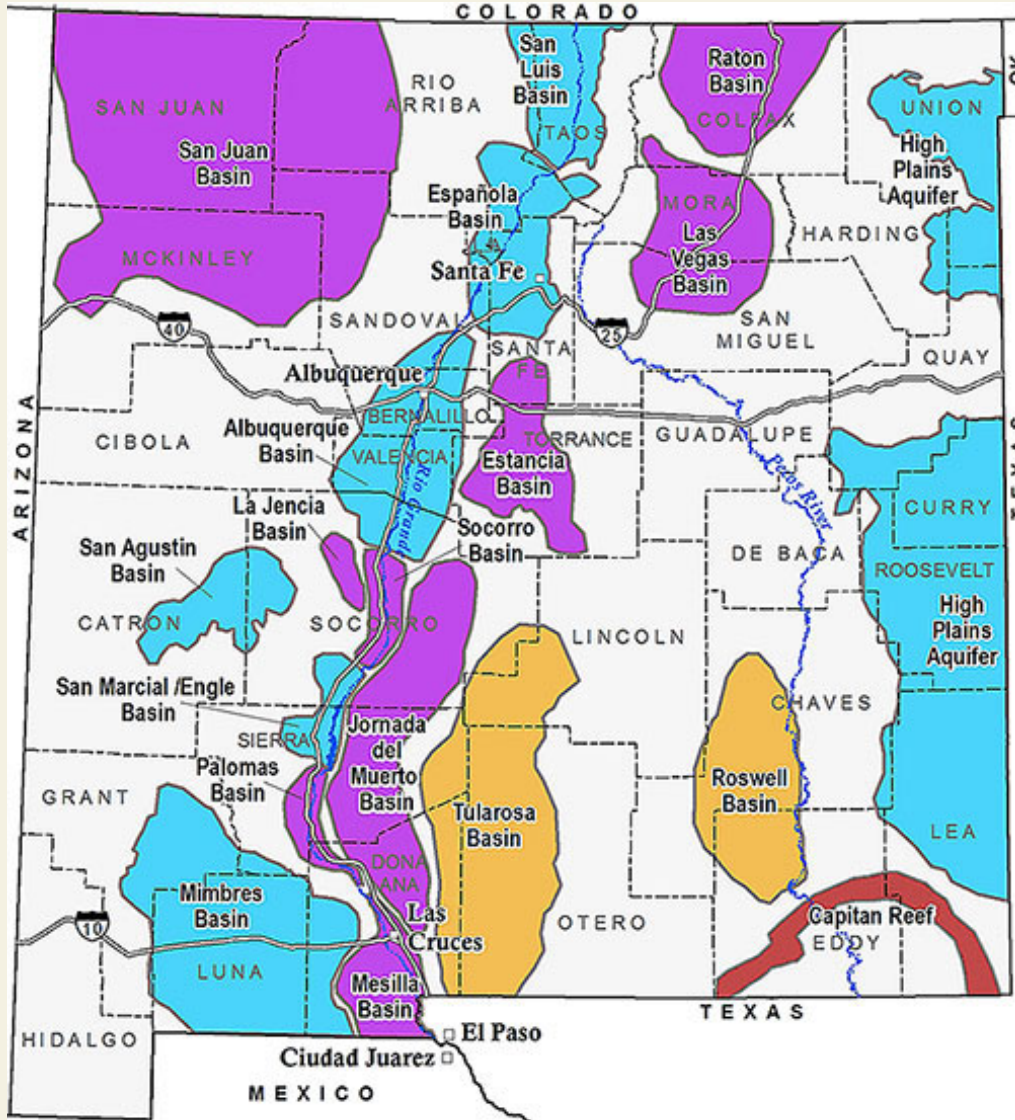


NMED is the lead agency on six of 11 priority actions in the Action Plan.





Brackish Water in New Mexico



- Up to 650 trillion gallons
- Varying quality and depth to water
- Not fully characterized



HB137 (2025) Strategic Water Supply Act

- Protects and preserves freshwater
- Promotes local economies and job creation
- Establishes guardrails for project funding
- Created new fund, seeded with \$40M
- Signed April 8, 2025; effective June 20, 2025

1 AN ACT
2 RELATING TO WATER; ENACTING THE STRATEGIC WATER SUPPLY ACT;
3 CREATING THE STRATEGIC WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE
4 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND THE OFFICE OF THE STATE
5 ENGINEER TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS AND AWARD GRANTS FOR
6 PROJECTS INVOLVING BRACKISH WATER THAT ENHANCE THE STATE'S
7 FRESH WATER RESOURCES; CREATING THE STRATEGIC WATER SUPPLY
8 PROGRAM FUND; PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS BEFORE A PERSON DRILLS
9 WELLS OR RECOMPLETES EXISTING WELLS TO APPROPRIATE WATERS;
10 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

11
12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

13 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.--Sections 1 through 4 of this
14 act may be cited as the "Strategic Water Supply Act".

15 SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Strategic Water
16 Supply Act:

17 A. "brackish water" means water that is sourced
18 from an underground stream, channel, artesian basin,
19 reservoir or lake, having reasonably ascertainable
20 boundaries, that contains not less than one thousand parts
21 per million of dissolved solids and is not produced water;

22 B. "produced water" means a fluid that is an
23 incidental byproduct from drilling for or the production of
24 oil and gas;

25 C. "public entity" means a county, municipality,

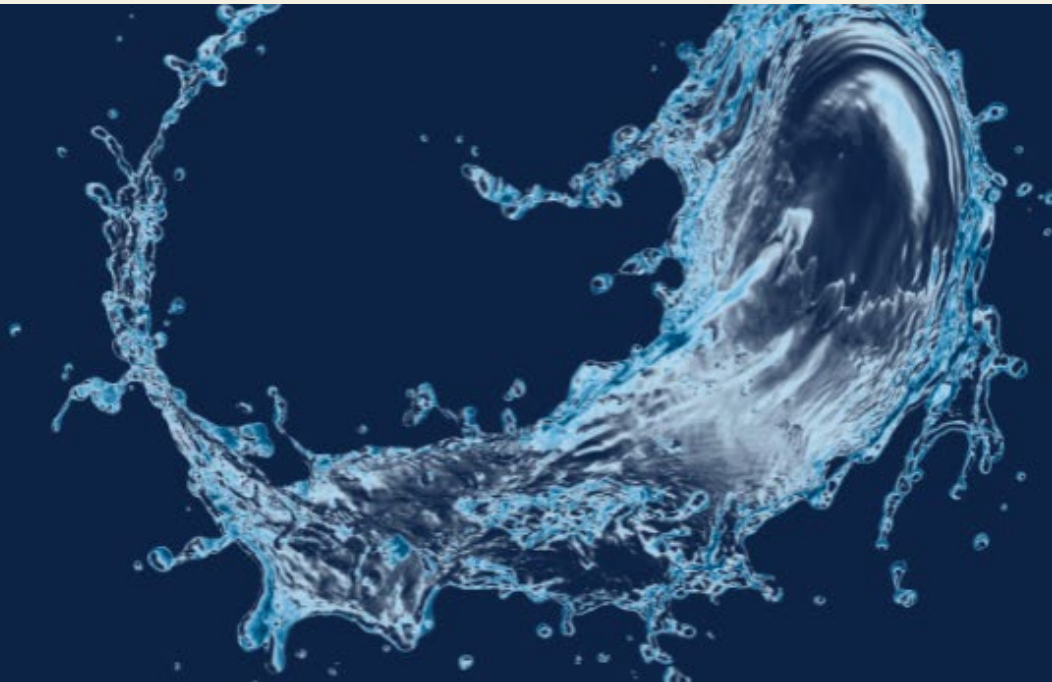
HB137 (2025) (S1)
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Strategic Water Supply Program

- Jointly run by NMED and OSE
- Public and private sector opportunities
- \$40M in available funding announced August 2025
- Proposals selected in December 2025

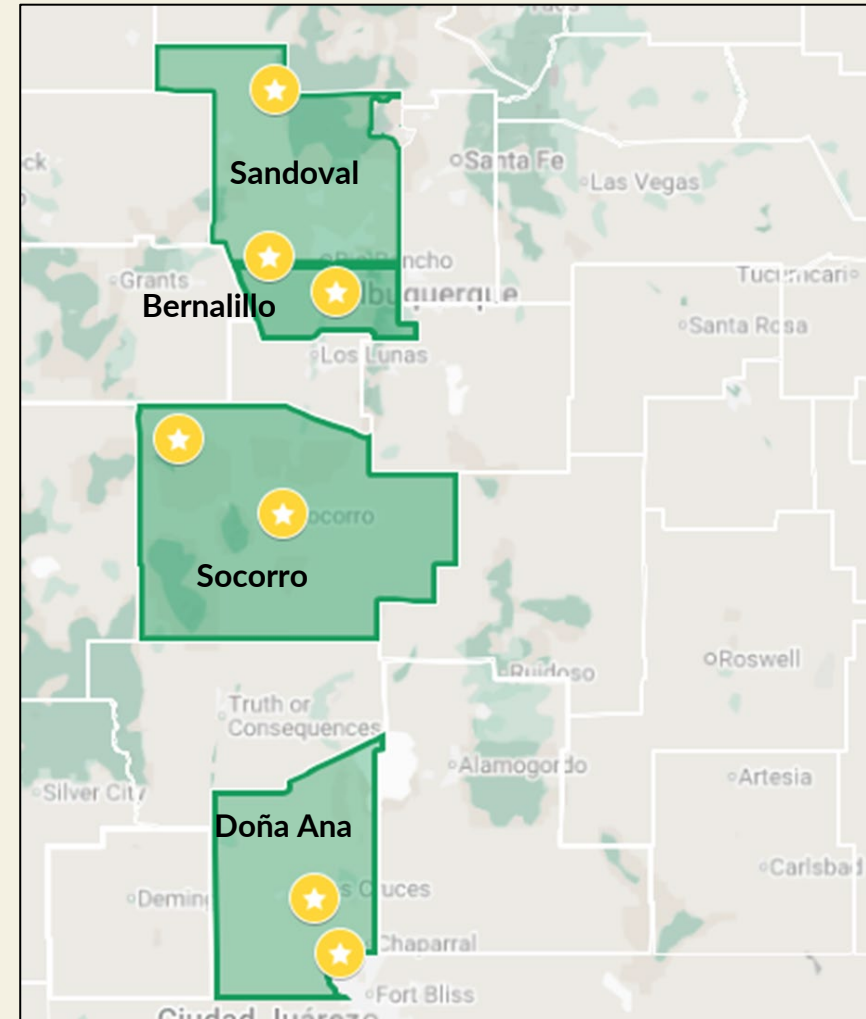
**Strategic
Water Supply**
Making every drop count.





First Round of Project Awards: Grants

- Alamo Navajo School Board (\$1.83M): Construct a small brackish water treatment plant to improve public health and water security.
- City of Anthony (\$1.41M): Analysis and testing for brackish groundwater pilot, producing scalable recommendations and a permitting roadmap.
- Village of Cuba (\$11.7M): Design and pre-construction work for zero-waste desalination facility estimated to produce 518,000 gallons/day.
- University of New Mexico (\$400K): Statewide evaluation of economic and environmental tradeoffs associated with brackish water management.
- Pueblo of Laguna (\$6.0M): Feasibility study to characterize brackish water resources and support long-term resilience.
- New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology (\$1.58M): Advanced membrane research to recover over 98% high-purity water, reducing brine waste.
- Arrowhead Center at New Mexico State University (\$3.0M): Establish a Brine Valorization Accelerator Hub to convert waste brines into a valuable resource.





Coming Soon!

- Announcing first round contract awards
- Project kickoffs
- Second round of funding (\$35M available)





The Work is Never Done

Our Mission

is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

Jonas Armstrong, Director, Water Protection Division

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