# NM Water Policy & Infrastructure Task Force

## Water Ambassador Priorities for 2023-2025

Water and Natural Resources Committee Hearing – July 11, 2023

Patrick McCarthy – Water Policy Officer, Thornburg Foundation





#### **Task Force Members / Water Ambassadors**

Mike Hamman – Chair, Office of the State Engineer Hannah Riseley-White – Interstate Stream Commission Rebecca Roose – Environment Department Marquita Russel – New Mexico Finance Authority Elizabeth Anderson – Alb.-Bernalillo Co. Water Utility Authority Aron Balok – Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District Carleton Bowekaty – Zuni Pueblo Jennifer Bradfute – Marathon Oil Company Aaron Chavez – San Juan Water Commission Dr. Ladona Clayton – Ogallala Land and Water Conservancy Bill Conner – NM Rural Water Users Association Dr. Nelia Dunbar – NM Technical Institute Joy Esparsen – NM Association of Counties A.J. Forte – NM Municipal League Paula Garcia – NM Acequia Association Norm Gaume – Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates Kyle Harwood – Egolf Ferlic Martinez Harwood Dr. Phil King – NM State University (ret.), private consultant Todd Leahy – NM Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Dept. Priscilla Lucero – Southwest NM Council of Governments Patrick McCarthy – Thornburg Foundation Debbie Romero – NM Dept. of Finance and Administration Michael Sloane – NM Dept. of Game and Fish Ryan Swazo-Hinds – Pueblo of Tesugue Paul Tashjian – Audubon Southwest Lynn Trujillo (Laurie Weahkee, proxy) – NM Indian Affairs Department Daryl Vigil – Jicarilla Apache Nation Ralph Vigil – NM Acequia Commission Jeff Witte (Max Henkels, proxy) – NM Dept. of Agriculture

#### **Legislative Advisors**

Rep. Gail Armstrong
Rep. Jack Chatfield
Rep. Susan Herrera
Rep. Tara Luján
Rep. Nathan Small
Sen. Ron Griggs
Sen. Elizabeth Stefanics
Sen. Peter Wirth
Sen. Pat Woods



# Water Can't Wait

"Driven by drought and climate change, New Mexico's water crisis has laid bare water policies and processes that users, practitioners, and lawmakers agree are not meeting the 21st century needs of New Mexicans under the stress of drought, aging infrastructure, and climate change."

- NM Water Policy & Infrastructure Task Force Charter

"Go big or go home."

-- State Engineer and Task Force Chair Mike Hamman



## **Interdependent Strategies to Drive System Change**

**Capacity** 

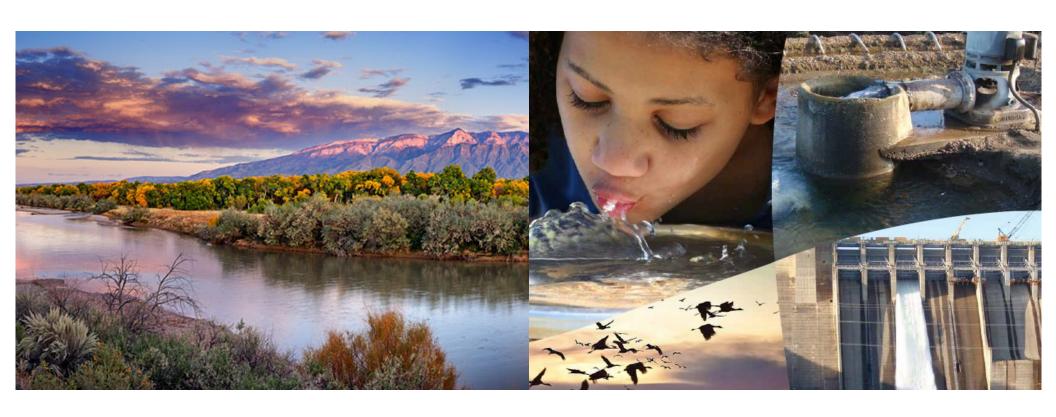
**Funding** 

Water Conservation

Science, Data, and Planning

**Community Engagement** 

# Water Ambassador Priorities for 2023-2025





## Water Ambassador Priorities for 2023-2025

### 1 – Implement Solutions from the 2023 Session

- A. Water Security Planning Act (SB 337)
- B. Regional Water System Resiliency (SB 1)
- C. Legacy Permanent Fund (SB 9)
- D. Strategic Water Reserve expansion
- E. Surface water permitting



## 2 – Enact Outstanding Recommendations

2024

2023

- A. Build state & local capacity for water projects & operations
- B. Improve water infrastructure project funding
- C. Leverage federal funds (state & local matching)
- D. Assess and improve groundwater policy and management
- E. Close the funding gap for water infrastructure emergencies

2024-2025

#### 3 - Refine and Act on Additional Priorities

- A. Strengthen water rights enforcement
- B. Grow the water workforce
- C. Expand shortage-sharing agreements
- D. Invest in green and natural infrastructure

# Water Ambassador Request for 2023-2024

Ongoing legislative support to modernize NM water policy, infrastructure, and programs, including authorization and funding for:

- A. Building state & local capacity for water projects & operations
- B. Improving water infrastructure project funding
- C. Leveraging <u>federal funds</u> (state & local matching)
- D. Assessing and improving groundwater policy and management
- E. Closing the funding gap for water infrastructure emergencies



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