

# Aquifer Storage and Recovery

Perspectives from the Utton Center



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# Existing Aquifer Storage and Recovery Legislation

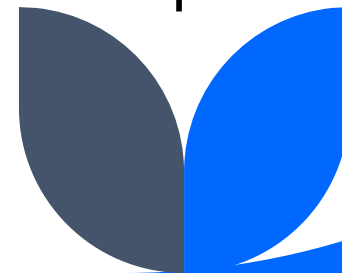


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# NMSA 72-5A

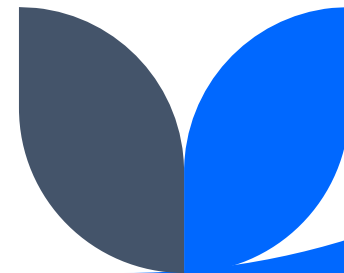


- Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) is a critical component of modern groundwater management.
- ASR is conceptually simple—store surface water supplies in the aquifer for future beneficial use.
- The Ground Water Storage and Recovery Act of 1999 authorized NMED and OSE to issue permits for storage and recovery of surface water in aquifers.



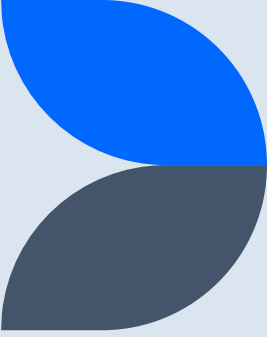
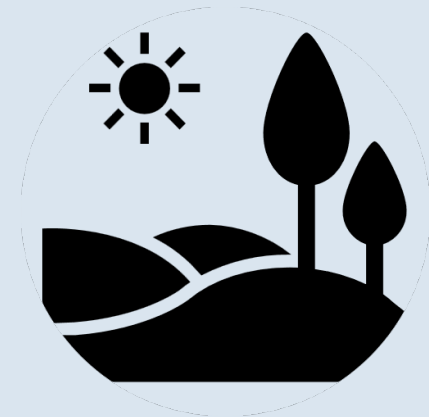
# Limitations of Current Legislation

- There have been only six ASR projects permitted and only four built in New Mexico since the passage of the Act.
- The major obstacles to implementing ASR in New Mexico are:
  - Time – 6 Years for ABCWUA's deep water injection and recovery project.
  - Cost of permitting – \$1M of permitting cost for a \$8M project.
  - Only government entities may obtain ASR permits.
  - Both NMED and OSE regulate ASR projects, each requiring its own permit and monitoring requirements under the Clean Water Act and the Groundwater Storage and Recovery Act.

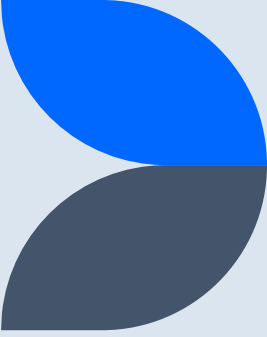


# Proposed Legislative Changes

- Allow non-governmental entities to create ASR projects.
- Allow for underground storage of OSE permitted water rights.
- Reduce application fees and eliminate annual review fees.
- Reduce water quality monitoring over time. The annual Discharge Plan for the Bear Canyon Project is \$50K per year – adding \$15-\$20 per acre-foot per year.
- Allow existing facilities that can infiltrate water to be used.
- Eliminate limits on ASR storage, allow storage if water and space are available.



# Why focus on ASR?



- Current reservoir storage is limited in quantity and purpose by law.
- Surface storage is where we spread our water out to dry.
- El Vado Reservoir is offline for the foreseeable future.
- ASR is an important water management tool, prioritized by the Governor and the State Water Task Infrastructure and Policy Force.
- The current statutory and regulatory requirements are a barrier to entry.

# Questions?

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