

# 2020 INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



## NEW MEXICO OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION

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# MISSION STATEMENT

**To actively protect and manage the water resources of New Mexico for beneficial uses by its people, in accordance with law:**

- to investigate, measure and distribute water in the most efficient manner in accordance with state laws, court adjudications and State Engineer rules and regulations;
- to administer a water rights system that lawfully and effectively allocates and reallocates water through permits, licenses and the adjudications of the courts to meet the needs of New Mexico's growing population;
- to maximize use of New Mexico's renewable interstate stream apportionments to promote the sustainability of New Mexico's water supplies; and
- to plan for the future water needs of New Mexico's people and environment.

**In carrying out the OSE/ISC mission, protection of waters and stream systems will take water quality issues into consideration.**

# OSE/ISC Priorities

- **2021 Legislative Session Priorities**
  - Expansion request for dedicated Tribal unit
  - Support for Water Infrastructure
- **Progress on IWR Settlements - Ongoing**
  - Navajo Nation
  - Aamodt
  - Taos
- **Indian Water Right Negotiations - Ongoing**
  - The State is in settlement negotiations with 9 Pueblos, Tribes and Nations in 6 adjudications.

## Policy Initiatives/Programs

- Expansion request for unit dedicated to negotiation and implementation of Indian water rights settlements
- Continuation of ongoing negotiations of Tribal settlements (6 adjudications and 9 TPNs)\*
- Continuation of outreach by the Tribal Liaison to work with TPNs, U.S., state and local agencies, acequias, Congressional delegations, and NGOs
- Consultation with TPNs on water administration including defining roles and responsibilities\*

\* Level of effort contingent on receiving expansion funding

## Top achievements accomplished on behalf of Tribes:

- Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System, (Aamodt Settlement Pueblos of Nambe , Pojoaque, Tesuque and San Ildefonso). Approval of the 611(g) Agreement between the Pueblos, US and the County of Santa Fe provided for additional funding to allow construction to begin
- Taos Settlement – S.E. facilitating the implementation of Water Rights Administration consistent with the Taos Pueblo water rights settlement agreement
- Continued participation in 5 Indian water rights settlement negotiations with the Pueblos of Ohkay Owingeh, Santa Clara, Zia, Jemez, Acoma, Laguna and Zuni, and with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Navajo Nation
- Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project
  - Continued planning and construction of the San Juan Lateral
  - Cutter Lateral pipeline treatment plant scheduled to open in the late Fall of 2020. Includes also the southern portion of the Jicarilla Apache Nation
- Coordination with the 10 Tribes Partnership on Colorado River water issues
- Coordination with the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Navajo Nation on San Juan Recovery Implementation Program issues
- Collaborated with Pueblo of Jemez, Zia and Coalition of Acequias in the Rio Jemez stream system to administer the shortage sharing agreement requested by Jemez Pueblo
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, worked with the IAD, NM First and others to get potable water to several communities