

OSE/ISC Agency Update

1

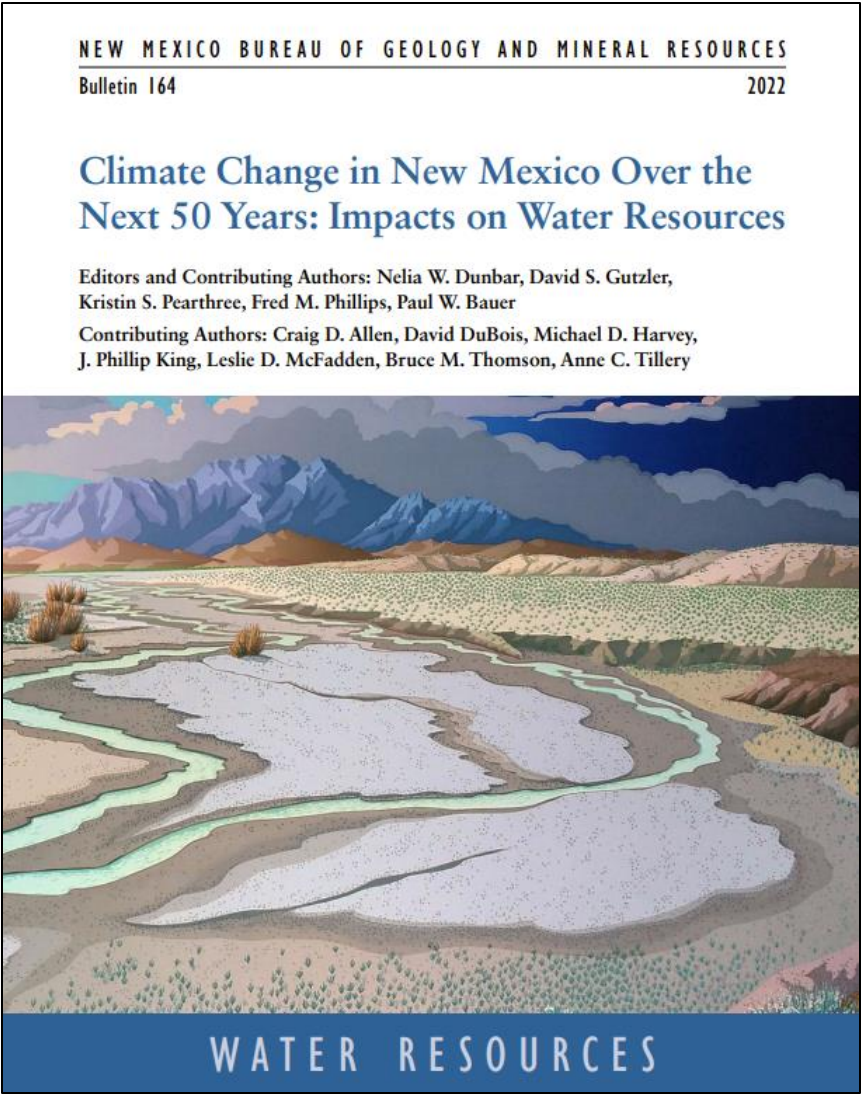
Elizabeth (Liz) Anderson, PE, State Engineer Designate
New Mexico Office of the State Engineer & Interstate Stream Commission

69th Annual New Mexico Water Conference, November 6, 2024
New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute

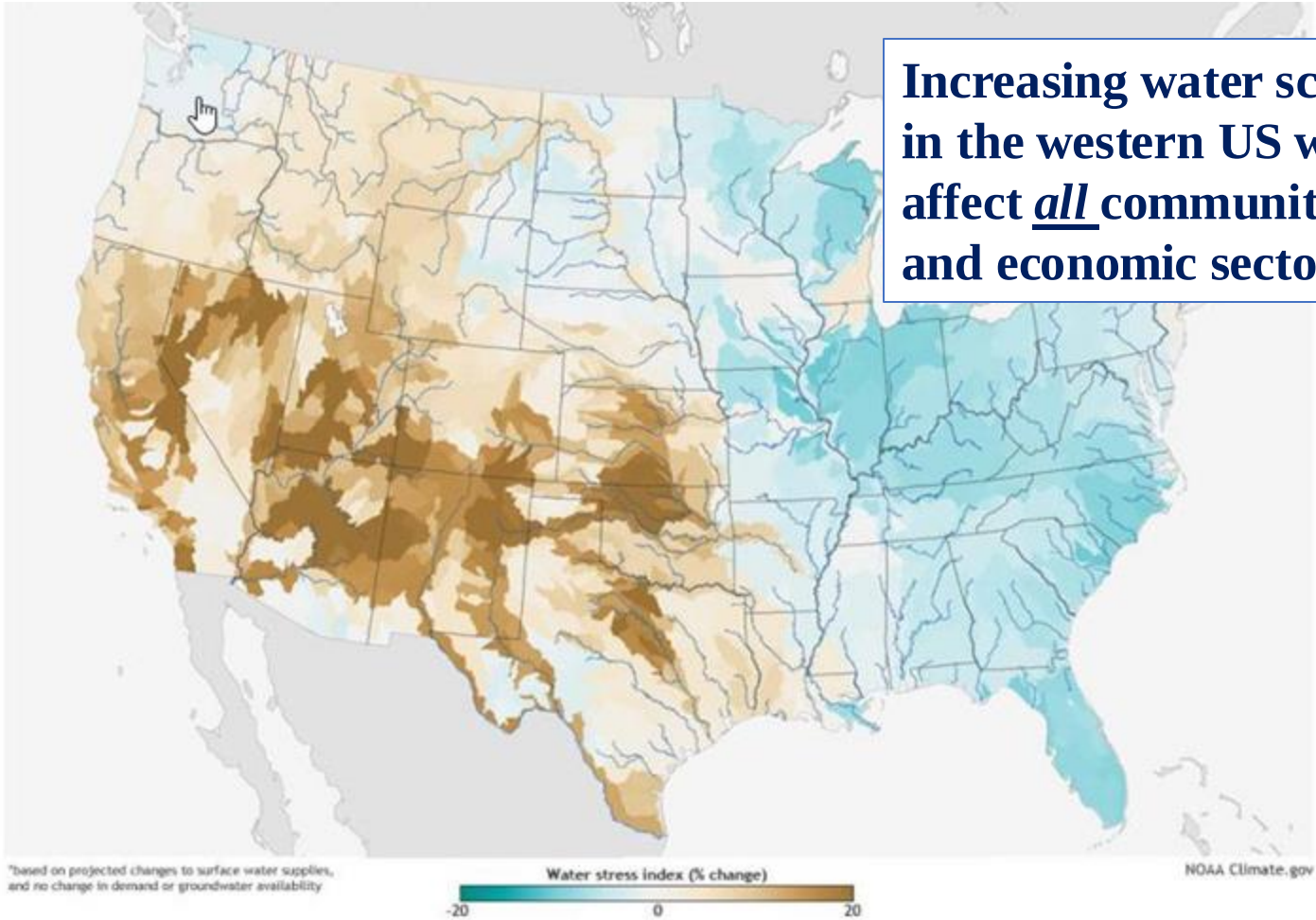


New Mexico Office of the State Engineer & Interstate Stream Commission (OSE/ISC)

Approximately 25% less water in NM streams over the next 50 years

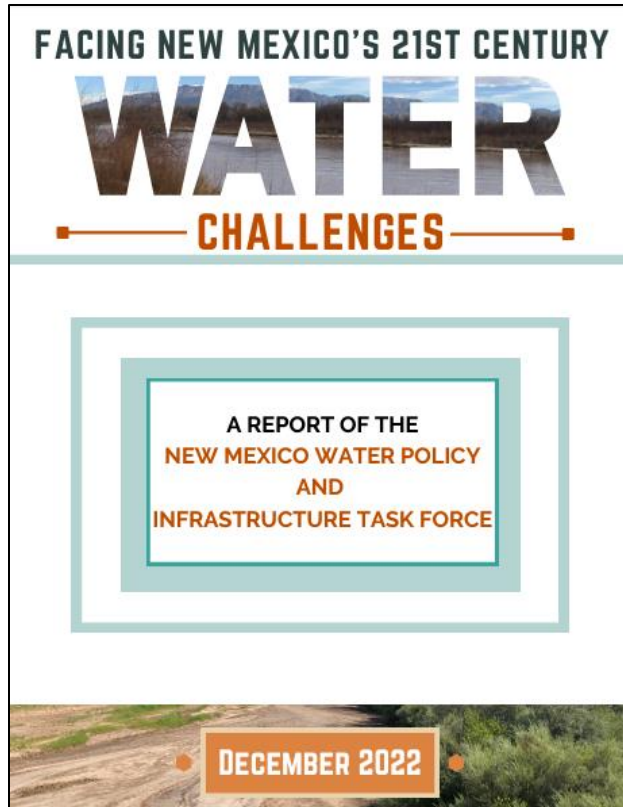


National Water Stress Index



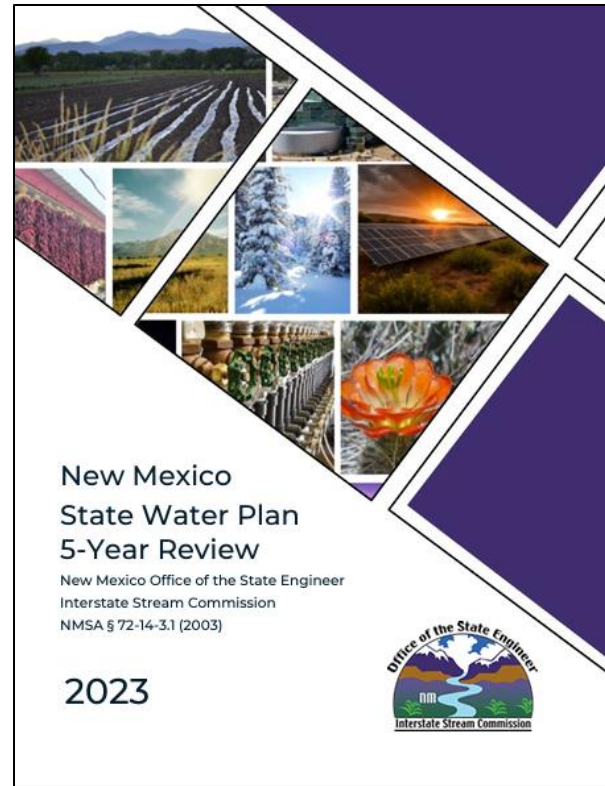
Projected change in water stress by mid-century (2040-2061) compared to historical average (1900-2668 1970). Lindsey, 2013.

Image from [Climate Change in New Mexico over the Next 50 Years: Impacts on Water Resources](#)



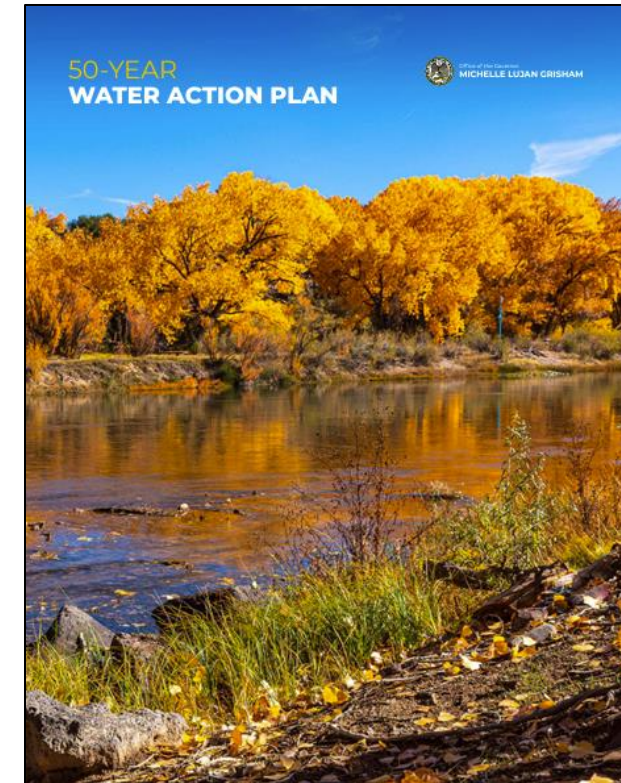
2022 Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force

- 17 Recommendations
- 106 strategies
- Multi-year phased implementation



2023 State Water Plan Review

- Provides updates since 2018 Plan
- Recommends investing in revitalized regional water planning



2024 Governor Lujan Grisham's 50-Year Water Action Plan

- Water Conservation
- New Water Supplies
- Water and Watershed Protection

50-Year Water Action Plan (50YWAP): 11 Priority Actions

WHAT WE ARE DOING TO INCREASE WATER SECURITY:

50-Year Water Action Plan.

The Water Plan actions will help address the reality of a reduced supply in the future.

Water Conservation

EST. IMPACT:
660,000 AF PER YEAR

- A1** Develop a public education campaign
- A2** Incentivise agricultural water conservation
- A3** Reduce leaks in drinking water infrastructure and increase municipal conservation
- A4** Improve water storage and delivery systems

New Water Supplies

EST. IMPACT:
150,000 AF PER YEAR

- B1** Establish a \$500M strategic water supply to spur investments in desalination and wastewater treatment
- B2** Adopt policies to expand potable and nonpotable water reuse
- B3** Improve groundwater mapping and monitoring

Water and Watershed Protection

- C1** Cleanup contaminated groundwater sites
- C2** Protect surface water by controlling pollution through a discharge permitting program
- C3** Modernize wastewater treatment plants and stormwater infrastructure
- C4** Protect and restore watersheds

We must ensure that future generations of New Mexicans have:

- a secure water supply,
- resilient watersheds, and
- thriving local economies.

50YWAP: Built on Foundation of Ongoing Efforts

- Advancing **Indian water rights settlements** to build on the strong progress made in recent years to negotiate and implement agreements that resolve outstanding claims and secure water supplies for more communities
- Implementing the **Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund**
- Continued funding and reforms for the **Water Trust Board**
- Improving opportunities for communities to leverage **capital outlay funding to complete water projects**
- Implementing the **New Mexico Water Data Act**
- Broader investments in **local capacity building and the water workforce**
- Advancing regionalization approaches that increase critical capacity for managing drinking water and wastewater systems, including through the **Regional Water System Resiliency Act of 2023**
- **Robust regional water planning to implement the Water Security Planning Act of 2023**



OSE/ISC Preparing for Climate Change

- 50-Year Water Action Plan implementation
- Water Security Planning Act
- Active administration of water rights (metering, water masters)
 - Use existing tools (Strategic Water Reserve)
 - Develop new tools (modernize agency databases)
- Indian Water Rights Settlements
- Water delivery projects (Navajo-Gallup, Eastern New Mexico)
- River compact compliance supportive of New Mexico interests
- Stream conveyance improvement projects supporting ESA
- Nonpotable development (brackish, produced, municipal ww)
- Watershed restoration for thriving forests and water supplies
- Water workforce development (public outreach, internships)



OSE/ISC Agency Overview

Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

- Water Resources Allocation Program & Water Rights
 - 7 District Offices
 - Abstracting
 - Statewide
 - Hydrology
 - Water Use / Conservation
 - Dam Safety
- Tribal Liaison
- Hearing Unit
- Litigation & Adjudication
 - Administrative Litigation Unit
 - Pueblos, Tribes & Nations

Water Rights & Administration



Regional Planning & Compact Compliance

Interstate Stream Commission (ISC)

- River Bureaus
 - Colorado
 - Rio Grande
 - Pecos
 - Acequias / Costilla
- Indian Water Resources
- Statewide Planning

Compact Administration & Compliance

- Party to 8 River Compacts

OSE/ISC Agency Priorities



- Protect New Mexico's Water Resources
 - Implementation of 50YWAP
 - Water Security Planning Act
 - Work with federal and local partners and compact states
- Modernize
 - Water Administration Structure
 - More metering and effective tools
 - More water masters
 - Expedite water rights permit hearings
 - Active Water Resources Management
 - Agency Functions
 - Better use of data
 - Support and resources
 - Attract a talented workforce
- Progress Indian Water Rights Settlements and Adjudications
- Advocate for Employees and Resources

OSE/ISC FY25 Budget Priorities

Water Management:

- Expanded Metering
- Middle Rio Grande Administration
- Lower Rio Grande Aquifer Sustainability
- Acequias / Trust Fund Sustainability
- Strategic Water Reserve
- Interstate Litigation

50 Year Water Action Plan:

- Water Planning, Education and Outreach
- River Channel Maintenance, Habitat Restoration, and Flood Control Projects

Settlements & Adjudications:

- Indian Water Rights Settlement implementation

Water Data Act Implementation:

- W.A.T.E.R.S. database update
- Real Time Measurement System

Working with New Mexico's Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations



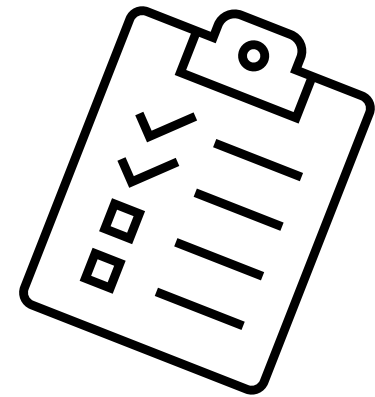
- Tribal Water Institute – August 19
- Water Security Tribal Advisory Council (WSTAC)
- Indian Water Rights Settlements

Recent Indian Water Rights Settlements during Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham Administration

- **Rio San José Stream System**
 - Acoma Pueblo
 - Laguna Pueblo
 - Navajo Nation
- **Jemez River Stream System**
 - Zia Pueblo
 - Jemez Pueblo
- **Rio Chama Stream System** (Ohkay Owingeh)
- **Zuni River Stream System** (Zuni Pueblo)

**Local settlement agreements
have been signed!**

Federal legislation is moving
forward...

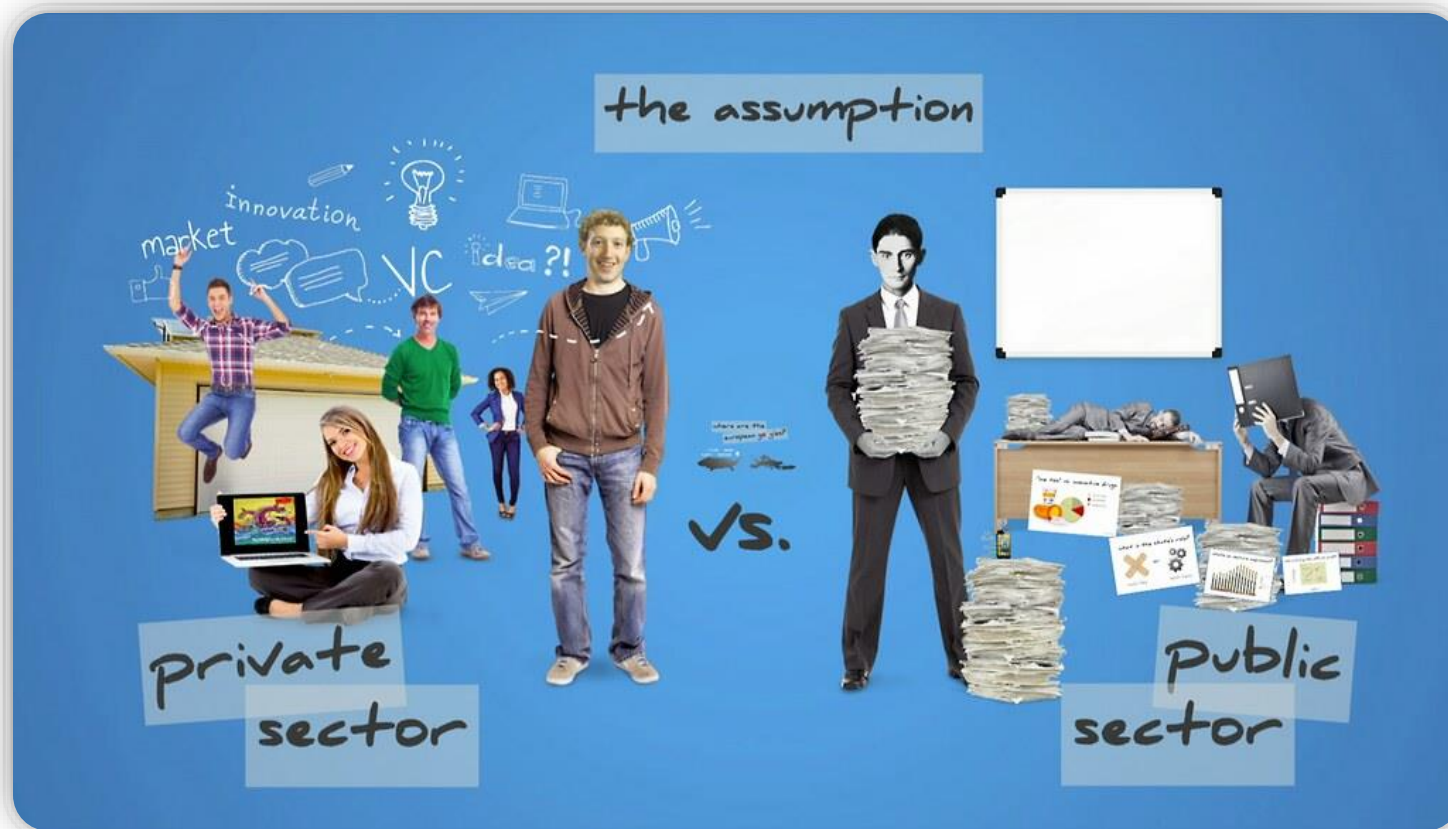


Current Indian Water Rights Settlement Negotiations

- **Santa Cruz / Truchas Stream System**
 - Ohkay Owingeh
 - Santa Clara Pueblo
- **San Juan Stream System**
 - Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
- **Zuni River Stream System**
 - Navajo Nation
- **Middle Rio Grande**
 - Cochiti Pueblo
 - Santo Domingo / Kewa Pueblo
 - San Felipe Pueblo
 - Santa Ana Pueblo
 - Sandia Pueblo
 - Isleta Pueblo



Soooo Many Job Opportunities in Water



- Public Sector
 - Local: State, City, Utility, Flood Control, Conservancy District
 - Federal: DOE, EPA, BOR, Forest Service, BIA, FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers
- Private Sector
 - Consulting
 - Construction
- Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
- Academia

Questions?

14

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