

## Report to New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Districts

*New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Programs and Resources  
Division*

*MSC APR, P.O. Box 30005, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003-8005*

*Phone: 575- 646-2642*

*Fax: 575-646-1540*

<http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/apr/soil-and-water-conservation-districts/>

### May 2022

April	Pass annual mill levy rate resolution and submit to the SWCC for approval.
April 30	WQ&C grant 3rd quarterly report and budget due to SWCC and NMDA Specialist.
April 30	3rd quarterly budget report due to DFA-LGD (cc: SWCC, SWCC Region Commissioner, and NMDA Specialist).
April	Appointed Supervisor Positions due to the SWCC by June 1st (cc: your NMDA specialist). See item #2.
May 12	Healthy Soil Program applications due (refer to item #5).
May 15th or July 1st (Depending on annual budget, see more information in item # 3)	Independent Public Accountant (IPA) Recommendation Form and the Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP) contract must be signed and submitted to the State Auditor. This applies to Tiers 3-7.
June	Finalize annual work plan for coming fiscal year and submit to the SWCC.
June 1	Budget and budget resolution for the coming fiscal year due to DFA-LGD by June 1st, (cc: SWCC and SWCC Region Commissioner). Option: submit preliminary budget by June 1st; final budget with budget resolution by July 31st.
June 3	Pre-proposals for \$3 Million due (refer to item #1).
July 15	Point System Worksheet due (refer to item #4).

#### OMA Notification Requirements

Remember that if you have to hold a district board meeting at a place, time or location that deviates from the information you advertised in your open meetings act resolution, you must advertise it accordingly. Here are the guidelines:

**Regular Meeting – 10 Days Prior**

**Special Meeting – 3 Days Prior**

**Emergency Meeting – 24 Hours Prior**

**As COVID containment efforts continue, it is possible that an event scheduled for the near future could be postponed, canceled, or hosted online instead of in person. Because of the fluid nature of things in response to COVID, NMDA recommends that you check with the**

host organization for the events contained in this report that the events have not changed in terms of their date or the manner in which they are to be hosted. We have included event websites to make this a simple step for you.

## 1. **Deadline EXTENDED: \$3 Million SWCD Legislative Appropriation: Submit Pre-proposals to NMDA by June 3**

During the 2022 legislative session \$3 million dollars were allocated to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). The New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) is responsible for providing leadership for the development of guidelines for the expenditure of the funding, and for providing advice to the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) for the optimal expenditure of the funds.

The funding must be expended by the end of FY2025 (June 30, 2025).

Potential projects should fit within the purpose of Soil and Water Conservation Districts as defined in the Soil and Water Conservation District Act. That purpose is to:

- 1) control and prevent soil erosion;
- (2) prevent floodwater and sediment damage;
- (3) further the conservation, development, beneficial application and proper disposal of water;
- (4) promote the use of impounded water for recreation, propagation of fish and wildlife, irrigation and for urban and industrial needs; and
- (5) by the application of these measures, conserve and develop the natural resources of the state, provide for flood control, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of New Mexico.

In order to expedite the awarding of funds to the SWCDs, the SWCC is asking interested SWCDs to submit pre-proposals. Below are the guidelines for the submission of the pre-proposals:

- Pre-proposals must be submitted in Microsoft Word, via email to the SWCC at [swcc@nmda.nmsu.edu](mailto:swcc@nmda.nmsu.edu). Pre-proposals are due by **4:00pm on June 3, 2022**.
- Pre-proposals are limited to 2 pages, including any pictures, maps, etc.
- SWCDs may submit more than one pre-proposal.
- Pre-proposals may address long-range (5-year) plans and/or annual plans to document resource concerns within District boundaries, as well as the planning, implementation, and monitoring of on-the-ground projects.
- On-the-ground projects should include an outreach component and stakeholder involvement.
- Pre-proposals that are for project planning, and do not have an immediate on-the-ground component, will only be accepted during the first year of the funding cycle. Those projects must demonstrate a clear path to an on-the-ground project to be implemented in the second year, and projected planning budgets shall not exceed \$20,000.
- Consideration of landscape scale projects wherein multiple SWCDs can participate regionally to accomplish scaled projects should be considered as a high priority.
- Projects which leverage additional state, federal, or private funding will be considered favorably.

Technical merit will be a key factor in the review of the Pre-proposals. Be specific and concise in describing the project.

- Pre-proposals should include the Name of the SWCD, as well the contact information for the SWCD point of contact.
- Pre-proposals should include the following information at a minimum:
  1. Detailed Project Overview.
  2. Agencies, governmental entities, and other partners involved, and their roles in completing the proposed project.
  3. The location of the project site, and the number of acres involved.
  4. Draft estimated budget, including any anticipated in-kind, or hard cash match as well as cost per acre if applicable.

Once in receipt of the pre-proposals the SWCC will choose the most competitive pre-proposals to be resubmitted for funding as full formal proposals. If you have any questions please contact your NMDA Soil and Water Conservation Specialist.

## **2. Mill Levy Rate Resolutions and Appointed Supervisor Nominations**

Please submit your Mill Levy Rate Resolutions and Appointed Supervisor Nominations to the SWCC by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Appointed Supervisor nominations should be submitted for **each** supervisor in positions 6 and 7.

## **3. AUP Deadlines**

SWCD **Audit/AUP contract** must be completed by July 1<sup>st</sup>. (Unless your annual budget is \$500,000 or more, then the due date is **May 15th**.) All contracts must also be completed online using the NM State Auditor's online portal OSA-Connect. For more information about OSA-Connect call Chris Garcia at (505) 476-3814 or Frank Valdez at the same number.

**AUP reports** should be completed and submitted to the NM State Auditor by December 15.

## **4. FY21 Point System Worksheet – All Items Must be Complete for Full Funding**

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission voted the FY21 Point System Worksheet to require all items, 1-9, to be completed in order to receive full funding. Due date is on or before July 15. The worksheet will require 100 points to be accrued to receive full funding. The worksheet can be found at: <https://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/nmda-homepage/divisions/apr/references-and-resources-for-swcd-supervisors-staff/>.

If there are questions about the worksheet or if you need any assistance, please contact your SWCD Specialist.

## **5. NMDA accepting FY23 Healthy Soil Program applications until May 12; some SWCDs may seek up to \$100 thousand**

Per Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's Food, Farm and Hunger Initiative, NMDA's Healthy Soil Program will be funded at more than \$1 million in FY23. As such, NMDA has boosted the funding cap for FY23 grant applicants:

- Eligible Entities (including SWCDs) that are registered to do business with the federal government (with a current DUNS number or the equivalent) may apply for up to \$100,000. Eligible Entities that are not registered in this way may apply for up to \$24,999.99.
- Individual Applicants (including individuals, businesses, and nonprofits in farming, ranching and other forms of land management) may apply for up to \$22,000.

Individual Applicants who cannot secure a conservation plan (or complete NMDA's conservation planning template) by the May 12 application deadline may instead pursue the Conservation Planning Opportunity. New this year, the opportunity allows first-time Individual Applicants the chance to be matched with a conservation planner who will work with them in FY23 to complete a conservation plan.

More information on all the above is at [www.nmda.nmsu.edu/healthy-soil-program](http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/healthy-soil-program).

## **6. Jurisdictional Waters, Permits, Wetland Delineation, and Compensatory Mitigation Webinar**

Join us for the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program's next Collaborative Seminar! Chris Parrish and others from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division will be presenting on jurisdictional waters, permits, wetland delineation, and compensatory mitigation. The 40-min presentation will be followed by a 20-min Q&A session. Following the event, a recording of the seminar will be uploaded to Program Portal (<https://webapps.usgs.gov/MRGESCP/>). A calendar invite will be sent out soon. Please forward this email and the invite to anyone who may be interested!

The Collaborative Program will continue hosting Collaborative Seminars on research and management activities and other topics related to listed species in the Middle Rio Grande. If you would like to present a seminar or need more information, please contact Michelle Tuineau ([mtuineau@west-inc.com](mailto:mtuineau@west-inc.com)).

**Date:** Thursday, May 5, 2022

**Time:** 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

**Format:** Zoom

The seminar will be held virtually, via Zoom. Use the info below to join us:

**Link:** <https://west-inc.zoom.us/j/8983593120?pwd=bU54V3NGeG93bXVlSlJFcElzcE9wZz09>  
**Meeting ID:** 898 359 3120  
**Passcode:** 1251

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material within waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). In accordance with the implementing regulations of the CWA, a Department of the Army permit is required for most activities that involve a discharge into WOTUS. As such, the Corps is responsible for evaluating permit applications for essentially all construction activities that occur in the Nation's waters, including wetlands. During the permit application review process, the Corps considers the views of other federal, state and local agencies, interest groups, and the general public.

The CWA regulatory programs address “navigable waters,” defined in the statute as “waters of the United States (WOTUS), including the territorial seas.” However, the CWA does not define WOTUS, as Congress left further clarification to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army. As such, these agencies have defined WOTUS by regulation since the 1970s. The most recent rulemaking defining WOTUS was in 2020 and resulted in implementation of the Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR) in accordance with Executive Order (E.O.) 13778: Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the ‘Waters of the United States’ Rule, which was signed by the former President in 2017.

In accordance with the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona order vacating and remanding the NWPR in the case of Pascua Yaqui Tribe v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on August 30, 2021—and the subsequent order from the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico on September 27, 2021 that also vacated the NWPR in the case of Navajo Nation vs. Michael Regan, et. al.—the Corps and EPA are currently interpreting WOTUS consistent with the 1986 regulations as amended in 1993 and as implemented through the guidance developed following U.S. Supreme Court decisions from Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (2001) and Rapanos v. United States (2006). Under the current definition, the Rio Grande and its tributaries are WOTUS and, therefore, regulated under the CWA.

This presentation will provide an overview of the Corps’ Regulatory Program, including the current definition of WOTUS, types of permits, general requirements under the Mitigation Rule at 33 CFR 332, and jurisdictional wetlands and the delineation process. However, and per the information received in conjunction with the request to provide this presentation and questions received in advance, it will be primarily focused on the latter topic.

## **7. BLM seeks public input and will host public meetings on the environmental impacts for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project**

The Bureau of Land Management has opened a 90-day public comment period to collect public comments on the potential environmental impacts associated with proposed amendments to the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project authorized by the BLM in 2015. The BLM will also hold three virtual public meetings on the proposal.

The proposed project consists of two planned 500 kV transmission lines that would cross approximately 520 miles of federal, state, and private lands between central New Mexico and central Arizona. This project would transport up to 4,500 megawatts of clean energy from New Mexico to homes and businesses in Arizona and California. The comment period will end on July 28, 2022.

The public meetings will be held via the Zoom virtual platform. The dates and times of these meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers, and the BLM website at: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2011785/510>.

The BLM encourages substantive comments concerning the proposed SunZia Southwest Transmission Project, meaning comments that are factual and specific; describe the significance of the impacts and how they affect you, others, places, and activities; provide any new information that is relevant to the project (e.g., potential affected resources); and discuss modifications to existing alternatives or suggest other reasonable alternatives with justification.

To have your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement considered for inclusion in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, the BLM must receive them by July 28, 2022. Comments can be provided in the following ways:

- Submit a verbal comment via the hotline: 1-888-959-2510
- Submit your comments electronically via the ePlanning site: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2011785/510>
- Mail your comments to BLM New Mexico State Office at the below address, *Attention: SunZia Southwest Transmission Project*

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be viewed on ePlanning or examined at the BLM New Mexico State Office, 301 Dinosaur Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87508 and BLM Arizona State Office, One North Central Ave., Suite 800, Phoenix, AZ 85004.

For further information, contact BLM Project Manager Adrian Garcia by phone at 505-954-2199.

## **8. 2022 Animas and San Juan Watersheds Conference**

The New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute is pleased to host the 2022 Animas and San Juan Watersheds Conference: *Collaborations, Perspectives, and Science across the Watersheds*, which will be held June 8-9, 2022.

Since the inception of this conference after the 2015 Gold King Mine Spill, much has been learned, both about the spill itself, along with a broad scope of watershed health and management issues. However, much is still to be learned and shared about the Animas and San Juan watersheds to ensure their health in years to come. Collaborations and understanding across the communities that depend on the rivers has been and will continue to be critical for management and future planning.

This year's conference will take place in a simultaneous hybrid format June 8-9, 2022, at the San Juan College Henderson Fine Arts Center in Farmington, NM, and online. Like previous years, the program will include both oral and poster presentations, as well as field trip presentations to be announced.

Registration is not open yet. Stay tuned to: <https://web.cvent.com/event/2716fa3f-b7cc-4765-aa75-c3cac302da3f/summary> .

## **9. NM Organic Farming Conference instead Offering Grant Scholarships**

Educational grant opportunities are now being offered to New Mexico organic producers through the New Mexico Organic Farming Conference (NMOFC). This opportunity comes in lieu of the traditional conference, which is no longer being offered. Instead, organic producers may apply to receive grant scholarships. These funds will be distributed in an effort to support educational opportunities and advance organic production knowledge and education through conference or workshop attendance.

Up to 18 scholarships will be granted to separate applicants, at up to \$1,500 per applicant. Awards will be granted to applicants no more than one time per year, however, more than one applicant may come from a singular organic-producing farm. Scholarship funds are only applicable for organic educational programs in the continental U.S. Funding may be used for both in-person and virtual events. NMOFC committee members and their families are not eligible for funding.

If you are interested in applying for a grant scholarship to fund an organic educational program, please email [NMOFC@mail.com](mailto:NMOFC@mail.com) to request an application. Applications are reviewed monthly by the NMOFC committee and will be accepted and reviewed until all funding is allocated and distributed.

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) also has a number of organic program resources available to producers in the state. NMDA staff is dedicated to ongoing organic education, support and promotion of all new and continuing New Mexico organic operations. To schedule a consultation or learn more about organic operations within the state, visit the [Organic Program page](#) on the NMDA website.

## **10. NM Fire Information: Stay Informed about Fires & Fire Restrictions**

New Mexico Fire Information (<https://nmfireinfo.com/information/>) is an interagency effort by federal and state agencies in New Mexico to provide timely, accurate, fire and restriction

information for the entire state. The agencies that support the site are the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, State of New Mexico, and U.S. Forest Service. The site is updated as often as new information is available from the Southwest Coordination Center, individual forests, national parks, state lands, tribal lands and BLM offices. The aim is to provide one website where the best available information and links related to wildfire and restrictions can be accessed.

## **11. River Stewardship Program Request for Proposals Coming Soon**

The goal of the River Stewardship Program is to fund projects that enhance the health of rivers by addressing the root causes of poor water quality and stream habitat. Each year the New Mexico Legislature appropriates capital outlay funds for the River Stewardship Program to design and construct projects that improve surface water quality or river habitat statewide and to provide state matching funds required by the terms of any federal grant under the Clean Water Act. Annual funding has ranged from \$500,000 to \$2,300,000.

The River Stewardship Program builds on the success of past efforts with Clean Water Act funding and state funding for watersheds, rivers and wetlands. The objectives of the River Stewardship Program include:

- Enhancing the economic benefits of healthy river systems, such as improved opportunities to hunt, fish, float and view wildlife.
- Restoring or maintaining the hydrology of streams and rivers to better handle overbank flows and reduce flooding downstream.
- Providing match required to leverage federal grants, ensuring that New Mexico continues to receive these funds.

NMED has prepared [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) about the River Stewardship Program.

New Mexico has set standards to ensure that surface waters are of sufficient quality to support fish and other aquatic life as well as human use for recreation, irrigation, and municipal water supplies. Many of New Mexico's streams and rivers fail to meet these water quality standards. The River Stewardship Program will address these problems and help ensure water quality for these economically important uses.

The River Stewardship Program will reduce flood hazard in downstream communities. A natural river system includes a channel (with a recognizable bed and banks) and adjacent flood plains. Even in steep canyons some flood water is temporarily stored in small floodplains, reducing the flow as a flood proceeds downstream.

Project contractors and partners have leveraged past state restoration funds on a greater than 1:1 basis with federal grants, private funds or in-kind contributions. Past state restoration funding supported the work of 68 contractors, of which 94% were New Mexico businesses or individuals.



River Stewardship Program projects are to be distributed statewide. There is broad eligibility for applying for funding. Eligible applicants include: towns, cities, counties, soil and water conservation districts, irrigation districts, for-profit organizations, Indian Nations, Pueblos and Tribes. Federal agencies and state agencies are not eligible. Projects are selected through [Requests for Proposals \(RFP\)](#) using the state procurement system. Evaluation criteria ensure that projects are technically sound, community-based and stakeholder driven. Evaluation criteria favor projects that improve water quality, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, support local economies, and that reduce downstream flood hazard. The proposal evaluation committee consists of representatives of the NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau and other natural resource management agencies.

While the RFP has yet to post, please stay tuned to their website.

<https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/river-stewardship-program/>

## **12. \$1 Billion America the Beautiful Challenge to Support & Accelerate Locally Led Conservation & Restoration Projects**

The America the Beautiful Challenge is anchored by an initial commitment of \$440 million of Federal resources over the next five years to a new public-private grant program, [administered](#) by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), that will support locally led ecosystem restoration projects that invest in watershed restoration, resilience, equitable access, workforce development, corridors and connectivity, and collaborative conservation, consistent with the [America the Beautiful Initiative](#). The historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a major source of the initial Federal investments for the America the Beautiful Challenge.

The America the Beautiful Challenge will offer states, Tribes, territories, local groups, non-governmental organizations (NGO), and others the opportunity to apply for multiple grant programs through a single application that is managed by NFWF. This one-stop-shop solicitation will streamline the grant application process and facilitate the coordination of funding for projects across landscapes, watersheds, and seascapes to achieve larger and more durable benefits on the ground.

The America the Beautiful Challenge will seek to advance conservation and restoration projects that are consistent with the principles outlined in the [Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful report](#) and that focus on at least one of the following core areas of need:

- Conserving and restoring rivers, coasts, wetlands, and watersheds
- Conserving and restoring forests, grasslands, and other important ecosystems that serve as carbon sinks
- Connecting and reconnecting wildlife corridors, large landscapes, watersheds, and seascapes
- Improving ecosystem and community resilience to coastal flooding, drought, and other climate-related threats
- Expanding access to the outdoors, particularly in underserved communities

For more information, please visit: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/news-updates/2022/04/11/biden-harris-administration-launches-1-billion-america-the-beautiful-challenge-to-support-and-accelerate-locally-led-conservation-and-restoration-projects/>

### **13. Public Hearing: Designation of Waters of the Rio Grande, Rio Hondo, Lake Fork, East Fork of the Jemez River, San Antonio Creek, and Redondo Creek as Outstanding National Resource Waters**

NEW MEXICO WATER QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 20.6.4.9 NMAC STANDARDS FOR INTERSTATE AND INTRASTATE SURFACE WATERS

DESIGNATION OF WATERS OF THE RIO GRANDE, RIO HONDO, LAKE FORK, EAST FORK OF THE JEMEZ RIVER, SAN ANTONIO CREEK, AND REDONDO CREEK AS OUTSTANDING NATIONAL RESOURCE WATERS,

NO. WQCC 21-62 (R)

The New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (“Commission”) will hold a **public hearing on Tuesday, June 14, 2022**, and continuing on subsequent days, as necessary, via the WebEx video conferencing platform. The purpose of the hearing is to consider amendments to the Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters, 20.6.4.9 NMAC, **Designation of Waters of the Rio Grande, Rio Hondo, Lake Fork, East Fork of the Jemez River, San Antonio Creek, and Redondo Creek as Outstanding National Resource Waters**. The Commission will begin its regular monthly meeting at 9:00 a.m. MDT, and the public hearing will begin at the conclusion of its regular business. Information for attending the virtual hearing via the WebEx conferencing platform will be available on the New Mexico Environment Department (“NMED”) Events Calendar at <https://www.env.nm.gov/eventscalendar/?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D158027518> at least 30 days prior to the hearing.

The proposed amendments to 20.6.4.9 NMAC, as petitioned for by the Outdoor Recreation Division of the New Mexico Economic Development Department (“Petitioner”), and docketed as No. WQCC 21-62 (R), propose designation of certain surface waters of the Rio Grande, Rio Hondo, Lake Fork, East Fork of The Jemez River, San Antonio Creek, and Redondo Creek as Outstanding National Resource Waters (“ONRWs”).

The petition and proposed amendments are available on the Commission’s website, at <https://www.env.nm.gov/opf/docketed-matters/>. The petition may also be obtained electronically by contacting Pamela Jones, Commission Administrator, 1190 S. St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502, (505) 660- 4305, or [Pamela.Jones@state.nm.us](mailto:Pamela.Jones@state.nm.us).

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the New Mexico Water Quality Act, NMSA 1978, § 74-6-6; the Rulemaking Procedures for the Water Quality Control Commission, 20.1.6 NMAC; and the Scheduling Order issued January 19, 2022. A copy of the Scheduling Order is available at <https://www.env.nm.gov/opf/docketed-matters/> or may be obtained from the Commission Administrator at the address and phone number above. All interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity at the hearing to submit relevant

evidence, data, views, and arguments, orally or in writing, to introduce relevant exhibits and to examine witnesses testifying at the public hearing.

Persons desiring to present technical testimony at the hearing must file with the Commission a written notice of intent. The notice of intent to present technical testimony shall:

1. Identify the person or entity for whom the witness(es) will testify;
2. State whether the person filing the statement supports or opposes the Petition;
3. Identify each witness, including name, address, affiliation(s), and educational and work background;
4. Estimate the length of the direct testimony of each witness;
5. Identify all exhibits which are part of the Record Proper and, for exhibits not part of the Record Proper, attach a copy;
6. List or make available all technical materials relied upon by each witness in making statement of technical of fact or opinion contained in his or her direct testimony; and
7. Attach a summary of the testimony of each witness, stating any opinion(s) to be offered by such witness, and an explanation of the basis for such opinion(s).

**The deadline for filing notices of intent is 5:00 p.m. MDT on Friday, May 13, 2022,** to the Commission Administrator. Any member of the general public may present non-technical public comment at the hearing or submit a non-technical written statement in lieu of oral testimony before or at the hearing. All documents filed in this matter, including notices of intent, must be filed electronically via email to the Commission Administrator, at [Pamela.Jones@state.nm.us](mailto:Pamela.Jones@state.nm.us).

Attached is the notice of the hearing.

## **14. NMSU Extension Hosts NM Youth Ranch Management Camp**

The 2022 New Mexico Youth Ranch Camp will be held June 12-17. This year the camp will be held at the CS Ranch near Cimarron, NM.

The camp, designed for New Mexico youth ages 15-19, is an effort to reverse the aging trend in ranching. Nationally, the average age in the ranching community continues to increase as more young people are opting to leave the ranch for careers outside of production agriculture. As a result, the fabric of rural economies, as well as ranching tradition and cultures, are in jeopardy. In a rural state like New Mexico, the situation has significant implications.

For more information or to apply visit: <http://nmyrm.nmsu.edu> . If application is accepted, there is a \$300 camp fee.

## **15. NM Livestock Board – NMDA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) will hold an in-person and video/telephonic rulemaking hearing on June 13, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center 111 Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso, NM 88345 Meeting Room 4A. The hearing will be held via an in-person and virtual format. Instructions on how to join the virtual rulemaking hearing will be posted on the NMLB's website, [www.nmlbonline.com](http://www.nmlbonline.com).

The NMLB will consider proposed new Rules. The purpose of the proposed rules adoption is to provide NMLB regulatory authority over the In-State Meat and Poultry Inspection Program. See generally 21.33.2.1 through 21.33.2.8 NMAC to TITLE 21, AGRICULTURE AND RANCHING; CHAPTER 33, ABATTOIRS, MEAT DEALERS AND STORAGE PLANTS; PART 2 FOOD SAFETY, MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION.

Full copies of text of the proposed new rules can be obtained from the agency's website at [www.nmlbonline.com](http://www.nmlbonline.com). To request a copy of the proposed rule by mail, contact the NMLB at (505)841-6161. Visit [www.nmlbonline.com](http://www.nmlbonline.com) for instructions on how to attend the virtual public hearing.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed Rules 21.32.2.1 through 21.33.2.8 NMAC at [www.nmlbonline.com](http://www.nmlbonline.com) or individuals may mail written comments to: NMLB/Rule Comments, 2105 Osuna Rd NE Building South, Albuquerque, NM 87113. Comments are due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, June 10, 2022. The final proposed rules will be voted on by the Board during the public hearing on Monday, June 13, 2022. Interested persons may also provide data, views or arguments, orally or in writing, at the in-person and virtual public rule hearing to be held on June 13, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center 111 Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso, NM 88345 Meeting Room 4A. All written comments will be posted on the agency's website within three (3) days of receipt.

Legal authority for this rulemaking can be found in the Livestock Code 77-2-7, et seq. NMSA 1978; Livestock Board's power to establish rules and regulations 77-2-7, et seq. NMSA 1978.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the agency at (505) 841-6161 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the NMLB at (505) 841- 6161 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

## **16. May 16: Deadline to Nominate Self, Others to EPA's Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Advisory Committee**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is inviting nominations for membership on the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Advisory Committee (FRRCC). The purpose of the FRRCC is to provide policy advice, information, and recommendations to the EPA Administrator on a range of environmental issues and policies that are of importance to

agriculture and rural communities. To be considered for 2022 appointments, nominations should be submitted no later than May 16, 2022. More information is at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/03/30/2022-06741/farm-ranch-and-rural-communities-advisory-committee-frrcc-call-for-nominations>.

## 17. Webinars on Best Management Practices for your Fruit Trees

Join the NMSU IPM Program Friday afternoons to learn about best management practices for your fruit trees. Experts will be discussing tree care as well as pest prevention and treatment. Bring your questions for a Q&A!

Dates: Fridays, April 29th – May 20th

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 PM MST

Location: online via Zoom

Register at: <https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/99785959819>

April 29 - Joran Viers - Fruit Tree Care and Maintenance

May 6 - Leslie Beck - Weed Management for Fruit Trees

May 13 - Phillip Lujan - Fruit Tree Disease and Diagnostics

May 20 - Victor Lucero - Insect Pests of Fruit Trees

In case you miss one of the webinars, we will post the recordings on our NMSU IPM YouTube page (<https://youtube.com/channel/UCoF6HRBuFJb0CjnF1ICD4Bw>).

## 18. Science Says Thinned Forests are Healthy Forests

“The new [Forest Service](#) strategy on [Confronting the Wildfire Crisis](#) outlines the agency’s plan for increasing fuels and forest health treatments to create healthier forests and reduce the risk to communities.”

Overgrown forests are one of the key contributing factors to the current wildfire crisis in the West. The new Forest Service strategy on Confronting the Wildfire Crisis outlines the agency’s plan for increasing fuels and forest health treatments to create healthier forests and reduce the risk to communities.

To review the plan and more information on the Forest Service’s plan to thin, visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/features/science-says-thinned-forests-are-healthy-forests>

## 19. Extended: Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities

### **The USDA has extended the application date:**

The new deadlines to apply via [Grants.gov](https://www.usda.gov/grants) by 11:59 p.m. ET:

- First Funding Pool – May 6, 2022  
Proposals from \$5 million to \$100 million
- Second Funding Pool – June 10, 2022  
Proposals from \$250,000 to \$4,999,999

USDA announced details of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities opportunity on February 7, 2022. Through this new program, USDA will finance partnerships to support the production and marketing of climate-smart commodities via a set of pilot projects lasting one to five years. Pilots will provide technical and financial assistance to producers who implement climate-smart practices on a voluntary basis on working lands; pilot innovative and cost-effective methods for quantification, monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas benefits; and market the resulting climate-smart commodities.

A wide range of public and private entities may now apply for Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities. Eligible entities include:

- County, city or township governments.
- Special district governments.
- State governments.
- Small businesses.
- For-profit organizations other than small businesses.
- Federally recognized Native American tribal governments.
- Native American tribal organizations other than Federally recognized tribal governments.
- Nonprofits that have a 501(c)(3).
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3).
- Private institutions of higher education.
- Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education.

The primary applicant/recipient must be an entity, not an individual. Please note that agricultural producers and forest landowners will not apply for this program directly but may receive incentives through awarded projects via partner groups.

While grant agreements under this funding opportunity will be made with a single entity, USDA encourages multiple partners to coordinate on project proposals.

Learn more about the evaluation criteria and proposal deadlines at <https://www.usda.gov/climate-solutions/climate-smart-commodities>.

## 20. Thornburg Foundation RFP Funding Opportunity

There is a Request for Proposals for a new opportunity for New Mexico non-profits and community groups to get help pursuing federal funding opportunities for **water resources management** and **food and agriculture** programs. This new grant program is intended to assure that New Mexicans benefit from the influx of new - and existing - funding programs related to ARPA, the Investment Infrastructure and Jobs Act, and other funding opportunities. (See this [federal guidebook to the bipartisan infrastructure law](#) and this [guide to federal funding opportunities for climate and water resilience](#).)

The Thornburg Foundation is offering grants of \$5,000 to \$25,000 for:

- A. **Grant Proposal Writing** for community and nonprofit group applicants with identified grant opportunities and an understanding of the funding agency's requirements, priorities, and conditions for mandatory partners, if any
- B. **Collaborative Planning and Funding Search/Scan** for community and nonprofit groups with shared agenda and/or specific project that need additional resources (e.g., experts, consultants, grant writer) to support collaborative/collective planning, community organizing or stakeholder engagement, and/ or conducting a funding scan to identify and pursue targeted grant opportunities
- C. **Other identified unmet needs related to a government funding application and reporting**, including requirements for private matching funds, evaluation, or post- award management including complex data collection methods/systems

Thornburg funding priorities include:

- **Water resources management programs** with a particular focus on projects that advance collaborative water planning, water infrastructure, water sharing, watershed health, and clean water access for disadvantaged communities.
- **Food and agriculture programs** with a focus on supporting historically disadvantaged farmers, utilization of conservation practices, agricultural planning or advancing innovative low water-use irrigation techniques in agriculture.

Grantees must be based and/or working in New Mexico. Applications from Tribal and Hispanic communities are encouraged. Proposals will be considered from community or nonprofit organizations and/or collaborative groups with projects aligned with the funding priorities and a lead applicant meeting the following criteria:

- 501(c)(3) or other grant-eligible entity (may be a fiscal sponsor or intermediary for the collaborative project) including local government or tribal entities pursuing federal or state funding for the community they serve.
- Organizations operating for at least three years with average annual gross revenues of at least \$500,000 for the two most recently completed fiscal years,

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis between now and June 30, 2022, or when the funds are depleted. For more information and to apply, visit: <https://www.santafecf.org/rfp-federal-funding>.

## **21. Records Management and Recording of Meetings during the Pandemic**

Records Management Division provided some recommendations and guidance as to how long a recording of a district meeting needs to be held on file. The response by the Records Management Division was given:

Our recommendation for the recordings of the meetings, once the audio has been transcribed, the recording becomes non-records and can be destroyed at any time. The transcribed document shall become the official record and retained permanently.

For more information, or if you have questions, please contact Records Management Division at (505) 476-7921, or email Tanya Vigil at [Tanya.Vigil@state.nm.us](mailto:Tanya.Vigil@state.nm.us).

## 22. Electronic Meeting Options for SWCDs

Due to various state directives related to the COVID-19 situation, SWCDs that need to address time sensitive or emergency issues must meet electronically (teleconference and/or video conference). Your NMDA Soil and Water Conservation Specialist can help you get these platforms up and running for your SWCD. Here are a few options that have been the most successful:

- **Zoom** – This is a computer-based platform that allows participants the option to either connect through the internet with video and voice, or call in like a conference call using only voice.
  - While there is a free version, it does have a time limit of 40 minutes. This has caused problems for some SWCDs because the SWCD meetings typically last longer than 40 minutes.
  - The Pro Package is \$14.99 per month, and includes unlimited time, and up to 100 participants per meeting. It also includes cloud storage, the option to record the meeting, screen sharing, and other features. This should be sufficient for most SWCDs.
  - This is the link to the Zoom website <https://nmsu.zoom.us/pricing>
- **Webex** - is a similar video/phone conferencing option to Zoom, offering both free and prepaid plans.
  - Webex's free plan, allows up to 100 participants in each meeting, there is not a time limit on meetings, and it also does not limit the number of meetings one can hold.
  - Webex allows both video conferencing and phone calls into the conference number. Which assists those who either do not have internet or internet that does not support video conferencing.
  - Currently Webex is offering a promotion that allows a free first month when you sign up for a paid monthly plan, and four months free when an annual plan is purchased. Use code **wecare2020** to access this offer.

Other options available with the paid Webex plans include cloud storage, the option to record the meeting, screen sharing, and other features. Paid plans start at \$13.50 per month. To view what each plan includes, prices and frequently asked questions, visit: <https://www.webex.com/pricing/index.html>

## 23. Guidance from NMDA to SWCDs during COVID-19 Pandemic

The memo is informational and provides additional guidance to the New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) and the New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) during the time of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The most up to date orders issued by the Governor through the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) can be found here:

<https://cv.nmhealth.org/public-health-orders-and-executive-orders/>



In addition to the information on the NMDOH website, the New Mexico Attorney General (NMAG) has also issued Open Meetings Act (OMA) guidance related to conduct of public meetings during the period of social distancing, which can be found at:

<https://www.nmag.gov/>

In part the NMAG states:

“The Office of the Attorney General’s Open Government Division (OGD) advises all public entities subject to OMA to first and foremost follow the guidelines of the Department of Health and other health officials to ensure the health and safety of both members of the entity and the public. Accordingly, the most prudent thing to do to ensure compliance with OMA would be to postpone /cancel a public meeting. If, however, a board or commission has a time-sensitive matter to attend to, it may proceed with a virtual meeting, provided it’s notice of meeting contains detailed information (password, phone number, etc.) about how members of the public may attend and listen via telephone, live streaming or other similar technologies.

More specifically, if a public body decides to proceed with a virtual meeting, it should:

- At the start of the meeting, the chair should announce the names of those members of the public body participating remotely.
- All members of the public body participating remotely must identify themselves whenever they speak and must be clearly audible to the other members of the public body and to the public.
- Members of the public should be afforded remote access, via live stream or other similar technology, if possible, or call-in number for listening by phone.
- Chair should suspend discussion if the audio or video is interrupted.
- All votes of the public body must be by roll call vote.”

NMDA has provided all of the above information to SWCDs through its monthly report to SWCDs as well as through individual contact to each district. However, since this is a rapidly evolving situation, it bears repeating.

You are advised to conduct public meetings in a manner consistent with the public health orders and in compliance with the NMAG guidelines. This means that the meeting must be conducted in a manner that the public has access to participate through a conference call line allowing many interested publics to attend at once. All members of the public must be able to attend and must be allowed to participate in the meeting no matter which technology is chosen. It is advised that no one gather for the meeting in observance of the order to stay socially distant. If meetings are conducted via teleconference or web-based conference service, there would be no need to gather.

In addition to compliance with the social distancing order, it is also important to respect that individuals with underlying health conditions (potentially members of the SWCD board, employees, or the public) may not want to gather even with the appropriate six feet of distance. Therefore, NMDA strongly urges you to conduct any meetings in strict accordance with the orders and guidelines issued by the State of New Mexico. Please consider this

information and the guidelines as you decide to hold a public meeting. If you have questions, please contact NMDA staff at 575-646-2642 or call your specific SWCD specialist.

## **24. Rolling Quorums**

NMDA would like to remind all SWCD and Watershed District boards to be careful when emailing and hosting conference calls during this time of limited interaction. A rolling quorum needs to be avoided. The definition and examples are stated below, directly from the Attorney General's Open Meetings Act Compliance Guide.

Rolling Quorums (Open Meetings Act Compliance Guide 2015 page 7):

The Act's requirement for open, public meetings applies to any discussion of public business among a quorum of a public body's members. Usually, a quorum of a public body's members meets together to discuss public business or take action. However, a quorum may exist for purposes of the Act even when the members are not physically present together at the same time and place. For example, if three members of a five-member board discuss public business in a series of telephone or email conversations, the discussion is a meeting of a quorum. This is sometimes referred to as a "rolling" or "walking" quorum. The use of a rolling quorum to discuss public business or take action violates the Act because it constitutes a meeting of a quorum of the public body's members outside of a properly noticed, public meeting.

## **25. Assistance Programs posted on NMDA's Website**

NMDA has compiled a list of all state and federal assistance programs available during the COVID 19 Pandemic. Please look over these assistance programs and feel free to pass along any of this information that might be beneficial to individuals or groups within your SWCD.

Please visit: <http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/assistance-programs/>

## **26. PPE for SWCDs**

SWCD's can request personal protective equipment (PPE) from the state EOC warehouse through a county emergency manager. SWCDs would need to fill out a 213-resource request form, the local emergency managers should be able to help with that.

Alternatively, PPE can be purchased through various websites, see below websites. NMDA recommends checking some of these websites frequently as the PPE comes in and out of stock.

<https://health.suttersmill.com/>

<https://www.northerntool.com/shop/tools/NTESearch?storeId=6970&ipp=48&Ntt=face+mask>

<https://www.northernsafety.com/Product/353566/NSI-3Ply-Disposable-Mask>

<https://midsi.com/products/210/Apparel/>

## 27. Meeting and Comments on National Forests in NM

All five of the National Forests in New Mexico are in various stages of completing their Forest Plan Revisions. For updates, please visit the National Forests' websites below for meeting times and comment opportunities.

- Cibola NF: [http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/cibola/landmanagement/planning/?cid=FSBDEV3\\_065627](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/cibola/landmanagement/planning/?cid=FSBDEV3_065627)
- Carson NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/carson/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5443166>
- Santa Fe NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/santafe/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprd3791442>
- Gila NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gila/home/?cid=STELPRD3828671>
- Lincoln NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/lincoln/home/?cid=stelprd3814307>

NMDA encourages all SWCDs to stay active in the Forest Plan Revision process for all five national forests. We also encourage SWCDs to provide information as requested to make sure that SWCD information is included in the process.



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# News Release

BLM New Mexico State Office

**Media Contact:** Allison Sandoval 505-954-2019 [aesandoval@blm.gov](mailto:aesandoval@blm.gov)

April 29, 2022

## **BLM seeks public input and will host public meetings on the environmental impacts for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project**

**SANTA FE, N.M.** – The Bureau of Land Management has opened a 90-day public comment period to collect public comments on the potential environmental impacts associated with proposed amendments to the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project authorized by the BLM in 2015. The BLM will also hold three virtual public meetings on the proposal.

The proposed project consists of two planned 500 kV transmission lines that would cross approximately 520 miles of federal, state, and private lands between central New Mexico and central Arizona. This project would transport up to 4,500 megawatts of clean energy from New Mexico to homes and businesses in Arizona and California. The comment period will end on July 28, 2022.

“We are pleased to give the public an opportunity to provide their input on this project. We invite all interested parties to attend the virtual public meetings to learn about the project and provide comment,” said **BLM New Mexico Acting State Director Melanie Barnes**.

The public meetings will be held via the Zoom virtual platform. The dates and times of these meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers, and the BLM website at: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2011785/510>.

The BLM encourages substantive comments concerning the proposed SunZia Southwest Transmission Project, meaning comments that are factual and specific; describe the significance of the impacts and how they affect you, others, places, and activities; provide any new information that is relevant to the project (e.g., potential affected resources); and discuss modifications to existing alternatives or suggest other reasonable alternatives with justification.

To have your comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement considered for inclusion in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, the BLM must receive them by July 28, 2022. Comments can be provided in the following ways:

- Submit a verbal comment via the hotline: 1-888-959-2510
- Submit your comments electronically via the ePlanning site: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2011785/510>
- Mail your comments to BLM New Mexico State Office at the below address, *Attention: SunZia Southwest Transmission Project*

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be viewed on ePlanning or examined at the BLM New Mexico State Office, 301 Dinosaur Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87508 and BLM Arizona State Office, One North Central Ave., Suite 800, Phoenix, AZ 85004.

For further information, contact BLM Project Manager Adrian Garcia by phone at 505-954-2199.

**-BLM-**

*The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 western states, including Alaska, on behalf of the American people. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.*

**NEW MEXICO WATER QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 20.6.4.9 NMAC – STANDARDS FOR INTERSTATE AND INTRASTATE SURFACE WATERS – DESIGNATION OF WATERS OF THE RIO GRANDE, RIO HONDO, LAKE FORK, EAST FORK OF THE JEMEZ RIVER, SAN ANTONIO CREEK, AND REDONDO CREEK AS OUTSTANDING NATIONAL RESOURCE WATERS, NO. WQCC 21-62 (R)**

The New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (“Commission”) will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, and continuing on subsequent days, as necessary, via the WebEx video conferencing platform. The purpose of the hearing is to consider amendments to the Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters, 20.6.4.9 NMAC, Designation of Waters of the Rio Grande, Rio Hondo, Lake Fork, East Fork of the Jemez River, San Antonio Creek, and Redondo Creek as Outstanding National Resource Waters. The Commission will begin its regular monthly meeting at 9:00 a.m. MDT, and the public hearing will begin at the conclusion of its regular business. Information for attending the virtual hearing via the WebEx conferencing platform will be available on the New Mexico Environment Department (“NMED”) Events Calendar at <https://www.env.nm.gov/events-calendar/?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D158027518> at least 30 days prior to the hearing.

The proposed amendments to 20.6.4.9 NMAC, as petitioned for by the Outdoor Recreation Division of the New Mexico Economic Development Department (“Petitioner”), and docketed as No. WQCC 21-62 (R), propose designation of certain surface waters of the Rio Grande, Rio Hondo, Lake Fork, East Fork of The Jemez River, San Antonio Creek, and Redondo Creek as Outstanding National Resource Waters (“ONRWs”).

The petition and proposed amendments are available on the Commission’s website, at <https://www.env.nm.gov/opf/docketed-matters/>. The petition may also be obtained electronically by contacting Pamela Jones, Commission Administrator, 1190 S. St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502, (505) 660-4305, or [Pamela.Jones@state.nm.us](mailto:Pamela.Jones@state.nm.us).

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the New Mexico Water Quality Act, NMSA 1978, § 74-6-6; the Rulemaking Procedures for the Water Quality Control Commission, 20.1.6 NMAC; and the Scheduling Order issued January 19, 2022. A copy of the Scheduling Order is available at <https://www.env.nm.gov/opf/docketed-matters/> or may be obtained from the Commission Administrator at the address and phone number above. All interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity at the hearing to submit relevant evidence, data, views, and arguments, orally or in writing, to introduce relevant exhibits and to examine witnesses testifying at the public hearing.

Persons desiring to present technical testimony at the hearing must file with the Commission a written notice of intent. The notice of intent to present technical testimony shall:

1. Identify the person or entity for whom the witness(es) will testify;
2. State whether the person filing the statement supports or opposes the Petition;
3. Identify each witness, including name, address, affiliation(s), and educational and work background;
4. Estimate the length of the direct testimony of each witness;
5. Identify all exhibits which are part of the Record Proper and, for exhibits not part of the Record Proper, attach a copy;
6. List or make available all technical materials relied upon by each witness in making statement of technical of fact or opinion contained in his or her direct testimony; and
7. Attach a summary of the testimony of each witness, stating any opinion(s) to be offered by such witness, and an explanation of the basis for such opinion(s).

The deadline for filing notices of intent is 5:00 p.m. MDT on Friday, May 13, 2022, to the Commission Administrator. Any member of the general public may present non-technical public comment at the hearing or submit a non-technical written statement in lieu of oral testimony before or at the hearing.

All documents filed in this matter, including notices of intent, must be filed electronically via email to the Commission Administrator, at [Pamela.Jones@state.nm.us](mailto:Pamela.Jones@state.nm.us).

The Commission may make a decision on the proposed amendments at the conclusion of the hearing.

If any person requires assistance, an interpreter or auxiliary aid to participate in this process, please contact Pamela Jones, Commission Administrator, at least 14 days prior to the hearing date at P.O. Box 5469, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502, telephone (505) 660-4305 or email [Pamela.jones@state.nm.us](mailto:Pamela.jones@state.nm.us). (TDD or TTY) users please access the number via the New Mexico Relay Network, 1-800-659-1779 (voice); TTY users: 1-800-659-8331).

NMED does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED's non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, or if you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact: Kathryn Becker, Non-Discrimination Coordinator, NMED, 1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502, (505) 827-2855, [nd.coordinator@state.nm.us](mailto:nd.coordinator@state.nm.us). You may also visit our website at <https://www.env.nm.gov/non-employee-discrimination-complaint-page/> to learn how and where to file a complaint of discrimination.

**LA COMISIÓN DE CONTROL DE CALIDAD DEL AGUA DE NUEVO MÉXICO DA AVISO DE UNA AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA PARA CONSIDERAR LAS ENMIENDAS PROPUESTAS A 20.6.4.9 NMAC - NORMAS PARA AGUAS SUPERFICIALES INTERESTATALES Y ESTATALES - DESIGNACIÓN DE LAS AGUAS DE RIO GRANDE, RIO HONDO, LAKE FORK, EAST FORK DE JEMEZ RIVER, SAN ANTONIO CREEK Y REDONDO CREEK COMO AGUAS DE RECURSOS DESTACADOS NACIONALES, NÚM. WQCC 21-62 (R)**

La Comisión de Control de Calidad del Agua de Nuevo México ("Comisión") celebrará una audiencia pública el martes, 14 de junio de 2022, y continuará en los días siguientes según sea necesario, a través de la plataforma de videoconferencia WebEx. El propósito de la audiencia es considerar las enmiendas a las Normas para Aguas Superficiales Interestatales y Estatales, 20.6.4.9 NMAC, Designación de Aguas de Rio Grande, Rio Hondo, Lake Fork, East Fork de Jemez River, San Antonio Creek y Redondo Creek como Aguas de Recursos Destacados Nacionales. La Comisión iniciará su reunión mensual ordinaria a las 9:00 a.m. MDT, y al concluir los asuntos ordinarios comenzará la audiencia pública. La información para asistir a la audiencia virtual a través de la plataforma de conferencias WebEx estará disponible en el Calendario de Eventos del Departamento de Medio Ambiente de Nuevo México ("NMED") en <https://www.env.nm.gov/events-calendar/?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D158027518> al menos 30 días antes de la audiencia.

Las enmiendas propuestas a 20.6.4.9 NMAC, solicitadas por la División de Recreación al Aire Libre del Departamento de Desarrollo Económico de Nuevo México ("Solicitante"), y registradas con el número WQCC 21-62 (R), proponen la designación de ciertas aguas superficiales de Rio Grande, Rio Hondo, Lake Fork, East Fork de Jemez River, San Antonio Creek y Redondo Creek como Aguas de Recursos Destacados Nacionales ("ONRWs" por sus siglas en inglés).

La petición y las enmiendas propuestas están disponibles en el sitio web de la Comisión, en <https://www.env.nm.gov/opf/docketed-matters/>. La petición también puede obtenerse electrónicamente comunicándose con Pamela Jones, administradora de la Comisión, 1190 S. St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87502, (505) 660-4305, o [Pamela.Jones@state.nm.us](mailto:Pamela.Jones@state.nm.us).

La audiencia se llevará a cabo de acuerdo con la Ley de Calidad del Agua de Nuevo México, NMSA 1978, § 74-6-6; los Procedimientos de Reglamentación de la Comisión de Control de la Calidad del Agua, 20.1.6 NMAC; y la Orden de Programación emitida el 19 de enero de 2022. Una copia de la Orden de Programación está disponible en <https://www.env.nm.gov/opf/docketed-matters/> o puede obtenerse de la administradora de la Comisión en la dirección y el número de teléfono mencionados anteriormente. Todas las personas interesadas tendrán una oportunidad razonable en la audiencia para presentar pruebas, datos, puntos de vista y argumentos pertinentes, de

forma oral o por escrito, presentar pruebas instrumentales pertinentes y para interrogar a los testigos que declaren en la audiencia pública.

Las personas que deseen presentar un testimonio técnico en la audiencia deberán presentar a la Comisión un aviso de intención por escrito. El aviso de intención de presentar un testimonio técnico deberá:

1. Identificar a la persona o entidad para la que testificará el testigo o testigos;
2. Indicar si la persona que presenta la declaración apoya o se opone a la Petición;
3. Identificar a cada testigo, incluyendo el nombre, la dirección, afiliación(es) y el historial académico y laboral;
4. Estimar la duración del testimonio directo de cada testigo;
5. Identificar todas las pruebas instrumentales que formen parte del Registro Administrativo y en el caso de pruebas instrumentales que no formen parte del Registro Administrativo deben adjuntar una copia;
6. Enumerar o poner a disposición todos los materiales técnicos en los que se basó cada testigo al hacer la declaración técnica de hecho u opinión contenida en su testimonio directo; y
7. Adjuntar un resumen del testimonio de cada testigo, indicando cualquier opinión u opiniones que vaya a ofrecer dicho testigo, y una explicación de la base de dicha opinión u opiniones.

La fecha límite para presentar avisos de intención a la administradora de la Comisión es el viernes, 13 de mayo de 2022, hasta las 5:00 p.m. MDT. Cualquier miembro del público puede presentar comentarios públicos no técnicos en la audiencia o presentar una declaración no técnica por escrito en lugar de un testimonio oral antes o durante la audiencia.

Todos los documentos presentados en este asunto, incluidos los avisos de intención, deben presentarse electrónicamente por correo electrónico a la administradora de la Comisión, a Pamela.Jones@state.nm.us.

La Comisión podrá tomar una decisión sobre las modificaciones propuestas al término de la audiencia.

Si alguna persona requiere asistencia, un intérprete o un dispositivo auxiliar para participar en este proceso, comuníquese con Pamela Jones, administradora de la Comisión, al menos 14 días antes de la fecha de la audiencia en P.O. Box 5469, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM, 87502, teléfono (505) 660-4305 o correo electrónico Pamela.Jones@state.nm.us. Los usuarios de TDD o TTY pueden acceder al número a través de la Red de Retransmisión de Nuevo México, 1-800-659-1779 (voz); usuarios de TTY: 1-800-659-8331).

El NMED no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, discapacidad, edad o sexo en la administración de sus programas o actividades, tal y como exigen las leyes y reglamentos aplicables. El NMED es responsable de la coordinación de los esfuerzos de cumplimiento y de la recepción de las consultas relativas a los requisitos de no discriminación implementados por el 40 C.F.R. Partes 5 y 7, incluyendo el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmendada; la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973; la Ley de Discriminación por Edad de 1975, el Título IX de las Enmiendas de Educación de 1972, y la Sección 13 de las Enmiendas de la Ley Federal de Control de la Contaminación del Agua de 1972. Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre este aviso o sobre cualquiera de los programas, políticas o procedimientos de no discriminación del NMED, puede comunicarse con Kathryn Becker, Non-Discrimination Coordinator (coordinadora de no discriminación), New Mexico Environment Department, 1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502, (505) 827-2855, nd.coordinator@state.nm.us. Si cree que ha sido discriminado con respecto a un programa o actividad de NMED, puede ponerse en contacto con la coordinadora de no discriminación identificada más arriba o visitar nuestro sitio web en <https://www.env.nm.gov/non-employee-discrimination-complaint-page/> para aprender cómo y dónde presentar una queja de discriminación. Para ver este y otros avisos públicos emitidos por la Oficina de Calidad de las Aguas Subterráneas en línea, vaya a: <https://www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/public-notice/>.