

NMED

New
Mexico
Environment
Department



A NEW MEXICO PERSPECTIVE: PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH FUNDING FOR WASTEWATER AND DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

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Name Butch Tongate
Cabinet Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department

Demographics



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- New Mexico is a very rural state, total population just over 2 million people
- New Mexico is the sixth most sparsely populated state in the US
- New Mexico is the slowest growing state in the west with one of the highest unemployment rates
- This makes infrastructure funding a challenge from a financial perspective – very little debt capacity in poor rural communities
- Eighty percent (**80%**) of New Mexico's water systems serve 25-500 people



Infrastructure Needs



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- CWSRF 2019 priority list for public entities over \$55 million in needs
- DWSRF 2019 fundable priority list for public entities lists almost \$43 million in needs
- Other funding sources NMED assists with received applications for the 2019 cycle for water and wastewater funding for over \$59 million





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Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund

- ❑ Managed by the New Mexico Environment Department Construction Programs Bureau
- ❑ Staff includes financial and technical staff
- ❑ Staff of licensed professional engineers review all technical documents for the projects, conduct field visits and provide technical guidance to communities and their consultants



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Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund

- ❑ Co-managed by the New Mexico Finance Authority and the New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau
- ❑ NMED DWB ranks and prepares the priority list and uses the set-asides to provide assistance to communities
- ❑ NMFA manages the loan funds



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CWSRF Lifetime Assistance

- ❑ Over the life of the program (1988-2018) over \$422 million has been added to the New Mexico economy for 156 projects from the CWSRF.
- ❑ Of this amount \$34.3 million in assistance has been to communities of less than 3500 people
- ❑ \$71 million to communities between 3500 and 10,000,
- ❑ \$271 million to communities between 10,000 and 100,000 and
- ❑ \$46.6 to communities over 100,000



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Drinking Water Lifetime Assistance

- ❑ Over the live of the DWSRF program (1997-2018) approximately \$196 million has funded community water projects in New Mexico
- ❑ 32% of the funding was allocated to communities of less than 10,000 in population
- ❑ 28% of the funding went to disadvantaged communities

Most Critical Needs for NM Communities



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- Ageing infrastructure
- Drinking water contaminants including arsenic, radionuclides and fluoride requiring expensive treatment with high operation and maintenance costs
- Nutrient requirements for wastewater mandating unaffordable treatment
- Lack of operators
- Aging community leaders in small communities with declining populations forced to keep up with increased regulation
- Lack of ability to take on debt for system upgrades

