

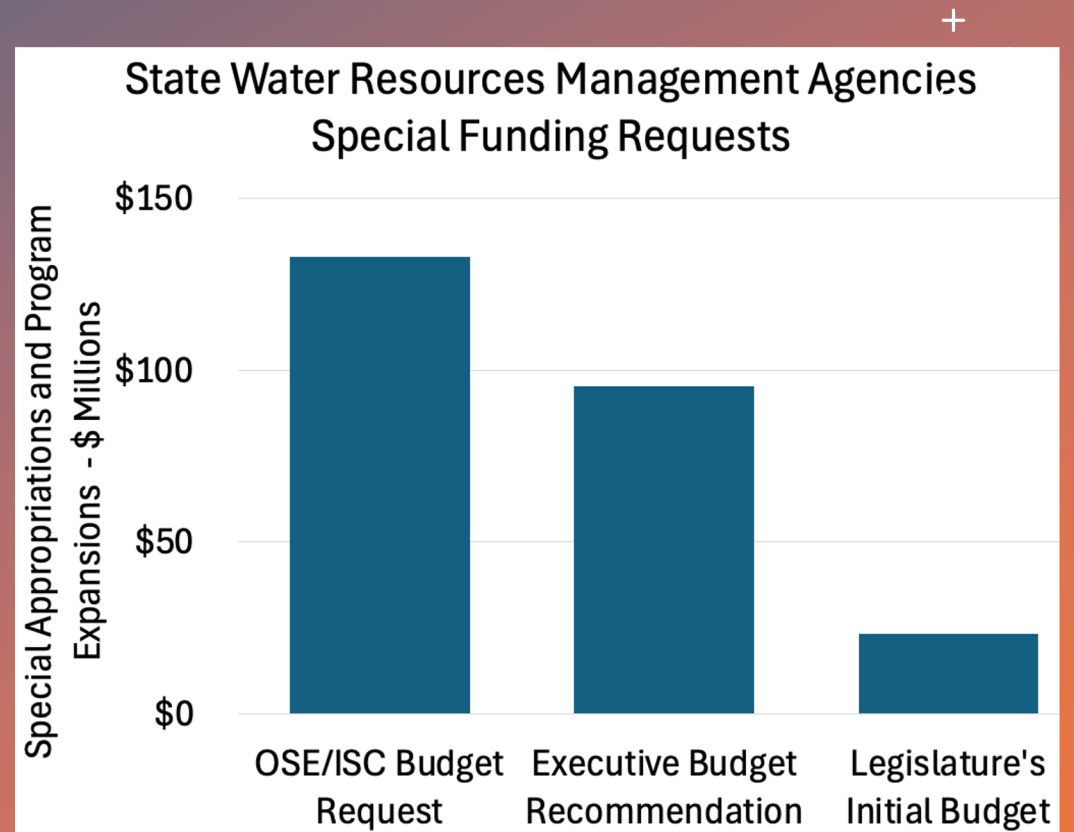
**NEW MEXICO
WATER ADVOCATES**

**New Mexico's Dire Water Situation
At the 2026 Legislature**

**We Need Water and Water Needs Funding
January 22, 2026 Workshop**

N Gaume photo

Three Proposed
Budgets for FY27 Water
Resources
Management and
Planning – State
Engineer and Interstate
Stream Commission



Rank 1 - Rio Grande Compact Compliance

For depletion reductions and increasing water supply in the Lower Rio Grande, and for implementing the settlement resolving interstate litigation on the Lower Rio Grande, for expenditure in fiscal years 2026 through 2029.

Agency Request (\$1,000s)	Exec. Budget (\$1,000s)	HAFC Budget (\$1,000s)
\$50,000	\$22,500	\$0

Rank 2 – Indian Water Rights Settlements

To support and fund Indian water rights settlements, for expenditure or placement in the Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund in fiscal years 2026 through 2029.

Agency Request (\$1,000s)	Exec. Budget (\$1,000s)	HAFC Budget (\$1,000s)
\$35,000	\$35,000	\$0

Agency Request (\$1,000s)	Exec. Budget (\$1,000s)	HAFC Budget (\$1,000s)
\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0

Rank 3 – Regional Water Security Planning

For implementation of the Water Security Planning Act, 50-Year Water Action Plan and modernization of agency online information and engagement tools.



Rank 4 – Strategic Water Reserve Fund

Agency Request (\$1,000s)	Exec. Budget (\$1,000s)	HAFC Budget (\$1,000s)
\$15,000	\$10,000	\$15,500

Strategic Water Reserve Fund to protect streamflows for compact and species purposes



Rank 5 - Rio Grande Compact Water Conveyance

River conveyance and improvement projects along the mainstem of the Rio Grande and its tributaries including hydrologic assessments, planning, easement acquisition, implementation, and monitoring/data collection to support compact compliance and improve Elephant Butte levels.

Agency Request (\$1,000s)	Exec. Budget (\$1,000s)	HAFC Budget (\$1,000s)
\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0



Rank 6 – Protect NM’s Colorado Basin Compact Interests

For activities that protect New Mexico’s interests in the Colorado River Basin. Failure to engage could have decades-long consequences.

Agency Request (\$1,000s)	Exec. Budget (\$1,000s)	HAFC Budget (\$1,000s)
\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0



Rank 7 – Acequia Projects Statewide

Acequia projects statewide


Agency Request (\$1,000s)	Exec. Budget (\$1,000s)	HAFC Budget (\$1,000s)
\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000



Rank 8 - *Irrigation Works Construction Fund*

Irrigation Works Construction Fund one-time infusion to address long-term solvency concerns

Agency Request (\$1,000s)	Exec. Budget (\$1,000s)	HAFC Budget (\$1,000s)
\$15,000	\$10,000	\$5,000



Information
Technology –
*Replace Water
Rights Data Base
System*

*Water Rights database system
modernization and replacement*

Agency Request (\$1,000s)	Exec. Budget (\$1,000s)	HAFC Budget (\$1,000s)
\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0



Program Expansion – Institutional Capacity

Middle Rio Grande water management staffing

Indian Water Rights Settlements water management staffing

Additional Albuquerque & Las Cruces office space for increased staffing driven by Rio Grande Compact compliance and Texas v. New Mexico settlement implementation.

Agencies requested six positions. HAFC budget includes two positions for the Lower Rio Grande, which were not requested, and nothing for office space.

What is
Entirely
Missing from
the Agencies
Requests?

Groundwater
Management
and Water
Data Act
compliance

New Mexico has one managed aquifer

New Mexico 360 Groundwater Report is intended to elevate and educate New Mexicans about the urgency of statewide groundwater declines and serve as a call to action for proactive management to avoid a looming groundwater crisis.”



**NEW MEXICO 360
GROUNDWATER REPORT**

2019 Water Data Act

