

FY27 OSE/ISC Requests — Special Appropriations and Program Expansions

OSE/ISC Rank	Type	OSE/ISC Purpose and Need for Requested Funding	FTE	Agency Request (\$1,000s)	Exec. Budget (\$1,000s)	HAFC Budget (\$1,000s)
1	Special Approp.	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.	—	\$50,000	\$22,500	\$0
2	Special Approp.	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.	—	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$0
3	Special Approp.	For implementation of the Water Security Planning Act , 50-Year Water Action Plan and modernization of agency online information and engagement tools.	—	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
4	Special Approp.	Strategic Water Reserve Fund to protect streamflows for compact and species purposes	—	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$15,500
5	Special Approp.	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.	—	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0
6	Special Approp.	For activities that protect New Mexico's interests in the Colorado River Basin. Failure to engage could have decades-long consequences.	—	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
7	Special Approp.	Acequia projects statewide	—	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
8	Special Approp.	Irrigation Works Construction Fund one-time infusion to address long-term solvency concerns	—	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
C2	Special Approp.	Water Rights database system modernization and replacement	—	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
—	Program Expansion	Middle Rio Grande water management staffing to enforce water rights, reduce illegal use in the Middle Rio Grande, ensure Compact compliance by delivering more water to Elephant Butte, prepare for adjudication of the Middle Rio Grande.	3	\$384.4	\$384.4	\$0
—	Program Expansions (2)	Indian Water Rights Settlement staffing – Expand staffing due to additional management responsibilities on the Rio Chama, Rio Jemez, and Rio San Jose stemming from Indian Water Rights settlements.	3	259.6 + 104.6	259.6 + 104.6	\$0
—	Program Expansion	Additional Albuquerque & Las Cruces office space for increased staffing driven by Rio Grande Compact compliance and Texas v. New Mexico settlement implementation.	0	\$150.0	\$150.0	\$0
TOTAL			6	\$132,782	\$95,282	\$23,248

Endnotes

1. Agency Request. This column reflects the Office of the State Engineer and Interstate Stream Commission's initial FY27 budget request submitted on September 2, 2025. The author obtained this information through a public records request.
2. Exec. Budget. Amounts reflect the Governor's FY27 budget recommendation for OSE/ISC.
3. HAFC Budget. Amounts reflect the Legislative Finance Committee recommendation advanced by the House Appropriations and Finance Committee on January 16 as a basis for building the FY27 State Budget.
4. Special Appropriations. Special appropriations are funded from non-recurring revenue and may be authorized for expenditure over multiple fiscal years.
5. Program Expansions and FTE Accounting. Program expansions are permanent, recurring appropriations to increase agency capacity, including funding for new staff, office space, and equipment. The OSE/ISC FY27 budget handouts presented to HAFC refer to a total of seven FTE associated with settlement and Compact-related work. This table reflects the six FTE included in the agency's initial Program Expansion request; the additional FTE appears in the Executive Budget as part of recurring operational staffing and was not included in the initial expansion request.