

Recommendation 2.2: Elevate regional planning in the face of increasing water scarcity to promote equity and build capacity to govern and manage water.

Action: Empower state agencies and regional/local water planning entities to set clearly identified goals for permanent and escalating reduction in water use over the coming decades. Provide data and decision tools, develop inclusive and well-supported plan development processes, and establish pathways and commit resources to ensure plan implementation and systematic evaluation of outcomes.

Strategies:

- A.** Amend the 1987 regional water planning statute section 72-14-44 to state goals, objectives, outcomes, and desired impacts for regional and community water planning processes, particularly ISC and planning entity respective authorities and criteria for acceptable plans. The goals, objectives, and outcomes sought should be developed through broad public input and shared values, including non-economic values, focused on equity to ensure that the present generation does not consume more water than is available to future generations.
- B.** Leverage record surpluses to fully fund a robust, state-led regional water planning program that consolidates existing water planning vehicles, community-driven shortage-sharing agreements developed legally, including as alternative administration plans for Active Water Resource Management, or as regional water plans. Develop local capacity and grassroots participation in planning and implementation processes.
- C.** Develop community-based and science-informed sustainable groundwater management plans. Provide technical support and guidance preferentially to underserved tribal governments and disadvantaged communities.
- D.** Develop protocols for integrating reliable science and data in planning processes, identify and address data gaps, and ensure planning is informed by robust hydrologic analyses.
- E.** Establish water conservation, resilience and sustainability criteria for state funding and approval of regional water plans.

F. Commit state matching funds to implement state-approved regional water plans.

G. Implement a technical support program through the ISC to:

- i. Build capacity for water resources management planning and implementation in Tribal, acequia, and rural communities.
- ii. Provide direct technical support for water project planning, funding, and implementation.

Action Required 2.2

Action	Yes	Maybe	No
Requires New/Revised Leg. Authority	☒	☐	☐
Requires Leg. Appropriation	☒	☐	☐
Requires Executive Action	☒	☐	☐

Lead Implementer (e.g., the agency(s) or other entity(s) who would own the action)	Timeline for Implementation of Action (e.g., near, mid, long term)
OSE, ISC, NMED, NMBGMR	2023 Leg. Session/Ongoing