NMISC Staff Report
November 19, 2026

STATEWIDE HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS

PRECIPITATION (uses ZiaMet* station data and PRISM** data)

LOCATION	OCT 2026 ZIAMET (IN)	2026 YTD ZIAMET (IN)	OCT 2026 PRISM (IN)	% HISTORICAL MEDIAN for OCT ***
CANADIAN RIVER BASIN				
Cimmaron	1.6	13.3	1.2	92%
Canadian River	1.3	14.0	3.4	324%
Conchas Reservoir	1.5	11.5	4.8	373%
Ute Reservoir	1.6	14.2	1.0	105%
COLORADO RIVER BASIN				
Farmington	2.8	7.8	1.8	241%
Animas River	3.3	11.1	2.2	220%
Gila River	1.3	12.5	2.0	302%
San Francisco River	3.2	16.6	3.5	274%
COSTILLA CREEK BASIN				
Costilla	5.6	15.4	NA	NA
PECOS RIVER BASIN				
Upper Pecos	1.1	11.2	5.2	363%
Fort Sumner	2.0	14.0	1.1	84%
Artesia	0.9	8.4	2.9	217%
Carlsbad	1.5	10.0	2.4	242%
RIO GRANDE BASIN				
Rio Chama	3.2	12.1	3.5	242%
Middle Rio Grande	0.5	8.3	1.8	222%
Lower Rio Grande	0.8	11.8	1.7	273%

*** ZiaMet Weather Station Network. ZiaMet is a service of the NM Climate Center (https://weather.nmsu.edu/ziamet/summary/)**
****Parameter-elevation Regressions on Independent Slopes Model (PRISM) data (see explanation below)**
*****Generated using PRISM data from 1995-2026**

STREAMFLOW

GAGING STATION	OCT 2026 MEDIAN FLOW (CFS*)	% HISTORICAL MEDIAN for OCT **
CANADIAN RIVER BASIN		
Cimarron River below Eagle Nest	2	11%
Canadian River near Sanchez	136	682%
Ute Creek near Logan	0	NA

GAGING STATION	OCT 2026 MEDIAN FLOW (CFS*)	% HISTORICAL MEDIAN for OCT **
Canadian River at Logan	3	100%
Revuelto Creek near Logan	10	143%
COLORADO RIVER BASIN		
Inflows Above Navajo	4,885	450%
Navajo Reservoir Release	250	31%
Animas at Stateline	1,360	368%
La Plata at La Plata	15	NA
Gila Above Cliff	216	327%
Gila Above Virden	189	266%
San Francisco at Reserve	45	1500%
San Francisco Glenwood	136	523%
PECOS RIVER BASIN		
Pecos River Above Santa Rosa Lake	242	1274%
Pecos River near Puerto De Luna	79	101%
Pecos River Below Taiban Creek Near Ft Sumner	42	63%
Pecos River near Acme	60	105%
Pecos River (Kaiser Channel) Near Lakewood	222	236%
Pecos River at Red Bluff	67	100%
RIO GRANDE BASIN		
Azotea Tunnel at outlet near Chama	237	23700%***
Rio Chama near La Puente	136	267%
Rio Chama below El Vado	230	124%
Rio Chama above Abiquiu Reservoir	236	128%
Rio Chama below Abiquiu Dam	266	114%
Rio Grande at Lobatos	64	73%
Rio Grande at Otowi Bridge	934	142%
Rio Grande below Cochiti Dam	927	191%
Rio Grande below Elephant Butte Dam	0	0%
Rio Grande below Caballo Dam	1	33%

cfs = cubic feet per second
***** Historical Median denotes the median of values for the same time period, computed using data from 1990 through 2025.***
******Typically, no flows are expected at this time of the year, and the median flows are at 1cfs and hence the large number.***

RESERVOIR STORAGE (on 10/31/2026)

RESERVOIR	VOL. (KAF*)	% FULL
CANADIAN RIVER BASIN *(Percent of total conservation storage limit)*		
Conchas	150	48%
Eagle Nest	21	29%
Ute	188	93%
COLORADO RIVER BASIN *(Percent of total reservoir storage)* ***Colorado Basin numbers collected on 11/4/2026***		
Navajo Reservoir	1,161	83%
Lake Nighthorse	113	100%
Lake Powell	5,951	27%
Lake Mead	6,899	27%
COSTILLA CREEK BASIN *(Percent of total reservoir storage)*		
Costilla	1.566	9.9%
PECOS RIVER BASIN *(Percentage of total conservation storage limit, exclusive of flood control capacity)*		
Santa Rosa	44	43%
Sumner	14	39%
Brantley	43	100%
Avalon	4	90%
RIO GRANDE BASIN *(Percent of total allowable storage)*		
Heron	58	14%
El Vado**	21	11%
Abiquiu	161	70%
Cochiti	59	8%
Elephant Butte	135	7%
Caballo	26	8%
Usable Water	152	NA

kaf = thousand acre-feet
****Storage in El Vado Reservoir will be limited until the dam rehabilitation project is complete.***

CANADIAN RIVER BASIN

KEY UPDATES

Compact – New Mexico's conservation storage limit in 2026 is 204,215 acre-feet, adjusted per the 2022 Bathymetric Survey Report, including estimates of sediment inflow. Maximum storage volume at the spillway elevation of 3,788.86' (NAVD88) is 204,653 acre-feet. New Mexico is not

anticipating a compact release in 2026 unless significant inflows increase the storage volume over the conservation storage limit.

Water Supply – Ute Reservoir storage is currently at 188,200 acre-feet of water as of November 4. Storage has increased from 183,400 to 188,200 acre-feet over the past month with increased storms over much of New Mexico.

Eagle Nest Reservoir also received some inflows over the past month, and storage has maintained fairly steady at 20,860 acre-feet. The irrigation season ended on November 1, with any future inflows now being added to Permit 71 permit pool. The release out of Eagle Nest is set at 20 cfs and is being taken by the Springer Ditch Co. until they hit a 0 acre-feet balance.

Ute Dam Improvements – A contract has been issued for the Ute outlet works modifications to contractor Marine Diving Solutions, LLC. The contract sum is $1,536,536.41 and is being funded by multiple nonrecurring appropriations received from Legislative sessions 2025 & 2026. NMISC staff and the engineering contractor will now move forward with logistical planning and final plans for construction.

NMISC staff anticipate construction on the outlet works will begin in late FY2027.

WORK AREA OVERVIEWS

Ute Reservoir – NMISC staff, with the help of a contractor, have updated the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for Ute Dam as requested by the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (NMOSE) Dam Safety Bureau (DSB). Staff will send the updated EAP to the DSB for review and approval. NMISC continues to conduct road maintenance around Ute Dam and below the spillway as well as addressing any woody vegetation removal and erosion control. The DSB along with NMISC staff, conducted the 2026 yearly Dam Safety Inspection on October 14.

NMISC staff continue routine operation and maintenance at Ute Dam and collect daily data related to reservoir storage and elevation, and bi-weekly data for the piezometers and toe drains (seepage data). A contractor has continued work to install equipment that will record seepage flows at three sites below the dam and this data will be available via the real-time water measurement information system.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN

KEY UPDATES

Flood Events and Reservoir Levels - Between September 16 and November 4, two major storms occurred in the San Juan Basin that resulted in devastating floods below the Navajo Reservoir, from Bloomfield to Shiprock. In particular, storms beginning on October 22 pushed the San Juan and Animas rivers to historic levels. The San Juan River crested at about 14.5 feet in Farmington (major flood stage is 12 feet) and above 23 feet at Shiprock (major flood stage is 20.5 feet). Those back-to-back events severely impacted communities and people's livelihoods in the basin. There were evacuations in place because of structural damage, contaminated water, downed power lines, and possible gas leaks. Law enforcement reported hundreds of water rescues between Farmington and Bloomfield.

On October 24, the Governor requested a federal emergency declaration for northern New Mexico. On October 26, the U.S. President approved the state's request for a federal emergency declaration. It covers San Juan, Rio Arriba, Cibola and Sandoval counties and Acoma Pueblo, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, San Ildefonso Pueblo, Zia Pueblo and Laguna Pueblo. The state has made up to $12 million in emergency funds available for flood response since September, in addition to the secured federal emergency declaration mentioned above. There is a webpage on the Governor's website dedicated to the flooding resources: https://www.governor.state.nm.us/flooding-resources/

As a result of the rain events, the Navajo Reservoir rose about 57 feet. According to Reclamation, the reservoir is currently 83% full, although that includes part of the inactive storage above dead pool. The current active storage is 73% full, which is a significant rise compared to 11% in mid-September. Roughly 0.35 million acre-feet of water was captured behind the Navajo Reservoir. In addition, Lake Powell levels rose 20 feet during the same period. A large portion of that additional water (roughly 1.6 million acre-feet) came through the San Juan arm of the reservoir. Despite the additional 1.6 million acre-feet, Lake Powell is currently 27% full and at elevation 3,537' which is still lower than the level it was at this time last year (3,545'). This demonstrates the extent of the depleted storage at Lake Powell.

Lastly, in the wake of the storm events, there is a sediment plug on the San Juan River due to significant silt deposit from Gobernador Canyon six miles below the Navajo Reservoir. The silt and debris are pushing almost the entire flow towards the Bloomfield Irrigation District's (BID) diversion canal. The BID is working actively to address the issue. Also, Reclamation is considering mechanical options to address the plug using its existing authorizations in the San Juan Basin.

Upper Colorado River Commission - The Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC) sent two letters to the Department of the Interior in the past two months:

- On September 11, the UCRC Executive Director sent a letter to the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, conveying the Upper Division States' (UDS) intent to work with Reclamation on two critical elements related to the Upper Basin Contribution and Conservation Program: receiving credits for the contributed water, and operational rules for such contributed water stored in the Upper Initial Units.
- On October 20, the UCRC Executive Director sent a letter to the Principal Deputy Commissioner of Reclamation, requesting that Reclamation share the full Lower Basin Consumptive Uses and Losses (CU&L) data through 2025 with the UDS and the UCRC as mandated in Section 601(b)(1) of the 1968 Colorado River Basin Project Act with sufficient time to review, meaningfully consult, and comment. The letter also re-iterated the need to resolve an issue that the UCRC had raised related to the preliminary Lower Basin CU&L methods manual, particularly the characterization of Colorado River water stored off channel in the Lower Basin. The UCRC has not received a substantive response to its November 2025 letter yet.

The UCRC also held two special meetings in the past two months:

- September 14: During this meeting, the UCRC staff gave a presentation related to the effectiveness analysis of the ongoing Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) from Flaming Gorge Reservoir. In light of that analysis, the UCRC directed the UCRC Executive Director to send a letter to the Secretary of the Interior stating that: (1) the 2026 DROA releases through April 2027 appear effective when combined with Reclamation's 2027 and 2028 Coordinated Operations Guidelines; and (2) recovery of the 2026 Plan releases is a priority when hydrologic conditions improve. The UCRC Executive Director sent that letter on September 18. At its upcoming special meeting on November 10, the UCRC will revisit this topic in light of the Lake Powell level increase due to the significant rainfalls in the San Juan Basin.
- October 19: During this meeting, the UCRC voted to approve the Grant Implementation Agreement related to the $100 million grant awarded to the UCRC and directed the UCRC Executive Director to convey the agreement to Reclamation for execution. The UCRC also directed its staff to immediately work with Reclamation and the UDS to implement the agreement for 2027 projects.

WORK AREA OVERVIEWS

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program - On September 22-24, staff attended a three-day workshop in Flagstaff, Arizona focused on cultural and archaeological, recreation (whitewater), sediment, and vegetation data. On November 3-5, staff attended another workshop in Flagstaff focused on natural processes, rainbow trout, and recreation (angling) knowledge. The purpose of these workshops are to inform stakeholders about the history, current management practices, and existing data gaps for the resources, provide baseline background information for the resources to create a shared understanding, and have stakeholders identify potential knowledge gaps and how those may be addressed moving forward under current constraints.

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum - Staff virtually attended the Work Group meetings on September 16-17 and October 20-21. The purpose of these Work Group meetings was to review the comments received on the Triennial Report, determine how to incorporate them, and prepare for the upcoming Forum Meeting. NMISC hosted the Colorado River Salinity Forum meeting at its Albuquerque office on October 28-29. The Forum discussed the 2026 Triennial Review, program funding issues, the Federal Agency Program Accomplishment Reports, the Paradox Valley Unit, and Minute 334. A retreat for the Forum members occurred at the Rio Grande Nature Center on October 29-30. The purpose of the retreat was to affirm the Forum's purpose and principles for working together, clarify high-level principles around Salinity Program implementation, and outline a roadmap for moving forward on key substantive issues.

San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program - On September 29 and October 23, staff virtually attended meetings of a focus group as a subset of the Coordination Committee (CC). The purpose of these meetings was, among other things, to develop a methodology for reviewing potential future requests from Reclamation to voluntarily reduce baseflows for the fish to save water in Navajo Reservoir. The focus group recommended that if Reclamation

brings forward a request for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (SJRIP) to voluntarily reduce the Flow Recommendation minimum baseflows, the CC should treat it in two stages:

1. The CC votes on whether to consider the request based upon whether:
    a. it is part of a broader, equitable shortage-avoidance strategy;
    b. other water users have made or will take voluntary water savings measures;
    c. the conserved water could be put to beneficial use for the fish at a later point; and
    d. any other pertinent information Reclamation thinks the CC should consider.

    If the CC votes to consider Reclamation's request, then the CC requests Reclamation provide the volume of water to be saved along with viable modeled options for that savings (e.g., timing options to model and discuss might include front-loaded, back-loaded, or spreading the savings across the irrigation season).

2. The CC then develops discrete biological questions for the Biology Committee to provide input, which it would then use to make its recommendation back to the CC.

The focus group also recommended that the CC consider creating an ad-hoc group to review and potentially revise the SJRIP Flow Recommendations as stated in the Program Document. The CC must consider and approve all of these recommendations as part of its upcoming meeting in January 2027.

Second Memorandum of Agreement Projects - On September 16 and October 21, staff virtually met with Reclamation and the Hammond Conservancy District (HCD) staff to receive the status of the HCD measurement and SCADA project. The NMISC received a Certificate of Substantial Completion for the project on October 22. Because HCD staff were busy removing significant sediment in the system from rain events in September, calibration of return flow measurements could not be completed before the irrigation season ended in October. Reclamation will return by April 2027 to finish calibration.

Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project - On October 22, staff virtually attended the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project Construction Committee (PCC) meeting. The Navajo Nation President has signed the Contributed Funds Agreement for the construction of non-NGWSP water delivery to Arizona. On September 18 and October 21, staff attended planning meetings for the NGWSP tribute gardens. Ideas exchanged included involving local artists, for example, to paint murals, and including an educational component with pipes and adjustable valves.

Colorado River Symposium - On September 23-25, staff attended the Colorado River Symposium in Santa Fe, NM. This bi-annual event is organized by the Water Education Foundation. The theme of this year's event was "The Water that Connects Us." There were multiple panels and presentations, including a seven Basin States principals panel in which Ms. Tanya Trujillo, Governor's representative on Colorado River matters, participated. In addition, the Symposium included a panel of young experts from across the basin, who had been mentored in the past few months by experienced individuals, and had worked on future "assigned water programs" in the Colorado River Basin as a topic of presentation for the Santa Fe Symposium. Ms. Julia Bowman of the NMISC's Legal Bureau was a participant. This "Colorado

River Water Leaders" group presented their findings and recommendations at the Symposium. The report is publicly available at: https://www.watereducation.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/2026_colorado_river_water_leaders_report.pdf

COSTILLA CREEK

KEY UPDATES

Irrigation season ended on September 30. Costilla Reservoir has gained some volume due to the recent rains. All surplus water has been returned to the river channel as of October 31.

PECOS BASIN

KEY UPDATES

2003 Pecos Settlement Agreement Activities – Augmentation pumping commenced on July 15 and was discontinued on October 1 after heavy rains in late September brought the project supply back above 90,000. As of October 1, the pipeline had delivered 3,699 acre-feet of water in 2026. Continued rainfall in October has brought Carlsbad's project supply up significantly, and augmentation pumping will not be needed again for the next several months at least.

On November 1, the Carlsbad Irrigation District (CID) began to deliver water to the state line in accordance with the 2003 Settlement Agreement and will be releasing a minimum of 17,155 acre-feet from Brantley and Avalon Reservoirs by December 25, 2026. This water is owned by the Interstate Stream Commission and was purchased to increase state line deliveries or to be reallocated to CID farmers. The last time conditions required delivery to the state line was in 2015 and since that time over 134,000 acre-feet has been reallotted to the CID. It is likely that this delivery will be required again in 2027.

Vaughan Conservation Pipeline - The Vaughan Conservation Pipeline has been off since September 25. This wellfield provides flows to the upper critical habitat reach for the Pecos bluntnose shiner and supports Carlsbad Project Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance.

WORK AREA OVERVIEWS

2025 Pecos Compact Status – Dr. Neil Grigg, the U.S. Supreme Court appointed Pecos River Master, provided his final report for Accounting Year 2026 on June 29. While the annual shortfall for the last water year is 15,100, there is still an accumulated overage of 110,900 acre-feet.

Vaughan Conservation Pipeline - The 11 groundwater wells at the wellfield have delivered 2,188 acre-feet to the Pecos River so far in 2026.

UPPER AND MIDDLE RIO GRANDE BASIN

KEY UPDATES

Flood Events - Historic flooding along the Rio Chama, Rio Grande and Rio Puerco has caused damage to infrastructure and left significant amounts of water stranded in the floodplain.

These events have underscored the MRG Bureau's ongoing efforts to strengthen partnerships with other agencies throughout the Middle Rio Grande.

Mid-Year Assessment – The MRG Bureau continues to assess work accomplished to date under the FY2027 Work Plan. Basin-wide and reach specific priorities are being implemented including: work with Reclamation and MRGCD on channel maintenance and vegetation management; a variety of studies supporting water conveyance; water leases for the Strategic Water Reserve; high and low flow analyses and planning; ongoing gaging efforts; work in the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Refugium; and community outreach.

WORK AREA OVERVIEWS

Rio Grande Compact Status – New Mexico's total accrued debit status for 2026 is 132,000 acre-feet. Preliminary accounting shows that deliveries due under the Compact were difficult to make for most of the year due to the low snowpack, high temperatures, and very dry conditions. The September and October precipitation has had a significant, positive impact on Compact deliveries.

Prior and Paramount Operations – Prior and Paramount (P&P) releases ceased on September 16 and the significant precipitation provided enough moisture for Pueblo irrigation needs in October. A total of 21,432 acre-feet of P&P water has been released from both El Vado and Abiquiu Reservoirs in 2026. A total of 3,490 acre-feet of P&P water remained in storage for P&P irrigation needs as of October 31.

RESERVOIR UPDATES – Storage as of October 31 (in acre-feet, provisional data)

Upstream Reservoirs

RESERVOIR	SAN JUAN-CHAMA PROJECT (SJCP)	PRIOR AND PARAMOUNT (P&P)	TOTAL (SJCP + P&P)
HERON	47,823	0	47,823
EL VADO *	15,582	2,298	17,880
ABIQUIU	108,763	1,192	109,955

* Restricted to 25,200 acre-feet maximum; minimum pool of 16,000 acre-feet

Downstream Reservoirs – Usable Water in Project Storage (native Rio Grande water in Elephant Butte Reservoir (EBR) and Caballo Reservoir, excluding SJCP and credit water) as of October 31 was approximately 152,000 acre-feet, a gain of approximately 103,000 acre-feet in October. Compact Article VII restrictions remain in place (no upstream storage in post-1929 reservoirs when Usable Water in EBR and Caballo is less than 400,000 acre-feet). Storage of all water in EBR was approximately 135,000 acre-feet on October 31.

RIVER CHANNEL CONVEYANCE PROJECTS

Interagency River Channel Projects – Planning, Compliance, and Support - Major activities in October included: (1) the kickoff of an effort to establish Clean Water Act (CWA) Programmatic

Authorization for channel maintenance activities, which – if successful – will significantly streamline the process of obtaining CWA permits for channel projects; (2) refinement of the EBR Delta Channel design; and (3) completion of the 2026 Monsoon Operations.

Technical Projects - High Flow Scenario Planning – The Middle Rio Grande Bureau, NMISC staff and leadership, in coordination with NMOSE, have initiated conversations with federal and state water managers over storage and release options for potential high snowpack resulting from the Super El Niño. The goal is to maximize deliveries to EBR for Compact purposes and minimize excessive overbanking or risks to infrastructure.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT – RIO GRANDE SIVERY MINNOW

More than 45,000 Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (RGSM) have been stocked at the Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugium (LLSMR) to grow out for augmentation this year. Staff are preparing to harvest fish for augmentation of the Middle Rio Grande and have been coordinating with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the 2026 augmentation plan. More than 15,000 RGSM have been tagged for augmentation in the Middle Rio Grande so far.

Throughout this harvest period, we have had many volunteers across NMOSE, NMISC, and other agencies support the harvesting of fish and tagging so that the fish can be released into the river. A very big thanks to:

MRGCD Support	NMOSE/NMISC Support	
Brittney Erdmann	Jade Allen	Grace Haggerty
Matthew Fields	Yining Bai	Chandler Harper
Maura Hearn	Colleen Cunningham	Michael Malone
Kelley Offutt	Paige Czoski	Anne Mauer
Jo Strange	Daniel Driscoll	Kevin McCracken
Kim Ward	Lynette Giesen	Christina Noftsker
	Robert Gomez	

The tagged RGSM will be stocked in the Middle Rio Grande around the third week of November, pending results from the Fish Health analysis conducted September 28 and 29 (results expected the first week of November). Staff and the legal team continue working on the renewal of several agreements related to operations at the LLSMR, including the lease agreement with the General Services Department and the NMED discharge permit.

LOWER RIO GRANDE BASIN

KEY UPDATES

Santa Teresa Project: Earthwork Underway - Contractors have conducted earthwork activities since October 24. Crews have cleared and grubbed the largest well pad, PW-01/MW-03, and are currently clearing the second well pad. We are using a roller to level the largest well pad. We expect earthwork activities to continue through the Thanksgiving break.

On November 16, we will mobilize the drilling rig and frac tanks for water storage to the PW-01/MW-03 well pad. We will drill both well surface casings before the Thanksgiving break. After

the holiday, we will remobilize the drilling rig and complete drilling at PW-01 before the Christmas holiday. We will complete the zonal sampling on PW-01 in January.



Earthwork at PW-01 well site

WORK AREA OVERVIEWS

Elephant Butte Irrigation District Cooperative Agreement - Elephant Butte Irrigation District submitted their quarterly reporting as required per the agreement and reported significant progress which includes 239,500 cubic yards of removed sediment at dams and 127,462 linear feet of drain restoration. These numbers are up 25% and 48% from the last quarter, respectively. Work at Rodey Dam, Lucero Dam, and Leasburg/Hill Drain is complete while restorations at Hammet Dam, Park Drain, West Drain, Hatch Drain and Rincon Arroyo will continue into the next quarter. This cooperative agreement expires in five years with an option to extend, at the agreement of both parties.

Lower Rio Grande Water Rights Acquisition Program - The purchase program which is subject to approval at the November Commission meeting is targeted for implementation in January 2027. In preparation for these efforts, NMISC is preparing to hold a second round of public outreach meetings in conjunction with the NMOSE/NMISC Open Houses scheduled for December 8, 9, and 10 in Hatch, Las Cruces and Anthony, respectively. The public will have an opportunity to engage and learn more about the settlement in the U.S. Supreme Court case *Texas v. New Mexico*, Original No. 141, the Lower Rio Grande Water Rights Purchase Program, and general water rights and water management topics. Virtual meetings will be determined closer to program implementation.

ACEQUIA BUREAU

KEY UPDATES

No new updates.

WATER PLANNING BUREAU

KEY UPDATES

Addressing Public Input on the Draft Water Security Planning Act Guidelines – NMISC staff have worked to address comments from the public input period, Water Security Tribal Advisory Council (WSTAC), two work sessions with the Commission and individual meetings with Commissioners on the Water Security Planning Act (WSPA) guidelines and are bringing a recommended version to the Commission for approval on November 19. This approval is important in order to commence initial regions in January 2027.

WORK AREA OVERVIEWS

Regional Water Security Planning – In addition to addressing input to draft WSPA guidelines, staff have continued to develop tools and templates and plan for the rollout of Cohort 1 beginning in January 2027. The tools and templates are mostly developed and have begun internal reviews in batches. Staff also continue to work on the Atlas of Plans tool which is now ready to showcase.

State Water Planning – A draft educational tool that describes interstate compacts, starting with the Rio Grande Compact, was shared with the Commission in October. The tool will also undergo promotional outreach and user testing.

Staff have also started development of the 2028 State Water Plan and will brief the Commission in early 2027.

Addressing the Current Drought – The Water Planning Bureau continues to support the development of an adaptable Drought Toolkit for communities and planning regions. In addition, staff are developing a scope of work to expand the state's network of citizen scientists who measure and report local precipitation through the Community Collaboration Rain, Hail and Snow (CoCoRHaS) Project. This effort will expand the monitoring network by installing weather stations at NMOSE District offices and develop an outreach strategy to train and empower citizen scientists.

New Mexico Unit Fund Non-NM Unit Projects – All three agreements utilizing reallocated funding are executed and in implementation (Deming, Gila Basin Irrigation Commission, and Bayard). Deming has requested to amend the agreement to allow for fiscal administration by the Southwest NM Council of Governments. NMISC legal staff are drafting the final amended agreement.

New Mexico Unit Fund Pilot Cycle - To date, the NMISC has executed six agreements with San Francisco Water and Soil Conservation District, Bayard, Hurley, Luna, Silver City, and Lordsburg. The remaining five are routing for final signatures. Staff expect that all 11 funding agreements will be executed in 2026.

New Mexico Unit Fund Pilot Cycle II – The Pilot Cycle II call for applications ended on August 25. NM Finance Authority (NMFA) on behalf of the Water Trust Board (WTB) received 13 applications for more than the cycle funding limit of $26 million. The scored applications and

recommendations will be presented to the WTB on November 18 and then be brought to the Commission for consideration and approval in January.

LEGAL UPDATE

Johnnie Giovengo, Jr., Adam Giovengo, and Sharon Giovengo v. Intrepid Potash, Inc. et al., Case No. D-503-CV-2026-00465 - Plaintiffs filed a lawsuit in NM District Court against potash companies, oil and gas companies, Carlsbad Irrigation District, NMOSE, and NMISC. The complaint against the NMISC alleges that augmentation well pumping in 2025 directly contaminated irrigation water and mobilized contamination caused by other defendants, resulting in defendants' crop loss and livestock death. The NMISC filed a motion to dismiss, and a hearing on the motion was scheduled for November 16. However, last week, new counsel for the plaintiffs filed an unopposed motion to dismiss the complaint without prejudice, which the court granted on November 12. This litigation is now concluded.

Applications by Select Energy Services, LLC for Permit to Temporarily Use Surface Points of Diversion within the Carlsbad Underground Water Basin – 2023 Rocky Arroyo Applications An evidentiary hearing was held in July 2025 on two applications involving additional points of diversion on the Pecos River for water rights located on Rocky Arroyo, which is a tributary to the Pecos between Brantley and Avalon reservoirs. Carlsbad Irrigation District also protested these applications. On October 6, NMOSE Hearing Officer Joshi issued his report and recommendation to deny Select's applications because approval of the applications would adversely affect the State's ability to comply with its obligations under the Pecos River Compact, and compliance with the Compact is in the public welfare of the State. Further, the Hearing Examiner recommended that all diversions made under the Emergency Authorization be paid back. The State Engineer accepted and adopted the Hearing Examiner's report and recommendations. Select did not appeal, and the matter is now concluded.

IN ADDITION TO THE LITIGATION DESCRIBED ABOVE, NMISC LEGAL STAFF ARE MONITORING THE FOLLOWING CASES:

Nevada v. Burgum, Nevada Federal District Court Case No. 2:26-cv-02665 Following issuance of a Record of Decision by the United States Department of the Interior regarding the Coordinated Operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead (2027-2036), the State of Nevada, the Colorado River Commission of Nevada and the Southern Nevada Water Authority filed suit in Nevada Federal District Court against the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation.

The State of Arizona and the Central Arizona Project (CAP) have each separately moved to intervene in the lawsuit on Nevada's side, although both Arizona and CAP seek slightly different relief than Nevada does. The Federal Defendants must answer Nevada's complaint by December 10. They did not take a position on Arizona's Motion to Intervene. They have not yet filed any documents with respect to CAP's Motion to Intervene. If Arizona and CAP are allowed to intervene, the Federal Defendants will also need to answer their Complaints in Intervention.

Neither the NMISC nor the State of New Mexico are involved in this lawsuit at this time, but we are monitoring this litigation as it will likely have impacts related to management of the Colorado River.

Requests for Inspection of Public Records

Since the October 15, 2026 Commission meeting, NMISC has completed two outstanding requests and has received five additional requests. NMISC did not have responsive documents to two requests. NMISC is continuing to compile records for three outstanding requests.