



NMACD
Legislative Report
2022

LOCAL ELECTION ACT CHANGES DID NOT PASS

Zoning was going to be the biggest change for SWCDs in SB 6, and it is still allowed within our current law but, only 2 districts in NM are zoned. For now, your district is NOT REQUIRED TO BE ZONED!

Watershed District Boards will remain on the ballot without the changes in SB 6.

NEW FUNDING FOR SWCD PROJECTS

- 3 MILLION DOLLARS FOR SWCD PROJECTS in HB 2
- 1 MILLION FOR HEALTHY SOILS INITIATIVE-Food, Farm, Hunger
- 2.5-3 MILLION TO MATCH FUNDING FROM CANNON AFB TO LEASE WATER RIGHTS IN OGALALLA- Drought Funding

Funding Opportunities for SWCD through other State Agencies

- ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to the Department of Environment to plan, design and construct projects to improve surface water quality and river habitats statewide;
- seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) to the Economic Development Department for outdoor recreation grants;
- three million dollars (\$3,000,000) to the Economic Development Department for the outdoor equity grant program fund;

CAPITAL OUTLAY FOR SWCDS FUNDED

- twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars (\$22,500) to purchase and equip a compact grass seed drill to mitigate rangeland erosion for the **Colfax Soil and Water Conservation District** in Colfax County;
- one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to plan, design and construct improvements, including sustainable infrastructure, to the Hatch Valley Arroyos, Site 3 for the **Caballo Soil and Water Conservation District** in Dona Ana county;
- one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) to purchase and equip a utility truck for the **Western Mora Soil and Conservation District** in Mora county;
- ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000) to purchase and equip farm equipment and vehicles for the **East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District** in Rio Arriba County;

More Capital Outlay Funding for SWCDs

- sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) to purchase vehicles and equipment, including a farm tractor, a storage shed, a grass drill, information technology and telecommunications equipment, for the **Upper Chama Soil and Water Conservation District** in Rio Arriba county;
- one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to plan, design, construct and equip a storage building for water conservation equipment, including forklifts and shade balls, for the **Roosevelt Soil and Water Conservation District** in Roosevelt County;
- forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to purchase and equip a skid steer and tractor for the **Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District** in Torrance County;
- one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) to demolish existing buildings and to remediate and upgrade the Rio Abajo conservation area for the **Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District** in Valencia County.

WATER TRUST BOARD FUNDING

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- \$327,000 to San Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District in Catron County for a watershed restoration and management project;
- \$500,000 to San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District in San Juan County for a watershed restoration and management project;

FOREST THINNING-RIVER RESTORATION- WEATHER STATIONS- capital outlay

- **EMNRD WATERSHED RESTORE \$10,000,000 Statewide** STB to plan, design and construct watershed restoration and community wildfire protection improvements, including forest thinning, statewide
- **RIVER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM \$1,500,000 Statewide** STB to plan, design and construct projects that improve surface water quality and river habitat statewide
- **NMSU AGR SCI CTR CARBON MGMT EQUIP 55,000** to plan, design, construct, renovate, purchase and install carbon management equipment for New Mexico State University at the Agricultural Science Center in Clovis in Curry County and statewide
- **NMSU WEATHER STN EXPAND 1,000,000** to plan, design, construct, renovate and expand and to purchase and install equipment, including maintenance vehicles, for New Mexico State University weather stations, including the ZiaMet weather network, statewide in HB 2

ACEQUIAS & LAND GRANTS-HB2 Junior

- To the land grant council, the following amounts are appropriated for the following purposes: (1) fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to provide youth development program services to land grants mercedes;
- Two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the interstate stream commission for acequia improvements statewide.
- To the acequia and community ditch fund, fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) is appropriated for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture to carry out the purposes of the Acequia and Community Ditch Fund Act.
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- one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the acequia and community ditch education program;

NMDA - Ag Education - Ag Marketing - NMSU

- fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for statewide youth agricultural education programs;
- for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture: (a) fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to plan and implement a statewide New Mexico agriculture marketing campaign;
- to the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for Future Farmers of America programs
- one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for salary and benefits for a full-time production livestock and judging instructor in the Animal and Range Sciences Department;
- to the New Mexico Livestock Board, three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for the horse shelter rescue fund.

WRRI - Cooperative Extension - 4-H - Ag Demo

- fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute for its strategic cropping project for water demand and to assess impacts of alternative agricultural land use strategies on water budgets and agricultural economies;
- for the Cooperative Extension Service: One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for salary and benefits for a full-time farm and ranch economist in the Cooperative Extension Service;
- one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the youth leadership program for 4-H;
- To the Board of Regents of Northern New Mexico State school, fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) is appropriated to create a four-acre small demonstration farm using traditional, sustainable and regenerative agricultural principles and values, the college's acequia program and modernized farming techniques.

FOOD, FARM AND HUNGER INITIATIVE

- 24 MILLION IN HB 2- INCLUDES 1 MILLION FOR HEALTHY SOILS
- one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to provide funding for the Economic Development Department to administer the healthy food financing initiative as part of the statewide hunger initiative; and
- fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture to administer the double up food bucks program in Dona Ana County as part of the statewide hunger initiative;
- one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to San Juan College for the economic development harvest food hub.
- fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to match federal funds to expand the senior farmers' market nutrition program to provide vouchers for purchasing New Mexico Grown fruits and vegetables to additional eligible low-income seniors;
- fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to provide New Mexico Grown produce for senior center meals programs;

Increase immediate hunger relief efforts for food insecure New Mexicans

- Senior Food Boxes Program, which provides an additional 3,025 homebound seniors and adults with disabilities in rural communities with seven meals each month. Recommended funding: \$692,000 for the Aging and Long-Term Services Department.
- Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program, which provides an additional 1,960 individuals in rural communities with weekly vouchers to buy fruits and vegetables from New Mexico producers. Recommended funding: \$500,000 for the Department of Health.
- Summer and Afterschool Nutrition Support, which provides start-up and expansion grants to help address child food insecurity during the summer months and at other times when school meals are not available. A minimum of 75 grants will impact 9,975 children. Recommended funding: \$1.5 million for the Early Childhood Education and Care Department.
- College Food Security Initiative, which provides grab and go healthy meals, low cost or free access to campus dining plans, campus food pantries, and/or innovations to food distribution systems to support up to 17,500 food insecure students. Recommended funding: \$1 million for the Higher Education Department.

Increase immediate hunger relief efforts for food insecure New Mexicans

- New Mexico Grown, which allows an additional 68,850 New Mexicans to eat locally produced fruits and vegetables, meat, nuts, and other foods in schools, senior centers, and preschools. Recommended funding: \$400,000 for the Aging and Long-Term Services Department,
- \$300,000 for the Early Childhood Education and Care Department, and \$800,000 for the Public Education Department.
- Meal Gap Funding, which funds food bank assistance to an additional 127,000 New Mexicans across the state, including children and seniors experiencing food insecurity in high-need counties. Recommended funding: \$5.9 million for the Human Services Department.

Invest in local producers ability to support NM food system

- Healthy Soils Program, which promotes and supports an additional 64 land management projects that improve the health, yield, and profitability of the soils of the state.
- Recommended funding: \$1 million for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. Agricultural Workforce Development, which provides internship opportunities for young and beginning farmers, ranchers, food processors, and other agribusiness professionals. Up to 34 interns will be supported in partnership with community-based organizations.
- Recommended funding: \$250,000 for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.
- Approved Supplier Program, which supports an additional 219 farmers and ranchers selling to schools, senior centers, preschools, grocery stores, and distributors. Retail sales by participating producers increased ten-fold in a 2-year period because of this program.
- Recommended funding: \$200,000 for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.
- Farm to Food Bank Program, which connects communities in need with locally produced fruits and vegetables, meat, nuts, and other foods that would otherwise be wasted. Producers will be reimbursed for the costs involved with harvesting, processing, packaging, and transporting donated foods. Recommended funding: one-time appropriation of \$500,000 for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.

More Food, Farm & Hunger Initiative Funding

- Double Up Food Bucks, which provides dollar-for-dollar incentives for more than 46,000 SNAP participants to purchase New Mexico Grown fruits and vegetables at grocery stores, farmers' markets, farm stands, and mobile markets. Recommended funding: \$700,000 for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.
- Mobile Technology for WIC and Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs, which funds the purchase of mobile technology for paperless transactions at farmers' markets, farm stands, and grocery stores. 25,000 New Mexicans currently benefit from this program. Recommended funding: \$108,400 for the Department of Health.

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Build the capacity of NM Supply Chain

- ♦ **Healthy Food Financing Initiative**, which will fund low interest loans and grants to invest in local farmers, food hubs, and grocery stores. Up to \$2 million annually will be matched from the U.S. Treasury. Program expansion will support 7 projects and more than 100 jobs.
Recommended funding: \$250,000 for the Economic Development Department.
- ♦ **Food, Farm, and Hunger Capital Outlay Request**, which invests in infrastructure improvements for New Mexico's food system. Funding priorities include cold storage, transportation, kitchen equipment for preparing and serving meals, and facility renovations.
Recommended funding: \$10 million for the Aging and Long-Term Services Department.

WEATHER STATIONS & WATER DATA

- three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for operation and maintenance of weather stations throughout the state
- two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for the agriculture experiment station to purchase and install weather stations throughout the state.
- fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources to implement the Water Data Act;
- one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to implement the Water Data Act;

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- HB 6 “ Clean Future Act”, this bill established statewide greenhouse gas emission limits under the Air Quality Control Act: by 2030 statewide direct emissions shall not exceed 50% of 2005 levels and by 2050 the state will achieve net-zero emissions. Our concerns with the bill is that it could increase production costs for agriculture. This bill failed.
- SB 14, “ Enacting the Clean Fuel Standard Act” , It looks like this bill would create a government entity to develop proposed rules, conduct stakeholder and public outreach and participate in the rule making process. California and Oregon have low carbon or clean fuel standards like the one proposed by SB 14. This bill failed.