



NMACD is in Santa Fe and off and running! Jim Berlier, Eddie Vigil, Brent Van Dyke and I are here to represent you and your district. Please contact one of us if you have any questions!

Please send me an email if your district applied for Capital Outlay. We need to know what you are asking for, how much your request is and who you have asked to sponsor the capital outlay requests?

NMACD will be working hard to try to pass a bill for the Enchantment Legacy Fund which will set up two funds if it passes. One fund would be a permanent fund that the interest would be distributed to the natural resources state agencies. The other fund would distribute funding annually to 6 agencies for specific programs including Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)

The Governor put 75 million in her budget request for these funds, The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) has 35 million so far in their request.

If there is 50 million dollars in the Fund that will be distributed, SWCDs will receive 22.5 percent of the distribution for projects through the SWCDs, Noxious Weeds, and Soil Health. 22.5 percent will go to Energy Minerals & Natural Resources (EMNRD) for Forest Thinning and the Natural Heritage Conservation Act which is for "conservation easements". 10 percent will go to Environment Department for the River Stewards program which is voluntary grants, NM Game & Fish will receive 20 percent which can be used for restoration and other things, Economic Development Outdoor Equity and Outdoor Recreation and Department of Cultural Affairs will receive the rest.

The 22.5 percent for SWCDs would be approximately 2.75 million per year! There is another million in the Governor's Food and Hunger Initiative for Soil Health.

We are also working with Senator Daniel Ivey Soto on amendments to the Local Election Law to change the law where watershed districts would be appointing the boards.

Thank you- Your NMACD Legislative Team