

WATER PROJECT FUND

UNDERSTANDING THE WATER TRUST BOARD APPLICATION PROCESS

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Petroglyph Consulting, LLC

● Introduction



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● Webinar Agenda



- Water Trust Board Creation/Philosophy
- Eligibility Requirements
- Application Timeline & Process
- Eligible Project Types
- Documentation Requirements
- Scoring Criteria & How to Maximize Points
- Technical Assistance Program





○ Water Project Finance Act (WPFA)

The purpose of the Water Project Finance Act is to provide for:

- Water use efficiency,
- Resource conservation and
- Protection and **fair distribution** and allocation of New Mexico's scarce water resources.



○ WPFA Funding Limitations

Qualifying Entities shall:

- Operate and maintain the project for its full design life
- Provide legal assurance of property rights (title, easements, ROW)
- Demonstrate financial capacity to maintain and repay the project
- Maintain financial records in compliance with applicable laws

○ Water Trust Board



Created by the WPFA, duties include:

- Adopt rules governing terms and conditions of grants or loans.
- Prioritize projects that:
 - have been identified by the board as being urgent to address public health and safety issues
 - have matching contributions from federal or local funding sources
 - have obtained all requisite state and federal permits





○ Eligible Entities

- State Agencies
- County Governments
- Political Subdivisions
 - Municipalities/Local Governments
 - MDWCAs; Water & Sanitation Districts
 - Acequia and Soil & Water Conservation Districts
 - Regional/Local Authorities
 - Special Districts
- Tribes/Pueblos



○ Eligible Items (WPFA)

- To match federal and local cost shares;
- Engineering feasibility reports;
- Contracted engineering design;
- Inspection of construction;
- Special engineering services;
- Environmental or archaeological surveys;
- Construction;
- Land acquisition;
- Easements and rights of way; and
- Legal costs.





○ Application Ranking Timeline

- Notice of Intent (7/15 – 7/31/24)*
 - **NOI's will be accepted until 9/16/24.*
- On-line Project Application (8/15 – 9/16/24)
- Deadline for preliminary spend down, and/or submittal of Waiver Request (9/16/24)
- Application Evaluations (9/17 – 10/18/24)
- Consideration of Waiver Requests (10/3/24)
- WTB Recommendation to the Legislature: (10/29/24)



○ Readiness Application Timeline

- On-line Readiness Application (12/11/24 – 1/23/25)
- Notice of Regulatory Compliance (1/23/25)
- Deadline for project drawdown or submission of project continuation waiver (1/23/25)
- Regulatory Compliance Deadline (3/14/25)
- Final WTB funding recommendations (4/22/25)
- Final Approval of WTB Awards (5/22/25)
- RTP Deadline (9/30/25)



○ Notice of Intent



APPLICANT PRIMARY CONTACT (Authorized to Submit Application and Request Access for EnABLE users)		
Name:	Title:	
Mailing Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Email:	Phone:	

APPLICANT SECONDARY CONTACT (Authorized to Access EnABLE Application System)		
Name:	Title:	
Mailing Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
*Email:	Phone:	

**email must not duplicate primary*





Notice of Intent



Project Name:

Amount Requested: \$

Note: Per WTB policy, Applicants may not receive more than 15% of the available funds in any year. The available funding for the 2025 cycle is estimated to be \$125.1 million (\$18.7 million 15% CAP); requests exceeding the 15% will need to be revised at time of application submittal.

Project Type – Check One That Applies

- ☐ Water Storage, Conveyance and Delivery
- ☐ Watershed Restoration and Management
- ☐ Endangered Species Act Collaborative
- ☐ Flood Prevention
- ☐ Water Conservation or Treatment, Recycling or Reuse

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Please provide the Project Location, the Scope of Work to be completed with the requested funding, the Phase or phases to be funded, and a brief description of the Project Goal.

Project Location:

Scope of work: ☐ Planning ☐ Design ☐ Construction (Check all that apply)

Phase or Phases to be Funded:

Project Goal (35 words or less):





EnABLE Application Form



WTB STAFF ONLY

Project Number:

Status Date:

Comment:

Project Funding Source:

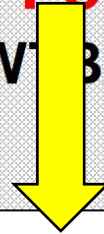
Status:

Status Date:

Type:

Amount:

DO NOT TYPE IN SHADED AREAS (Please Follow Instructions Below) Contact staff at WTBAdmin@nmfa.net if you have any questions or need clarification.



DESCRIPTION:	WTB Funds	Local Funds	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total
Feasibility/Planning Document					\$0
Design & Specifications					\$0
Construction Inspection					\$0
Environmental Surveys					\$0
Archaeological Surveys					\$0
Construction					\$0
Land Acquisition					\$0
Easements & ROW					\$0
Project Management					\$0
Legal Costs					\$0
Total:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0





EnABLE Application Form



B. Additional Documents (optional)

Attach below any additional information you believe would be helpful to evaluating your project.

1. Document description:

Attachment:

 Add Attachment. 

2. Document description:

Attachment:

 Add Attachment. 

3. Document description:

Attachment:

 Add Attachment. 



EnABLE Application Form



First **Previous** **Next**

Section 8 of 9

Go to Section **Go**

Applicant Comments

Current Step:

Validate **Save** **Cancel Form** **Print**

* Required field



○ Loan Requirements

- The WTB may require a loan “match” of between 10-40% for projects supported by a rate-paying constituency.
 - Based upon historic capacity of the applicant’s system revenues and existing debt.
- Loan repayment terms - 20 years for infrastructure projects and 10 years for non-infrastructure projects.
- A Loan Waiver is available
 - Serve < 500 connections, OR
 - Consolidating with another system.



Match Requirements



Project Type	Scale of Request	Match Required (Based Upon MHI)		
		Category I	Category II	Category III
Water Storage	\$2.5M+	20%	15%	10%
Water Storage	\$1.0 - 2.49M	15%	10%	5%
Water Storage	< \$1M	10%	5%	0%
Water Conservation	\$1.5M+	20%	15%	10%
Water Conservation	\$750K - 1.49M	15%	10%	5%
Water Conservation	<\$750K	10%	5%	0%
Watershed Management	\$500K+	15%	10%	5%
Watershed Management	<\$500K	10%	5%	0%
Endangered Species Act	\$500K+	15%	10%	5%
Endangered Species Act	<\$500K	10%	5%	0%
Flood Prevention	\$500K+	15%	10%	5%
Flood Prevention	<\$500K	10%	5%	0%

Category I = MHI equal to or greater than the State MHI.

Category II = MHI equal to or greater than 75% of the State MHI, but less than the State's MHI.

Category III = MHI less than 75% of the State's MHI.



○ Flexible Funding Structure – Match vs. Loan Options



- Match/Loan Substitution:
 - Additional match can reduce or eliminate loan
 - Larger loan can replace required match if needed
- Benefits:
 - Adaptable to applicant financial situation
 - Reduce debt or preserve local cash
 - Makes funding accessible to more communities





○ Eligible Project Types

Category

- Water Storage
- Water Conservation
- Watershed Management
- Endangered Species Act of 1973
- Flood Prevention
- Waste Water

Policy Target

50-75%

15-30%

10-20%

0-5%

0-10%

??



○ Water Storage

- Storage, conveyance or delivery of water to end users.
- System wide improvements, including new and rehabilitated pipeline and distribution, wells, pump stations, tanks (including SCADA), and storage reservoirs and dams undertaken by water systems and acequias.
- Ineligible: Dry Dams; Water Meters

○ Water Conservation

- Water conservation or recycling, treatment, or reuse of water.
- System wide improvements that include the treatment of wastewater effluent to bring it to NMED reuse standards specifically for a reuse project, water meters and conservation projects.
- Ineligible: Wastewater treatment or processing with no re-use; maintenance and replacement of meters with no conservation.



○ Watershed Management

- Restoration and management of watersheds.
- Forest thinning and riparian restoration projects to consideration of soil and substrate conditions. Projects that address long-term maintenance and overarching watershed restoration will be considered.
- Ineligible: Expenses related to non-infrastructure activities such as advocacy, awareness, and public relations.

○ Endangered Species Act of 1973

- Implementation of federal Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- Projects directly related to habitat restoration.
- Ineligible: Projects where the funds are primarily intended for recreational purposes, such as a walking path.



○ Flood Prevention



- Flood Protection Dams (often referred to as 'dry dams') or Projects built to protect human safety and property from flooding.
- Ineligible: Dams constructed primarily for the storage of water, regardless of their potential for breaches; Projects where flood prevention is not the primary purpose, such as bridge replacement.





○ Documentation Requirements

- Authorizing Resolution
- Planning Documents
- Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)
 - Technical Memorandum
- Water Rights
- Asset Management Plan
- Right of Way Documentation
- Maps



○ Regulatory Compliance

- The applicant must demonstrate compliance with relevant agency regulations pertaining to the project.
 - Safe Drinking Water Act; Water Conservation Plan
- DFA Approved Budget
- Three most recent years of audits or other financial statements compliant with the State Audit Rule.
- Up-to-date articles, by-laws and other governance documents.





○ Connection to Past Awards

- Applicants requesting funds must have expended at least 70% of prior awards that have not yet been certified as complete.
 - Funds awarded in the most recent application cycle are excluded from this expenditure calculation
- Applicants moving to the Readiness Phase must have expended at least 95% of prior awards that have not yet been certified as complete.
 - Applications that will cure a condition considered Urgent may be excepted from these limitations



○ Connection to Past Awards

- Waiver Requirements:
 - Submit written request with explanation
 - Detail progress and timeline for completion
 - Reviewed by NMFA and Water Trust Board
- Best Practices:
 - Close out awards before reapplying
 - Communicate early with NMFA on delays
 - Keep thorough project records



○ Scoring Criteria Overview (100 Points)



Category	Points
• Urgent Project	5
• Local Contribution	15
• Readiness	10
• Regionalization	10
• Health & Safety	25
• Planning/Design	10
• Other (Category Specific)	25



Ranking Phase Results



Flood Prevention						NMFA-local Contribution 15 pts	OSE- Regional Water Plan 5 pts	Readiness 10 pts	Regionalization 10 Pts	Health & Safety 25 pts	Plan & Design 10 pts	Economic Protection/Be nefit 25 pts	TOTAL
WPF-6619	Sunland Park, City of	Dona Ana	Carlos Aguirre flood control	Construct flood control to capture upstream runoff	\$ 3,500,000	3	5	10	10	15	10	16	69
WPF-6562	Dona Ana County	Dona Ana	Dragonfly Channel Ph. 4	Construct channel	\$ 6,000,000	3	0	10	10	18	10	15	66
WPF-6555	Columbus, Village of	Luna	NE Channel Ph. II	Construct of Channel Ph. II	\$ 1,000,000	4	5	6	10	18	6	15	64
WPF-6589	McKinley County	McKinley	CR32B Purty Rock drainage improvements	Construction of new arch pipe/concrete culvert	\$ 2,563,638	4	5	7	10	16	6	15	63
WPF-6606	Ruidoso, Village of	Lincoln	Alto Lake Dam Spillway	Design Alto Lake Dam spillway and flood routing analysis.	\$ 237,500	4	0	2	10	20	2	20	58
WPF-6618	Sunland Park, City of	Dona Ana	Edgemont subdivision flood control	Design flood control pond	\$ 500,000	4	5	7	7	15	5	15	58
WPF-6616	Southern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority	Sandoval	Sportsplex Dam outlet rehabilitation	Design and construct improvements to the outlet works as Sportsplex dam.	\$ 500,000	4	0	10	4	16	5	15	54
WPF-6621	Truth or Consequences, City of	Sierra	Cantrell Dam breach & watershed drainage	Construct flood control improvements including breach and storm drain	\$ 8,090,000	4	0	10	2	15	8	15	54
WPF-6543	Albuquerque, City of	Bernalillo	John St. pond/drainage improvements	Design/construct John St. pump station and gravity pond, diversion of Williams st. 72" storm drain and Broadway Blvd. 66" SD and upsizing SD in Barelax Ditch to 30" pipe.	\$ 6,160,000	4	0	8	2	16	5	15	50
WPF-6552	Cibola County	Cibola	CR7 & 8 drainage improvements	Design drainage improvements to repair existing erosion and scour of the channel side slope	\$ 450,000	4	0	6	9	10	5	15	49
WPF-6622	Upper Rio Grande WD	Rio Arriba	SMBM Dam Site #1	Plan, design and construct sediment removal to Sebastian Martin Black Mesa dam site 1	\$ 350,000	4	5	6	2	10	3	15	45
WPF-6558	Deming, City of	Luna	Milo Neighborhood flood prevention and drainage imp.	Plan and design flood prevention improvements	\$ 214,000	3	0	3	2	15	3	15	41
WPF-6587	Luna County	Luna	Yuma/Maverick flood prevention	Plan and design flood mitigation	\$ 450,000	4	0	3	2	10	3	10	32
	13				\$ 30,015,138					AVERAGE			53.75





○ Urgent Project (5 pts)

- Public Health Threat
- Safe Drinking Water Act Compliance
- Wildfire Public Safety
- Dam Safety
- Other (Governor/Cabinet Declared Emergency)
- ****Need to attach evidence of the associated issue.**





○ Local Contribution (15 pts)

- Contributes hard match more than minimum required by greater than 300%.
- Match Range - (0% - 20%)
- Contribute as much Match as possible
 - Non-WTB loans
 - Federal funds
 - Local cash contributions
 - The cost of a preliminary engineering report
 - An appraised value of land



○ Project Readiness (10 pts)

- Project is ready to proceed (other funding secured and all permits, licenses and authorizations are in place)
- Project has secured all other funding and has identified, but not secured, all permits, licenses, and authorizations
- Project has not secured all other funding and has not yet identified all permits, licenses and authorizations
- ***Records management and upload is crucial.**

○ Regionalization (10 pts)

- Project provides "regionalization" of several smaller water systems and/or provides regional service which replaces individual well-septic systems.
- Project incorporates an area $>80\%$ of the population within an area.
- Project mitigates flood damage to an area that represents $>80\%$ of the population

○ Health & Safety (25 pts)

- Project specifically addresses identified threat(s) to human health and safety relative to water borne disease, Safe Drinking Water Act violations.
- Project specifically addresses identified threat(s) to human health and safety relative to water quantity where only a single source of water is available for drinking water.
- The project specifically addresses imminent or existing catastrophic floods and threats to human health and safety.

○ Planning & Design (10 pts)

- Project design concept is substantively complete, sets forth clear methodology for project selection and design, sets forth a clear description of how the project will improve the existing conditions and provides measurable results.
- Project design concept is significantly complete.
- Project is well planned, but design is not yet complete.
- Project is not planned

○ Other (25 pts)

- Emergency (Storage/Conservation)
 - Project specifically addresses imminent or existing catastrophic conditions
- Attention to Wildlife and Environmental Compatibility (Watershed)
- Water Quality Improvement (Watershed)
- Habitat Recovery (ESA)
- Economic Protection and/or Benefit (Flood)





○ Technical Assistance Program

- Services Provided
 - Engineering, Technical, or Hydrological Services
 - Geospatial Mapping Services
 - Accounting, Legal, or Facilitator Services
- Focus on facilitating regionalization and individual system planning.
- Application is on the NMFA website.
- Application requires a Resolution by the Governing Body.





Questions ???

6/5/2025



Petroglyph Consulting, LLC

