

**Correction:** Gov. Lujan Grisham secured an additional **\$20 million** from her capital outlay funding during the 2022 legislative session to complete the state’s cost-share requirements for the project – there was also an additional \$10 million for the project in House Bill 2. A previous version of the release listed the total governor's capital outlay amount at \$30 million – we regret the error.



Office of the Governor

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Unprecedented federal and state funding advances important rural water supply project in Eastern New Mexico**

ALBUQUERQUE – Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on Thursday announced up to \$163 million in funding for the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System pipeline, which will provide a reliable water source for 70,000 New Mexicans, as well as Cannon Air Force Base.

“No one understands the value of a reliable water source more than New Mexicans. As we continue to feel the effects of ongoing drought and climate change, it is more important than ever to deliver clean water to all New Mexicans,” said **Gov. Lujan Grisham**. “I am proud to work with our federal and local partners, as well as state legislators and the Congressional delegation, to advance this critical project in eastern New Mexico.”

The funding is a portion of \$420 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which will be distributed for rural water projects across six states including Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota and South Dakota. The eastern New Mexico project is receiving the greatest portion of funding. Gov. Lujan Grisham secured an additional **\$20** million from her capital outlay funding during the 2022 legislative session to complete the state’s cost-share requirements for the project.

“This project is important to the Department of the Interior as it will help ensure the water supply for eastern New Mexico communities as we continue to encounter unprecedented drought,” said **Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Tanya Trujillo**. “Through President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we were able to provide this significant boost in funding to move this project toward completion.”

The project will provide a supply of treated surface water to parts of Eastern New Mexico including Clovis, Elida, Portales, Texico, Cannon Air Force Base, and unincorporated areas in Roosevelt and Curry counties that currently rely on the steadily declining Ogallala groundwater aquifer for their supply. The Ogallala Aquifer is the sole source of municipal and agricultural water for much of eastern New Mexico, and it is estimated that under current withdrawals from the aquifer, it will be depleted in less than 15 years.

“I’m proud of the work we have done with the ENMWUA and multiple community leaders for over a decade to advance the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System pipeline to where we are today,” said **Senator Martin Heinrich**. “Thanks to historic funding from the Infrastructure Law, we are cutting the construction timeline in half so that this incredible community effort can provide cities in eastern New Mexico and Cannon Air Force Base with a dependable, reliable water supply for generations to come.”

“The health of our communities begins with access to clean, affordable water,” said **Senator Ben Ray Luján**. “That’s why I’m proud to have voted for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which is delivering a \$160 million investment Eastern New Mexico’s critical water infrastructure. As New Mexico continues to face a groundwater shortage that risks the health of our economy and the public, this investment will allow our communities access to a reliable water supply for generations to come.”

"Immediately upon joining Congress, I began advocating for rural water project investments in our communities. Last year, I led a bipartisan letter to fully fund the Bureau of Reclamation’s Rural Water program and secured \$17.4 million in the omnibus for the Eastern New Mexico Water Supply Project,” said **Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández**. “These investments paired with this infusion of \$160 million from the Infrastructure and Jobs Act will help complete the project, shaving more than a decade off the timeline so our communities, businesses, and families could have access to clean, affordable water."

“On behalf of the Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Association and the citizens of our member communities, I am grateful for this amount of funding,” said **ENMWUA Chairman Michael Morris**. “This will take us far in the construction of this critically important project. We appreciate everyone involved who made this funding available, from Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, the Biden Administration, our New Mexico Congressional delegation, state legislators, and the representatives of our member communities.”

Ute Dam and Reservoir, which is owned and operated by the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC), will be the source of up to 16,415 acre-feet per year of water for the ENMRWS pipeline. The water provided for the project is a portion of the water granted to New Mexico within the Canadian River Compact with Texas and Oklahoma. As owner of the water, the NMISC has worked with ENMWUA and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to develop this project to relieve the critical municipal water shortage situation in eastern New Mexico.

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