



New Mexico State Legislature

STATE CAPITOL
Santa Fe

Sent via public comment portal for WQCC 25-74(R)

June 17, 2026

New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission
1190 S. St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Re: WQCC 25-74(R): Fee structure for state-led surface water quality permitting program and legislative funding

Dear Commissioners:

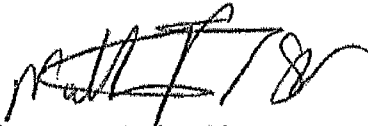
Senate Bill 21 (2025) established a framework for a state-led surface water quality permitting program. It underwent significant legislative scrutiny, including by Legislative Finance Committee members and staff. As the sponsors of Senate Bill 21 and Chair of the Legislative Finance Committee, we encourage the WQCC to adopt rules that further clarify the statutory language included in Senate Bill 21, including to adopt a schedule of fees.

Establishing a state-led surface water quality permitting program is of utmost importance to the state. Over the past four years, the legislature has invested funds to ensure the success of this effort:

- \$250,000 in 2022 (not exclusively allocated for surface water quality permitting)
- \$680,000 in 2023
- \$7.6 million in 2024 (not exclusively but primarily for surface water quality permitting)
- \$1.5 million in 2026

The legislature has continually reinforced its desire to see this state-led program be implemented, through both budgetary appropriations and the passage of Senate Bill 21. We are firmly committed to working with the Environment Department, the Commission, and the stakeholders to ensure this program is a success for all New Mexico communities.

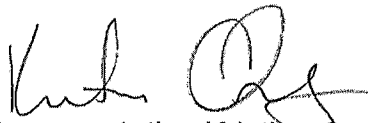
Respectfully submitted,



Representative Nathan P. Small
Chair, Legislative Finance Committee
Chair, House Appropriations and Finance Committee



Senator Peter Wirth
Senate Majority Leader



Representative Kristina Ortiz
Chair, House Agriculture, Acequias and Water Resources Committee
Chair, Water and Natural Resources Committee