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July 12, 2024

Secretary James Kenney
Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050
Santa Fe, NM 87505

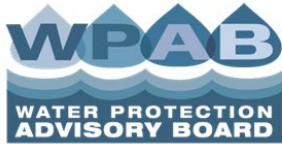
Subject: Support for the Budget Request, Neglected Contamination Sites, Fiscal Year 2025

Dear Secretary Kenney:

The Water Protection Advisory Board (WPAB) was established through ordinance by the Albuquerque City Council, the Bernalillo County Board of County Commissioners, and the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority Governing Board to advise and make recommendations regarding protection of groundwater and surface water resources throughout the Bernalillo County area.

The WPAB hereby recommends long term financial support for the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Neglected Contamination Sites Project, beginning with the fiscal year 2026 budget. As illustrated in the attached map, over 300 neglected contamination sites, including more than 50 sites in Bernalillo County, have negatively impacted water quality throughout New Mexico, and typically do not have a responsible party or other options for contaminant clean up. These contamination sites have directly affected New Mexicans' health, property values and resale, development, economic growth, and well being in the affected communities. In addition, many of these neglected contamination sites are located in disadvantaged areas where environmental justice is lacking.

WPAB previously requested support for the Neglected Contamination Sites Project in November 2022 and continues to request long-term financial support for this project, possibly in the form of a permanent, recurring fund to initiate and continue the necessary analysis, cleanup and remediation efforts. Establishment of this fund may require an amendment to the NM Water Quality Act [§74-6-1 et. seq. NMSA 2021]. In addition, WPAB advocates for the State Agencies responsible for New Mexico's water quality to have their budgets approved at the highest level to effectively protect the State's water resources. Approval to these State Agencies' budgets will result in improved protection of water resources for New Mexico citizens including those in the



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WPAB area of concern. We therefore encourage our constituent agencies to advocate at state and local levels to ensure funding for these crucial programs.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bart Faris'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bart Faris, Chair
Water Protection Advisory Board

Cc:

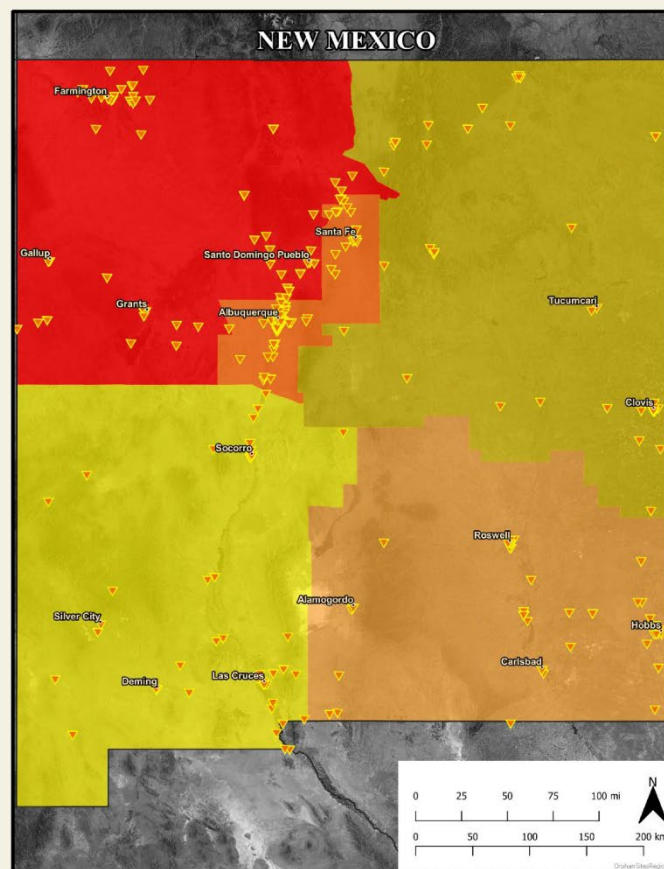
Speaker of the House, Representative Javier Martínez, District 11
Majority Floor Leader, Representative Gail Chasey, District 18
Minority Floor Leader, Representative Rod Montoya, District 1
Majority Whip, Representative Reena Szczepanski, District 47
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President Pro Tempore, Senator Mimi Stewart, District 17
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Minority Floor Leader, Senator Gregory A. Baca, District 29
Majority Whip, Senator Michael Padilla, District 14
Minority Whip, Senator Craig W. Brandt, District 40
Cabinet Secretary James Kenney, New Mexico Environment Department
Legislative Finance Committee
Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee
Water and Natural Resources Committee
City of Albuquerque Council
Bernalillo County Commission
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority Governing Board
Mayor Timothy Keller, City of Albuquerque
Interim County Manager Shirley M. Ragin, Bernalillo County
Executive Director Mark Sanchez, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority



Where are Neglected Contamination Sites Located?

From NMED presentation to the Water Protection Advisory Board on June 14, 2024

- ❑ These sites exist in every region of New Mexico.
 - ❑ Releases may have occurred decades ago,
 - ❑ RPs may be long-gone, but
 - ❑ Contamination persists.
- ❑ Current Potential Site List:
 - ❑ 300 potential legacy sites with known or suspected contamination across the state,
 - ❑ 130 with documented onsite release(s) of contamination.





MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

JAMES C. KENNEY
CABINET SECRETARY

July 29, 2024

Bart Faris, Chair
Water Protection Advisory Board
One Civic Plaza NW
Room 5027
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Re: Support for the Budget Request, Neglected Contamination Sites, Fiscal Year 2025

Dear Chair, Faris

Thank you for reaching out to offer your support for the long-term funding to the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Neglected Contamination Sites Project. NMED shares the concerns over the water quality impacts of contaminated sites with no responsible party in Bernalillo County.

The Water Protection Division (WPD) is actively developing key components of the Neglected Contaminated Sites Program. To date, WPD staff have developed draft statutory language and budget estimates for a program and continue to share findings on neglected contaminated sites to stakeholders such as the Water Protection Advisory Board (WPAB) and others.

As NMED continues to work on developing details of the program, our staff will keep WPAB updated on the program's process and opportunities for the Board's support. NMED is thankful to count on WPAB as an ally in advocating for increased investment in contaminated sites.

If you have further questions or requests, please contact John Rhoderick, Water Protection Division Director at john.rhoderick@env.nm.gov or (505) 819-8284.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James C. Kenney".

James C. Kenney
Cabinet Secretary