State Of New Mexico

Triennial Capacity Development Report to the Governor State Fiscal Years 2015-2017

Capacity Development Program Annual Report State Fiscal Year 2017

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Prepared by
New Mexico Environment Department
Drinking Water Bureau

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Introduction

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), as amended in 1996, established the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to make funds available to drinking water systems to finance infrastructure improvements and to provide assistance to public water systems (PWS) to support the protection of public health. States operate their own DWSRF programs and receive annual capitalization grants from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support low-interest loans and provide assistance to PWS. The State of New Mexico adopted the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Act to support these efforts and implement the State's program. DWSRF funds are used to support compliance with drinking water standards, operating requirements, and to provide technical, managerial, financial, planning, and funding assistance to systems statewide.

The State, through the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) and the New Mexico Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau (DWB), utilizes the resources of DWSRF to cooperatively administer the New Mexico's DWSRLF program. Pursuant to state statute NMSA 1978 6-21A-4, the NMFA administers the loan funds of the program and the Administration Set-Aside and the DWB administers the technical set-aside funds. Technical set-aside funds are used for providing technical assistance directed toward small PWS, state program management support for the bureau, and local assistance such as capacity development to work with drinking water systems to improve technical, managerial and financial (TMF) capacity. As the State primacy agency, the DWB is required by the SDWA to carry out regulatory supervision of PWS, enforce SDWA violations and develop strategies to ensure that all public water systems (PWS) have the TMF capacity to provide safe drinking water.

The Sustainable Water Infrastructure Group (SWIG) is responsible in DWB to provide training and assistance to public water systems by implementing the EPA DWSRF set aside programs, as well as community planning and infrastructure development assistance as needed from other funding sources. This document serves as New Mexico's *Capacity Development Annual Report* for the state fiscal year 2017 (SFY17) covering the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

New Systems Strategy

The DWB submitted a revised Capacity Development Strategy to the EPA in September 2014. The revisions to the strategy will be complete upon the New Systems Program procedural changes being finalized in the revised Capacity Development Strategy. SWIG continues working with the compliance teams developing, practicing and refining new system procedures that include a full capacity assessment, sanitary survey and engineering review; work will continue to finalize procedures and complete the strategy description. Other revisions for the update of the new system capacity assessments include applying the investigation of initial capacity to the revised,

comprehensive capacity assessments that are used in the revised existing system strategy and developing separate minimum capacity criteria for new non-community water systems.

Strategy updates include work with the Public Water System Supervision Group (PWSS) to identify appropriate processes in regulating systems that have historically been too small to regulate based on the number of connections or the way population was calculated in the past. Although not yet regulated under SDWA, these very small local governments in New Mexico called Mutual Domestic Water Consumer Associations are created under the Sanitary Projects Act. These very small communities are now facing aging and failing water infrastructure that was historically constructed with public funding, where they now may meet population requirements to be regulated, but do not meet SDWA requirements or have any revenue to maintain or replace infrastructure.

From the compliance perspective, DWB has recently been receiving information on these small communities looking for assistance, who have historically received State grant money for water infrastructure but did not meet the definition of a public water system when it was awarded or construction was complete. Now with a more accurate, census based calculation for PWS population and the need for very small systems to regionalize with others to become cost effective, systems can be large enough to be regulated community systems under the SDWA. Unfortunately, these small communities have been operating sometimes for decades without oversight, including no infrastructure design documents to ensure that facilities meet regulatory requirements, no water operator, and no billing or revenues. These systems that are already serving water and their customers do not benefit from an unapproved application to become a public water system, but should be regulated with a sense of urgency to better protect public health and identify ways to be able to continue to serve cost effective, clean drinking water to these rural communities.

The revised new system procedures now include steps for a new PWS that has already been serving water, which similarly include the initial evaluation for compliance with a sanitary survey, a complete capacity assessment and the submission of engineering documents on the facilities for review if it is available, but also identify areas of necessary assistance and how to proceed with enforcement. In fiscal year 2017, SWIG worked with PWSS on practicing these procedural changes with current cases and revising the bureau's enforcement policy to support these changes. Over the fiscal year there have been some changes in how and when these systems would be put into the database and enforced upon, but as specific cases are worked on, the Bureau has been learning and adjusting based on lessons learned and updating procedures to build a revised enforcement policy that will be successful in its implementation.

This fiscal year SWIG also worked in preparation of the New Mexico legislative session to recommend changes to the Sanitary Projects Act language, which defines the creation of Mutual Domestic Water Consumer Associations (MDWCA). The proposed language would no longer

allow local governments to be formed if the member population did not meet the size requirements of a public water system under the SDWA. The bill passed and the changes to the Act were put into effect in 2017. This change should help resolve this problem in that no new local governments can be created under the Act that would qualify to receive State grant funds for water infrastructure and not be regulated by SDWA.

Another change in addressing new systems was developing a method to work with regional managerial entities such as Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority (ENMWUA), where the system needs to have planning and facility design documents approved, but does not plan to serve water for an unknown number of years. In Table 1 below you will see ENMWUA listed as NP for nonpublic in the database. Although these types of regional entities take multiple years of planning to prepare to manage multiple water systems, the examples that we have in New Mexico have been successful in maintaining and operating more sustainable, cost effective and compliant water systems in rural regions. For this reason, it is a priority to make compliance recommendations to the system as soon as planning documents are completed, even if water will not be served for a significant amount of time.

State's Legal Authority to approve a New System

New Mexico's legal authority to implement the New Systems Program has not changed over the previous 3-year period nor has there been change to the State's control points. A control point is a point in time when the primacy agency can exert control to review and influence the system's capacity.

New System Control Point

The Capacity Development Strategy for New Systems, dated September 1999, indicates one control point: new system application review. New Mexico Drinking Water Regulation 20.7.10.201.F NMAC requires new public water systems to demonstrate such capacity prior to receiving approval from the DWB for construction and operation. New systems in New Mexico must submit an "Application for Construction or Modification of Public Water System." This application must include plans and specifications, an engineering design summary, disinfection and sampling plan, an inventory of contamination sources and a set of documents from which it can be determined whether the public water system has sufficient technical, managerial and financial capacity.

This control point will be maintained through the revisions of the new system strategy. Specific minimum capacity criteria have also been defined to increase the transparency of capacity expectations. With the implementation of the new procedures to include "new systems already serving water" this control point is still maintained because the system will be under enforcement immediately however, assistance will also be provided wherever possible to expedite the return to compliance timeframe.

Approved New Systems

In the period from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 there were no new community systems activated in that timeframe, but there was one community system, Chapelle MDWCA that DWB has been working with in recent months that is not yet entered into the database because of procedure shifts, but the database entry is being addressed and will be entered this fiscal year. The new systems that were activated since July 1, 2013 and the EPA Enforcement Targeting Tool (ETT) scores over ten or administrative orders (AO) are listed in Table 1. Although the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority is new, it is a combination of systems that have been existing already and working to address contamination exceedance issues together. Cassandra is a new system that has existed and been serving water for a long time without being regulated. None of the new non-community systems activated in SFY17 have an ETT score or administrative order. Typical new systems are non-community establishments that move in and out of activity with business ownership changes such as restaurants or hotel that serve water.

Table 1: New Water Systems and their ETT Scores over 10 in July 2017

PWS CODE	PWS NAME	ACTIVITY DATE	PWS TYPE	ETT >10 SCORE or AO
NM3502507	CAMINO REAL REGIONAL UTILITY AUTHORITY	1/1/2013	C	4 Aos arsenic + 83 ETT
NM3583701	CEDAR CREST CHEVRON	1/10/2013	NC	
NM3586801	SANDIA PARK CENTER	1/18/2013	NC	
NM3590317	MANUELITO REST AREA	2/1/2013	NC	
NM3590504	CEDAR RAIL CAMPGROUND	4/19/2013	NC	
NM3598514	BONITO HOLLOW RV PARK AND CAMPGROUND	5/1/2013	NC	
NM3582829	TRES RITOS BOY SCOUT CAMP	5/9/2013	NC	
NM3501304	PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH - RAYADO RIDGE OC	6/6/2013	NC	
NM3558814	LINCOLN PINES YOUTH FACILITY	7/3/2013	C	
NM3592319	BARNDOOR WATER SYSTEM AND RESTAURANT	7/29/2013	NC	
NM3580907	DRIPPING SPRINGS	8/7/2013	NC	
NM3592204	CAMP ELLIOT BARKER	8/8/2013	NC	
NM3590018	FORT UNION REST AREA NORTH BOUND	1/1/2014	NC	
NM3580019	TAJERIA Y SALON MEXICO BAR	1/31/2014	NC	
NM3590330	MANZANO STATE PARK	3/31/2014	NC	
NM3592530	JELLY BEAN JUNCTION	11/18/2014	NTNC	
NM3501309	HACHITA MDWCA	12/3/2014	C	
NM3593829	MEDLEY	4/30/2015	NC	

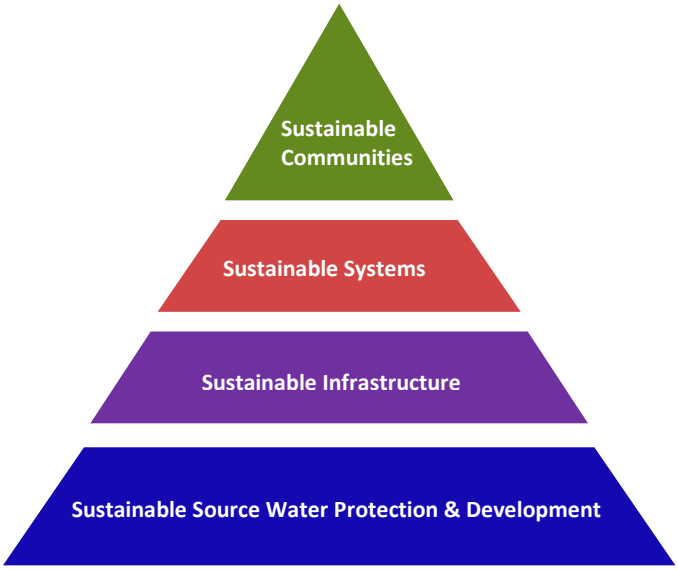
NM3501725	EL CRESTON MDWCA	6/12/2015	C	
NM3504121	ANCONES MDWWCA	6/24/2015	C	
NM3581104	PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH - BENT OUTCAMP	7/20/2015	NC	
NM3503801	U-PULL AND PAY	7/20/2015	NTNC	
NM3501127	DAM SITE HISTORIC DISTRICT	7/22/2015	NC	
NM3501425	PENDARIES RV RESORT	7/23/2015	NTNC	
NM3503901	LOVES TRAVEL STOP	11/18/2015	NTNC	
NM3500330	CASSANDRA WATER SYSTEM	12/11/2015	C	AO Radium MCL +88 ETT
NM3590010	PAJARITO REST AREA - WEST BOUND	12/31/2015	NC	
NM3500405	GALLERY FIFTEEN WATER SYSTEM	1/21/2016	NC	
NM3598526	SUNRISE SPRINGS INTEGRATIVE WELLNESS RES	3/1/2016	NTNC	
NM3583329	AGUA PIEDRA CAMP GROUND USFS CARSON	6/29/2016	NC	
NM3502729	PIZANOS RESTAURANT	2/14/2017	NC	
NM3502629	TAOS MESA BREWING	2/15/2017	NC	
NM3502829	MARTINEZ PLAZA	3/21/2017	NC	
NM3502929	SUN GOD LODGE	3/21/2017	NC	
NM3503029	RIO GRANDE ACE HARDWARE	3/28/2017	NC	
NM3500505	EASTERN NEW MEXICO WUA	3/20/2017	NP	
NM3502607	BIAD CHILI LTD CO	3/20/2017	NTNC	
NM3502707	I10 BORDER CHECK	3/20/2017	NC	
NM3501404	PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH - METCALF	6/23/2017	NC	

Existing Systems Strategy

A revised approach to capacity development was approved by the EPA in 2014, which addressed an updated capacity assessment, developing a more comprehensive approach to training and assistance in planning, as well as new methods to track program performance in the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS). Throughout SFY17, the new strategy was implemented as it was developed and refined with standard procedure development and implementation. Implementing the strategy has been filled with lessons learned and the refinement of procedures to accomplish program goals.

Capacity Development Strategy Revisions & Modifications

Communities in New Mexico are facing more water outages, water production and quality impacts from seasonal drought conditions, the ongoing depletion of aquifers that are increasingly being harvested and decreasingly recharged, as well as aging and failing infrastructure. A sustainable approach to these drinking water issues requires communities to think more holistically about their water infrastructure and supply over the long term. The limited water resource supply in New Mexico is driving communities to this approach often incorporating emergency response planning, source water protection and development planning, regionalization options, water conservation programs, energy use planning, and wastewater reuse into the discussion of how best to ensure high quality water production can meet demand for the decades ahead.



Water system capacity refers to a water system's ability to consistently provide safe drinking water for its customers. To do that, a system must have the technical abilities, managerial skills, and financial resources to meet state and federal drinking water regulations. Technical, managerial, and financial capacity are individual yet highly interrelated dimensions of capacity. SWIG continues to provide technical, managerial, and financial assistance to systems for capacity development, but has expanded training and assistance topics to become more inclusive of the planning that communities struggle to accomplish. It also expands the goals of SWIG programs beyond meeting Safe Drinking Water Act compliance requirements, to optimizing efficiency of drinking water treatment, operations and system management in order to better plan for the future through the Area Wide Optimization Program.

The inclusion of community planning in the capacity development strategy through the Source Water and Wellhead Protection Program is intended to build upon the EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure Sustainability Policy (http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/sustain/upload/Sustainability-Policy.pdf).

The limited water resources and competing interests in the state of New Mexico is such that an additional level of sustainable planning is incorporated in to the EPA's sustainability policy model to represent a New Mexico sustainable community model that builds capacity towards sustainability, including the development, preservation, and protection of high quality source water for drinking.

Key aspects of the strategy revisions include:

- program development for the new organizational structure;
- a community planning focus through the inclusion and development of the Source Water and Wellhead Protection Program to include other planning objectives best addressed in a community setting that incorporates public feedback such as emergency response, water conservation, drought contingency planning, and regionalization opportunities;
- an increase in collaborative outreach with regional board training, outreach presentation events and the development of the Area Wide Optimization Program in NM;
- an increase in coordination and collaboration with funding providers in NM to encourage and promote more sustainable water infrastructure projects and development;
- promotion of an expansion of the term "regionalization" to include any collaboration of operations, management, or infrastructure between neighboring systems and increasing outreach on the potential for PWS to collaborate in all capacity development topics;
- the development of tracking procedures for capacity assessments and assistance, as well as a method to capture capacity milestones accomplished by the PWS with set-aside funded assistance.

SFY17 New Program Revisions to be included in the next strategy revisions

In SFY17 the Engineering Program and the Utility Operator Certification Program (UOCP) were successfully incorporated into SWIG and will have both programs established objectives and strategies in the next revision of the capacity development strategy. The focus this fiscal year for both programs has been to fill vacant positions, establish contract work to support the program where necessary, and developing roles responsibilities and procedures to meet program objectives. The Engineering Program has been extremely successful this fiscal year in addressing a three-year backlog of engineering reviews through the use of contract services. The backlog of application was completely reviewed by the end of the fiscal year. The UOCP has been successful in beginning to update technical content that has fallen out of date starting with collaborative revisions to the need to know criteria for water operators.

Identifying the Need for Capacity Development Assistance

A capacity assessment is a method for gathering financial, managerial and technical information about a water system and then developing a picture of the how well the system is administered and operated. The current approach is to ask water systems to submit for review a collection of documents that are essential for a well-run water system and, thus, provide a gauge of system capacity. The same set of documents is requested regardless of what circumstance triggers the assessment, though the specific documents requested will vary depending on the type of water system. Not only will existence of these documents be noted in the assessment, they will be reviewed for quality against a checklist of items that are desirable or required for each document. All SWIG teams have the same triggers for completing assessments and the resulting PWS work

plan should be coordinated between the teams.

Capacity development priority triggers identify the public water systems with capacity deficiencies that require attention with a ranking of importance. Some of these triggers can be scaled up or down to provide more or less work activities depending on current program objectives and capabilities. SWIG outreach activities can also have an impact that will increase triggers and SWIG work activities should be managed so that assistance can be provided as it is requested.

1. Request from the NMED Secretary's Office: The Secretary/Governor/ regional representative often has questions, concerns or would like to understand the status of a particular water system. These assessments along with compliance determinations allow SWIG to express more information on the needs of a PWS to decision makers and should be addressed immediately.

2. **Direct requests from the water system**: SWIG can provide assessments and assistance by request especially in identifying the best path to resolving an issue at hand, such as a water shortage, compliance problems, water loss, low production, capacity deficiencies previously identified, etc. SWIG should respond to public water systems reaching out for assistance as soon as possible. If a system has a specific request for assistance a full assessment may not be necessary.

3. **Direct requests from outside agencies**: Sometimes SWIG are referred a system by an outside assistance agency or any agency working with water systems. After initiating the conversation with the water system, an assessment and assistance work plan could follow if the system is interested. SWIG should respond to both the outside agency and public water system as soon as possible. If an agency has a specific assistance request for a water system, a full assessment may not be necessary.

4. **EPA /DWB Enforcement:** EPA and DWB would like to understand the status of long time non-compliers and the root causes of the water system's problems. The Enforcement Targeting Tool (ETT) report, list of current administrative orders (AO) and ETT tracker tools will help SWIG determine who should be assessed and provided assistance in order to return to compliance. The ETT list should be reviewed on a quarterly basis to identify new water systems out of compliance that need to be offered capacity development assistance.

5. Project Interest Form (PIF) Submittal: Water systems that are interested in a loan will need to have a full capacity assessment complete and an assistance work plan to address any capacity deficiencies. PIFs are submitted to the SWIM portal on a quarterly basis. DWB funding partners may request assistance for a system to submit a PIF and the Community Services Team will work with the system to meet funding application requirements. These capacity assessments should be completed within 2 weeks of the PIF's supplemental documents submittal for both teams.

6. PWSS Compliance Program request: These should be completed within 2 weeks of the request and primarily are the result of supplemental documents collected at a sanitary survey, but may include any recommendation of an issue. Capacity assessments as a result of sanitary surveys are intended to broaden the baseline of capacity data beyond systems that may typically triggered.

Capacity Control Point for Existing Systems

The existing system strategy also coordinates with PWSS programs and has added capacity minimum criteria as significant deficiencies in a sanitary survey. Without this addition, the request for water system documentation to complete a capacity assessment is voluntary for an existing water system. This additional control point was set by adding minimum capacity items as significant deficiencies and allows the minimum required capacity criteria to be part of a required corrective action plan under the Enforcement Program, as well as allowing the SWIG staff to complete a comprehensive assessment of what the system needs to accomplish in order return to meeting compliance standards for the long term.

Capacity Assistance Methods

The main assistance methods that SWIG performs, which are also included as the third party capacity development scope of work, are the following:

Trainings: Each team offers trainings in their specific topic areas; SWIG offered over 70 free classroom trainings and presentations to mangers and operators in SFY17. It is one of the Community Services Team's program goals to provide frequent high quality managerial and financial training across New Mexico that covers the required twelve hours and ten board training topics. The required topics covered are relevant to water systems that are local governments which, in addition to MDWCAs, include Water and Sanitation Districts and municipalities. Because many of the topics are also relevant to private systems (cooperatives, home owners' associations, non-profit corporations, etc.), the training is marketed and offered to all types of community water systems. The Source Water and Wellhead Protection Team offers trainings on community planning opportunities. The Technical Services Program this past year has expanded the trainings that it offers and has taken a lead role in developing standard technical presentations on various topics to represent the information and content that should be included when operator trainings by contractors. SWIG had contractors in place for advancing the operator trainings that we offer and contract services are relied upon to keep a significant amount of free classes offered without being limited by available staff time. The current process of having internal staff develop minimum content presentations for each topic and having the contractors implementing those trainings frequently for free, has been successful and will be continued throughout the next fiscal year.

Direct assistance: Direct assistance is provided to water systems to accomplish capacity assistance work plan objectives and when returning systems to compliance on individual problems. These objectives are those that are defined as a result of the capacity assessment, which the PWS

agrees to work on as a priority. Examples of direct assistance items are governing documents, operating budget, Source Water Protection Plan, Emergency Response Plan, or developing an operations and maintenance manual. In SFY17 SWIG implemented contracts with a number of assistance contractors. Since this significantly increased SWIG's ability to provide assistance to systems, it was prioritized that any system requesting return to compliance assistance will receive assistance as soon as possible. Systems that request assistance that is not considered for compliance such as rate studies or asset management plan development, will be requested to submit the documents to complete a capacity assessment prior to receiving assistance. This is important because often systems will ask for help to meet a specific objective, such as a rate study for an infrastructure project, and may not have addressed identified compliance problems first. The completion of the capacity assessment allows SWIG to ensure compliance items are prioritized over noncompliance assistance issues.

Outreach events: SWIG's objective with regional outreach events is to provide a more comprehensive picture of water system sustainability in regional outreach settings that allow for community member and stakeholder participation in the planning process. Typically, these outreach events are at the county or Regional Council of Government level, originate from the Source Water and Wellhead Protection Program with local technical information on local water quality or quantity issues, but can also include presentations from the other teams on sustainable development, regionalization, and capacity building to become a fundable water system. SWIG also participates in all operator schools and conferences hosted by NM Rural Water Association and the NM Water and Wastewater Association by teaching trainings as well. The Community Services Program within SWIG participates in the planning and trainings for the Infrastructure Finance Conference and completes and annual outreach by survey on community water systems' current rates for 6000 gallons of water, their production amounts and information on their AWWA water loss audit results when completed.

Complaint Resolution: For the local government type, Mutual Domestic Water Consumer Association (MDWCA), NM Environment Department has been empowered to investigate the board's activities for compliance with the Sanitary Projects Act (SPA) requirements, more specifically that boards follow their rules, bylaws, and state law in their decision-making process. Current standard processes are in place for complaint resolution and if no resolution is made a legal request is made to the Department to make a determination on a violation of the SPA. SWIG has developed this further in the past few years, so that all water system and water customer complaints are funneled through this process and managed by the SWIG Community Services Team.

SFY17 Capacity Development Activities, Target Audiences and Performance

Capacity assessment triggers are defined to address priority problems with water systems, specifically those that may impact public health and SDWA compliance. The capacity

assessments are designed to be thorough but not overwhelmingly cumbersome for the water system, and address specific compliance requirements as well as raising the bar to drive systems beyond meeting requirements into developing long term goals and actionable plans to being sustainable water systems.

In SFY17, SWIG had a slight increase in completed capacity assessments, but they continue to primarily be for systems that are looking for funding, not from the existing system control point strategy that utilizes capacity assessments during sanitary surveys. SWIG will continue to work with PWSS compliance priorities to return systems to compliance and will continue to try to fit the capacity assessment process in conjunction with the surveys with more practical procedures. This fiscal year staff turn-over within the bureau has been significant, which limits the PWSS priority objectives to completing sanitary surveys as they are established currently rather than expanding them to include assessments for capacity. Once the bureau vacancy rate is addressed, then SWIG and PWSS collaborative objectives can become a priority.

Capacity assistance provided throughout SFY17 by SWIG staff was primarily directed towards requests for assistance from water systems, systems looking to build capacity to become fundable for DWSRF, and assistance to those with violations or under formal enforcement. Capacity development contract work began in early 2016, which significantly increased SWIG's capacity to provide assistance. For the initial phase of contract implementation, the priority and focus was to establish standard free classroom trainings for both board members and operators. This objective has successfully continued in SFY17. SWIG teams worked to develop training curriculum and standard presentations that were implemented by contractors on a frequent basis so that consistency was maintained. This was very successful and about 72 classroom trainings were held statewide teaching technical, managerial and financial capacity development courses. Class topics in SFY17 included Revised Total Coliform Rule, Consumer Confidence Reports, distribution system management, distribution sample plan development, AWWA water loss audits and program development, asset management, asset inventory mapping, basic board member managerial and financial training, SDWA for water system managers, completing rate studies, and sessions on water system regionalization.

The Technical Services Team this year focused on developing the Engineering Program to be successfully implemented by utilizing contract services. This involved the development of standard procedures for all review processes so that staff and out of state contractors would be consistent in how facility plans and specifications are reviewed and approved by the Bureau. This development project was successful as well as the expedited review of 3 years of backlogged engineering applications by identifying manageable roles and responsibilities for each team member. This shift in approach produced an increase in the amount of high quality completed application reviews that were over three times a previous year's amount of reviews. The backlog of applications was successfully address by June 30, 2017. A second primary objective of this

team during this period was to increase the technical capacity of DWB staff through training topics organized by the Area Wide Optimization Program (AWOP). AWOP utilizes technical and operational expertise and training events to optimize water system performance beyond meeting compliance standards. The trainings offered this year increased staff knowledge and understanding of the issues New Mexico water systems are having specifically with treating surface water using conventional treatment methods.

The Community Services Team continues to support the regionalization of small water systems through assistance to systems in collaboration and sharing of resources with their neighbors, as well as actual interconnections of water systems to be able to more cost effectively maintain the infrastructure and protect the sources of water. This team also encourages the sharing of system information through and annual statewide rate survey for community water systems. This year the team has seen an increase in PWS interested in completing a rate study to identify what type of rate increase is needed to meet infrastructure objectives. This is a positive change that shows systems may be becoming less reliant on only using state grant programs for infrastructure improvements. This is an important, positive step toward community and water system sustainability.

SWIG teams this year also worked to initiate an assistance project for communities with concerns on lead contamination. Primary objectives of this study are to educate the public on the problems and to offer free monitoring for lead to be able to identify any contamination that communities may not know exists. In September and August of 2016, the project started with the development of a guidance document targeted towards schools and day care facilities explaining how lead monitoring should be completed and the recommended actions to correct the problem. In August and September of 2016 SWIG offered 20 free lead and copper analyses to about 35 public water systems that have exceeded the action levels for these contaminants to test their schools and day care centers that may not have been sampled. Less than two dozen samples were collected and analyzed during this free monitoring event. In order to increase the free lead monitoring in 2017, SWIG worked to coordinate with the Public Schools Facilities Authority to reach out to public schools directly to offer the free monitoring. Although the coordination was not executed early enough in the year to collect from public schools in the target months of August and September 2017, it was successful and agencies will be collaborating on both free monitoring and training classes for school maintenance staff in SFY18.

Overall DWB is taking important steps in prioritizing and further implementing capacity development strategies and improvements in direct assistance provided for public water systems in New Mexico. The actions taken in recent years to revise and further develop the bureaus' capacity development programs has significantly improved the ability of the Drinking Water Bureau to be able to offer and target priority assistance effectively, to track assistance actions and report on the programs' performance.