



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

## **Governor Richardson Expands “Invest New Mexico” Advisory Group**

**Executive Order establishes Water Infrastructure Investment Team (WIIT) to streamline New Mexico Water Projects**

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Contact: Pahl Shipley  
(505) 476-2202

(Santa Fe) - Governor Bill Richardson today signed an Executive Order affecting three critical areas of State infrastructure, addressing the mission of the Governor’s Finance Council to include protecting the State’s environment and water, improving infrastructure on tribal lands, and implementing high technology across New Mexico.

“Through the hard work and planning during the past two years, the Governor’s Finance Council has helped the State make great strides in building and improving New Mexico’s infrastructure,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “From creating high-wage jobs, to building roads, to providing affordable homes, ‘Invest New Mexico’ initiatives have succeeded, and must now move forward in new areas as well.”

Governor Bill Richardson created the Governor’s Finance Council in May 2003, to target the State’s most pressing infrastructure priorities: transportation, jobs, schools, affordable housing, higher education, water, energy & healthcare. Today’s Executive Order adds three new ex-officio members to the council: Environment Secretary Ron Curry, Indian Affairs Department Secretary Dr. Benny Shendo, Jr., and the State’s Chief Information Officer, Roy Soto.

Governor Richardson's Finance Council now numbers 19 members with a wide breadth of experience and abilities to make recommendations in building and growing New Mexico infrastructure.

"The work of the Finance Council not only addresses basic and immediate needs in New Mexico, but is also an investment in ourselves and our future," said Governor's Finance Council Co-Chair & Chief of Staff Dave Contarino. "By planning wisely, identifying statewide priorities, and working together in partnership with the private sector, we can make a difference both today and tomorrow."

### **Governor Richardson creates Water Infrastructure Technical Team**

In a separate but related Executive Order, Governor Richardson established a Water Infrastructure Investment Team (WIIT), to develop a long-range plan for secure and sustainable water and wastewater infrastructure for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

WIIT will have many tasks in streamlining New Mexico's water infrastructure, including the development of a uniform application process for all water and wastewater projects requesting State funding. The group will review every application, set conditions and make funding recommendations based on equal criteria. WIIT will also bring additional accountability, technical support and oversight into New Mexico's efforts to modernize its water systems.