



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

News Release

Governor Richardson Seeks New Solutions to Battle the Drought

Governor's Water Innovation Fund II calls for \$5 Million in
cutting-edge projects with transferable water technology

June 10, 2005
For Immediate Release

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(Santa Fe) – Governor Bill Richardson today called on top innovators around the state, country and world to bring their best ideas and inventions to New Mexico to help battle the drought.

“As a growing state, we have a challenge before us to provide enough clean, useable water for drinking, agriculture and development,” said Governor Richardson. “I want New Mexico to be on the forefront of producing that water, recycling it extensively and wisely conserving what we already have. One way to ensure all this is by finding the best water technology around and working hard to make it available to New Mexicans both now and in the future.”

Governor Richardson worked with the 2005 Legislature to secure \$5 million in funding to continue the Governor's Water Innovation Fund. In 2004, the Innovation Fund capitalized two dozen pilot projects that could save New Mexico an estimated 30 billion gallons of water a year. Those projects are currently in production and deployment phases around the state.

“By being proactive and looking for answers to our water problems today, we are also building a path to a better future for all of New Mexico,” said Department of Finance and Administration Secretary James Jimenez. “Last year we had many quality projects that just missed the cut. We hope to see their improved efforts, as well as many other new, realistic solutions to help fight the drought.”

The projects being sought must demonstrate highly innovative technologies that produce, conserve, recycle, deliver or reuse water efficiently in New Mexico. The proposed projects must be beyond the research stage, based on good science and economics, and able to produce tangible results in six to 18 months, with transferable applications statewide.

General project types include:

- Creating innovative water conservation techniques
- Integrating small-scale appropriate technology
- Importing successful innovations from other states
- Developing more water resources
- Finding solutions for communities in crisis

Governor Richardson’s Water Innovation Fund is under the Governor’s “Invest New Mexico” initiative to grow and improve the state’s infrastructure. The projects will be overseen by the Department of Finance and Administration’s Capital Projects Unit, directed by Robert Apodaca. The Innovation Fund will also draw technical expertise from several State agencies, including the New Mexico Environment Department and the Office of the State Engineer.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) can be found at the following link:

<http://www.state.nm.us/clients/dfa/IndexCap.htm>

In 2004, the Governor’s Water Innovation Fund received more than 111 formal proposals, requesting \$86 million in funding. Contracts were awarded to both public and private entities, as well as non-profit agencies.