



# State of New Mexico

2025 MAR 09 PM 03:57  
FBI - SANTA FE  
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Michelle Lujan Grisham  
*Governor*

March 9, 2026

## SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 85

The Honorable Mimi Stewart, President Pro Tempore  
and Members of the New Mexico State Senate  
State Capitol Building  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

President Pro Tempore Stewart and Members of the Senate:

Pursuant to my authority under Article IV, Section 22 of the New Mexico Constitution, I have signed SENATE BILL 193 ("SB 193"), enacted by the Fifty-Seventh Legislature, Second Session, 2026.

Investing in our acequia communities is essential for water security, cultural preservation, and community resilience. For these reasons, I have signed SB 193, which doubles the annual distribution from the Irrigation Works Construction Fund ("IWCF") to the Acequia and Community Ditch Infrastructure Fund from \$2.5 million to \$5 million. However, SB 193 also highlights the instability of the IWCF, which is already experiencing expenditures that exceed revenues.

Although the IWCF was not established to support the agency operating expenses of the Office of the State Engineer ("OSE") and Interstate Stream Commission ("ISC"), the Legislature has drawn on the fund for these agency operations for nearly two decades, thereby reducing the amount of money from the general fund for the agency budgets. In House Bill 2 this year, the OSE and ISC recurring budgets relies on over \$9 million from ICWF for program operations. The increased annual transfer to the Acequia and Community Ditch Fund established through enactment of SB 193 will accelerate ICWF solvency concerns unless and until the Legislature transitions the OSE and ISC to greater general fund appropriations for agency operations.

I ask our appropriators to work with my Administration this year to build a fiscal year 2028 budget for OSE and ISC that remedies the longstanding operating budget dependency issues with the ICWF and ensures ample future fund balance to support the full \$5 million allocation for acequia infrastructure projects for years to come.

Respectfully yours,

*Michelle Lujan Grisham*

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: 5:37 a.m. p.m.  
Date: 3/9 2026

By   
Secretary of State

Time: 8:00 a.m. p.m.  
Date: 3-10 2026

By *Lucille V. Martinez*  
Chief Clerk of the Senate