



Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority

Albuquerque/Bernalillo
County
Government Center
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Legislation Text

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2018 Update to the WQPPAP - the Rivers and Aquifers Protection Plan

Since its formation in 2003, the Water Authority has taken a proactive approach to preventing the pollution of the community's drinking water sources, first by adopting the 1994 Groundwater Protection Policy and Action Plan (GPPAP) and then later with a 2009 update to the Water Quality Protection Policy and Action Plan (WQPPAP). The 2009 WQPPAP update included the addition of surface water to the source water protection plan, reflecting the Water Authority's addition of San Juan-Chama water to the drinking water supply.

The Rivers and Aquifers Protection Plan (RAPP) is the 2018 update to the WQPPAP and serves as the source water protection plan for the Water Authority. The RAPP includes comprehensive source water assessments for both groundwater and surface water, along with updated inventories of known and potential sources of contamination of drinking water supply sources. The 2018 update to the WQPPAP, the RAPP, includes protection measures and activities for the protection of source waters and aligns the implementation of the RAPP with *Water 2120* Policy H. The protection measures and activities address watershed-scale protection measures, ordinance and policy actions, agency coordination, and public education and outreach opportunities. These activities center on the themes of continuing and building partnerships with community members, businesses, and local agencies to raise awareness of the value of protection source waters.

The RAPP reflects the Water Authority's recognition that protection of Albuquerque's water resources is best achieved by working with its customers, interagency partners, and stakeholders in the development and implementation of a source water protection program. The plan was developed through extensive discussions between Water Authority and New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) staff, along with multiple meetings with the Policy Implementation Committee (PIC) and presentations to the Water Protection Advisory Board (WPAB). In addition, public input was gathered for the RAPP through a series of Customer Conversation meetings where Water Authority staff engaged the community in dialogue on their roles in source water protection, as well as a discussion of watershed protection and groundwater contamination. Stakeholder engagement and reviews are captured in the final RAPP.

FISCAL IMPACT: None