



Energy and Water Development Bill Highlights

The fiscal year 2024 appropriations bill for Energy and Water Development (EWD) totals \$58.2 billion in funding. Heinrich successfully secured language in the bill to make federal watershed conservation programs more accessible to New Mexico communities, to improve coordinated water management in the Rio Grande Basin, to increase funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Tribal Partnership Program, to make it easier for Tribes to receive federal grants from the U.S. Department of Energy, to support innovative research and development at our national labs, and to foster economic development in southern border communities.

Locally Led Watershed Conservation: Senator Heinrich successfully included increased funding for Cooperative Watershed Management through the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) WaterSMART Programs, as well as language directing BOR to take additional steps to make the program more accessible to rural, historically underserved, and Tribal communities. This program has supported New Mexican led watershed conservation efforts, including work by the Santa Fe Watershed Association, the Hatch and Mesilla Valley Cooperative Watershed Management Program, the Animas Watershed Partnership, the Rio Fernando de Taos Revitalization Collaborative, and the Isleta Reach Stewardship Association.

Coordinated Rio Grande Basin Management: Senator Heinrich successfully included language that emphasizes the need for coordinated water management between the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Upper Rio Grande Basin and directs the Corps to identify future work that can be done to improve coordinated operations.

Tribal Partnership: Senator Heinrich successfully included increased funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Tribal Partnership Program. This program is the only Corps authority that specifically works with Tribes as partners, assisting Tribes with water resources projects that address economic, environmental, and cultural resource needs. The program has supported numerous critically important flood control projects on Tribal lands in New Mexico.

Waiver of Cost Share for Energy Grants to Tribes: Senator Heinrich successfully advocated to make it easier for Tribal communities to receive energy grants from the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs. In the bill, the Department of Energy

(DOE) is encouraged to waive its requirement that award recipients pay for up to half the costs of the awarded project from the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, which has a mission to maximize the development and deployment of energy solutions for the benefit of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Technology and National Labs: Senator Heinrich helped to secure over \$8 billion, \$140 million over FY23 funding, for the Office of Science that includes support for DOE National Laboratories and newly authorized programs under the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, which is intended to boost domestic research and manufacturing of semiconductors. Sandia National Laboratories and Los Alamos National Laboratory support nearly 30,000 employees in New Mexico.

Southwest Border Regional Commission: Senator Heinrich led efforts to secure \$7 million in funding (including \$2 million in the FY24 Agricultural Appropriations Bill) for the Southwest Border Regional Commission (SBRC), which will foster economic development in the southern border regions of New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Texas. The SBRC service area includes 93 counties on the Southwest border with an average Hispanic population of 48% and a total minority population of 66%. Of the approximately 35 million people the SBRC serves, nearly 5 million live in poverty. The SBRC will support the region's communities, farmers, and businesses to reduce disparities in energy reliability, income, infrastructure, education, and access to clean water and health care.

Heinrich fought to secure this funding, which will help construct acequia irrigation infrastructure, help develop workforce training programs at New Mexico universities, support clean energy projects, and more.

Heinrich successfully secured funding for the following 9 local projects in the bill:

- **\$6,750,000 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to design and construct irrigation infrastructure that is part of acequia systems in New Mexico. Acequias are vital to the agricultural heritage and economy of New Mexico and help keep critically valuable groundwater and surface water resources in balance.**
- **\$1,200,000 for New Mexico State University to develop a cybersecurity training and testing center to analyze the security of energy infrastructure and technologies.**
- **\$644,000 for the University of New Mexico to develop and demonstrate novel cybersecurity controls and a workforce training program for community microgrid applications.**
- **\$260,000 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to plan for the removal of jetty jacks in the Albuquerque area of the Rio Grande.**
- **\$200,000 for New Mexico State University to partner with Jemez Pueblo to study the processing of wood wastes from forest fire burn scar sites and lumber mills to produce biochar, which can be used as**

feedstock for district heating, soil additives for carbon sequestration, and adsorbents for water treatment.

- **\$128,000 for Mesalands Community College to develop and demonstrate a renewable heating technology to decarbonize high-temperature industrial foundry processes.**
- **\$80,000 for the Jicarilla Apache Nation to study opportunities to support the Tribe's economic development, energy transition, and decarbonization goals.**

Additionally, Heinrich and Luján secured:

- **\$1,720,000 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to carry out water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection projects in communities around New Mexico, which may include projects related to wastewater treatment, water supply, environmental restoration, and surface water resource protection and development.**
- **\$500,000 for the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative to transform the Chevron Mine Facility into a green hydrogen production site, providing reliable nighttime renewable energy for members and creating jobs for the Village of Questa.**