

Well Monitoring Program

Under the Sustainable Development Land Code (SLDC) §7.13.11.5, the County requires all developments to have a well meter installed and those utilizing a well to participate in the Domestic Well Use Metering Program.

The meter shall be read by the property owner annually and meter readings shall be provided to the Environmental Compliance Officer no later than April 30th of the same calendar year. If a property is required to submit meter readings to the OSE, these readings may be sent to the Environmental Compliance Officer in lieu of the requirements above.

Domestic Wells Metering Pilot Program:

Santa Fe County is working with community members in La Cienega and La Cieneguilla to develop a domestic well monitoring pilot program to ensure the sustainability of local water supplies. The project aims to better understand local groundwater levels and trends, identify requirements that apply to different wells, estimate current water demand, and project future water demand. Depending on the project's findings, water conservation goals, enforcement of existing requirements, new ordinances, and/or other programs may be recommended.

Additional information:

https://www.santafecountynm.gov/public-works/utilities/meter_reading

Water Reclamation

Reclaimed water is the treated effluent from a wastewater treatment plant or other source that can be used in a variety of ways. Agriculture and landscape irrigation (non-potable reuse), drinking water supplies (direct potable reuse), groundwater replenishment, industrial processes, environmental restoration, and return flow credits are some examples of reclaimed water use.

Santa Fe County uses reclaimed water for non-potable landscaping irrigation and is developing a grey water fill station for permitted users to be used primarily for construction and dust mitigation. The City of Santa Fe is also exploring the use of reclaimed water to augment its water supply, including the potential for a Return Flow Pipeline to return treated water to the Rio Grande. This will increase water availability and create return flow credits for the San Juan-Chama Project.

Resources:

Santa Fe County - Board of County Commissioners (BCC):

<https://www.santafecountynm.gov/committee/s/board-of-county-commissioners-bcc>

Santa Fe County Water | Wastewater:

<https://www.santafecountynm.gov/public-works/utilities>

For questions, comments and concerns, call the main line at (505) 992-9870 or email us at sfcutil@santafecountynm.gov.

For after-hours emergencies, please call (505) 629-4631

Santa Fe County County Water Summit

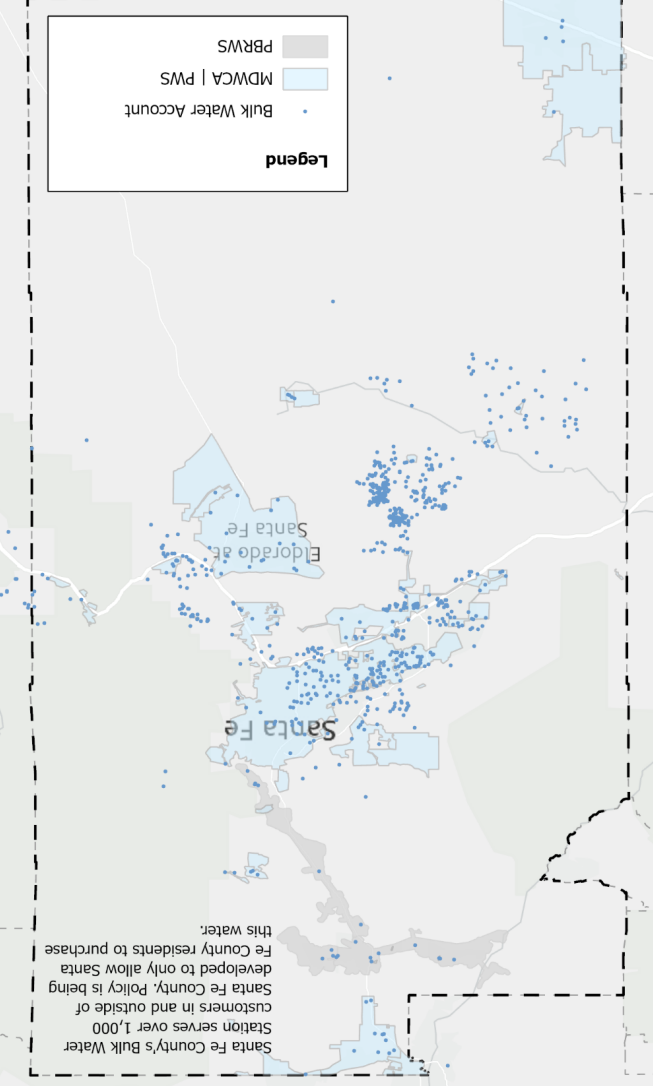


October 2025

Water User(s) Santa Fe County

The Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System (PBRWS) is a proposed regional water supply system located in northern New Mexico that will provide potable water to customers in the Pojoaque Basin. When complete, the system will be capable of treating and will acre-feet per year of river water and groundwater to drinking water standards and will provide clean drinking water to approximately 10,000 people living on tribal and non-tribal land.

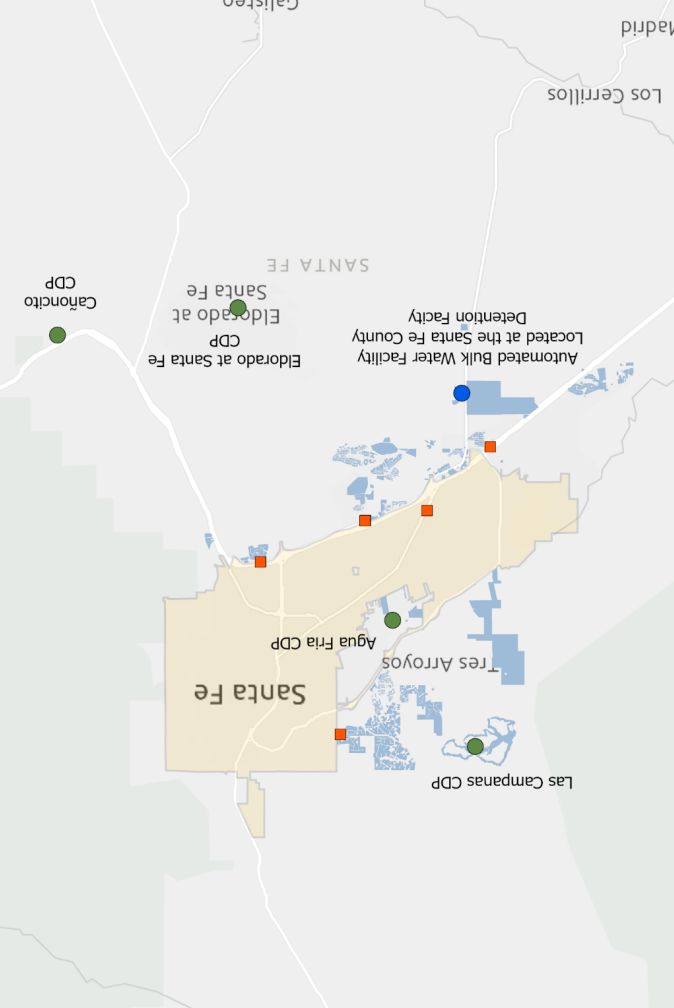
Santa Fe County's Bulk Water Station serves over 1,000 customers in and outside of Santa Fe County. Policy is being developed to only allow Santa Fe County residents to purchase this water.



MDWCAs are Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Associations in New Mexico, which are unique, non-profit organizations that provide safe public water to rural communities under the state's Sanitary Projects Act. There are just under 50 Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Associations (MDWCA) in Santa Fe County.

Water Allocation Santa Fe County

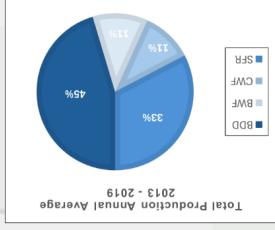
Santa Fe County provides potable water to over 4,000 residential users, 100 commercial users and the communities of Agua Fria, Canoncito, Eldorado and Las Campanas. The Santa Fe County Utilities Division also operates a 24-hour Automated Bulk Water Dispensing Facility "Ojo de Agua" Convenience Center located next to 13-B Camino Justica (SFC Public Safety Complex).



Master Meters convey and deliver County water through the City's water transmission and distribution system, also referred to as wheeling. They also connect the County water system to BDD transmission lines. The meters regulate and record flow rates for billing and reporting purposes.

Water Source(s) Santa Fe County

The San Juan-Chama (SJC) Project consists of a system of diversion structures and tunnels for transmountain movement of water from the San Juan River Basin to the Rio Grande Basin.



The Buckman Well Field (BWF) is comprised of 13 wells located near the Rio Grande at the historic Buckman townsite, pumping water from an aquifer approximately 15 miles northwest of Santa Fe.

The City of Santa Fe stores SJC water in the Heron, El Vado, and Abiquiu reservoirs for release as needed to flow downstream and into the Rio Grande, where it can be diverted at the Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD) and treated for use. The BDD came online in 2011 and provides nearly half of our water supply.

The Santa Fe City Well Field (CWF) is comprised of seven active wells that pump water from the aquifer beneath Santa Fe, located mostly along the Santa Fe River and within the City limits.

The Santa Fe River (SFR) is our original water supply, and for thousands of years, people have visited and lived along the river. It has long provided a valuable water source for wildlife habitat, drinking water, irrigation, and cultural needs. The SFR provides a reliable drinking water supply via the McClure and Nichols Reservoirs.

The purpose of this Agreement is to make more efficient use of the Parties' respective available resources by making currently excess County native water rights available to the City and by making additional City system capacity and water sources available to the County through creation of a BDD Shared Pool.