

THE GROUNDWATER GAZETTE



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Community Partner Spotlight: Alamo Navajo School Board

The New Mexico Water Solutions Collaborative is proud to partner with the Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc. (ANSBI) in support of sustainable water solutions for the Alamo Navajo community. Through Strategic Water Supply initiatives, this partnership helps advance efforts focused on improving water reliability, strengthening infrastructure, and supporting long-term community resilience through innovative brackish water research and treatment approaches.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Generation Water Summit 2026

June 11-12, 2026

Join leaders and innovators exploring the future of water sustainability and resilience across the Southwest.

NMWSC Monthly Partner Meeting

June 26, 2026

Connect with partners, share project updates, and collaborate on water initiatives across New Mexico.



NMWSC

NEW MEXICO WATER SOLUTIONS
COLLABORATIVE

The Collaborative: Supporting New Mexico's Water Future

The New Mexico Water Solutions Collaborative (NMWSC) at New Mexico State University is a multidisciplinary team of researchers, engineers, scientists, and community partners working to advance innovative water solutions for New Mexico. Our mission is to support sustainable water management through research, education, outreach, and collaboration with communities, government agencies, Tribal nations, industry, and other stakeholders.

As a partner supporting the New Mexico Environment Department's Strategic Water Supply (SWS) Program, the Collaborative contributes scientific expertise and technical leadership to efforts that explore, develop, and evaluate brackish water resources as part of New Mexico's long-term water future.

The Strategic Water Supply Program was established to help protect the state's freshwater resources

through the responsible development and management of treated brackish water resources.

The Collaborative's principal investigators and affiliated experts represent a wide range of disciplines, including hydrology, geology, engineering, water treatment, economics, policy, agriculture, and community engagement. Together, we work to develop practical, science-based solutions that strengthen water resilience, support economic development, and help communities adapt to growing water challenges.

Through The Groundwater Gazette, we will share project updates, research highlights, community partnerships, funding opportunities, and stories that showcase the people and innovations shaping New Mexico's water future.

Message from the AVPR



Strategic Water Supply: Investing in New Mexico's Water Future

Water has always been one of New Mexico's most valuable resources. As communities across the state face increasing pressures from drought, population growth, and changing climate conditions, finding sustainable water solutions has become more important than ever.

In 2025, New Mexico established the Strategic Water Supply (SWS) Program through the Strategic Water Supply Act. Administered by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the Office of the State Engineer (OSE), the program was created to help protect the state's freshwater resources by advancing the exploration, treatment, and use of brackish water resources. An initial \$40 million appropriation was provided to launch projects that support research, feasibility studies, pilot programs, and water treatment infrastructure throughout New Mexico. Brackish water, naturally occurring groundwater that contains higher levels of dissolved minerals than freshwater, represents a significant untapped resource across New Mexico. Through innovation, research, and treatment technologies, the Strategic Water Supply Program seeks to transform these water resources into new supplies that can support communities,

economic development, industry, and long-term water resilience while preserving limited freshwater reserves.

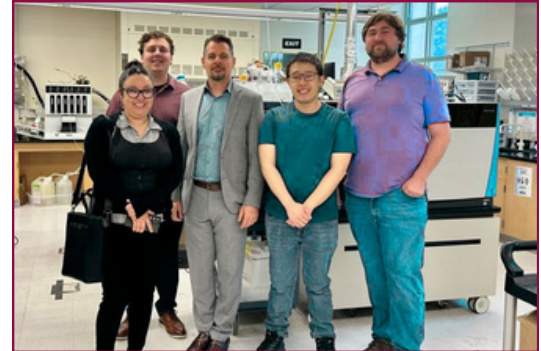
The Strategic Water Supply Program is also a key component of New Mexico's broader 50-Year Water Action Plan, which aims to strengthen water security through conservation, infrastructure improvements, groundwater monitoring, water reuse, and the development of new water supplies. Recent funding awards have supported projects across the state focused on brackish water exploration, treatment, and technology development.

The New Mexico Water Solutions Collaborative at New Mexico State University is proud to support these efforts by providing scientific expertise, research, outreach, and technical collaboration. Together with our partners, we are helping advance practical, science-based solutions that will contribute to a more resilient water future for New Mexico. To learn more about the Strategic Water Supply Program, visit the NMED Strategic Water Supply website at:

<https://www.env.nm.gov/strategic-water-supply/>



Building Partnerships for Environmental Health in New Mexico



The New Mexico Water Solutions Collaborative at New Mexico State University recently welcomed James Colton Cooper, Environmental Health Capacity Program Manager and Water Epidemiologist with the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH), for discussions focused on strengthening collaboration in environmental health research and community resilience.

Faculty, researchers, and research core teams from across NMSU met to explore opportunities related to rural well monitoring, PFAS detection, wildfire smoke impacts, heavy metals research, and environmental health challenges facing communities throughout New Mexico. The visit highlighted the importance of cross-institutional partnerships that combine public health resources with university research expertise to support science-driven solutions for the state.

The discussions emphasized a shared commitment to protecting communities, expanding research capacity, and advancing practical solutions that improve public health outcomes across the region.



The New Mexico Water Solutions Collaborative looks forward to continuing this partnership and supporting efforts that strengthen environmental and water resilience statewide.

Meet Our Pls: Dr. Pei Xu



Pei Xu, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Civil Engineering

Dr. Pei Xu is a Professor of Civil Engineering at New Mexico State University and a nationally recognized leader in water treatment, desalination, water reuse, and brackish groundwater research. Her work focuses on developing innovative technologies that help address water scarcity challenges in arid and semi-arid regions, including New Mexico.

As a member of the New Mexico Water Solutions Collaborative, Dr. Xu brings expertise in desalination, membrane technologies, produced water treatment, and the removal of emerging contaminants. Her research supports the development of sustainable water supplies through the beneficial use of brackish water and other non-traditional water resources.

Dr. Xu serves as the Research Director of the New Mexico Produced Water Research Consortium and has led numerous state, federal, and industry-funded projects focused on advancing water resilience, protecting public health, and expanding water resources for future generations.

NEWSLETTER

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