

Distributive (In)justice for New Mexico Rural Communities

National security risks are being made to meet many Economy of large scale issues

- Regionalization activists are seeking authority which requires all residents to abandon personal water wells and hook up to systems within service areas of newly formed quasi-government entities statewide in the upcoming 2023 Legislative Session
- “Water Rights are not a right they are a declaration”: The 50-year plan includes new governance of water and the 50 liter home: “13 gallons” per day, per person, per family, per home, requiring retrofitting every home to meet these standards by 2050
- “There are not enough resources (bureaucratic capacity) to serve all 650 Community Public Water Systems in New Mexico”. After decades of failing to meet their own Environmental Protection Agency’s goals and missions, due to negligence and neglect, the EPA promotes Regionalization for Community Public Water Systems (CPWS) as a solution to their own bureaucratic mismanagement. The Michelle Lujan Grisham’s administration echoes the EPA in a recent regionalization meeting where State Engineer, Mike Hammonds stated “the key for government to shovel out all the available funding is for CPWS to Regionalize”
- “There is a little bit of letting go in building capacity through Regionalization”: After decades of failing to manage their business the EPA now seeks to direct and manage the business of local governments by reducing the amount of board members representing your local community. They claim to not have the ability (capacity) to service so many New Mexico entities. So they aim to consolidate and reduce the total amount of CPWS in New Mexico and many more communities throughout the nation in a nationwide reduction effort AKA building capacity through Regionalization. Their aim is to reduce the amount of local government entities /CPWS with whom federal and state agencies have to deal

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- Once a community goes through the Regionalization process there is no going back, Regionalization is a Forever-Change in local government autonomy

Keys to the Game as they presented it in the 2021 Regionalization meeting:

- “More subsidized funding for those who surrender their autonomy”: More grant funding will continue to decrease and become more competitive with funding increasingly based on innovation and a regional, rather than local, focus. Recommendation: Need to work with other groups, build larger ready-to-roll partnerships and tie-into larger Grants versus going [at] it alone
- Many historic Grant programs are moving into loan programs (USDA) which are also based on Median Household Income to qualify as a worthy project
- [New Mexico Water Control Commission changed rules and policies without public participation](#), (start viewing at 2:18) making state revolving funds originally purposed through the Clean Water Act for small communities with low populations in rural areas. These changes to policy/rules will make funding more accessible and agile to bigger cities because it is said that small CPWS have failed to utilize these funds due to not being eligible to meet affordability criteria required by federal and state regulations. This is due to 85% of New Mexico communities falling under the Median Household Income, therefore, not qualifying as a worthy project
- Lack of technical support for CPWS in the state of New Mexico is another example of lack of attention and prioritization at all levels of government. New Mexico Rural Water and Rural Community Assistance Corporation has a combined total personnel of 18 serving the CPWS in the state of New Mexico. There is a drastic lack of technical support for these systems. Both nonprofit organizations work tirelessly attempting to provide technical support and professional services that help ALL 1,300 New Mexico Water Systems maintain compliance of state and federal regulations. Additional funding for service providers is needed to provide adequate service

