

# NMED

New  
Mexico  
Environment  
Department



## WESTCAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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# Urgent Need for Action

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- NM will need to invest \$933M in drinking water infrastructure and \$103M in wastewater infrastructure over next 20 years just to maintain our current infrastructure
- Most systems built before 1960 with very little rehabilitation and maintenance on most of these systems
- Emergencies most often compel action



# Challenges

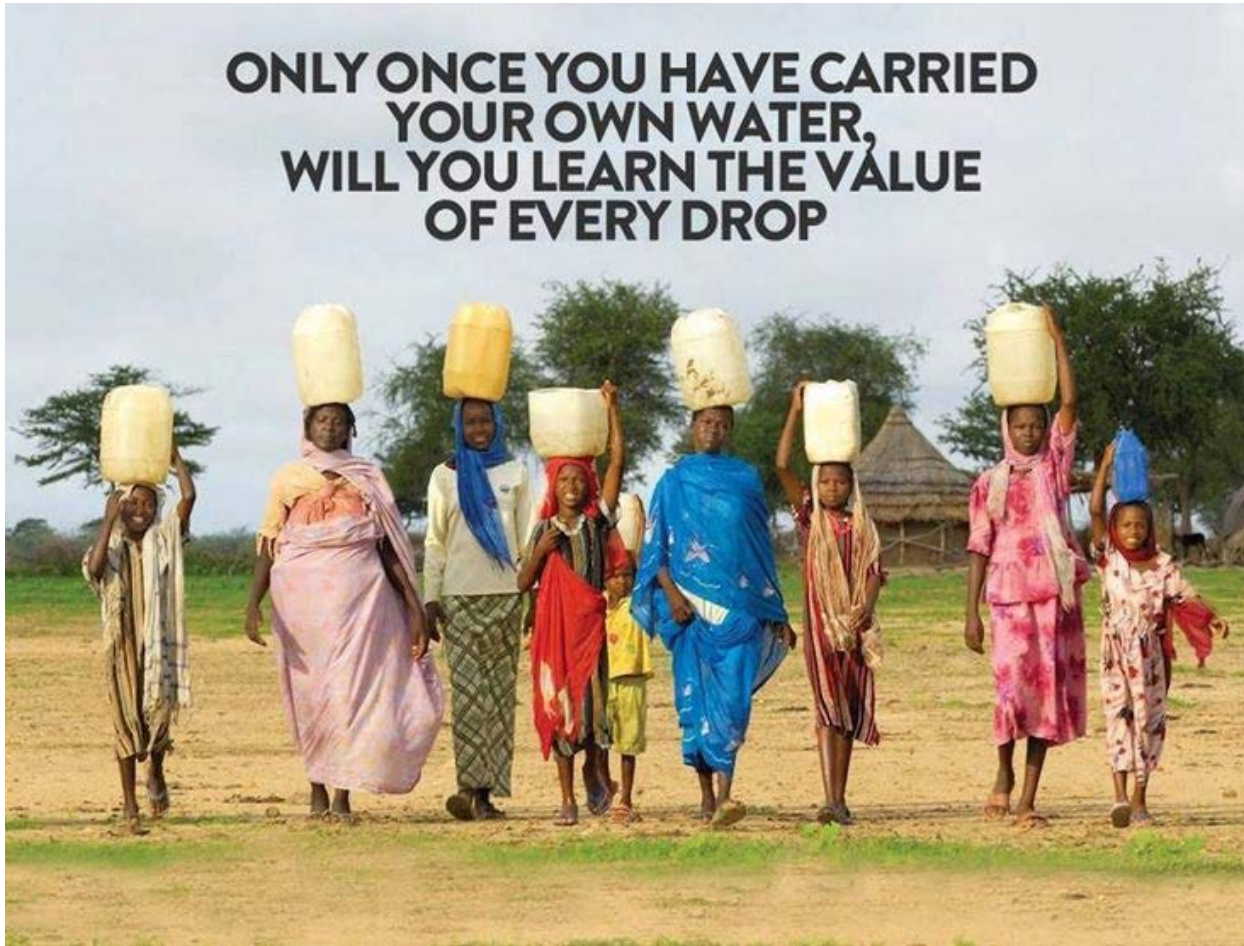
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- Rates are too low in most communities
  - ▣ Municipal - DW \$29.26 / WW \$27.52
  - ▣ Mutual Domestics – DW 44.37 / WW 30.30
  - ▣ Private – 41.86 / 44.60
- Difficulty leveraging existing funding mechanisms
  - ▣ Capital outlay (“pork”) deters use of state programs
  - ▣ Many small systems lack financial capacity
- Inadequate technical and managerial capacity also plagues many small systems



# Solutions

**ONLY ONCE YOU HAVE CARRIED  
YOUR OWN WATER,  
WILL YOU LEARN THE VALUE  
OF EVERY DROP**



# Solutions

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- Rates must keep pace with needs
  - ▣ Increase awareness on value of water
  - ▣ Government funding must be contingent on rate assessments
- Government must invest more funding in water infrastructure
- Policymakers must incorporate principles of sustainability into investment decisions



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# Conclusion