



## *Executive Summary*

*2022 Joint Stockmen's Convention*

*Actionable Recommendations from the Governor's New Mexico Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force, Aron Balok, Superintendent, Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District, and Task Force Member*

*Albuquerque, NM—2022 Joint Stockmen's Convention:  
Transforming Challenges into Opportunities*

### **Summary:**

NM citizens experience the heightened implications of water shortage and lack of accessibility. The challenges associated with these issues are further exacerbated among agricultural producers.

“If the models are correct, and we do nothing, we’re going to be in a world of hurt,” Aron Balok said. “As things get hotter and drier, we’re going to run into problems.”

The Task Force was appointed with the intention of addressing water usage and water rights amid an onset of heightened water shortage. Actionable items were formulated to determine effective, equitable approaches to legitimize long-term water sustainability for agricultural production and municipal use.

### **Key Points:**

1. The state is capitalizing on federal funding. This cash inflow has permitted funds for future water planning.
2. Leaders are seeking methods to improve water infrastructure without elevating the price of living to unmanageable standards.
3. As water availability continues to diminish, water will further impact the economy.
4. Stakeholders must prevent water from becoming a marketable product.
5. Seek a firmer understanding on water appropriations as it relates to a stressed water supply and increased demand.

### **Contact Information:**

Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District



P.O. Box 850 • Moriarty, NM 87035 • Telephone: (505) 247-0584 • Fax: (505) 842-1766  
email: nmca20@gmail.com • website: www.nmagriculture.org