



THE WATER AUTHORITY:

2025 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

STAYING IN TOUCH WITH ALBUQUERQUE AND BERNALILLO COUNTY!

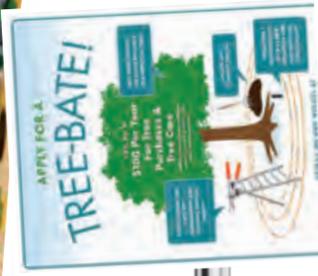
INSIDE: 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW • BUDGET OVERVIEW • RATE COMPARISON • CONSERVATION AND USAGE UPDATE • STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE • REBATE RUNDOWN • AND MORE!

Since its creation by the State Legislature in 2004, the Water Authority has provided municipal water and sewer service to residents of Albuquerque and certain parts of Bernalillo County. In that time, the utility has

- Met all federal standards for safe drinking water
- Been nationally recognized for its innovations in water conservation
- Added surface water from the San Juan-Chama Project to the local drinking water supply
- Achieved 30-percent reliance on renewable energy sources such as biogas and solar
- Won numerous national awards, including a Sustainable Utility Management Award from the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (2024), an EPA AQUARIUS Award for Public Health (2024), and an Environmental Achievement Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (2025) for the Bosque Restoration Project



Above: Surface water from the San Juan-Chama Project on its way downstream to Albuquerque.



ARE YOU TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF WATER AUTHORITY REBATES?

Earn dual savings—on purchases, and your water bill! When it comes to conservation, your Water Authority is here to help—with generous rebates for installation of water- and money-saving upgrades, including

- **Lawn to desert-friendly xeriscape transformations*** (\$3/square foot residential and commercial)
- **Tree care and planting** (25% "Treebate" on eligible trees and tree care, up to \$100 per year for residential customers and \$500 per year for commercial accounts)
- **WaterSense-certified irrigation components**, including "smart" irrigation controllers (25%, up to \$100 residential/\$500 commercial)
- **Rainwater harvesting equipment** (rain barrels and cisterns, \$25-\$150 depending on capacity)
- **Large-scale commercial/industrial conservation projects** (100,000 gallon+, through our Results-Driven Rebate program)



Rebates are provided as credits on your water bill and applications must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. For rules and to apply online, visit our award-winning yard and garden website, 505Outside.com and click "Rebates." **Questions?** Email AskAnExpert@abcwua.org or call 505-842-WATR, Option 4.

WHAT IS THE WATER AUTHORITY?

YOUR WATER AUTHORITY BOARD

As of December 2025

By statute, the Water Authority's governing board appointed consists of three Albuquerque City Councilors, three Bernalillo County Commissioners, the Mayor of Albuquerque

(or the Mayor's designee), and a non-voting member from the Village of Los Ranchos.

The board usually meets monthly in the council chambers in the basement of City Hall at One Civic Plaza NW. The Water Authority's Executive Director is Mark S. Sanchez.



KLARISSA J. PEÑA
City Councilor,
Chair



BARBARA BACA
County Commissioner,
Vice Chair



FRANK BACA
County Commissioner



TIMOTHY M. KELLER
Mayor of Albuquerque



DAN LEWIS
City Councilor



ERIC C. OLIVAS
County Commissioner



LOUIE SANCHEZ
City Councilor



GILBERT BENAVIDES
(non-voting)
Village of Los Ranchos

*Xeriscape plans must be pre-approved and meet certain requirements to qualify for the rebate. Call for details before you get started (or let your lawn die!)



YOUR WATER AUTHORITY

2025 COMMUNITY UPDATE

HIGHLIGHTS

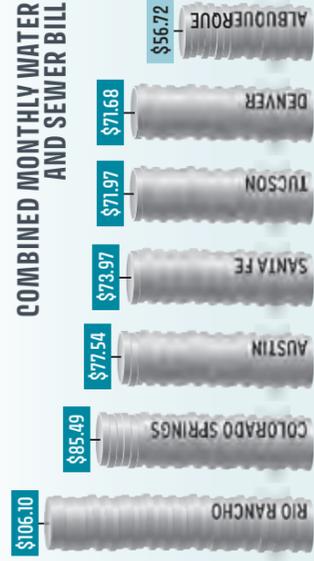
When you pay your Water Authority bill every month, you are helping to maintain and improve the vast system of pipelines, plant facilities and other equipment our community relies on for water and sewer service. This vital infrastructure includes more than 3,000 miles of waterline and more than 2,600 miles of sewer line, virtually all of which is buried out of sight. Because of this near-invisibility, it's easy to forget how much effort (and money) is needed to keep the utility running smoothly. This report is one way we're reaching out to customers to let them know what they're paying for—and how important this investment is for the life of our community!



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

Detailed financial information including audited statements can be found under "Finances" in the "About Us" section at abcwua.org

HOW OUR RATES COMPARE



FOR A RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER USING SIX UNITS OF WATER, OR ABOUT 4,500 GALLONS, DOES NOT INCLUDE CHARGES FOR TRASH/RECYCLING PICKUP.

Keeping water and sewer rates as low as possible is a priority—and a challenge—for the Water Authority. The cost of inputs such as power, chemicals and construction materials keeps going up, but we strive to find efficiencies wherever possible in order to minimize costs. As you can see from the graph, our rates remain some of the lowest in the region.

AA+ S&P

AA2 Moody's

AA Fitch

Investment Grade: **VERY HIGH QUALITY**

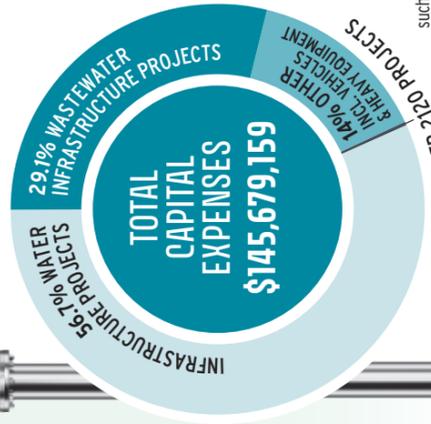
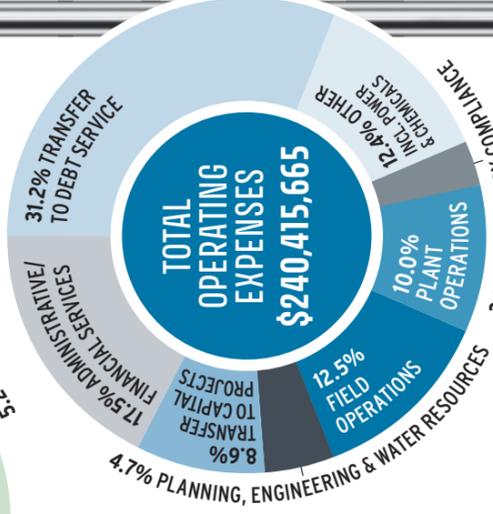
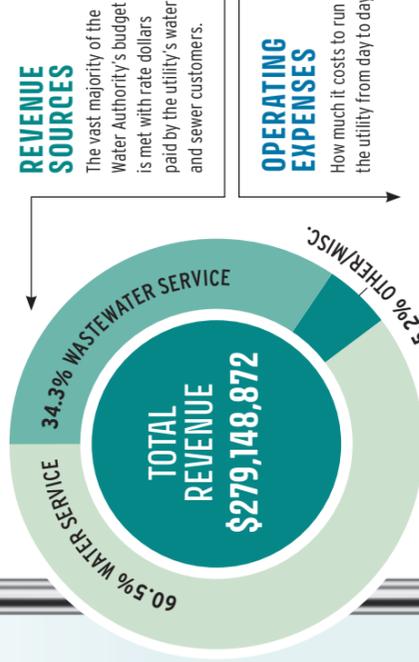
OUR BOND RATINGS

Bond ratings are tools to let investors know the level of risk involved in lending money (via the sale of bonds) to a particular borrower, such as a utility. The better the bond rating, the lower the interest rate that must be paid—and the lower the overall cost for the project(s) being financed. Bond ratings reflect the confidence of rating agencies in a utility's financial stability, management, and ability to meet its debt obligations.

RATE DOLLARS

WHERE THEY COME FROM; HOW THEY'RE SPENT

FY 2025



CAPITAL BUDGET Includes large construction projects, such as new reuse pipelines, and renewal and rehab of the community's Southside Water Reclamation Plant. Money for these projects is typically borrowed in the bond market and paid back with rate dollars over time.

WATER RESOURCES: FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY

PER CAPITA USAGE REFLECTS CONSERVATION SUCCESS

Thanks to a world-renowned conservation program, daily water consumption per person in the Water Authority's service area has been cut in half since the mid-1990s. We now consume about 125 gallons per person per day, and hope to reach 110 gallons per person by 2037.

Please note that the daily per capita usage reflects all water consumption, including industrial and commercial use, divided by the total population.



WATER 2130

100-YEAR WATER PLAN AIMS TO KEEP THE CITY WELL-SUPPLIED

The WATER plan, now being updated as WATER 2130, looks at many potential scenarios of climate change and population growth and identifies alternatives (such as reuse and the storage of excess surface water underground for later use) for meeting demand under these different conditions.

PRESERVING GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES BY USING RENEWABLE SURFACE WATER

A cornerstone of the plan is maximum use of renewable surface water from the San Juan-Chama Project, which diverts water from tributaries of the Colorado River and sends it south for use in Albuquerque and other communities. Every drop of surface water used is a drop of groundwater saved for periods of drought (when surface water may not be available).

2025 DRINKING WATER PRODUCTION:



BOSQUE RESTORATION PROJECT COMPLETED

In October, the Water Authority marked the completion of an \$8.6 million environmental restoration project near the outfall for the utility's Southside Water Reclamation Plant, where clean, treated wastewater is returned to the Rio Grande. The project aimed to restore 11 acres of bosque to its natural condition, improving habitats and water quality for endangered species while providing better access for hikers, bicyclists and anglers. Funding for the project came from the State of New Mexico (\$5 million), the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (\$3 million), and the New Mexico Office of Natural Resources (\$566,000).



PIPE SURVEY SHOWS NO LEAD SO FAR

Under new EPA rules, the Water Authority continued its comprehensive inventory of pipe material to ensure that no lead service lines remain in the utility's drinking water distribution system. The inventory is expected to take several more years to complete, but no lead service lines have been found to date. Service lines are the pipes that run to homes and businesses from the water main in the street.

REUSE SYSTEM EXPANDS TOWARD UPTOWN

In April, construction began on three miles of new pipeline to extend the Water Authority's non-potable reuse system north to the Uptown area, where it will serve the Winrock development and other customers with reclaimed water. The Water Authority saved nearly 850 million gallons of drinking water in 2025 by irrigating green spaces via non-potable reuse.

RECORD PERFORMANCE FOR BEAR CANYON RECHARGE

The Bear Canyon Recharge Project stores river water from the San Juan-Chama Project² underground for later use. The water is pumped from a diversion point on the Rio Grande to a reservoir and then into the stream bed of the Bear



Canyon Arroyo (at left) in Northeast Albuquerque, where it infiltrates into the underground aquifer.³ In 2025, the Water Authority succeeded in

storing more than 600 acre-feet of water (about 196 million gallons) using this method, a 30-percent increase over previous years.

HOMECONNECT SYSTEM UNVEILED

In the late summer, the Water Authority began promoting its new HomeConnect system, which allows customers with advanced automated meters (with antennas like the one shown here) to track their water use on an hourly basis rather than waiting for their monthly bill. HomeConnect is expected to save water by quickly identifying possible leaks and malfunctions. More information on HomeConnect, including a link to an instructional video, is available at www.abcwua.org.



¹ Projections as of November 2025. ² The San Juan-Chama Project diverts water from tributaries of the Colorado River and sends it south for use by New Mexico communities including Albuquerque. The Water Authority owns annual rights to 46,200 acre-feet (nearly 16 billion gallons) of San Juan-Chama water, but the actual amount available depends on factors such as snowpack and drought. ³ An aquifer is an underground layer of water-bearing soil or permeable rock. The aquifer beneath Albuquerque is an important drinking water source and can be tapped as a reserve when drought or other factors limit surface water supplies.