



## **La Union Watershed District**

### **Regular Meeting Notice**

**Thursday, May 7, 2026 @ 6pm**

at

**Our Lady of Refuge Hall**

**1320 Mercantil Ave.**

**La Union, NM 88021**

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/mso-mjdy-gti>  
Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 304-621-9646 and enter this PIN: 475 557 874#  
To view more phone numbers, click this link: <https://tel.meet/mso-mjdy-gti?hs=5>

The meeting agenda will be available 72 hours prior to the meeting on the LUWSD  
website [www.launionwatersheddistrict.org](http://www.launionwatersheddistrict.org) or by calling (915) 525-0544.



**La Union Watershed District**  
325 La Union St.  
La Union, New Mexico 88021  
Draft  
Minutes for April 16, 2026  
Regular Meeting

1. Call to order by Maryann Galindo at 6:05pm
2. Roll Call: Maryann Galindo present, Mario Tellez present, Irma Lazarin present, Veronica Villalobos present, Jose Anaya present  
Guests: Jennifer Kleitz, Yvette Lazarin, Pablo, Mr. Peres, Dan Nelson, Adrian (A&E Engin)
3. Approval of Agenda: Move A&E Engineer after approval of minutes. Motion to approve agenda as amended made by Veronica , Seconded by Jose. All members present were in agreement.
4. Approval of Minutes:. Motion to approve regular meeting minutes for March 2026 made by Jose, Seconded by Mario. All members present were in agreement.
5. A & E Engineer: Adrian from A&E Engineering presented the plans and report for the LUWSD Parking Lot Project. The proposed plan included a concrete ADA ramp, concrete steps, 2" HMAC paving, 6" base course with 12" subgrade preparation, 6" stand-up curb, concrete sidewalk, paved driveway, steel ramp, and a 5-foot-wide concrete rundown with 6x6x24" deep Type L loose rock rip rap. The Board reviewed the project invoice totaling \$9,574.55. A motion to approve the project plans and invoice was made by Veronica and seconded by Jose. All members present were in agreement.
6. Public Input:
  - a. Yvette: Reported that a community meet-and-greet event for Mr. Frieze, candidate for Sheriff, will be held this weekend from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the OLOR Hall.
  - b. Mr. Peres: Reported that Chamberino will be hosting a community meeting on April 29th at the Chamberino Fire Department regarding the proposed road project that will run through the area. Community members were encouraged to attend the meeting to ask questions and voice any concerns.
  - c. Jorge G.: Announced that a Community Clean Up event will take place on May 2nd beginning at 7:30 a.m.

7. Conflict of Interest: -

8. Directors Report:

- a. Veronica: Veronica reported that she contacted the county regarding the \$97 sewer charge. Although the water association is providing water service, there is currently no water usage or discharge at the facility. A request was submitted to waive the fee, and the county is reviewing the matter. Veronica will continue to provide updates as they become available.
- b. Maryann and Jorge reported on the Emergency Strategic Plan. Amanda reviewed the plan and provided positive feedback along with several recommendations for improvement. Recommendations included clarifying incident leadership and decision-making roles, strengthening the communications section, adding clearer evacuation and protective action triggers, expanding the local resource inventory, and incorporating training, exercise, and after-action components into the plan.

9. DASWCD: DASWCD reported that a \$20,000 grant application was submitted to the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) for educational funding. DASWCD was also awarded \$267,000 from the New Mexico Environment Department and is expected to receive the contract in the near future. In addition, a \$10 million grant application was submitted for two projects through the National Fish and Wildlife Program. Dr. Pei Xu from New Mexico State University gave a presentation and brief overview of Project Jupiter. During the presentation, it was noted that throughout the duration of the project, the data center systems will require periodic refilling. DASWCD also reported participation in the Lower Rio Grande Alliance and announced that the next meeting will take place in June. LUWSD was encouraged to become a member of the alliance. Additionally, DASWCD stated that it will be issuing a contract for tree planting services for the next two years.

10. Finance Report: March 2026 financial report as presented , Invoice to approve Jorge Garcia's Admin services, OLOR invoice, Martin Villalobos invoice, A & E Engineer, DAC Utilities and Water bill utility made by Jose, Seconded by Mario. All members present were in agreement.

11. Updates:

- a. LUWSD Sign: The sign project has been completed and is currently awaiting pavement installation so it can be installed.
- b. LUWSD Career Day: The event was a success. Students responded positively to the presentations and enjoyed the promotional items provided by LUWSD.

12. Pending Business: -

13. New Business:

- a. Mid Term Budget:
  - i. Discussion was held regarding adjustments to the current budget

categories as part of the Mid-Term Budget review. It was determined that additional funding was needed for Printing/Publishing/Advertising expenses. A motion was made by Jose to transfer \$500 from the Training category to Printing/Publishing/Advertising, seconded by Veronica. All members present were in agreement.

- ii. Following discussion of the proposed adjustments and budget review, Mario made a motion to approve the Mid-Term Budget, seconded by Jose. All members present were in agreement.

b. Mill Levy Resolution

- i. The Board reviewed and discussed the Mill Levy Resolution. A roll call vote was conducted with the following results: Maryann – Yes, Veronica – Yes, Irma – Yes, Jose – Yes, and Mario – Yes.
- ii. A motion to approve the Mill Levy Resolution was made by Mario and seconded by Jose. All members present were in agreement.

c. FY26 3rd QR

- i. The Board reviewed and discussed the FY26 3rd Quarter Report, including the proposed amendments and updates. A motion to approve the 3rd Quarter Report as amended was made by Jose and seconded by Mario. All members present were in agreement.

d. LUWSD Goals

- i. The Board discussed goals and priorities for LUWSD moving forward. Topics included continued development of the Emergency Plan, efforts to move forward with the Paloma Pond project, and ongoing monitoring of ponds throughout the district. Discussion also included expanding educational outreach to elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as increasing communication and collaboration with FAA's and the community through additional outreach efforts. Improvements were also discussed, including office improvements, installation of flood barriers, development of plans for off-campus incidents, educational tours of dams, acquisition of a UTV/vehicle for district operations, and continued Board training and point development opportunities.

e. OLOR rental meeting room

- i. The Board discussed updated rental rates for the OLOR meeting room. The new rate will increase by \$100 for the initial two hours, with an additional charge of \$25 for each hour thereafter. A motion to approve the rent increase was made by Mario and seconded by Jose. All members present were in agreement.

f. Insurance renewal for OLOR:

- i. The Board reviewed the insurance renewal for OLOR and discussed the associated annual cost. A motion to approve the \$210 insurance renewal payment was made by Jose and seconded by Mario. All members

present were in agreement.

g. Jorge Garcia Contract

- i. A new service agreement for Jorge Garcia was presented and reviewed by the Board. Discussion was held regarding the scope of services and compensation, and a rate of \$35 per hour was agreed upon. A motion to approve the service agreement was made by Veronica and seconded by Jose. All members present were in agreement.

h. LUWSD Board Terms

- i. The Board reviewed and discussed the term lengths for LUWSD Board members. The following terms were adjusted and agreed upon: Maryann – 4 years, Irma – 4 years, Veronica – 2 years, Jose – 4 years, and Mario – 2 years. All members present were in agreement.

i. Equipment for virtual meetings.

- i. The Board discussed equipment options for improving virtual meeting capabilities. The Logitech C920 webcam and the Yealink SP92 conference speakerphone were identified as good options for conducting virtual meetings and improving audio and video quality. Motion made by Veronica, seconded by Mario. All members present were in agreement.

14. Discussion:

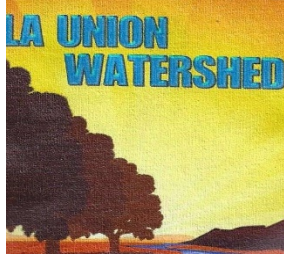
15. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:08pm  
Next meeting: May 7, 2026



**La Union Watershed District**  
325 La Union St.  
La Union, New Mexico 88021  
(915) 479-5404

**Regular Meeting - May 7, 2026**

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
- 5. Public Input/Presentation**
  - a. DAC Flood Commission - Michael Garza
- 6. Conflict of Interest**
- 7. Directors Report**
- 8. DASWCD**
- 9. Financials**
- 10. Updates**
- 11. Pending Business**
  - a. LUWSD Goals
- 12. New Business**
  - a. Final Budget & Resolution
  - b. Resolution adopting FY2028-2032 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan
  - c. Letter from Representative Ray Lara
  - d. MOU for infrastructure capital outlay project - 24j2940
- 13. Discussion**
- 14. Adjournment - Next Meeting: June 4, 2026**



## La Union Watershed District

325 La Union Street  
Anthony, NM 88021  
915-474-6924

[villalobos@launionwatersheddistrict.org](mailto:villalobos@launionwatersheddistrict.org)

### FINANCIAL REPORT

April 2026

Balance Forward March 30, 2026 **\$ 128,642.15**

#### Income

Dona Ana County Mil-Levy Tax 1,348.41

**Total Income: \$ 1,348.41**

#### Expenses

Google\*G Suite – Internet \$ 62.62  
Intuit QuickBooks 41.18  
Word Press 104.04  
CK 250 Admin. Services Jorge Garcia 219.66  
CK 251 Our Lady Of Refuge – Mtg room lease 70.00  
Ck 248 La Union MDS & WA – utilities 35.24  
CK 252 Martin Villalobos – Sign 1,216.61  
CK 253 Our Lady of Refuge – Insurance 210.00  
CK 254 A & E Engineering 9,574.55  
El Paso Electric Co. 118.75

**Total Expenses: \$11,652.65**

**Balance Forward as of 04/30/26 \$ 118,337.91**

**Savings Balance: No Activity 18.00**

**Total Balance \$ 118,355.91**





## La Union Watershed District

### FY26/27 Goals

# Short-Term Goals

## Community Outreach & Public Engagement

- Increase community involvement through educational programs, workshops, and outreach events that promote watershed awareness and flood prevention.
- Partner with local organizations, schools, and community groups, to participate in programs like, environmental education and conservation activities.
- Expand LUWSD's public presence through community events, informational materials, social media, and public meetings to strengthen relationships with the community.
- Develop educational opportunities for elementary, middle, and high school students focused on watershed management, flood control infrastructure, water conservation, and environmental awareness.
- Coordinate outreach efforts with local FAA chapters/organizations and other regional partners to increase awareness and collaboration.

## Watershed Operations & Monitoring

- Learn and implement proper procedures for recording, monitoring, and maintaining surface water readings at district dams and ponds.
- Improve routine monitoring and documentation of district ponds and flood control infrastructure to support maintenance planning and emergency preparedness.

## Emergency Preparedness & Safety

- Create procedures and response plans for off-campus or off-site incidents that may impact district facilities, infrastructure, or public safety.
- Improve district readiness through planning, communication procedures, and coordination with local emergency management agencies.

## **Educational Programs & Public Trips**

- Organize educational trips to dams, ponds, and watershed infrastructure to provide the community and students with hands-on learning opportunities about flood control and watershed operations.
- Promote public understanding of the importance of watershed districts and stormwater management through guided educational experiences.

## **Board Development & Training**

- Encourage board member participation in training opportunities, workshops, and professional development programs related to watershed management, governance, emergency planning, and public administration.
- Establish board goals and development priorities to strengthen district leadership and long-term planning efforts.

# **Long-Term Goals**

## **Office & Facility Improvements**

- Improve office functionality, safety, and long-term sustainability through facility upgrades, including:
  - Security system
  - Office furniture
  - Flood barrier installations
  - Sidewalk and accessibility
  - Fence slot/gate improvements
  - Solar Panels
- Explore opportunities for contract staff support to assist with administrative, operational, and outreach responsibilities.

## **Infrastructure & Sustainability**

- Continue long-term planning and improvements for district flood control infrastructure, ponds, and operational facilities.

## **Equipment & Operational Expansion**

- Evaluate the future need for a district UTV/vehicle to assist with inspections, monitoring, maintenance activities, and emergency response operations throughout the watershed area.

## **Long-Term Community & Educational Growth**

- Build lasting partnerships with schools, organizations, and community groups to

- establish ongoing watershed education and environmental stewardship programs.
- Expand LUWSD's role as a community resource for flood prevention education, water conservation awareness, and environmental sustainability initiatives.

### **Long-Term Project Development**

- Continue planning, funding exploration, and implementation efforts for major watershed improvement projects, and future district infrastructure needs.



**La Union Watershed District**

325 La Union St. La Union, NM 88021  
(915)479-5404

**FINAL BUDGET  
RESOLUTION #2026-05-07**

**FY26/27 Budget**

**Resolution of Board Approval to Authorize the General Fund Budget, FY26/27 Revenues and Expenditures.**

WHEREAS, the La Union Watershed District (LUWSD) met in regular session in person at Our Lady of Refuge, May 7, 2026, at 6:00 PM as required by law; and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of the LUWSD, had developed a budget for the fiscal year FY26/27, and

WHEREAS the said budget was reviewed (as attached) with cooperation of all elected officials and supervisors, and

WHEREAS the official meeting for review of said budget was duly advertised in compliance with the State Open Meeting Act;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that on the 7th day of May, 2026, the Board of Directors of the La Union WSD, State of New Mexico, hereby adopts the budget herein described above.

\_\_\_\_\_

Mary Ann Galindo, Chairperson

The Resolution was passed upon motion by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_. Roll

call vote:

MG: \_\_; IL: \_\_; VV: \_\_; JA: \_\_; MT;\_\_







SPECIAL DISTRICT: La Union Watershed District

Quarter Ending: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEBT SERVICE**

SPECIAL DISTRICT: La Union Watershed District Fund Number: 400  
 Quarter Ending: -

(A) NAME AND TYPE	(B) DATE OF ISSUE	(C) ORIGINAL FACE AMOUNT OF ISSUE	(D) OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL AMOUNT (Unpaid)	(E) COUPON RATE OF INTEREST	(F) PRINCIPAL DUE	(G) INTEREST DUE
Bond 1	2/20/2002	-	-	0.0%	-	-
	0/00/0000	-	-	0.0%	-	-
	0/00/0000	-	-	0.0%	-	-
	0/00/0000	-	-	0.0%	-	-
	0/00/0000	-	-	0.0%	-	-
	0/00/0000	-	-	0.0%	-	-
	0/00/0000	-	-	0.0%	-	-
	0/00/0000	-	-	0.0%	-	-
TOTAL		-	-		-	-

**INSTRUCTIONS - SCHEDULE OF BONDS AND LONG TERM LOANS**

Column (A): Describe the Purpose of the DEBT along with its NAME AND TYPE. TOTAL PRINCIPAL & INTEREST PAID

Column (B): Enter the Date of Issue.

Column (C): Enter the Original Amount of the Issue.

Column (D): Enter Unpaid Principal Balance for Fiscal Year.

Column (F): Enter Principal Amount To Be Paid, during Fiscal Year.

Column (G): Enter Interest Amount To Be Paid, during Fiscal Year.

PLEASE SEE EXAMPLE IN ROW 13, INFORMATION IN ROW 13 SHOULD BE DELETED AND YOUR INFORMATION SHOULD BE INPUTED

**PLEASE FILL OUT ALL INFORMATION ON THIS SHEET FOR ALL BONDS AND LONG TERM LOANS**

ANYTHING ADDED ON THIS PAGE IS FOR TRACKING PURPOSES ONLY AND WILL NEEDED TO BE REPORTED ON THE EXPENDITURES PAGE

# Resolution Template

County, Municipality/Tribal Government/Special District of  
La Union New Mexico

COUNTY OF Dona Ana  
Resolution No. 2026-01

## A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FY 2028-2032 INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, the La Union Watershed Dist. of La Union recognizes that the financing of public capital projects has become a major concern in New Mexico and nationally; and

WHEREAS, in times of scarce resources, it is necessary to find new financing mechanisms and maximize the use of existing resources; and

WHEREAS, systematic capital improvements planning is an effective tool for communities to define their development needs, establish priorities and pursue concrete actions and strategies to achieve necessary project development; and

WHEREAS, this process contributes to local and regional efforts in project identification and selection in short- and long-range capital planning efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE La Union Watershed Dist. that:

1. The county/municipality/tribal government/special district has adopted the attached FY2028-2032 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan, and
2. It is intended that the Plan be a working document and is the first of many steps toward improving rational, long- range capital planning and budgeting for New Mexico's infrastructure.
3. This Resolution supersedes Resolution No. 2025-02

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED by the governing body at its meeting of May 7th, 2026

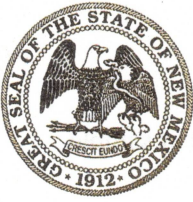
Maryann Galindo

Mayor/County Commission Chair/Board Chair

ATTEST:

Veronica Villalobos

Municipal/County Clerk/Other Testator



State of New Mexico  
House of Representatives  
Santa Fe

**RAYMUNDO LARA**  
MAJORITY CAUCUS LEADER  
D - Doña Ana  
District 34

P. O. Box 652  
Chamberino, NM 88027  
Cell: (575) 305-6611  
E-mail: raymundo.lara@nmlegis.gov

**COMMITTEES:**  
VICE CHAIR: Transportation, Public Works & Capital  
Improvements  
Education  
Printing & Supplies  
Rules & Order of Business

April 14, 2026

Mr. Josh Smith, Chairman  
Doña Ana Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors  
424 N. Main Street Suite 200  
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Dear Mr. Smith and Members of the Board,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing to formally bring to your attention Attorney General Opinion 2026-05, issued on March 31, 2026, regarding the constitutionality of residency requirements for watershed district directors.

The opinion makes clear that, although recent statutory changes removed explicit residency language from NMSA 1978, Section 73-20-12, the New Mexico Constitution (Article V, Section 13) continues to require that all district officers, including watershed district directors, reside within the district they serve. The Attorney General further concludes that appointing authorities must enforce this requirement, regardless of statutory silence.

For your reference, I am including a copy of Attorney General Opinion 2026-05 with this letter. The opinion may also be accessed online at the following link:

<https://nm DOJ.gov/wp-content/uploads/Attorney-General-Opinion-2026-05.pdf>

Based on this guidance, any current service by a director who does not reside within the boundaries of the La Union Watershed District raises a constitutional compliance issue that should be addressed promptly.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that your Board:

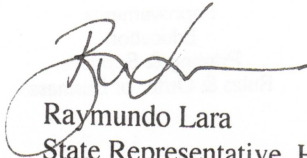
1. Review the residency status of all current members of the La Union Watershed District Board of Directors;
2. Identify any instances of non-compliance with constitutional residency requirements; and
3. Provide a written response outlining the steps your Board will take to ensure full compliance, including any corrective actions, timelines, and procedures for future appointments.

Given the importance of maintaining public trust and ensuring that watershed governance reflects the communities it serves, I respectfully request a response no later than May 6, 2026.

If it would be helpful, my office is available to assist in providing additional guidance or sample compliance procedures to support your efforts.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and for your continued service to our community.

Sincerely,



Raymundo Lara  
State Representative, House District 34  
New Mexico House of Representatives

Enclosure: Attorney General Opinion 2026-05

cc: Mary Ann Galindo, President  
La Union Watershed District Board of Directors



March 31, 2026

OPINION  
OF  
RAÚL TORREZ  
Attorney General

Opinion No. 2026-05

To: Representative Raymundo Lara, New Mexico House of Representatives

Re: Attorney General Opinion – Constitutionality of Elimination of Residency Requirements for Watershed District Directors

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### Question

Does the 2025 amendment to NMSA 1978, Section 73-20-12 (2025), which replaced the election of watershed district directors with appointment of the same and eliminated the residency requirements inherent in such elections, violate the Constitution of New Mexico?

### Short Answer

No. As a result of the 2025 amendment, Section 73-20-12 no longer contains, via the Local Elections Act, a residency requirement for district directors. However, the New Mexico Constitution requires residency for “district officers.” N.M. Const art. 5, § 13. Although the 2025 amendment contains no language requiring nonresidents to be considered for the position, supervisors of soil and water conservation districts still can and must comply with the New Mexico Constitution by only considering residents of a watershed district for a director position for that district.

### Background

The Watershed District Act, NMSA 1978, §§ 73-20-1 to -24 (1957, as amended through 2025), was passed “to secure the federal assistance provided in [P.L. 83-566], and amendatory legislation, for New Mexico in its program to further the conservation, development, utilization, flood prevention and disposal of water, and thereby preserve and protect New Mexico’s land and water resources.” Section 73-20-3. The Act provides for the creation of watershed districts

as subdistricts of soil and water conservation districts in a watershed area, as provided in the Watershed District Act, for the purpose of developing and executing

## Analysis

In evaluating the constitutionality of any elimination of the residency requirement, we first turn to the language of the New Mexico Constitution, which explicitly requires directors to be residents of their districts:

All district and municipal officers, county commissioners, school board members and municipal governing body members shall be residents of the political subdivision or district from which they are elected *or for which they are appointed*.

Counties, school districts and municipalities may be divided by their governing bodies into districts composed of populations as nearly equal as practicable for the purpose of electing the members of the respective governing bodies

N.M. Const. art. 5, § 13 (emphasis added).

Thus, a “district officer” as described by Article 5, Section 13 of the N.M. Constitution, must be a resident of that district, even if appointed. To determine whether this requirement applies to the Watershed District Act, we consider whether a watershed district board member is a “district officer,” pursuant to this section. We therefore consider whether a “special district,” like a watershed district, is considered a “district” under the New Mexico Constitution.

The term “district” is not explicitly defined in the Constitution, so we look to the plain language definition of the term. *See N.M. Educ. Retirement Bd. v. Romero*, 2024-NMCA-013, ¶ 5 (“When we construe the Constitution, we . . . look to the provision’s plain language, exercising care to use that language as the primary indicator of the framers’ intent and of the purposes they sought to achieve.”). According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the first and most relevant definition of “district” is “a territorial division (as for administrative or electoral purposes).” *District*, MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/district>, [http://perma.cc/N5ZT-XQD8] (last visited Jan. 26, 2026). A watershed district is a carve out of land, or territory, for the purposes of administering the resources of a watershed, § 73-20-4; as such, it would be reasonably encompassed by that definition. Moreover, the framers of our Constitution clearly contemplated that the word “district” would encompass carve outs of territory for the purpose of management of water resources: for instance, the Constitution states that “the legislature is authorized to provide by law for the organization and operation of drainage *districts* and systems.” N.M. Const., art. 16. § 4 (emphasis added). The use of the term “district” in that context indicated that the framers intended that the term would include the type of entity at issue here: a subdivision of the state carved out for the purpose of water conservation and administration.

We note that the term “district” appears in the first paragraph of Article 5, Section 13, which is followed by a second paragraph that describes how counties, school districts, and municipalities may be divided into districts. Although it may seem that the requirement that district officers be residents of the district from which they are appointed might only apply in the context of counties, school districts, and municipalities, this conclusion is unsupported in our law for at least two reasons. First, the first paragraph of the Section has been part of the Constitution since statehood in 1912, whereas the second paragraph was not added until an amendment in 1960. H.J.R. 8 (1959).

even though the Act no longer incorporates, by reference to the Local Elections Act, a residency requirement, the requirement set forth in the Constitution still stands: soil and water conservation district supervisors can and must impose the residency requirement when selecting watershed district directors.

\* \* \*

Please note that this opinion is a public document and is not protected by the attorney-client privilege. It will be published on our website and made available to the general public.

RAÚL TORREZ  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

/s/ Lawrence M. Marcus  
Lawrence M. Marcus  
Assistant Solicitor General