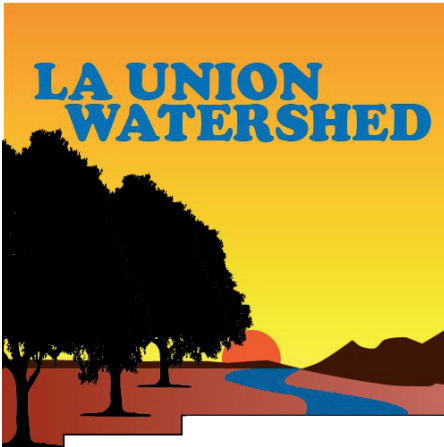




LA UNION WATERSHED DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Monthly Meetings

 Every First Thursday of the Month

 6:00 PM

 Our Lady of Refuge Hall
1320 Mercantil Ave.

Visit us at:

launionwatershreddistrict.org
for more information, upcoming meetings, agendas, and community updates.

GET INVOLVED!

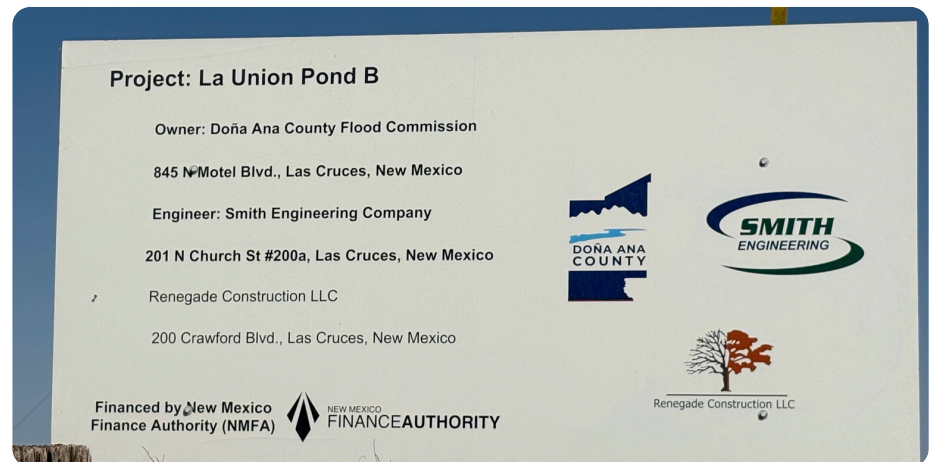
Join us at upcoming meetings, share feedback, or volunteer with LUWSD. Every voice helps strengthen our efforts!

COMMUNITY CORNER

Did You Know?

Healthy watershed infrastructure helps:

- Reduce flooding
- Protect roads and homes
- Improve drainage
- Support agriculture
- Improve water quality
- Protect local wildlife habitat



Update on La Union Stormwater Projects

Dona Ana County officials say three major stormwater projects in La Union are finally nearing completion, nearly five years after severe flooding damaged the community. The improvements include La Union Pond A, Pond B, and the Mendez Pond, all designed to capture stormwater, remove debris, and release water safely to reduce the chance of future flooding.

County engineer Michael Garza reported that Pond B is essentially finished, and Pond A should be ready by the end of May—just in time for monsoon season. The ponds were planned after the 2021 flooding, when several dams failed and sent water rushing through the area.

The third project, Mendez Pond, has taken longer due to delays tied to federal funding. Although FEMA agreed to fully fund the project, the approval process took more than a year. Garza said the county has invested about \$8.5 million in La Union's flood-control improvements overall. The county hopes to finish Mendez Pond by September, though that could shift depending on monsoon-season impacts.

Supporting Education Throughout La Union



Education continues to be one of the La Union Watershed District's core priorities. This spring, District representatives participated in Career Day at La Union Elementary School, where students had the opportunity to learn about the important role watersheds play in protecting our community and natural resources.

Students were introduced to careers related to conservation, engineering, environmental science, and water management while learning how the Watershed District works to reduce flooding, maintain local infrastructure, and protect the environment. The event also included educational materials and promotional items to help spark curiosity about the many ways science and public service contribute to the well-being of our community.

The success of Career Day reinforced the District's commitment to educating young people about the importance of watershed management. During subsequent Board meetings, members discussed expanding educational outreach beyond elementary schools by developing programs and presentations for middle and high school students, increasing communication with local organizations, and providing additional opportunities for the community to learn about flood prevention, conservation, and emergency preparedness.

Today's students are tomorrow's leaders. By teaching them about watersheds and conservation, we're helping build a stronger and more resilient La Union community.

Building Improvements Continue at the Watershed District



The La Union Watershed District continues making progress on improvements to its office and surrounding property. Recent discussions have focused on enhancing the facility with exterior lighting, office furnishings, and other upgrades to better serve the community.

The Board is currently exploring lighting options to improve safety around the property, including solar-powered solutions, and has requested recommendations from A&E Engineering before moving forward. These improvements reflect the District's ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe and welcoming facility for residents.

Emergency Planning Remains a Priority

The La Union Watershed District continues updating its Emergency Strategic Plan to help strengthen community preparedness and improve response during emergencies. Recent recommendations focus on:

- Clearer emergency leadership roles
- Stronger communication procedures
- Improved evacuation planning
- Expanded local resource inventories
- Additional training and emergency exercises

These updates will help ensure the District is better prepared to respond to emergencies and protect the La Union community.