

Long-Term Stormwater Planning in Santa Fe

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INTRODUCTION

The city of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began working together in late 2016 through a voluntary technical assistance effort to make long-lasting stormwater improvements in the city. The community worked with EPA to explore integrated, long-term ways to align their planned and future stormwater program and development activities with long-term stormwater planning approaches, using the process generally outlined in EPA's then draft long-term stormwater planning guide, now final and titled *Long-Term Stormwater Planning: A Voluntary Guide for Communities*.

Long-term stormwater planning

Promotes effective stormwater management while also supporting a community's broader vision and goals, such as flood reduction, increased neighborhood aesthetics, improved recreational opportunities through water quality improvement, and public health protection. This approach may offer additional benefits such as:

- Improved performance of stormwater infrastructure.
- Enhanced community resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- Infrastructure investment alignment with economic growth goals.
- Improved environmental compliance.
- Cost savings and achieving multiple benefits by incorporating effective stormwater management into planned projects from the start rather than pursuing standalone stormwater projects.
- Access to funding sources by aligning stormwater management objectives with community needs and a comprehensive approach to water resource management.

Santa Fe took this effort on to take a more complete approach to reduce stormwater impacts over time and to firmly sit themselves in the driver seat by being more proactive and less reactive. The city was interested in identifying ways to save their community money, improve their waterways, and enhance their resilience. Importantly, they also wanted to ensure that their future actions were informed by the community's needs and vision.

The city merged the information gained through this technical assistance effort with EPA with a concurrent strategic stormwater planning process they had already started. Santa Fe collaborated with various stakeholders to craft a focused vision for stormwater management and create a plan to address several of the city's long-term goals. This process influenced the development of a Stormwater Management Strategic Plan (hereafter, Strategic Plan)¹ and other long-term stormwater planning documents. To support and complement the city's long-term stormwater planning goals, the city and EPA developed of two main resources:

(1) a guidebook for designing and implementing green infrastructure to inform future roadway projects, titled *Incorporating Green Infrastructure into Roadway Projects in Santa Fe*

(2) a compilation of key funding information to more completely explore potential funding sources, titled <u>Government Funding Opportunities for Stormwater Management in Santa Fe</u>

¹Santa Fe Stormwater Management Strategic Plan can be accessed through the city's River, Watershed and Trails Section webpage: <u>https://www.santafenm.gov/river_and_watershed</u>

This document provides an overview of the city's long-term stormwater planning process, including stakeholder engagement, identification of specific long-term stormwater management goals, and key outputs.

SNAPSHOT OF SANTA FE

The city of Santa Fe is in the Northern Rio Grande Valley, at the southern end of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range part of the Rocky Mountains. At approximately 7,000 feet above sea level, and founded in the early 1600s, Santa Fe is the highest and oldest state capital in the United States. This region of New Mexico has a semi-arid continental climate, with the city experiencing moderate summers and winters.

The city of Santa Fe receives on average 14 inches of rainfall and 26 inches of snowfall each year. The heaviest rainfall occurs in July and August during the monsoon season. According to the 2010 United States Census, the city encompasses 45.98 square miles.² The city's cultural significance, natural beauty, and outdoor recreational opportunities draw thousands of tourists each year. Additionally, valuable water resources such as "Santa Fe's excellent quality of life is renowned in the region and across the country; and water- in the river, in the ground, and falling from the sky-is a crucial part of creating the "human habitat" that makes Santa Fe unique. In the fragile high-desert environment to maintain a sustainable ecosystem and the quality of life residents expect, the city needs to be proactive and use all available water resources."

> - City of Santa Fe Stormwater Management Strategic Plan

snowpack on surrounding ski resorts and local rivers and streams that support trout fishing are critical in attracting tourism to Santa Fe.

The city is in the Santa Fe Watershed, a 17,000-acre watershed that provides surface water to the Santa Fe River.³ Surface water from the Santa Fe Watershed comprises a portion of the city's drinking water supplies, and if not properly managed and protected, can lead to public health concerns and increased drinking water treatment costs. The city's annual <u>Water Quality Report</u> provides a summary of the city's sources of water and compliance with drinking water treatment standards.



Santa Fe River in the vicinity of El Alamo Park

² Quick Facts: Santa Fe, New Mexico.

https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/santafecitynewmexico/LND110210#LND110210

³ Santa Fe 2020 Water Quality Report: <u>https://www.santafenm.gov/document_center/document/12919</u>

LISTENING TO THE COMMUNITY AND ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS

The city and EPA wanted to maintain open communication with stakeholders to facilitate full consideration of viewpoints in the planning and implementation of the long-term stormwater planning approach. The city identified and collaborated with key stakeholders on long-term strategies to reduce pollution; address stormwater flows to the Santa Fe River; inform, educate, and serve the public; and consider how to address region-specific concerns.

In September 2017, as a part of EPA's technical assistance activities, a core group of collaborators met in Santa Fe to discuss objectives and priorities for the city's longterm stormwater planning effort and acknowledge potential challenges. Participants visited various sites that highlighted Santa Fe's stormwater challenges, opportunities, and recent projects. The city and EPA also hosted a public forum where community stakeholders



The Santa Fe Railyard is a prominent social gathering place for the citizens of Santa Fe. The Railyard was a collaborative city project that included several stormwater management features that harvest rainwater. The rainwater harvesting system incorporated a prominently featured elevated railroad tank into its design.

were invited to provide input to shape Santa Fe's long-term stormwater planning goals. An additional meeting was held with stakeholders from various city departments to discuss Santa Fe's stormwater-related challenges, develop a vision for long-term stormwater management, and begin developing long-term goals.

These different engagements helped identify common themes and priorities for stormwater management in the city, which were then used throughout the long-term stormwater planning effort.

Core collaborators

The long-term stormwater planning effort was led by a core group of collaborators from the city of Santa Fe, the EPA (both Headquarters and Region 6 staff), the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), and the city's consultants. This core group initially met to discuss Santa Fe's long-term stormwater objectives to help guide the planning process and then coordinated throughout the duration of the effort. The overall long-term stormwater planning process was spearheaded by a committed "champion" from the city's Public Works Department. This process greatly benefitted by having one person to connect stakeholders and ensure the activities supported the overall vision.

"Santa Fe's stormwater challenges are more accurately characterized as water challenges how to manage rainfall, ensure adequate supply, and protect groundwater and surface water resources from pollution in a cost-effective and compliant manner."

> - City of Santa Fe Stormwater Management Strategic Plan

"The city's efforts to improve stormwater management provides an opportunity to capture water for park landscapes and to incorporate Low-Impact-Development (LID), measure water use and look for efficiencies."

> - City of Santa Fe Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Master Plan (Santa Fe, 2017)

Santa Fe's public works and public utilities staff, including the city's River and Watershed Coordinator and staff from the city's Water Division and Stormwater Division, and its consultants were heavily engaged in all aspects of the process. The city relied upon its technical stormwater consultants to supplement their own inhouse expertise and expand the bandwidth of city staff to support planning efforts. City staff engaged with multiple city departments to discuss real-world solutions to reduce stormwater impacts in the long term and obtain input to develop the city's *Strategic Plan*. The city performed a thorough organizational and operational analysis of their stormwater program. The city's staff also updated and developed drainage management plans (e.g., Santa Fe River and Arroyo de los Chamisos), and provided technical guidance on selecting, prioritizing, funding, and implementing stormwater management projects and programs. During the long-term stormwater planning process, city staff worked to obtain buy-in from elected officials and local stakeholders at various levels, which greatly improved the effectiveness of the process.

EPA team members from Headquarters and Region 6 worked with the city and its stakeholders on identifying goals and strategies for stormwater management. EPA team members facilitated communication with core collaborators and stakeholders, helped obtain relevant information and data, and developed planning and outreach documents. Throughout the process EPA identified lessons learned and developed relevant tools to share with other communities as part of the overall technical assistance effort. EPA Region 6 staff provided insight on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements and perspective on how the city's efforts fit into the broader goals and challenges of the region.

New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) provided technical guidance, advice, and insight on how state regulations, environmental priorities, and other related efforts may impact or can benefit the city's long-term stormwater planning efforts. NMED helped leverage resources that will help the city execute its plan and meet its goals. NMED plans to continue in this role over the long term.

Public participation

The core group of collaborators worked with city organizers to convene a public forum on September 26, 2017, where interested parties from the public were invited to provide stakeholder input on Santa Fe's approach to long-term stormwater management. The goal of the forum was for the city to engage stakeholders and gain input on long-term stormwater planning priorities and vision. Forty-four (44) participants from various organizations that conduct business in Santa Fe as well as other members of the public attended the forum.

The EPA technical assistance team presented background information on the long-term stormwater



September 2017 public forum participants.

planning effort and the city presented some of the challenges the Santa Fe stormwater program faces. The forum was predominantly a facilitated discussion designed to generate conversation and input to inform the city's vision and approach to developing its long-term stormwater planning approach. In many cases, stakeholders echoed the same or similar ideas and priorities, which became helpful "common themes" that informed the rest of the planning process.

Public Forum Conversation Questions

- What do you see as water-related challenges in Santa Fe that you think need to be addressed?
- How do you see yourself participating in the city's efforts moving forward?
- How has the city's current stormwater management process affected you?
- What would you like to see incorporated in a long-term stormwater plan for Santa Fe?

Common themes

Several themes came to light during the meetings with the core collaborators, city staff, and the public. In many cases, the stated priorities from the public mirrored those from city staff. The team did not outline any goals/objectives during their initial presentations, which helped facilitate open dialogue and ensure that ideas would not be limited. Instead, key prompting questions were posed and discussed so the various groups could think broadly about what would be most helpful from their perspectives.

Some of the common themes included:

- Water resources. Promote stormwater and surface water in Santa Fe as a resource that provides life and value to the city. Replenish, revitalize, and enhance Santa Fe's water resources, in particular the Santa Fe River.
- Outreach and Education. Educate and provide outreach to the community, stakeholders, and city staff.
- **Coordination.** Enhance interdepartmental coordination—use stormwater to promote coordinated and efficient management.

- **Planning benefits.** Incorporate multi-benefit land uses into project planning.
- Sustainable funding. Ensure the future success of the stormwater program and projects by pursuing sustainable funding mechanisms and implementing a more effective organizational structure.
- **Cultural History.** Embrace Santa Fe's unique cultural history.

Some additional suggestions for Santa Fe's long-term approach to stormwater management included focusing on high-visibility projects, incorporating educational workshops and training, improving the community landscape, removing asphalt and concrete and creating "pocket parks," and promoting innovation and experimentation.

The sections below provide more description of concerns and opportunities that stakeholders expressed about stormwater management in the city.



One of Santa Fe's "stormwater acequias" installed along East Alameda Street. The city used this design for stormwater conveyance to pay tribute to the historic irrigation acequias used in the area for hundreds of years. Embracing the city's long history and reflecting it in new designs was important for many of the stakeholders.

Green infrastructure in Santa Fe

- City staff and residents felt Santa Fe needed to lead the way and be an example in using green infrastructure. This goal supports the city's desire to preserve Santa Fe's historical acequias and install green infrastructure, which can help address erosion and runoff from steep upland areas.
- One of the key challenges identified was that the water rights compact between New Mexico and Texas limits the amount of time water can be retained in Santa Fe. The compact also includes requirements for specific volumes of water to be supplied to Texas, which can impact how much water Santa Fe can hold in its reservoirs. It was recognized that early input and buy-in from the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (OSE) would be needed to ensure any stormwater management planning involving stormwater capture or infiltration would be developed and implemented appropriately.

Upland areas, like the one near Upper Canyon Road, pose challenges related to erosion and sediment-laden runoff.

Stormwater asset information

 Stakeholders discussed the numerous gaps in the city's geographic information system (GIS) inventory of stormwater assets, most notably a lack of mapped connections, conveyances, and location of pipes. Like many cities, Santa Fe has challenges posed by aging infrastructure, including more than 30 areas identified as stormwater "problem areas."

Long-term maintenance

 At the time of the stakeholder engagement process, the city did not have an effective mechanism for ensuring long-term operation and maintenance of privately owned green infrastructure. According to city staff, stormwater maintenance had also proven difficult on city properties due to understaffing, lack of training, and different departments/entities involved. City staff expressed a desire for the development of maintenance guidelines, standards, and training materials related to long-term stormwater management operation and maintenance.

Alignment with broader sustainability goals

 Stakeholders expressed concern that the predicted longer and more severe droughts will negatively affect Santa Fe in the future. There was also a desire to look at stormwater from an ecological services perspective. Stakeholders expressed a desire to look at wildlife, invasive species, and other ecological services through a broader lens and understand how stormwater management could be relevant or related.

Over 20,000 acre-feet of rainwater falls within Santa Fe city limits during a typical year. That is more than the average annual usage for all urban use in the city. This runoff can be used to support plants and trees, reduce potable water demand and recharge the overtaxed ground water supplies. Uncontrolled runoff causes erosion and causes maintenance problems in the millions of dollars.

-City of Santa Fe Land Use & Urban Design Plan (Santa Fe, 2017)

Need for coordination and clear roles for stormwater management

- City staff explained that responsibility for the different elements of the city's stormwater program were spread over several departments/divisions with no central coordinating body, and roles and responsibilities had not been clearly defined.
- Stakeholders highlighted interdepartmental coordination and cooperation as an area for improvement.

Integrating stormwater management into project planning and educating practitioners

- Stakeholders discussed that some practitioners within city programs and departments do not typically
 incorporate stormwater management into their planning processes or project designs. These practitioners
 would benefit from education about stormwater management's benefits and applicability—especially from
 green infrastructure—in a wide array of projects.
- Participants recognized that incorporating stormwater management into projects—instead of pursuing standalone stormwater projects—is efficient and can often save public funding.

Ensuring reliable program funding

- City staff explained that at the time of the stakeholder engagement process, the city's stormwater fee had only recently been used for stormwater projects. Previously, it had been used for staff salaries in various departments. Stakeholders discussed the possible creation of a stormwater utility or authority.
- City staff also stated that project managers and planners could benefit from additional training and guidance on leveraging stormwater management to better position Santa Fe for acquiring government grants and loans. Projects that incorporate stormwater management may be able to leverage non-city funding sources that have not historically been pursued.

Need for improved outreach, education, and training

 Stakeholders recognized a need for an improved citizen outreach and education program and suggested the potential development of a citizen outreach coordinator/adviser/task force. They also advocated for improved engagement with city decisionmakers, including advertising successes and challenges to city council and the city manager.



Juniper posts were installed 8-feet deep in Arroyo de los Chamisos, anchored in concrete and backfilled with rocks. This design slows water down near the bank during high-flow events, promoting sediment deposition and mitigating erosion.

VISION, GOALS, AND OUTPUTS

After initial meetings with the group of core collaborators, discussions with city staff, and the convening of a public forum for stakeholders, the core collaborators organized the input around several strategic themes. One theme that stood out and was consistent throughout the engagement process was that water needs to be treated as a resource and a life blood. <u>Water is necessary for all life, an integrated resource for both the community and the environment</u>. This notion became the cornerstone of the city's vision statement:

Vision...ensure Santa Fe's stormwater is valued as a life-sustaining resource.

Theme #1: Ensure clean water with creative and innovative solutions.		
Goal	 Establish and enforce effective community policies for development and redevelopment that integrate stormwater standards and green infrastructure considerations. 	

Theme #2: Effectively manage and maintain stormwater assets over the long-term.		
Goal	 Develop a more comprehensive and proactive stormwater asset management program. Create a sustainable and effective maintenance approach to continue in perpetuity. 	
Theme #3: Improve the overall resiliency of Santa Fe's resources and assets.		
Goal	 Align Santa Fe's stormwater efforts and projects with the city's broader sustainability goals. 	
Theme #4: Ensure the long-term success of the stormwater program.		
Goal	 Create an effectively structured and organized stormwater program. Create a mechanism to generate reliable funding dedicated for Santa Fe's stormwater program. Create a successful program for stormwater program education, outreach, and training. 	

After further discussions, the group of core collaborators agreed to pursue six key goals, as depicted in the figure below, that would guide and be the focus of future stormwater management efforts in Santa Fe.



Santa Fe long-term stormwater management goals

From 2017 to 2020, the city, the EPA team, and NMED continued to collaborate on efforts focused on the city's stormwater management vision and goals. The sections below describe some of the key outputs from these efforts.

Long-term stormwater management strategy

In 2016, the city passed Resolution No. 2016-25 to formally establish an initiative to further develop and update the city's stormwater management policies and program to align with its environmental protection and sustainability objectives. In response, the city began a process to internally evaluate the city's stormwater program and begin long-term stormwater planning.

The city engaged in modeling efforts to evaluate potential opportunities for the installation of stormwater management practices, particularly opportunities to infiltrate stormwater runoff into the ground. This process resulted in the development of a report, *An Infiltration Model for Enhanced Stormwater Management: A Preliminary Report for the city of Santa Fe, New Mexico*, which endorsed the new model for



Cover of Santa Fe's Stormwater Management Strategic Plan.

managing stormwater, encouraged the infiltration of rainwater, and provided various recommendations to ensure model success. In late 2016, the city also began engaging with the EPA on a voluntary long-term stormwater planning technical assistance effort. This effort included the 2017 public forum and technical assistance related to federal funding opportunities and green infrastructure in transportation projects.

The culmination of these various efforts contributed to development of the city's *Stormwater Management Strategic Plan*, which laid out a robust approach for Santa Fe's stormwater management over the long term and would be the primary document steering Santa Fe's stormwater program. The Strategic Plan incorporates many of the principles described in EPA's draft *Community Solutions for Stormwater Management: A Guide For Voluntary Long-Term Planning.* The *Strategic Plan* also discusses each of the city's defined goals that were the outcome of the 2017 public forum and core collaborator discussions.

Green infrastructure for transportation and roadway projects

Santa Fe has a history of engaging in long-term and master planning efforts across several departments. The city's Public Works and Transportation have robust project portfolios and understand the fundamentals of working with federal and state programs to fund infrastructure projects. City stakeholders felt that developing green infrastructure guidance targeted at engineers, planners, and project managers responsible for transportation projects—roadway projects in particular—could greatly benefit the use of green infrastructure practices and help the city make progress towards achieving many of its long-term stormwater planning goals.

Benefits of green infrastructure in roadway projects

Like other urban areas, Santa Fe has a large network of impervious roadways that generate runoff and prevent rain from soaking into the ground. Runoff picks up and transports pollutants from road surfaces into nearby waterways, generates flows that cause erosion, and contributes to flooding. Implementing green infrastructure in and along roadways can infiltrate, treat, capture, and use rainwater where it falls.

Roadways also require regular maintenance and improvements; therefore, considering green infrastructure implementation during the early design phase is critical to constructing roadways that are functional and sustainable over the long term. Building green infrastructure in roadway settings can also help Santa Fe meet municipal and state permitting requirements and various regulatory goals. These include, but are not limited to,

complying with the city's NPDES municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit, New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) drainage standards for roadways, landscaping requirements, and groundwater recharge or sustainability goals.

Design and funding considerations

Success Story: The Acequia Trail Underpass

Santa Fe's Acequia Trail Underpass project involved constructing a path under St. Francis Drive, one of the busiest intersections in the city, providing cyclists and pedestrians a safer connection between southwest Santa Fe and the popular Santa Fe Railyard area. The project's hardscape and landscape plan included green infrastructure and low impact development (LID) drainage features for stormwater management. The project also included several geomorphic and LID features to reduce runoff and erosion, maximize infiltration, and slow down water flow. Berms, mounds, knolls, and swales route stormwater through the landscape into percolation trenches and infiltration ponds. Since the underpass creates a manmade depression, stormwater overflow from ponds is collected in a 15,000-gallon cistern and slowly discharged to the aquifer to prevent flooding. Because these features were included in the design phase of the project, they were able to be funded with Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program funding. This project is a prime example of how stormwater components can be integrated into infrastructure projects with funding vehicles not specifically set aside for stormwater/green infrastructure improvements.



Stormwater swale installed as a component of the Acequia Trail Underpass project (Source: City of Santa Fe)

Roadway projects with green infrastructure may be eligible for government-sponsored clean water or transportation grant and loan program funding. For example, if green infrastructure designs are integrated into roadway projects at the concept or design phase of a roadway project, costs for excavation and landscaping can be covered by grant or loan funding if the project is contributing to water resource protection goals, such as reduced nutrient or pollutant loading to nearby waterways. Incorporating green infrastructure into long-term planning may also allow Santa Fe to leverage public-private partnerships and take advantage of mutually beneficial opportunities to install these practices on private properties adjacent to city rights-of-way (ROWs).

Developing a transportation green infrastructure resource

To complement Santa Fe's efforts in pursuing broader use of green infrastructure and sustainably financing infrastructure projects, particularly for transportation-related projects, the EPA technical assistance team worked with the city to develop an educational resource for roadway project planners, engineers, and project managers: *Incorporating Green Infrastructure into Roadway Projects in Santa Fe*.

The document is intended to be a primer on green infrastructure in roadway projects and emphasizes establishing buy-in at the beginning of project planning. It includes considerations for preliminary planning and communication with project stakeholders, benefits of green infrastructure for roadway projects, detailed fact sheets for region-appropriate best management practices (BMPs), and green infrastructure project examples using actual projects in Santa Fe.

The city provided examples of real-life Santa Fe roadway projects in various stages of planning and design for the EPA team to provide alternative green infrastructure design concepts. The goal of this process



Incorporating Green Infrastructure into Roadway Projects in Santa Fe

Prepared for the City of Santa Fe through Technical Assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Wastewater Management



Incorporating Green Infrastructure Into Roadway Projects in Santa Fe cover.

was to share how green infrastructure could be incorporated into projects with which city engineers and planners were already familiar. One of the document goals is to inspire city planners and engineers so that they may consider green infrastructure for their future projects.



Camino Entrada Tree Trench Roundabout Concept.

Project planning and navigating federal funding programs

Three of Santa Fe's goals for its long-term stormwater planning approach are to secure reliable funding, increase the use of green infrastructure, and consider regional planning efforts for infrastructure and transportation projects. To successfully obtain project funding from outside sources, city stakeholders recognized the benefit of integrating stormwater management into broader community and infrastructure planning. Stakeholders discussed how city programs and departments that do not typically prioritize stormwater management in their planning would benefit from education on the benefits and applicability of stormwater management in design and leveraging potential funding sources.

To support this identified need, the EPA technical assistance team developed an informational document for the city titled, *Government Funding Opportunities for Stormwater Management in Santa Fe*, that provides insights on incorporating stormwater management into the project planning process and pursuing federal funding for stormwater projects. The *Strategic Plan* also bolsters the city's ability to pursue funding because it identifies challenges and documents potential solutions, which conveys that the community is engaged and dedicated to fixing problems that arise.

Stormwater management alone may not be the focus of, or meet all the qualifying criteria for, certain grant and loan programs. However, applicants can often qualify for funding by strategically incorporating stormwater and green infrastructure components into the scope of broader transportation, safety improvement, hazard mitigation, or community projects.

The Government Funding Opportunities for Stormwater Management in Santa Fe document notes that projects that contribute to master planning efforts and larger-scale community improvements often receive higher consideration and ranking when applying for government grants and loans. The document provides a detailed discussion on four major federal funding sources including, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), USDOT Build Program, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, and EPA's Section 319 Grant Program. The document includes a general description of each program, eligibility requirements, and project examples that

Leveraging Partnerships

Obtaining funding through state or federal programs often requires the coordination and cooperation of multiple entities (either within a municipal organization or with regional, state, or federal partners). Project planners should give careful thought as to which entity will take the lead for a particular opportunity and which entity can provide added value, support, and input to increase the odds of success.

In many cases, the city needs to obtain funding for its municipal projects and work between multiple city departments. However, certain funding programs may target specific groups, such as watershed and regional planning organizations or state agencies. In these cases, the city could become a partner on a team of applicants or work to integrate city projects, goals, and priorities into regional- or state-level planning. Routine communication between all parties can help leverage opportunities as they become available.

incorporated stormwater management. Where applicable, examples from Santa Fe were included in the discussion. In addition, the document includes an appendix with a brief description of approximately 25 federal funding sources—including project examples—that can provide funding for projects that incorporate stormwater management.

State agencies and regional planning organizations often provide resources to fund projects, including federal grants and loans. Although the main function of the *Government Funding Opportunities for Stormwater*

Management in Santa Fe document was to highlight federal funding opportunities for the city, the EPA team worked with the city to identify state and regional entities as potential project partners for securing funding.

As an example, the city has already had a successful a history of working with the Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Projects like the Santa Fe Railyard, which included improvements to the New Mexico Rail Runner Express, were planned with the assistance of the MPO and have stimulated economic growth in Santa Fe. As a part of this effort, Santa Fe and the MPO met to discuss the MPO's long-term planning, strengthen the relationship between the city and the MPO, and discuss potential funding sources that the



Santa Fe Railyard water tower.

MPO has access to. Additionally, the city was planning several projects proposed in the MPO's 2015–2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, including multiple sites along the Guadalupe Street corridor. The discussion highlighted both organizations' desire to further the use of stormwater management and green infrastructure in transportation project planning.

IMPLEMENTING LONG-TERM STORMWATER PLANNING INTO THE FUTURE

The city continues to make steady progress on implementing its long-term stormwater strategy, including successfully pursuing about \$4 million dollars in loan funding for projects and a Gold Certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) in 2020, including full credit for the stormwater management criteria⁴. Based on progress, challenges, and Santa Fe's priorities, the city will continue to plan and modify its approach and update its strategy over time to help to achieve its long-term stormwater planning goals and vision to...

<image>

...ensure Santa Fe's stormwater is valued as a life-sustaining resource.

The completed Acequia Trail Underpass project. The project was funded through FHWA's CMAQ Improvement Program and included several stormwater management features installed in a highly visible traffic and pedestrian area (Source: city of Santa Fe).

⁴ Santa Fe LEED for Cities Certification: <u>https://www.santafenm.gov/leedgoldsf</u>