



Agenda

Regular Meeting of the Water Conservation Committee August 11, 2026 at 4:00 PM Meeting Virtually

Procedures for Water Conservation Committee Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://santafenm.gov.zoom.us/j/87647720627>

Meeting ID: 8764 7720 627

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Request for the Approval of the June 9, 2026, Water Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes.
5. Presentations
 - a. Santa Fe Watershed Association Annual Report (Julie Hasty, Director of Education of the Santa Fe Watershed Association, julie@santafewatershed.org, 505-820-1696)
 - b. Consideration of Suitability of Nichols Reservoir for a City Sponsored Children's Fishing Derby on September 26th, 2026 (Jesse Roach, Public Utilities Interim Director, jdroach@santafenm.gov.)
 - c. Water Conservation Program Update. (Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager, cychavez@santafenm.gov, 955-4219)
 - d. Water Conservation Committee Subcommittee Reports on Outdoor and Commercial. (Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager, cychavez@santafenm.gov, 955-4219)
6. Action Items
7. Discussion Items
8. Matters from Staff
9. Matters from the Committee

10. Matters from the Chair
11. Matters from the Public
12. Next Meeting: September 8, 2026
13. Adjourn

Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations, contact the City Clerk's office at 955-6521, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.

Regular Meeting of the Water Conservation Committee
June 9, 2026 at 4:00 PM
Meeting Virtually
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

4:02pm

2. Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor Paul Bustamante

Amanda Hatherly

Bill Roth

Brandon Vella

Caribou Honig

Lori Rochelle

Robert Coombe

Sharllyn Pimentel

Rick Herman

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Abby Feldman

OTHER PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING

Christine Chavez, Conservation and Sustainability Director

Patricio Pacheco, Liaison Conservation and Sustainability Division staff

Robert Wood, Conservation and Sustainability Division staff

Ramon Coriz, Conservation and Sustainability Division staff

Erica Renuad, Conservation and Sustainability Division staff

Katie Poirier, Conservation and Sustainability Division staff

William Schneider, Water Resources Manager Water Division staff

Levi Newell, Water Resources Water Division staff

Julie Hasty, Santa Fe Watershed Association

Glenn Schiffbauer, Santa Fe Green Chamber

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Amanda Hatherly, seconded by Brandon Vella, to approve the agenda. The motion was approved on a roll call vote.

4. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Brandon Vella, seconded by Lori Rochelle to approve the minutes. The motion was approved on a roll call vote.

- a. Request for the Approval of the May12, 2026, Water Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes.

5. Presentations

- a. Water Conservation Program Update. (Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager, cychavez@santafenm.gov, 955-4219)
- b. Water Conservation Committee Subcommittee Reports on Outdoor, Commercial, Onboarding, Education and Outreach. (Christine Chavez, Water Conservation Manager, cychavez@santafenm.gov, 955-4219)

6. Action Items

7. Discussion Items

8. Matters from Staff

9. Matters from the Committee

10. Matters from the Chair

11. Matters from the Public

12. Next Meeting:

July 14, 2026

13. Adjourn

5:30pm

Liaison

Chair



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santafewatershed.org

Santa Fe Watershed Association Educational Programming Fiscal Year 2026 Report

Work completed under Santa Fe's 20-year Municipal Watershed Plan approved by City Council September 2009 (Resolution No. 2009-87)

Munis Contract # 3260181

FY26 Purchase Order #22603211

*Report prepared by the Santa Fe Watershed Association – **June 30, 2026***

Summary

In FY2026, the Santa Fe Watershed Association (SFWA) was awarded a contract through the City of Santa Fe's RFP process to continue implementing education and outreach programs that support the 20-year Municipal Watershed Management Plan in partnership with the City of Santa Fe, U.S. Forest Service, and The Nature Conservancy. **Since Fall 2010, the Santa Fe Watershed Association has served approximately 14,864 participants with over 49,000 hours of Municipal Watershed education programming.**

Under this FY2026 contract, SFWA provides comprehensive watershed stewardship, education, and community outreach services in close partnership with the City of Santa Fe's Conservation and Sustainability Division in alignment with the City's Municipal Watershed Plan, Water Conservation Plan, and 25-year Sustainability Plan. Building on a long-standing collaboration with City staff, SFWA continues to facilitate a Watershed Stewardship Education Initiative for 5th grade students in Santa Fe, leads public education hikes in the protected Municipal Watershed, and administers the nationally recognized Project WET curriculum for water- and sustainability-related education and engagement. SFWA also develops and shares standards-aligned curriculum resources in English and Spanish, trains and coordinates volunteers and educators, supports summer and school-year outreach opportunities, and prepares timely annual impact reports that document participation and learning gains.

Water education and outreach remain essential tools for building conservation habits, deepening public understanding of local water systems, and strengthening long-term community resilience. In FY2026, SFWA continued designing, implementing, and evaluating programs that help participants of all ages better understand water supply and infrastructure, watershed health, forest and arroyo ecology, green stormwater infrastructure, climate resilience, and the role each community member plays in conservation. SFWA also continues to serve as the New Mexico host institution for

Project WET, with its education leadership contributing statewide expertise in water education and hands-on teacher training.

SFWA continues to value the strong support and partnership of the City of Santa Fe’s Conservation and Sustainability Division and to align its work with the City’s evolving priorities at the intersection of water conservation, sustainability, and public education.

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Programs

My Water, My Watershed 5th Grade Outdoor Education Programming

My Water, My Watershed (MWMW) is a three-part, science-based program that introduces fifth grade students to their local watershed. Led by SFWA education staff and aligned with New Mexico STEM Ready fifth grade science standards, the program includes a pre-classroom visit, a full-day field trip into the Santa Fe Municipal Watershed, and a post-classroom visit. Students learn about Santa Fe's drinking water system, water conservation, forest ecology, and the relationships between living things and their environment. [My Water, My Watershed](#)

The MWMW program is offered to all 5th grade classes in the Santa Fe Public School District and is being expanded to include Montessori and charter schools. SFWA's goal is to provide an opportunity for every 5th grade student in Santa Fe to visit the ~~Upper~~ Municipal Watershed. One goal for the program that was met in FY26 was to create Spanish versions of all the student materials for the program including science journals, macroinvertebrate dichotomous keys, and other water quality students sheets.

The Nichols Dam restoration project began in the spring of 2024, and by the 2025-26 school year most of the major dam construction had been completed. SFWA staff continued to work in close collaboration with project engineers, contractors, and City staff to maintain safe access, follow site-specific safety protocols, and provide a meaningful educational experience for students visiting Nichols Reservoir and the outdoor classroom. Although the most active phase of construction had passed, the project remained an important learning opportunity. Visiting classes continued to learn about the dam restoration work, ask questions of engineers when available, and gain a deeper understanding of the many roles, safety considerations, and infrastructure systems that contribute to a functioning water system. We are grateful that this period of transition continued to enrich the field trip experience for students, chaperones, teachers, and volunteers.



Photo: Students from Rio Grande School using a dichotomous key to identify different tree species during their pre-visit.

Pre-Field Trip:

During the 60–90-minute pre-field trip classroom visit, SFWA education staff introduce students to their science journals and prepare them for the Municipal Watershed field trip. Students define a watershed, identify parts of the Santa Fe Watershed, learn about local water sources, practice scientific observation and plant identification, and discuss the qualities of a healthy watershed. They also review Leave No Trace principles and how to act as responsible stewards during their visit.

Field Trip:

During the field trip into the Municipal Watershed with SFWA education staff and volunteers, students, teachers, and chaperones explore the dam at Nichols Reservoir to learn firsthand about one of our water sources and develop an ethos of stewardship and conservation. They learn about the history of the reservoirs and how the City of Santa Fe manages and cleans the water from the reservoirs. Students observe the ponderosa pine forest and discuss forest management regarding fire ecology, putting their observation skills into practice using a science journal to record all their findings. In the outdoor classroom above Nichols Reservoir, students identify benthic macroinvertebrates from the Santa Fe River as an indicator of water quality and overall watershed health. Students test the water quality to measure turbidity and pH and document the parts of the watershed they observe.



Photo: A student from Pinon Elementary sorting and identifying benthic macroinvertebrates in the outdoor classroom.

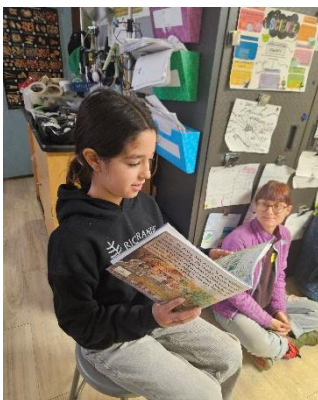


Photo: A student from Rio Grande School reading “The Forest of Fire” during their post-visit.

Post-Field Trip:

During the post-field trip classroom visit by SFWA education staff, students discuss the observations they made when visiting the Municipal Watershed, define “ecosystem” and discuss how the biotic and abiotic elements in the Municipal Watershed affect each other, and synthesize their collected data to make a determination about the overall health of the Municipal Watershed. Students discuss why it is important to conserve the water we use in our schools, homes, and community, and how they can contribute to the health of the watershed now and in the future. The post-visit is wrapped up with a

discussion about fire ecology inspired by their observations in the Municipal Watershed and a book read together in the classroom, "The Forest of Fire".

In the 2025-26 school year, the MWMW program was funded through the City of Santa Fe and private donations. The program cost is \$1,750 for each participating class including bus transportation and the City of Santa Fe paid for 28 field trips totaling \$49,000.

2025-26 School Year Program Participation

Season	# of Schools	# of Students	# of Teachers	# of Classes	# of Parent Chaperones	# of Direct Education Hours
Fall 2025	14	466	24	23	69	161
Spring 2026	10	387	25	18	27	126
Total	24	853	49	41	96	287

Table 1. MWMW participation numbers for FY 2026. Participating schools included Acequia Madre Elementary, Aspen Community School, Desert Montessori, Carlos Gilbert Elementary, Cesar Chavez Community School, Chapparal Elementary, El Camino Real Academy, EJ Martinez Elementary, Eldorado Community School, Gonzales Community School, Journey Montessori, Kearny Elementary, La Mariposa Montessori, Little Earth, Monte del Sol, Nava Elementary School, Nina Otero Community School, Pinon Elementary, Ramirez Thomas Elementary, Rio Grande, Salazar Elementary, Santa Fe School for the Arts and Sciences, Tesuque Elementary Wood Gormley Elementary

Student Assessments

To gauge student learning during program participation, students are given a professionally developed online assessment both before the pre-classroom visit by SFWA staff and after the post-classroom visit. Students are asked factual, perception, and short answer questions to measure their knowledge gain and level of understanding of our water resources and conservation.

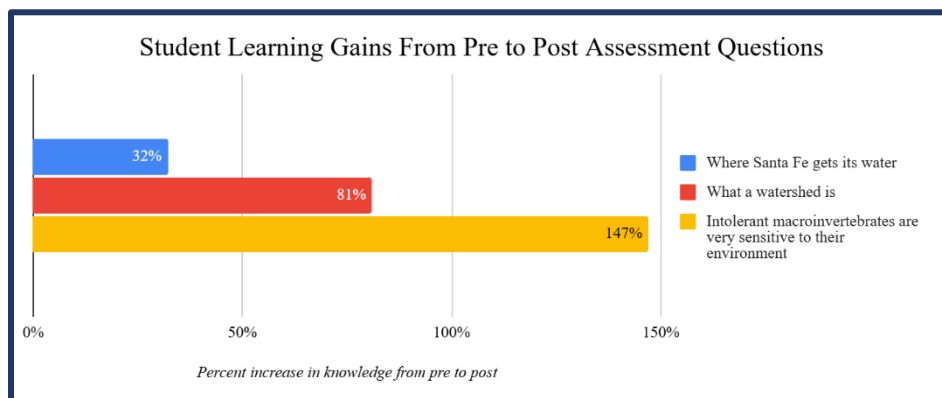


Fig 1. Students answered multiple choice factual questions related to Santa Fe's water sources and watershed health and showed overall learning gains with each. *

Perception Statements	Percent of students who agree or strongly agree post participation.
I use science to understand nature and my role in it.	61%
Every person in Santa Fe plays a role in managing our water resources and supply.	62%
I think science is fun.	70%

Table 2. Students were asked to rate their level of agreement with the above statements from 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree).

Students are asked short answer questions to measure their knowledge gain and level of understanding of the health of the SF watershed, forest management, water conservation, and water quality. While students already possessed a basic understanding of several topics before the program, the post-assessment revealed an increase in the depth and complexity of their short-answer responses.

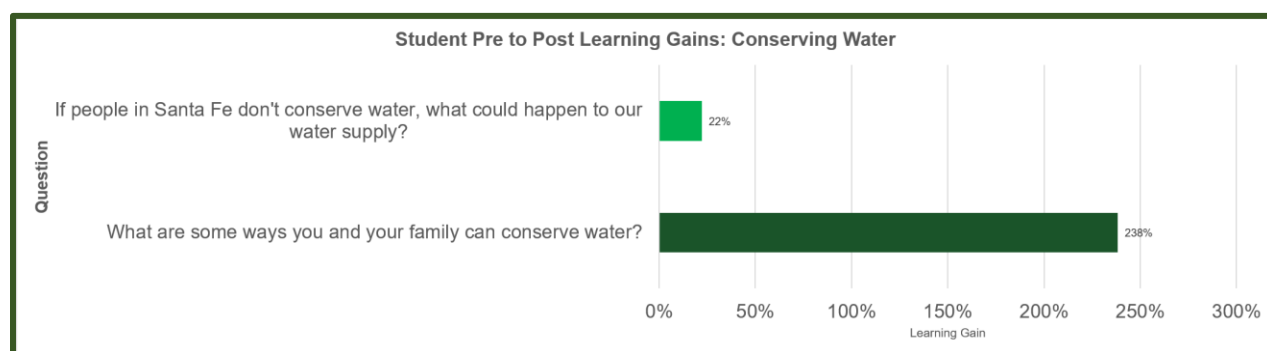


Fig 2. Students were asked to provide short answers to questions that gauge their level of understanding about conserving water in their community. Short answers were then assessed using an assessment rubric. Students showed overall learning gains with each. *

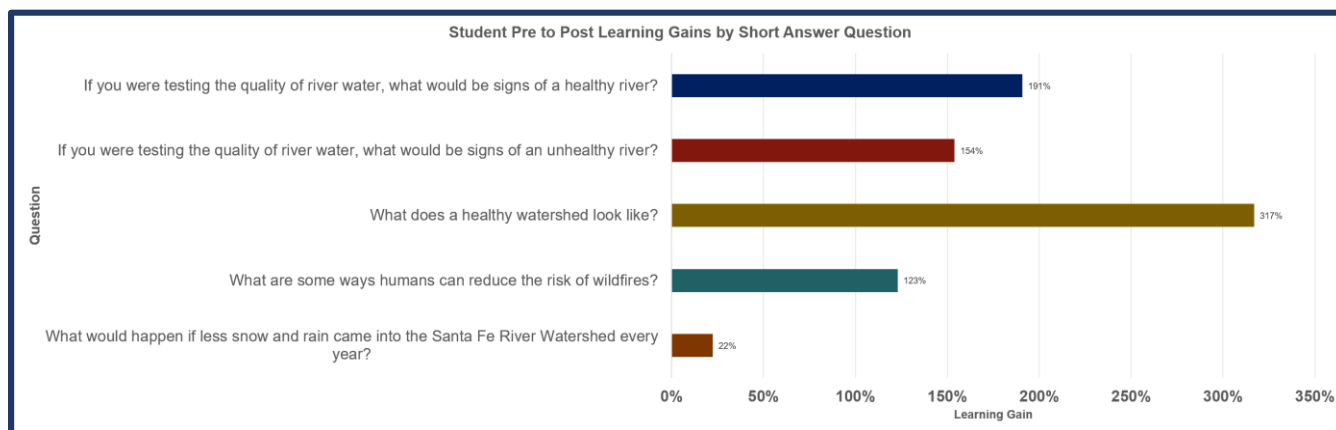


Fig 3. Students were asked to provide short answers to questions that gauge their level of understanding about watershed health, water quality, and wildfires. Short answers were then assessed using an assessment rubric. Students showed overall learning gains with each. *

*Student learning gains were calculated using percent of correct answers post assessment minus percent of correct answers pre assessment divided by percent of correct answers pre assessment.

[$\frac{\text{post-pre}}{\text{Pre}}$ = learning gains]

Student Voices: What Stuck with My Water, My Watershed Participants

What would happen if less snow and rain came into the Santa Fe River Watershed every year?

"No tendremos agua potable porque la agua de la nieve y de la lluvia se usa para poder agua potable quitando los germenos."

What are some ways you and your family can conserve water?

"Some ways we can conserve water are taking shorter showers, not flushing the toilet too many times, and not leaving the water running while washing your hands."

If you were testing the quality of river water, what would be signs of a healthy river?

"Clear water, Ph levels 5-8, and intolerant macroinvertebrates would be living in it."

If you were testing the quality of river water, what would be signs of an unhealthy river?

"No hubiera macroinvertebrados intolerantes."

What does a healthy watershed look like?

"A healthy watershed has no ash, clear water, healthy and happy communities."

What are some ways humans can reduce the risk of wildfires?

"By staging controlled burns so that when a wildfire comes through it will have less to burn down."

If people in Santa Fe don't conserve water, what could happen to our water supply?

"If we don't conserve water, the water supply could fall quickly, and we wouldn't be left with much to drink and shower with. Also, there wouldn't be enough water for the plants to photosynthesize, meaning the plants would die. Also, the water cycle would be disturbed and we wouldn't have as much rain water."

Teacher Program Evaluation

Teachers were sent a program evaluation after the post classroom visit to gather their feedback on their student's learning and their experience with the program overall.

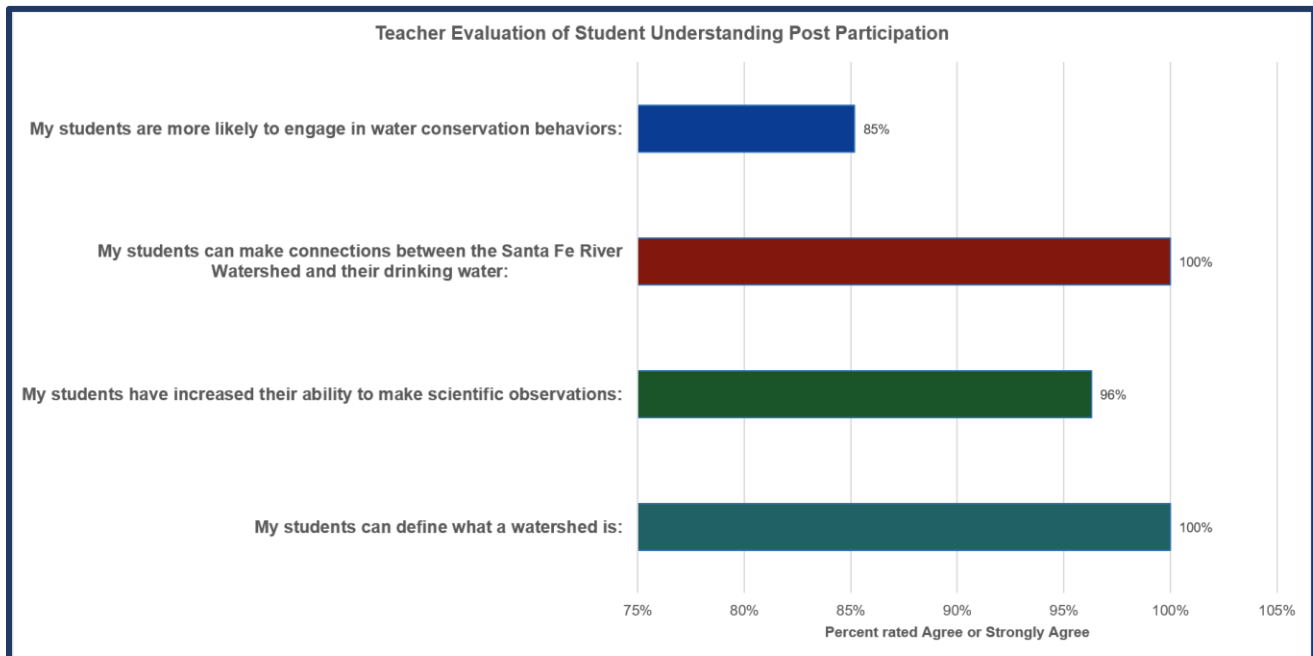


Fig. 4. Teachers were asked to evaluate their student's understanding after participating in the program. Teachers were given response options of Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree.

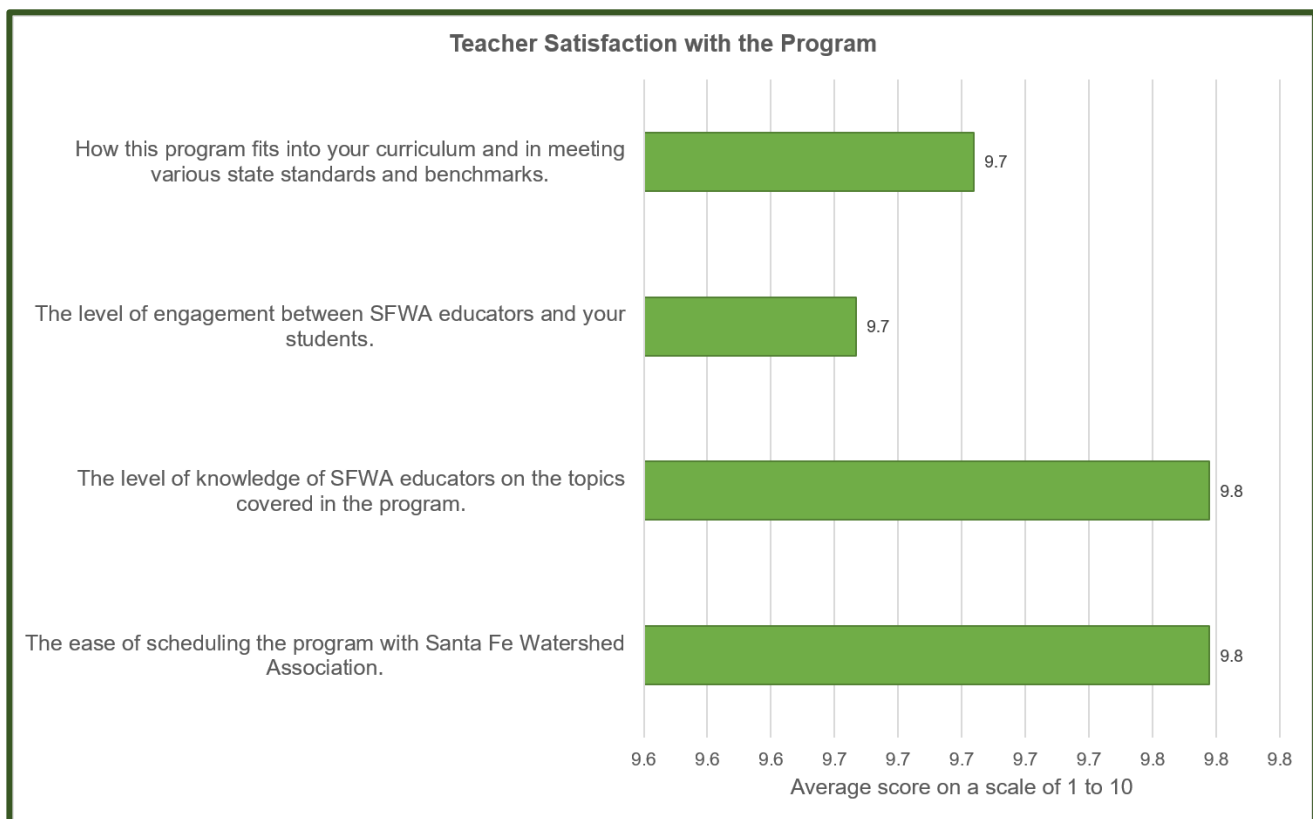


Fig. 5. Teachers were asked to rate their experience with the program on a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being "not satisfied" and 10 being "very satisfied"..

Teacher Reflections:

"It was pure magic watching their wonder unfold."

"Each experience sparked curiosity and enthusiasm."

Volunteers

Santa Fe Watershed Association continues to increase community volunteer participation in the My Water, My Watershed program. To ensure that volunteers understand protocols and best practices, volunteer training days were held before both the spring and fall field trip seasons. Not only do the volunteers help SFWA educators improve the quality of field trips and make them more cost-efficient, but they get to participate in hands-on learning of their own. While facilitating 5th-grade learning and serving as positive community role models, they visit the watershed and learn about the same important topics. **In the 2025-26 school year, 47 education volunteers filled 71 available volunteer slots, spending a total of 355 hours working with students in the Municipal Watershed at a monetary value of \$11,289. Many of the education volunteers have returned year after year because they believe in the importance of this program. A quote from one dedicated volunteer is, "This is a fantastic opportunity to spend time with youth in our beautiful watershed. You learn along with them and to see the joy and inquisitiveness within them is wonderful".**



Photo: Volunteers during the spring training day learning to measure turbidity.

Chaperones

During the 2025-26 school year, 96 chaperones accompanied the 5th grade classes on the My Water, My Watershed field trips. Chaperones included parents, stepparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and older siblings of the students. Like the students themselves, chaperones delight in the opportunity to visit the closed watershed, learn where their water comes from, and how to get more involved in intergenerational stewardship opportunities.

Teacher Workshops

One of the goals of the Santa Fe Watershed Association, in partnership with the City of Santa Fe Conservation and Sustainability Division, is to bring water education to as many students and educators as possible. One of the most effective ways to accomplish this goal is to train teachers using high-quality, hands-on activities and provide them with resources they can take back to their classrooms to engage students in water science and conservation. **Using Project WET curriculum, SFWA education staff held five professional development workshops in FY2026 that trained 46 educators (reaching 1,058 students) and expanded access to water education across grade levels and settings.** Funding for teacher workshops supports staff time, workshop materials, Project WET guides and classroom resources for participating educators, and teacher stipends. In addition to serving local educators, SFWA is building a Project WET facilitator network throughout New Mexico to strengthen peer leadership, expand regional training capacity, and support more consistent access to high-quality water education statewide. [Teacher Workshops - The Santa Fe Watershed Association](#)



Photo: Educators exploring how water moves through earth materials in the Water in Earth Systems Workshop in January.

Workshop Date Workshop Date	Name of Workshop	Educators Trained	Students Reached
November 15	Foundations of Water Education	8	184
January 17	Water in Earth Systems	11	253
February 7	Getting Little Feet Wet	9	207
March 14	Healthy Water, Healthy People	6	138
May 11	Water in Earth Systems/People and Culture	12	276

Table 3. FY2026 teacher workshop participation and estimated student reach.

In addition to facilitated workshops, SFWA offers free curriculum resources that teachers can use independently in their classrooms and schoolyards. These include *Mi Arroyo, Mi Tierra*, a place-based outdoor education curriculum that uses local arroyos to help middle school students investigate stormwater, erosion, infiltration, pollution, best management practices, and the cultural history of arroyos, as well as the Rainwater Harvesting Curriculum, a 10-lesson unit adapted from University of Arizona, Arizona Project WET and localized for Santa Fe. The Rainwater Harvesting Curriculum engages middle and high school students in the engineering design process as they study their schoolyard, design green stormwater infrastructure, and explore how rainwater capture can support water conservation, native plants, cooling, and climate resilience. Together, these free resources expand access to standards-aligned, hands-on watershed education and give teachers flexible tools for connecting science learning to real-world water challenges in Santa Fe.

The total cost for teacher workshops in the 2025-26 school year was \$10,000.

Climate Masters

Climate Masters was developed by the University of Oregon Climate Leadership Initiative and adapted, with permission, to focus on climate change in New Mexico. The course explores local connections between sustainability, water, soil, food production, consumption and waste, forest management, transportation, energy, and actions that build community resiliency. Weekly expert speakers deepen learning and encourage local engagement, with water supply and conservation as core themes. (See topics and presenters by date in Appendix D.) [NM Climate Masters - The Santa Fe Watershed Association](#)

The New Mexico Climate Master's course took place this spring with 12 sessions spanning 10 weeks from March 18 to May 20, 2026. 24 participants attended 31 hours of course time and then committed to a 30-hour climate related project or volunteer opportunity that connects them to the community. The total cost for the NM Climate Master's course for FY26 was \$15,000.

The Climate Masters cohort brought together participants with a wide range of occupations, educational backgrounds, ages, and experiences living in Santa Fe. Some participants have deep roots in the community and joined to expand their understanding of the local environment and climate impacts including some staff of city and state government, while others were newer to the area and wanted to better understand Santa Fe and ways to contribute to community resilience. Across this diverse group,



Photo: Participants tour Reese Baker's backyard learning about backyard permaculture, stormwater capture, and water conservation.

participants shared a strong care for the community and an eagerness to learn and take meaningful action.

At the start and end of the course, participants used stickers to rate their comfort and understanding of climate-related statements on a disagree-to-agree scale. Comparing their responses showed a significant increase in both comfort and understanding by the end of the course (Figure 5).



Fig. 6. When asked to self-assess their level of understanding and comfort with climate related statements, participants showed a significant shift toward understanding from before and after taking the course. Questions were presented on a Likert Scale with disagree to agree.

In addition, an online evaluation was given at the end of the course asking them to give overall perceptions of the class. **Feedback was resoundingly positive on the course content, structure, and organization. Participants were also given the chance to give feedback on improvements to the course they want to see. Results and feedback from the evaluation are below.**

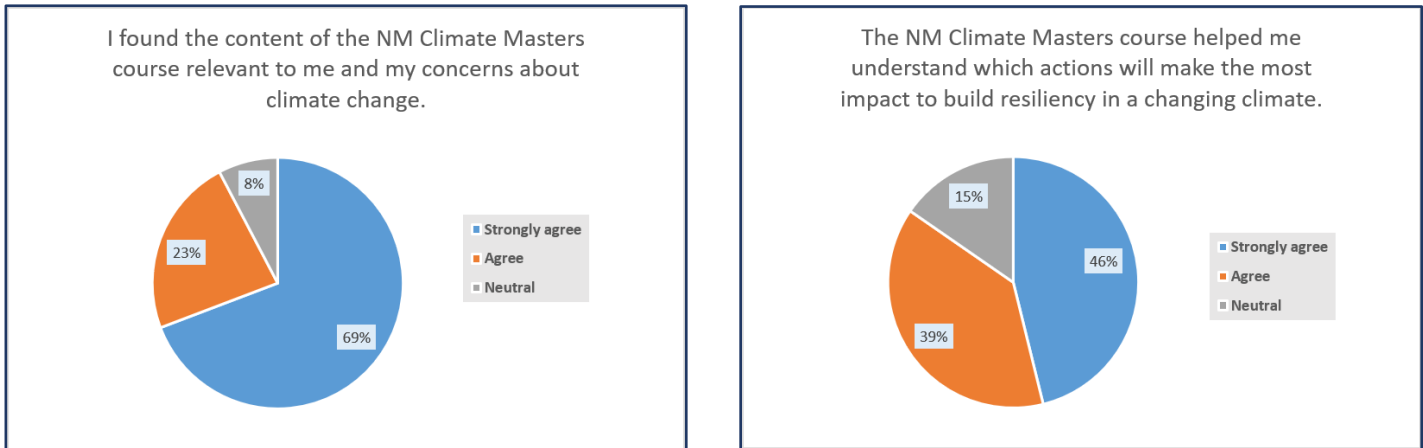


Fig. 7. Participants were asked to rate their level of agreement/disagreement with perception statements (strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, strongly agree).

Participant Voices: What Stuck with Climate Masters Participants

Seeing Local Action

"I loved learning about all the actions at the city, county, and state levels. Great to see that New Mexico is paying attention and planning ahead. We could certainly do more, but at least we're doing something."

Connecting Water + Climate

"I appreciated learning about the broad group of community organizations that are doing work to proactively address climate change in Santa Fe. The classes opened my eyes to the issues and positive work that is being done locally. For my own habits, I think my awareness about our water systems and the way in which I can capture water were heightened."

Ready to Participate

"Since I've started working remotely and doing work not centered on NM, I've been inspired to re-anchor myself here in NM and to find ways to engage and contribute to climate mitigation efforts here at home. My decision to participate in this course was driven by that (pre-existing) inspiration, and the course material & presenters has definitely helped me better understand who's doing what throughout our state."

Hope + Inspiration

"Gratitude Julie and all your staff, speakers, and attendees for a most memorable, inspirational, and meaningful experience. The Watershed masterfully crafts a series that brings people perspectives, voices, and gifts, in a time when what we hear most lends to a sense of doom, gloom and hopelessness. Words pale to what my heart and mind was opened to."



Photos: (left) Participants pair-sharing their "climate stories". (right) Christine Chavez presenting to the participants about the work at the Conservation and Sustainability Division, City of Santa Fe.

Municipal Watershed Hikes

The 2010 Municipal Watershed Plan tasks SFWA with organizing and leading public hikes into the ~~Upper~~ Municipal Watershed in cooperation with the City of Santa Fe and US Forest Service annually. The goal of the hikes is to introduce the public to this area to learn firsthand about one of our water sources. Observing how the city manages the water and forest for quantity and quality helps develop conservation habits and overall support from community members. Hikes were offered to the general public as well as groups such as Santa Fe Community College students through a Watershed Management class. [Municipal Watershed Hikes - The Santa Fe Watershed Association](#)

FY 2026 Upper Municipal Watershed Hikes		
Date	Number of Participants	Audience
July 26	19	Public Hike
August 23	20	Public Hike/River Talks
September 20	23	Public Hike/Master Naturalists
October 25	14	Public Hike
March 24	9	SF Community College Students
April 18	16	NM Climate Masters
June 16	10	NM Governor's Office Interns
June 26	24	Public Hike to McClure Reservoir

Table 4. Hikes that took place in FY 2026.



Photos: (left) Hike participants listening to Bill Armstrong (USFS retired) give a talk on forest management and source water protection in September. (right) SFCC students and SWFA staff heading past Nichols Reservoir in March.

The cost for the Climate Masters hike is included in the Climate Masters section above. The cost for organizing and leading hikes in FY26 was \$6,500.

In the 2026 summer season, additional hikes are planned for July 18, August 8, September 19, and October 24.

Community Outreach

In FY2026, with the City of Santa Fe support, SFWA continued to build community understanding of water, sustainability, and local resilience through outreach programs that connect participants with practical solutions and place-based learning. Many of these outreach activities were drawn directly from **Project WET** lessons and teaching strategies, allowing SFWA staff to adapt nationally recognized, hands-on water education activities for local audiences and community settings. Community outreach included Mountain Kids Camp Municipal Watershed field trips that introduced youth to the watershed during the summer; presentations for the Santa Fe Garden Club and National Federation of Garden Clubs on water supply, source water protection, and rain gardens; Confluence Storytime programs at Santa Fe Public Libraries that paired water-themed Storytime with Rainstick making for children and



Photo: SFWA's annual Love Your Watershed Day event, in partnership with the City of Santa Fe, at DeVargas Park in May 2026 that was attended by over 550 community members.



Photo: SFWA's Jesus Horta exploring erosion control with a student at the Santa Fe Public Schools Innovation Expo in April that was attended by over 100 students and their families.

caregivers; virtual workshops for early childhood outdoor educators in collaboration with Total NM; and family-focused Santa Fe Public School events featuring activities such as Ask the Bugs, H2Olympics, and erosion stations. SFWA also partnered on a Santa Fe Canyon Preserve hike with the New Mexico School for the Deaf, participated in the SFPS Innovation Expo, engaged families at the Railyard Earth Day Celebration, and reached a large public audience through Love Your Watershed Day. Across these events, SFWA engaged hundreds of children, educators, families, and community members in hands-on watershed and water conservation learning.

These outreach efforts reflect SFWA's collaborative approach to community education and its commitment to reaching people across settings including parks, schools, libraries, churches, community events, and the Municipal

Watershed. By working with partners such as the Randall Davey Audubon Center, Mountain Kids, local schools, Santa Fe Public Libraries, and community event organizers, SFWA offers developmentally appropriate and locally relevant programming for a wide range of audiences. Project WET activities provided a strong foundation for many of these programs, helping SFWA deliver engaging, adaptable lessons on watershed awareness, water quality, erosion, source water protection, green stormwater infrastructure, stewardship, career paths, and service learning. Together, these efforts strengthened community partnerships, increased access to hands-on environmental education, and helped more Santa Fe residents understand their connection to local water systems.

In total, SFWA's FY2026 community outreach engaged more than 1,700 children, educators, families, and community members through hands-on, Project WET-informed experiences that connected water education to everyday community life.

The costs for hours toward community outreach in FY26 was \$12,500.

City Partnership and Program Support

In FY2026, SFWA received a City of Santa Fe contract through the RFP process to continue supporting the Conservation and Sustainability Division's education and outreach goals. This contract builds on the City's previous support for SFWA's water education, watershed stewardship, community outreach, Project WET, and sustainability-related programming. SFWA continues ongoing communication with the City Conservation and Sustainability Division and the Water Conservation Committee to provide consultation on water- and education-related issues, and City Conservation and Sustainability Division and SFWA staff consult regularly to explore education planning and outreach opportunities. SFWA also supports ongoing marketing of the city partnership, promotion of the City's Next Generation Water Summit, and other City initiatives.

Under the FY2026 contract, SFWA is also supporting the Conservation and Sustainability Division with a strategic planning process for sustainability education. This process is identifying opportunities for new education programming while also looking at where sustainability concepts can be integrated into existing education efforts. SFWA remains committed to continuing its partnership with the Conservation and Sustainability Division and broadening education offerings to meet the Division's goals. This growth is an opportunity to bring together the overlapping education threads of water conservation, urban beautification and resiliency, waste diversion, and sustainable best practices in the Santa Fe community.



Photo: Beth Witte with Project WET at the annual Project WET Conference, which took place at the Drury Hotel in Santa Fe in

Through support from the City of Santa Fe Conservation and Sustainability Division, SFWA has become the host institution for Project WET USA in the state of New Mexico, and Julie Hasty, the Director of Education, serves as the New Mexico Project WET Coordinator and sits on the Project WET Council representing Region 4. As a direct result of this work, Santa Fe hosted the Project WET Annual Conference May 11–15, 2026. The conference was a successful event that brought Project WET coordinators from across the country to Santa Fe to learn about the region’s unique environment, water resources, and water conservation efforts. [Project WET - The Santa Fe Watershed Association](#)

Support from the City also deepens the connections between SFWA, the Conservation and Sustainability Division, and other organizations in Santa Fe to cultivate a holistic education approach to youth, educators, and the broader community. SFWA participates in the Community Educators Network (CEN), a collection of educators from various non-profit organizations who collaborate to bring experiential education opportunities to teachers and their classes in Santa Fe and hosts a Teachers Night Out each school year to share these opportunities. Through CEN’s partnership with the City of Santa Fe, SFWA education staff trained City Summer Camp Counselors and participated in camp activities with Santa Fe students in the summer of 2026. SFWA is also one of the three partners that make up the Santa Fe Outdoor Education Collaborative. SFWA facilitates education activities at various student and public events, often alongside the Conservation and Sustainability Division staff.



Photo: Julie Hasty with SFWA leads the PWET Activity Training on the first day of the conference. People from the NM Office of the State Engineer, NM Tech, NM Environment Department, Santa Fe Public Schools, National Park Service, and others were trained to facilitate Project WET activities.

The ongoing partnership and support of the City of Santa Fe Conservation and Sustainability Division allows SFWA to have a presence and participate in education endeavors throughout our city to support our whole community.

The costs for hours toward support and outreach in FY26 was \$10,000.

Helping youth and community members understand Santa Fe's local water systems, sustainability practices, and the connections between natural resources and daily choices is essential to fostering lasting conservation habits and preparing future generations to care for and manage these resources. The Santa Fe Watershed Association is grateful for the opportunity to continue providing meaningful watershed and sustainability education for students and community members throughout Santa Fe. We sincerely thank the City of Santa Fe, especially the Conservation and Sustainability Division, for its continued partnership and support.

Sincerely,



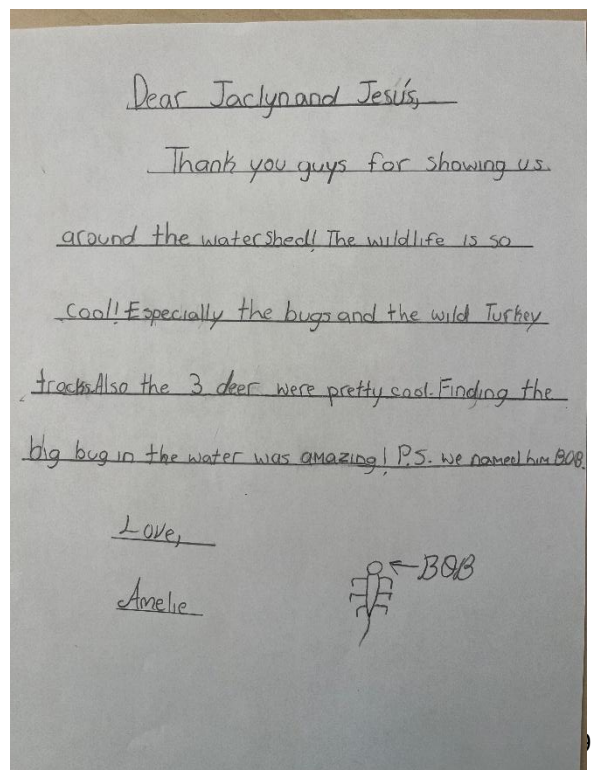
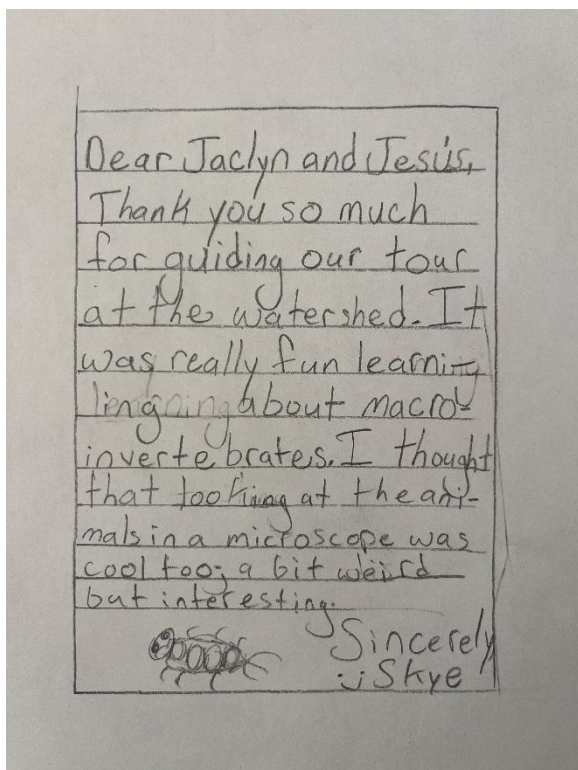
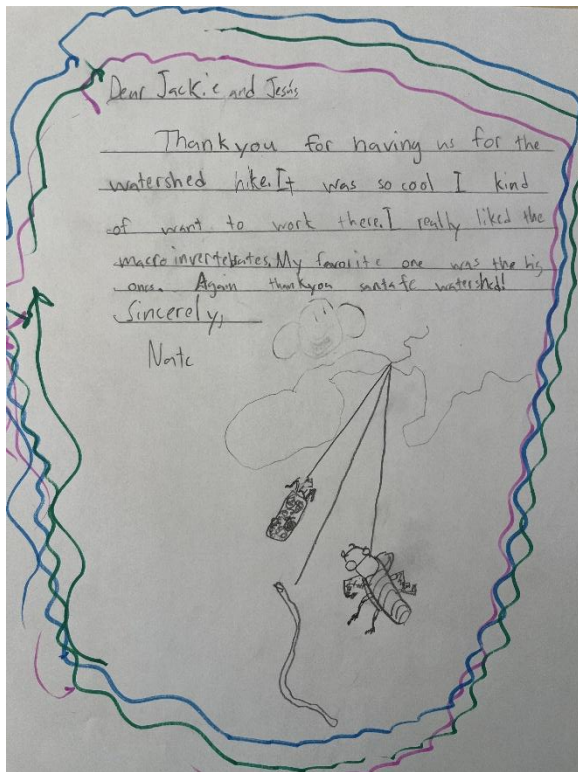
Julie Hasty
Director of Education



Morika Vorenberg Hensley
Executive Director

Appendix A

Samples of Student Thank You Notes



Appendix B

SFWA Education Workshops

Today's Agenda



project WET
WATER EDUCATION TODAY

Foundations of Water Education
Workshop Agenda for November 15, 2025

9:00 - Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda

9:15 - Ice-breaker Activity

- A Drop in the Bucket - page 31
- 5-ESS2-2, MS-ESS3-4, supports 5ESS3-1, MS-ESS3-3

9:45 - Activity

- The Incredible Journey - page 41
- 2-ESS2-3, 2-PS1-4, 5-ESS2-1, 5-ESS2-2, MS-ESS2-4, supports 5-ESS3-1

10:30 - Break

10:40 - Activity

- Seeing Watersheds - page 55
- 4-ESS2-2, 5-ESS2-1, 5-ESS2-2, supports 4-ESS2-1

11:20 - Activity

- My Water Footprint - page 131
- 5-ESS3-1, MS-ESS3-3, supports MS-ESS3-2, MS-ESS3-4

11:50 - Splash Through the Guide and Wrap Up



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Today's Agenda



project WET
WATER EDUCATION TODAY

Healthy Water, Healthy People
Workshop Agenda for March 14, 2026



- 9:00am** - Welcome, Agenda, and Introductions
- 9:15am** - Ice Breaker - Life and Death Situation (p.125 in HWHP guide)
- 9:35am** - From H+ to OH! (p.15) - Let's simulate the creation of acids and bases, manipulate solutions, and identify common acids and bases found at home.
- 10:15am** - Grab a Gram (p.29) - Let's explore basic water quality measurements like parts per million (ppm) and milligrams per liter (mg/L) then compare measurements to national drinking water standards.
- 10:45am** - A Snapshot in Time (p.61) - What are some significant water quality parameters? Let's graph, analyze, and summarize spatial and chronological trends in water quality data.
- 11:15am** - Turbidity or Not Turbidity (p.83) - How does sediment affect turbidity? What causes erosion and how do we reduce erosion that causes turbidity in adjacent waterways?
- 11:45am** - Introduce flow app, distribute guides, workshop assessments, and wrap up



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Join us for the Santa Fe Watershed Association's Saturday Water Education Series !

Each workshop focuses on different water education activities from Project WET activity guides. Get access to world class water education & training materials!

All workshops are from 9:00am to noon-

- Foundations of Water Education - November 15
- Water in Earth Systems - January 17
- Getting Little Feet Wet - February 7
- Healthy Water, Healthy People - March 14

For more information or to register, scan the QR Code or go to <https://www.santafewatershed.org/TWS>



Julie Hasty
505-820-1696
julie@santafewatershed.org



Today's Agenda



project WET
WATER EDUCATION TODAY

Water in Earth Systems
Workshop Agenda for January 17, 2026

9:00 - Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda

9:15 - Ice-breaker Activity

- Molecules in Motion - page 25
- 4-PS3-2, 5-PS1-1, supports 2-PS1-4, 4-PS3-1, 4-PS3-3, 4-PS3-4

9:30 - Activity

- "Snow" Me the Water - page 117
- 5-ESS2-1, MS-ESS2-4, supports HS-ESS2-2

10:00 - Activity

- Get the Groundwater Picture - page 141
- 2-ESS2-2, MS-ESS3-4, supports MS-ESS3-1, MS-ESS3-3

10:50 - Activity - "Snow" Me the Water Wrap Up

11:10 - Activity

- Follow the Flow - page 229
- K-ESS3-3, 2-ESS1-1, 2-ESS2-1, 2-ESS2-2, 4-ESS2-1, 4-ESS2-2, 5-ESS2-1, 5-ESS3-1, MS-ESS3-3

11:40 - Splash Through the Guide and Wrap Up



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Join us!

Project WET Facilitator Workshop

Interested in helping teachers bring impactful water education into their classrooms? Join national Project WET and the Santa Fe Watershed Association for a facilitator training workshop.

When: Monday, May 11th, 1 pm to 4 pm
Location: Drury Plaza Hotel
 828 Paseo de Peralta
 Santa Fe, NM 87501



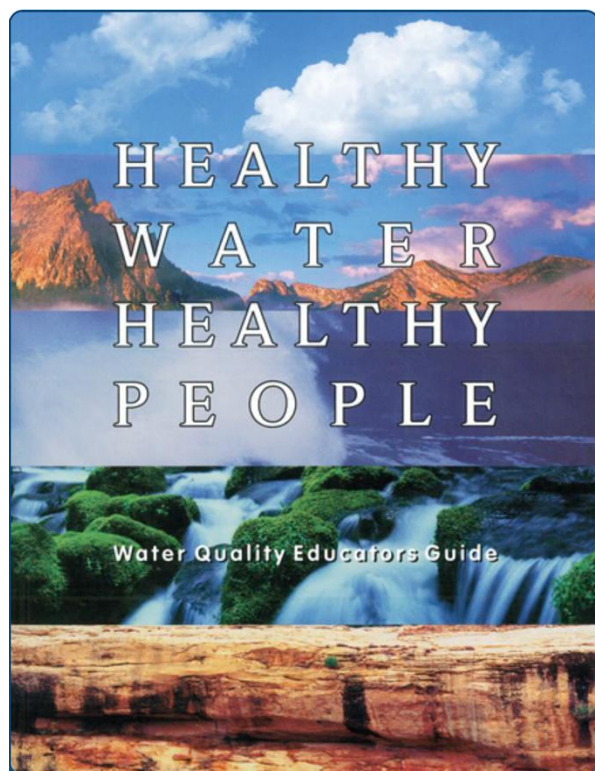
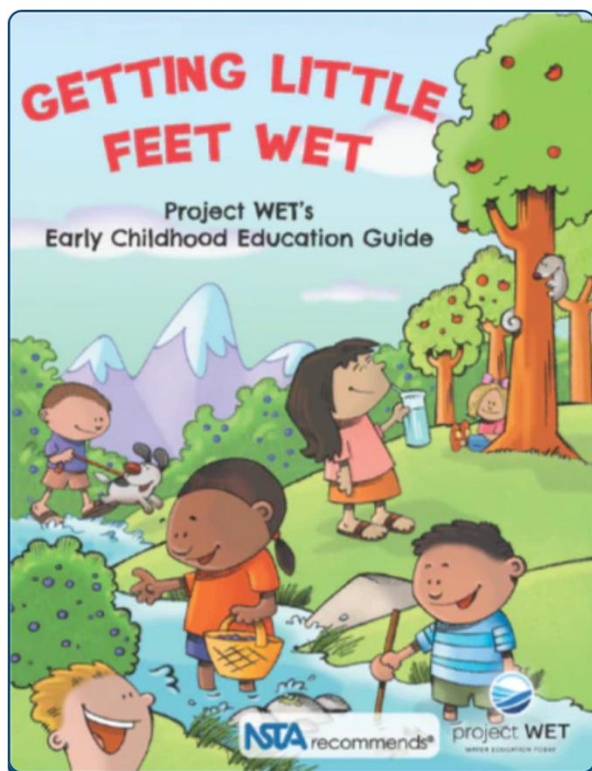
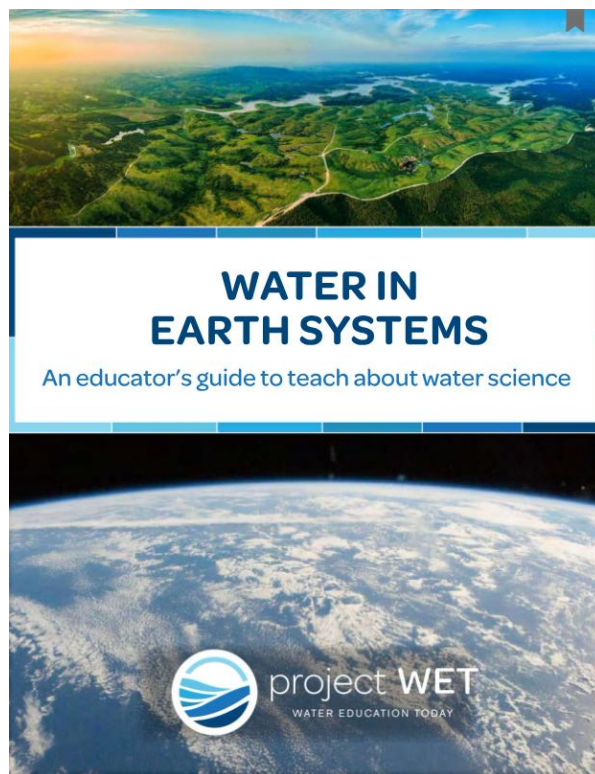
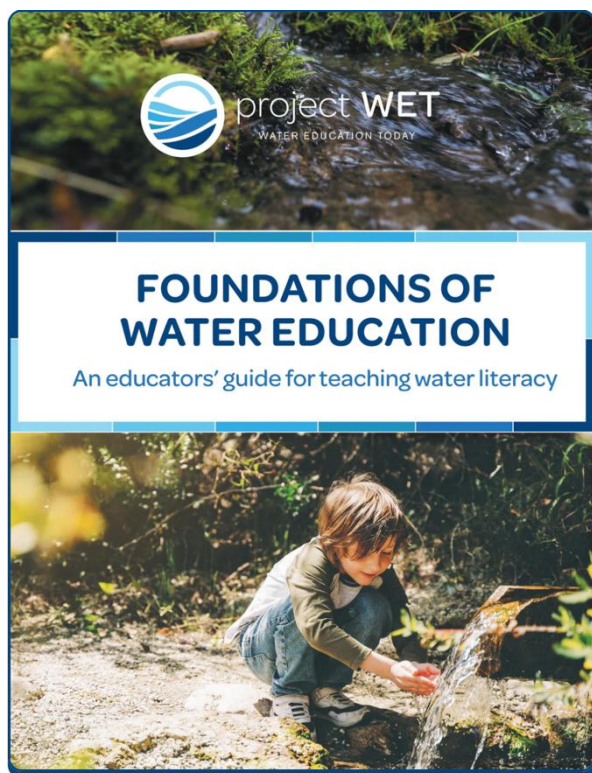
REGISTER HERE!

This workshop is free to attend, and you'll receive Project WET's newest Educator Guide as part of your training. After completing a short, self-paced online component, you'll be equipped to lead your own educator workshops.

Have Questions?
 Contact - Julie Hasty
julie@santafewatershed.org

Appendix C

Project WET Education Guides



Our River - Our Water - Our Future

Appendix D

Climate Master's Session Topics and Presenters

DATE	TOPIC	QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED	PRESENTERS
Wednesday, March 18	Class Introduction and Overview	What is climate change? What do we think climate change looks like today and in the future? How do we get out of the doom and gloom?	- Julie Hasty - Jaclyn Behringer
Wednesday, March 25	Building Resilience – Communication Workshop	How do we talk about climate change?	Mollie Parsons (Cerise Consulting)
Wednesday, April 1	Climate Change in New Mexico	How is climate change impacting New Mexico currently and into the future?	Dr. Craig Allen (USGS, retired)
Wednesday, April 8	Building Resilience – Climate Policy and Planning at the State Level	What is being done at the state level to measure and reduce climate change impacts and prepare for future impacts? Who is impacted the most? What more can be done?	- Claudia Borchert (Climate Change Bureau Chief, NMED Climate Change Bureau) - Rachel Finkelstein (Climate Policy Bureau Chief, EMNRD) - Tess Gnoch (Resilience Coordinator, Climate Policy Bureau, EMNRD)
Wednesday, April 15	Building Resilience – Water Supply and Sustainability in Santa Fe	How is climate change impacting our local water supply? How are we preparing? What sustainability programs and resources are in place?	Christine Chavez (Division Director, City of Santa Fe Conservation and Sustainability Division)
FIELD TRIP Saturday, April 18, 9:00am-2:00pm	Building Resilience – Fire and Source Water Protection	How do we protect our water supply and manage our forests? How do we mitigate	- Porfirio Chavarria (WUI Specialist, Santa Fe Fire Dept) - Jacob Key (Fireshed Coordinator, USFS)

	A hike into the Santa Fe Municipal Watershed starting at the Randall Davey Audubon entrance	fire in our own backyards?	Alan Hook (Water Resources Coordinator, City of Santa Fe)
Wednesday, April 22	Building Resilience – Water Supply, Hydrology, and the Impact on Soils	What can we do to help mitigate aridification and climate impacts in our natural environment? What does our water supply look like at the state level?	- Aaron Kauffman (Hydrologist, SW Urban Hydrology) - Anne Ruthstrom (Senior Water Planner, NM Interstate Stream Commission, Office of the State Engineer)
Wednesday, April 29	Building Resilience – Infrastructure and Sustainable Development	What work is being done in our urban watershed? What does a resilient Santa Fe that supports the whole community look like in 50 years?	- Zoe Isaacson (River and Watershed Manager, City of Santa Fe) - Laila Atalla (Lead Energywise Coach, Homewise)
FIELD TRIP Thursday, April 30	Building Resilience – Agriculture and Waste A field trip to Reunity Resources, 1829 San Ysidro Crossing	How do we grow our food in a sustainable way that increases soil health and improves our environment? What is the impact of food waste in our landfills?	Juliana Ciano (Program Director, Reunity Resources)
Wednesday, May 6	Building Resilience - Impacts of Climate on Health and the Transportation Sector	Who is being impacted the most by climate change? How do we address health impacts? When it comes to how we move through our community, how can we do things differently?	- Shelley Mann-Lev (Executive Director, Healthy Climate New Mexico) - Wendy Johnson (Healthy Climate New Mexico) - Erick Aune (Director, Santa Fe Metro Planning Org)
Wednesday, May 13	We will not have formal class this evening. This is an opportunity for you all to have a group gathering on your own.		
FIELD TRIP Tuesday, May 19	Building Resilience – Raingardens and	How do we improve our soils, cool our	Reese Baker (Owner and Founder, The Raincatcher, Inc)

	Backyard Permaculture A field trip to Reese Baker's at 1925 Aspen Dr. then walking to 2053 Camino Lado	community, and increase water retention in our own backyards?	
Wednesday, May 20	Building Resilience – Effective Lobbying and Advocacy Final Class Potluck!	What are some tools for advocacy? What role can you play?	• Camilla Feibelman (Director, Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club)