

A photograph of industrial water infrastructure, featuring several vertical pipes with green and white markings, and horizontal pipes with valves. The scene is set in a facility with metal framing and various mechanical components.

Regional Development Organizations: Supporting Water Infrastructure and Improving Quality of Life

Brett Schwartz
NADO Research Foundation
November 15, 2018





NADO provides advocacy, education, research, and training for the nation's regional development organizations (RDOs). NADO and its members promote regional strategies, partnerships, and solutions to strengthen the economic competitiveness and quality of life across America's local communities.



The NADO Research Foundation provides education, research, and training designed for RDO executive leadership, staff, and policy board members. It examines new and innovative practices in regional development and strives to improve the organizational and professional capacity of regional development organizations and their partners.

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Regional Development Organizations

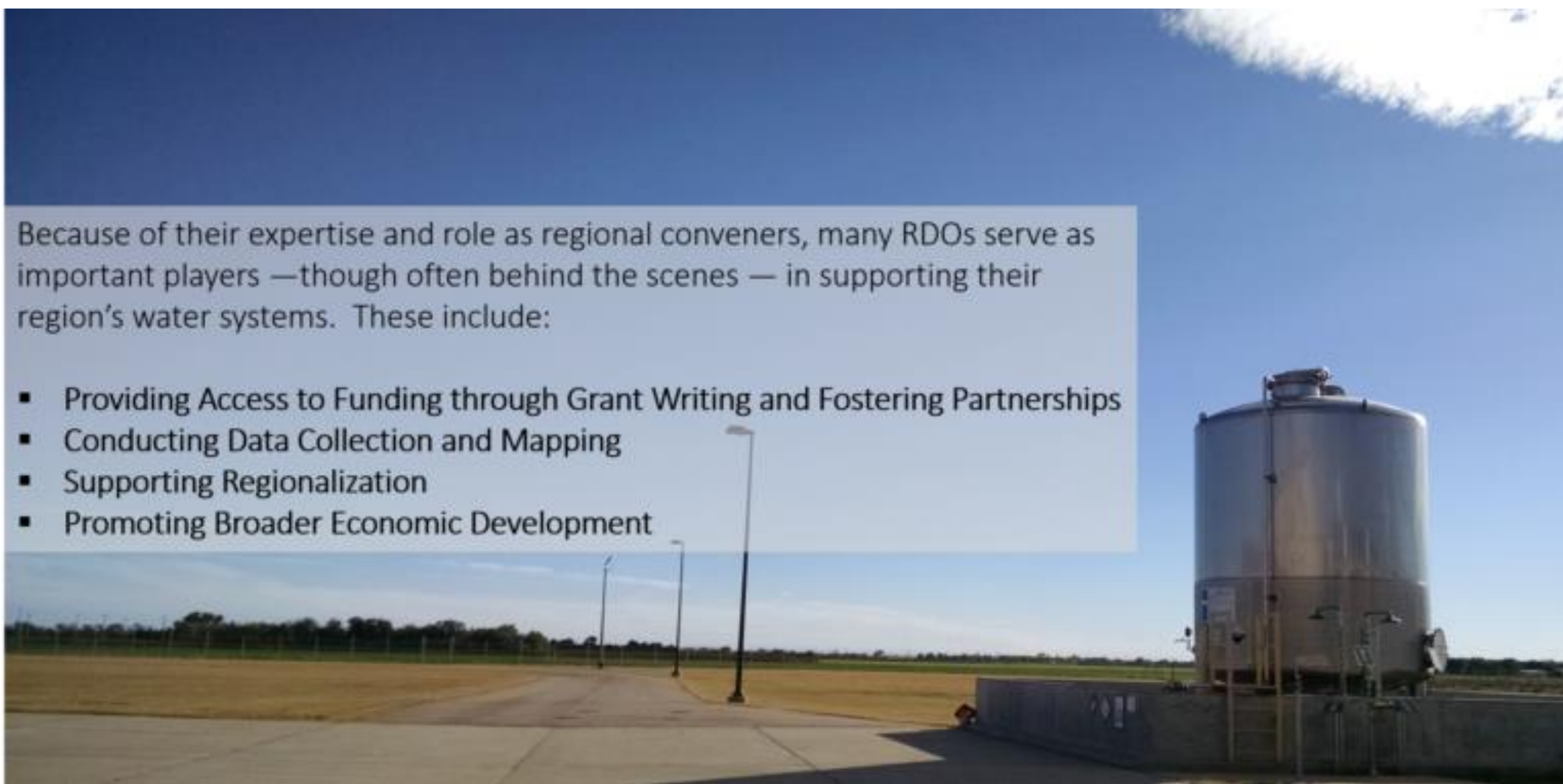
The term “regional development organization” or RDO refers to the multi-jurisdictional regional planning and development organizations known as:

- councils of government
- regional councils
- economic development districts
- local development districts
- planning and development councils
- other local names



Because of their expertise and role as regional conveners, many RDOs serve as important players —though often behind the scenes — in supporting their region's water systems. These include:

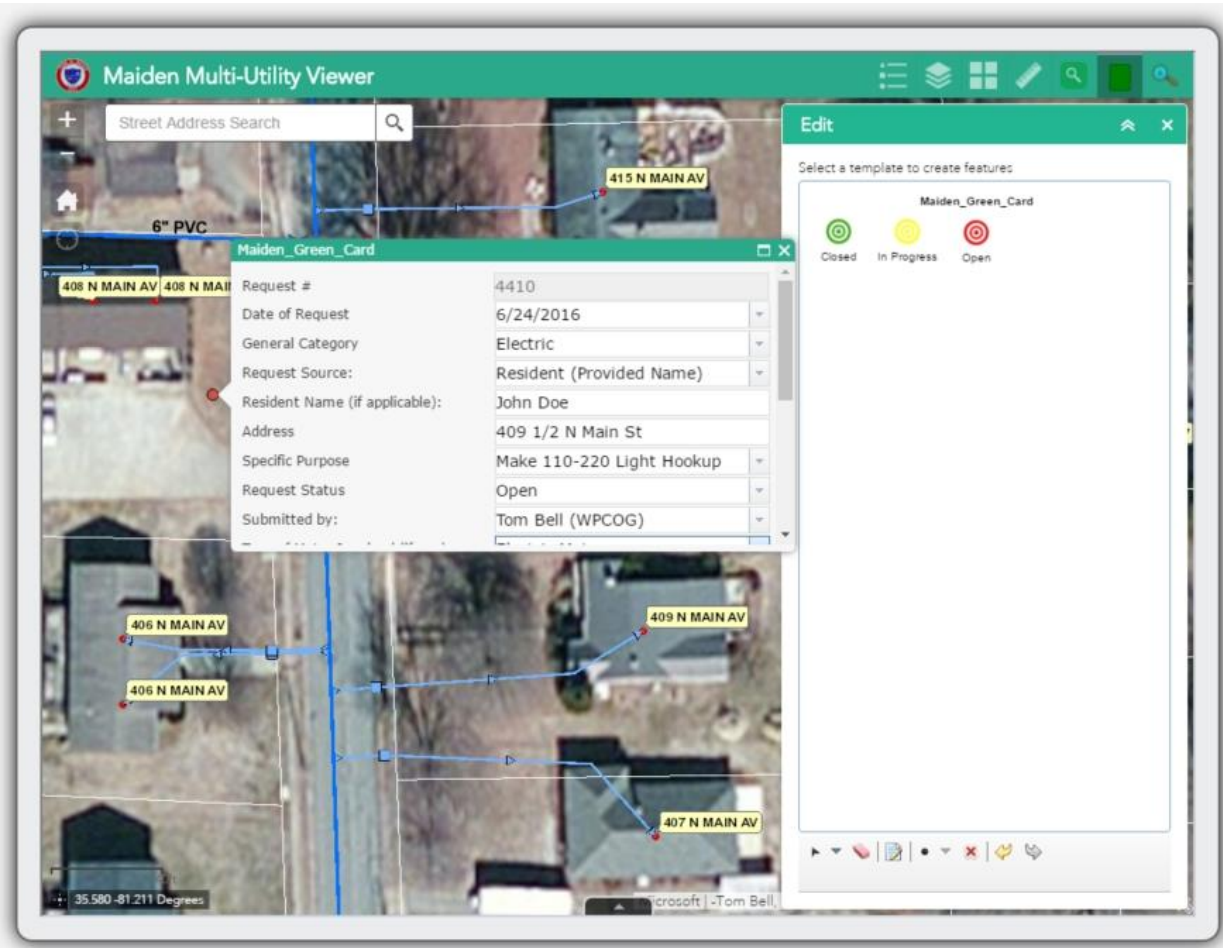
- Providing Access to Funding through Grant Writing and Fostering Partnerships
- Conducting Data Collection and Mapping
- Supporting Regionalization
- Promoting Broader Economic Development



Access to Funding



Data Collection & Mapping



Supporting Regionalization



Lowcountry Council of Governments (SC)

Promoting Broader Economic Development



Northeast Mississippi Planning and Development District



RDOs: Supporting Water Infrastructure and Improving Quality of Life

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Every day, [regional development organizations \(RDOs\)](#) are working to improve the lives of residents in communities across the country. Known locally as councils of governments, regional planning commissions, economic development districts, and other names, RDOs provide various types of support to their member communities in a host of service areas. Their diverse portfolio may include promoting place-based strategies in the areas of planning, housing, transportation, infrastructure, workforce development, social services, and other sectors. RDOs are typically governed by a policy board consisting of local elected officials, along with representatives from the business community, educational institutions, the nonprofit sector, and the general public. These public-based entities play an invaluable role in fostering intergovernmental collaboration among officials in all levels of government.

RDOs can open the door to grant and loan funding, provide administrative support, and supply valuable staff support and access to technology. For rural places in particular, they can play a critical role in towns that may have limited capacity and resources due to part-time or volunteer staff that are tasked with carrying out the local functions of government.

RDOs in Action

Because of their expertise and role as regional conveners, many RDOs serve as important players —though often behind the scenes — in supporting their region's water systems. The following snapshots highlight the variety of ways RDOs work with local municipalities and utilities to build, maintain, and upgrade water infrastructure:

Access to Funding:

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Grant County Regional Water System



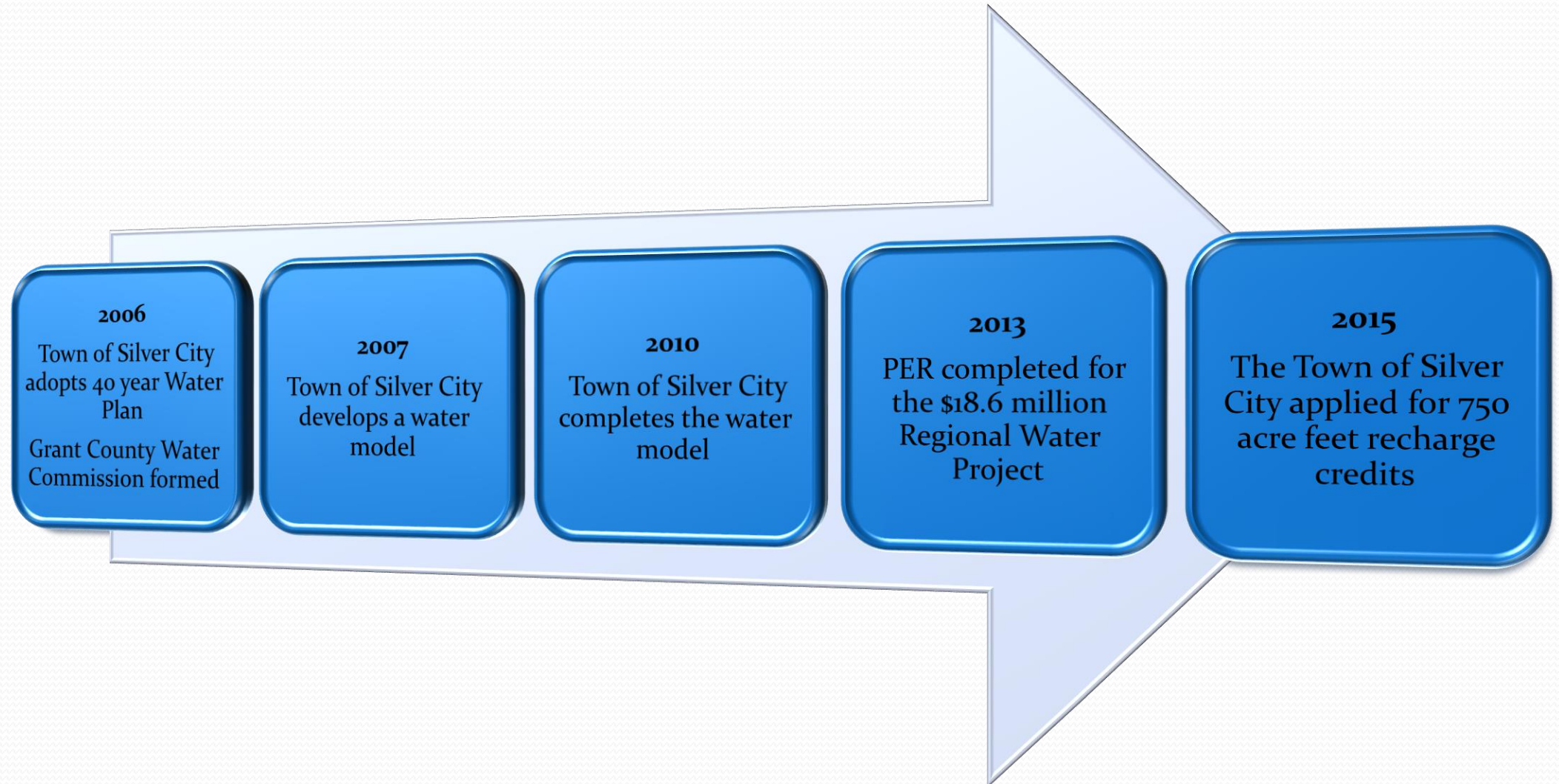
November 2018

County Overview



- 3,970 Square Miles
- 7.4 Person per sq. mile
- 29,514 People
- 31% of Population is made up of Seniors/Children
- 14.8% Poverty
- 11 Entities Providing Water
- 10,394 Water Connections

Project History



Phase I-Reaching \$9.5 million

Grant County Airport to Hurley

2015
\$2.1 Million
Construction
\$1,793,710
Construction

2016
\$40,000
Design
\$1.8 Million
Donation of
Water
Rights

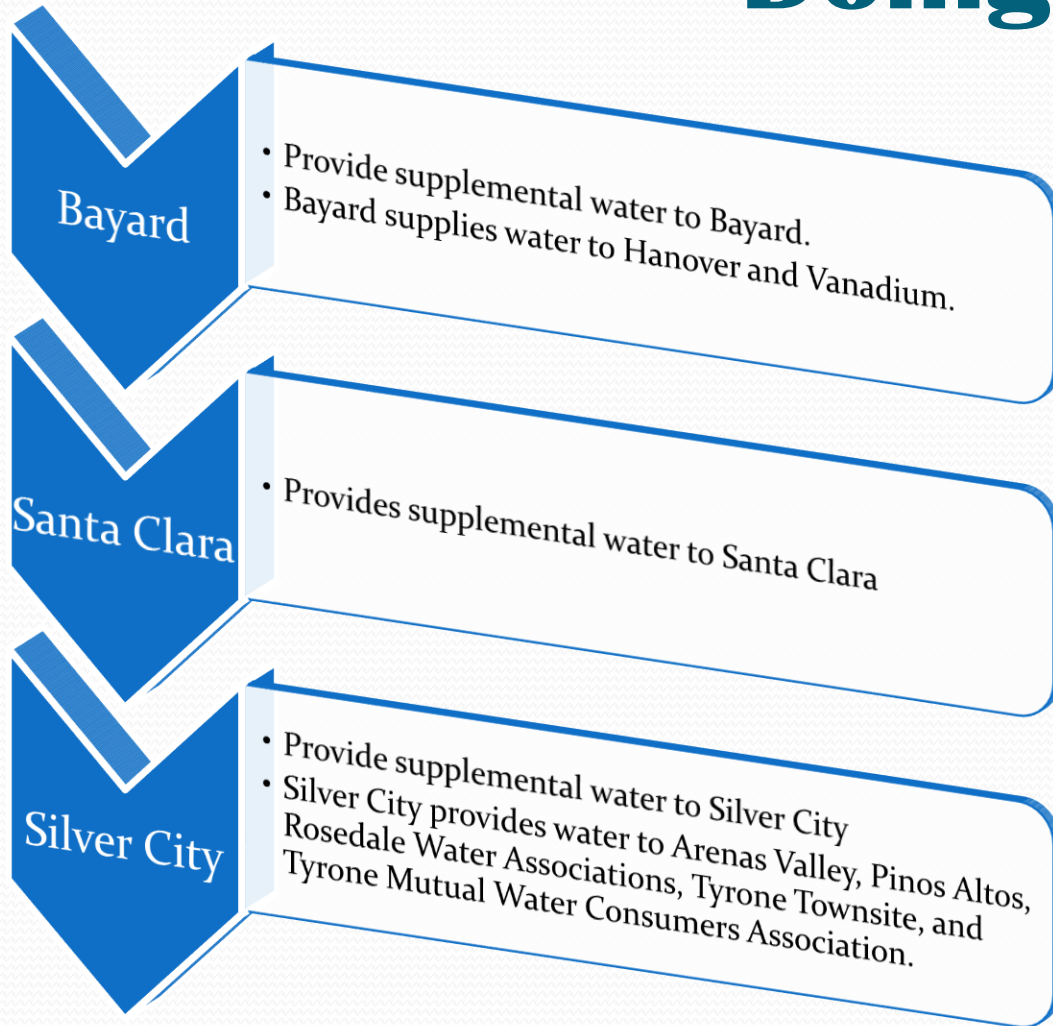
2017
\$2,739,000
Final
Funding

2018
Bid Award
October

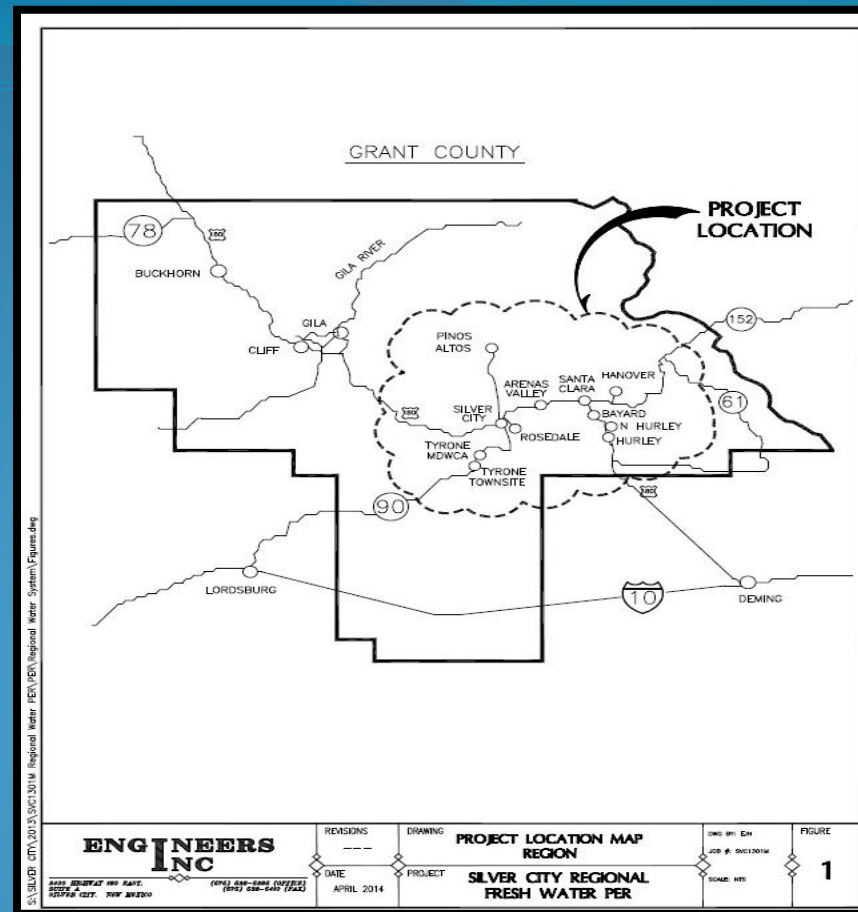
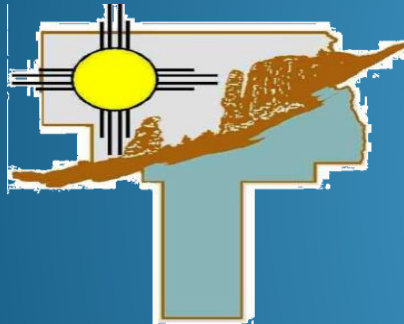
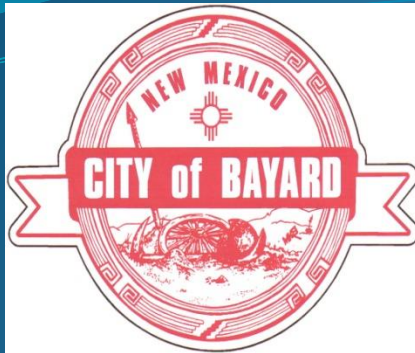
Hurley Financial Overview

Local Funds	\$80,000
2006-NM Capital Outlay	\$100,000
2008-NM Capital Outlay	\$155,000
2009-CDBG	\$21,778
2010-NM Water Trust Board	\$65,000
2013-NM Colonias Infrastructure	\$519,000
2015-NM Colonias Infrastructure	\$1,793,710
2015-NM Interstate Stream Com.	\$2,100,000
2016-NM Capital Outlay	\$100,000
2016-Water Right Donation	\$1,800,000
2016-Freeport McMoRan	\$40,000
2017-USDA Grant	\$1,572,000
2017-USDA Loan	\$1,167,500
Total	\$9,513,988

Next Steps - Everyone Doing Their Part



Water Regionalization Project		
<u>City</u>	<u>Project Funds</u>	<u>Needed Funds</u>
Hurley	\$9,565,955	\$0.00
North Hurley	\$1,256,071	\$0.00
Bayard	\$2,434,996	\$4,200,000
Hanover	\$1,270,978	\$0.00
Santa Clara	\$2,657,854	\$1,900,000
Arenas Valley	\$868,000	\$0.00
Tyrone	\$608,619	\$0.00
Silver City	\$604,099	\$1,700,000
Total	\$19,266,572	\$7,800,000



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