



WATER USE FOR COMMERCIAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION

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PROGRAM/WATER RIGHTS
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WATER USE IN NEW MEXICO

- All water use requires a valid water right.
- Water rights may be acquired, purchased, conveyed and transferred.
- The presence of water does not necessarily indicate a water right.

COMMERCIAL CANNABIS GROWTH

- Cannabis producers must acquire valid irrigation rights for outdoor cultivation or commercial water rights for indoor cultivation.
- You must acquire them if you do not already have them.
- Transfers require a permit from the Office of the State Engineer (OSE).
- All permit approvals will require meter installation and reporting.

DOMESTIC WELLS

- May not be used to grow commercial crops including cannabis.
- Some areas disallow outdoor watering by law.
- May apply to transfer water rights into a domestic well.

SURFACE WATER

- Ditches, rivers, streams, springs or other water sources have rights associated with them.
- You must have the right by permit or other type of right to divert surface water.
- Surface water may be transferred by making application for a permit with the OSE.

BUYING AND SELLING WATER RIGHTS

- Water rights are transferrable by a recorded warranty deed.
- Those rights are specific to that place of use and point of diversion and require a permit to change them.
- Be sure and research the water right prior to making a purchase.
- Not all claims to water are valid.

TIMELINE TO TRANSFER WATER

- The current backlog of water rights applications is over 500 that are non-cannabis related.
- All applications are processed in the order by which they are received and complete.
- The average processing time is 8-10 months without a protest which lengthens the process.

COMMERCIAL OR MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLIES

- Purchasing water from a supplier with a water right which includes commercial, irrigation will require a statement from that supplier to show proof of a valid water right.

DISTRICT OFFICE LOCATIONS

DISTRICT 1 - ALBUQUERQUE

5550 San Antonio Dr NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109-4127

Phone: (505) 383-4000
Fax: (505) 383-4030

DISTRICT 2 - ROSWELL

1900 West Second St.
Roswell, NM 88201

Phone: (575) 622-6521
Fax: (575) 623-8559

DISTRICT 3 - DEMING

321 West Spruce Street
Deming, NM 88031

Phone: (575) 546-2851
Fax: (575) 546-2290

DISTRICT 4 - LAS CRUCES

•1680 Hickory Loop, Suite J
Las Cruces, NM 88005-6598
•Phone: (575) 524-6161
Fax: (575) 524-6160

DISTRICT 5 - AZTEC

•100 Gossett Drive, Suite A
Aztec, NM 87410
•Phone: (505) 383-4571

DISTRICT 6 - SANTA FE

•407 Galisteo St. Suite #102
Bataan Memorial Bldg.
PO Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102
•Phone: (505) 827-6120
Fax: (505) 827-6682

DISTRICT 7 - CIMARRON

•PO Box 481
301 East 9th Street
Cimarron, NM 87714
•Phone: (575) 376-2918
Fax: (575) 376-4565

Office of the State Engineer



Interstate Stream Commission

QUESTIONS?

You may send any questions you might have at any time to
water.nm@state.nm.us or ose.webmaster@state.nm.us

Thank you!

John T. Romero, P.E.