

As you are aware, the legislature will begin its 2022 session tomorrow, January 18. As you may also be aware: it is difficult to find a bill that deals with water. To quote from an article in *Searchlight New Mexico**, “the New Mexico state government has done almost nothing to prepare for this future, failing to even collect enough basic data to determine how much water exists in the system.”

Those of us involved in the Augustin Plains water battle know how important water is, and equally, how important water data is. We need to know how much water we have, particularly as an international corporation hopes to profit from taking it all away!

You can help to bring attention to this weakness in our water governance by contacting our representative (Gail Armstrong) and our senator (Siah Correa Hemphill) and telling each of them that we need their help in getting water matters before the Legislature. This session it would be possible for bills to be passed 1) increasing staff and funding for the Office of the State Engineer) and 2) properly funding the Water Data Act. With the feds providing additional funds, New Mexico has no excuse for not doing these two very basic things. It will take your voices to convince our legislators that these two things should be a priority in the budget session.

Contact information:

Representative Gail Armstrong
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Senator Siah Correa Hemphill
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Thank you!

Carol Pittman

P.S. For those of you outside our local area, please contact your legislators. All representatives and senators need to get the message!

*Here is the link to the full article if you want to read it:

<https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/2022/01/13/when-well-runs-dry-how-much-water-does-new-mexico-have/6512522001/>