

# Produced Water Research in New Mexico

NM Produced Water Research Consortium

Mike Hightower, Program Director – 505-859-1563

Pei Xu – Research Director

**Part A: New Mexico Universities Produced Water Synthesis Project**

Stephanie Russo Baca, Martha Cather, Bruce Thomson, Alex Rinehart,  
Yanyan Zhang, Pei Xu, Saeed Langarudi,

**Part B: New Mexico Produced Water Research Consortium**

Rebecca Roose, New Mexico Environment Department  
Mike Hightower, Pei Xu

**65<sup>th</sup> Annual New Mexico Water  
Conference**

Virtual Presentation

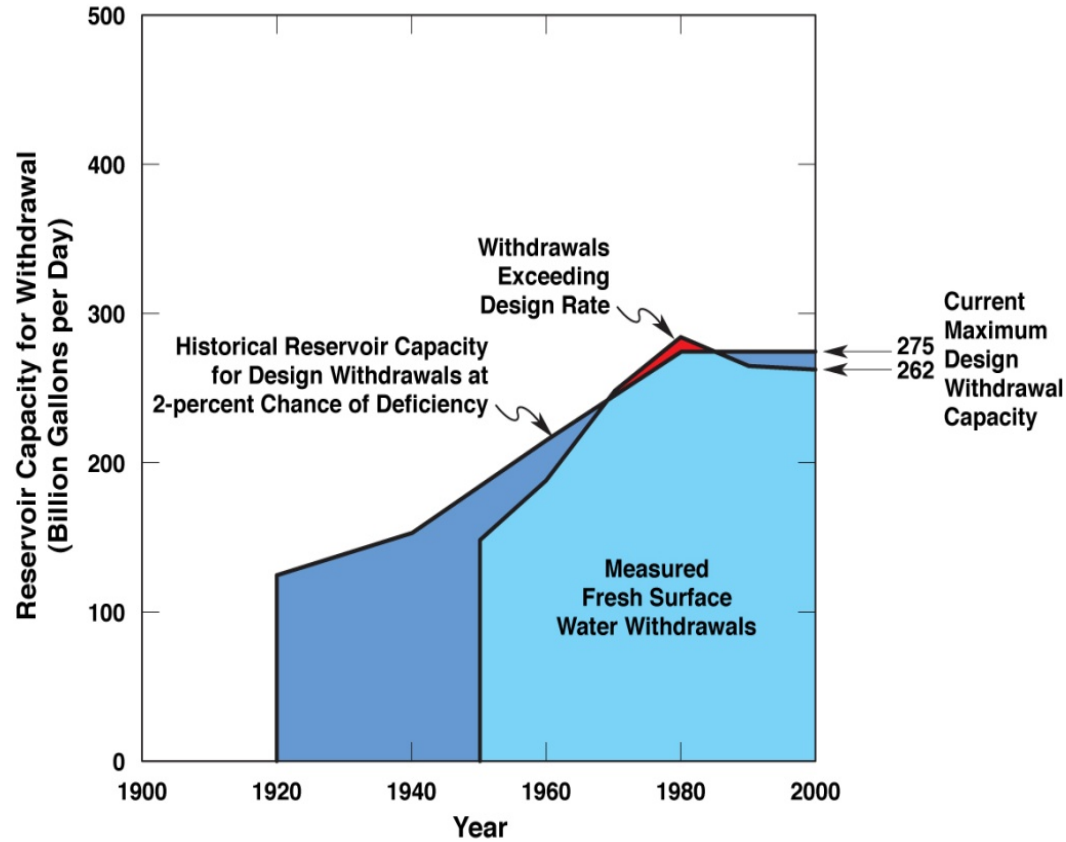
1:45 PM MST

Thursday, October 29, 2020

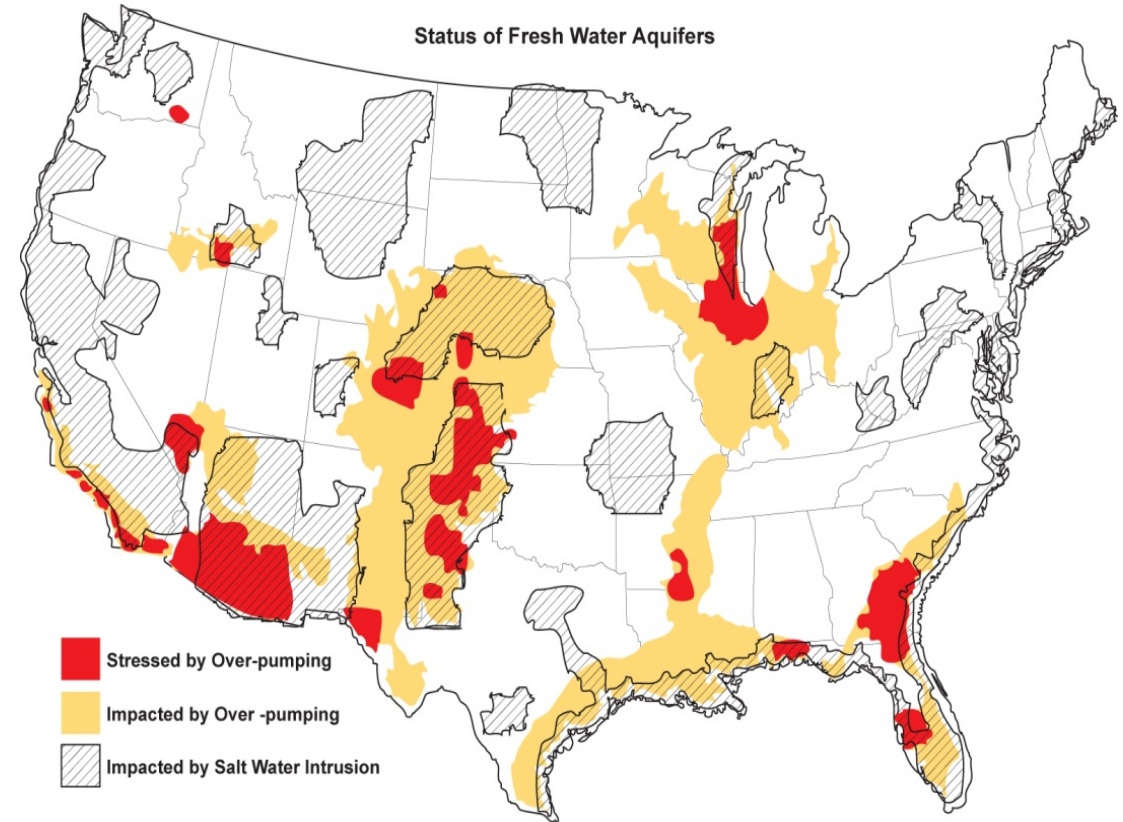
<https://nmpwrc.nmsu.edu>



# Water Stress Driving Use of Non-traditional Waters

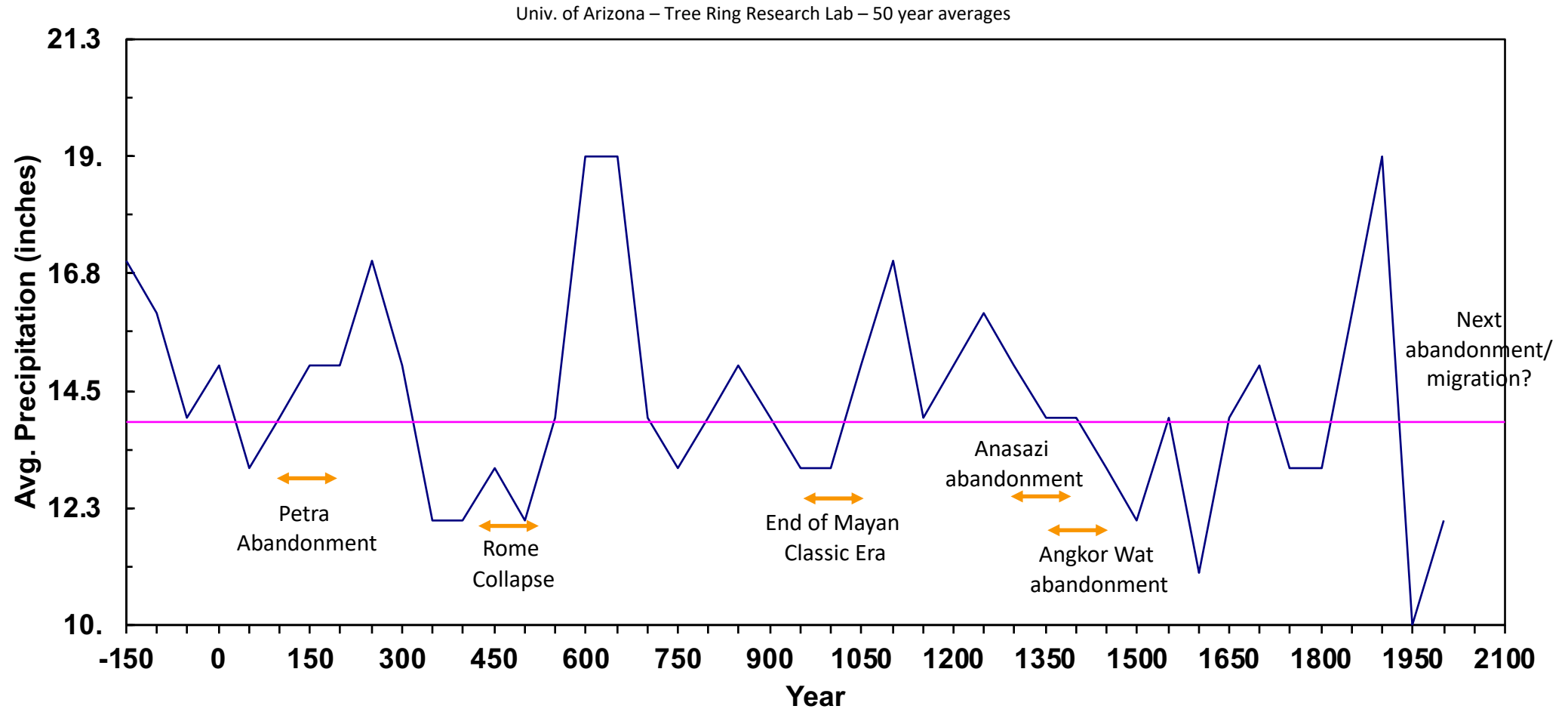


- All major groundwater aquifers overstressed



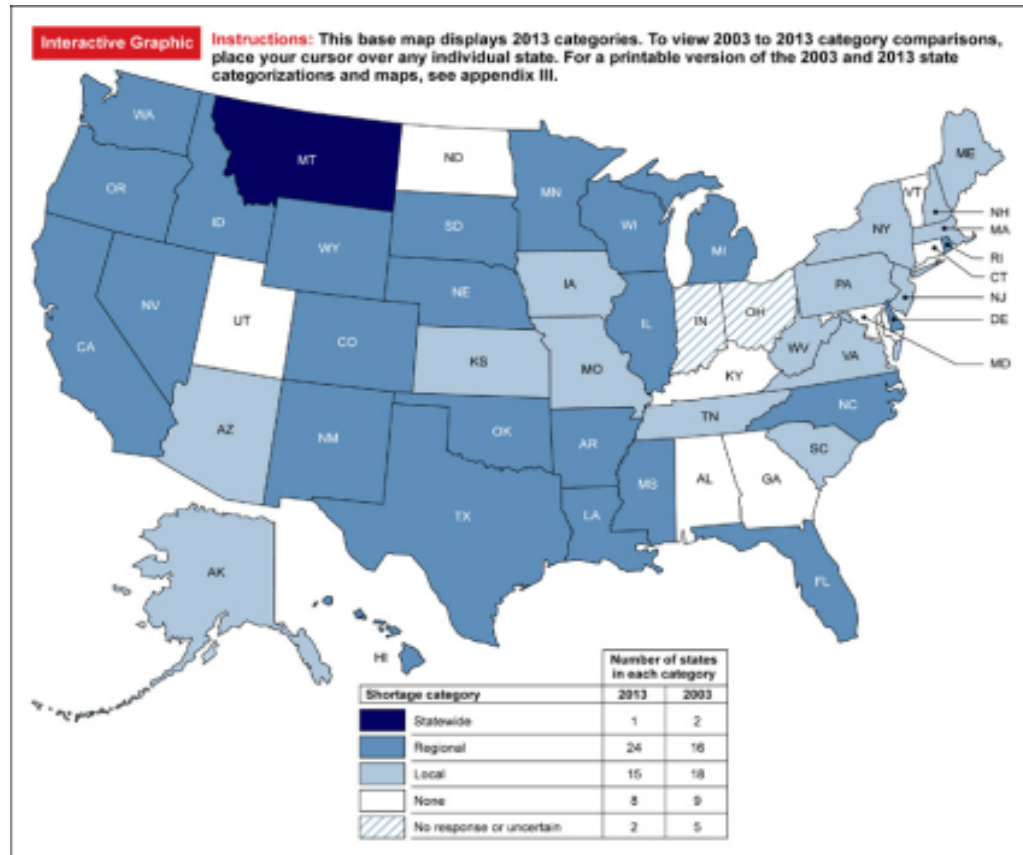
- No new surface water storage capacity since 1980

# Southwest Climate History Based on Tree Ring Data

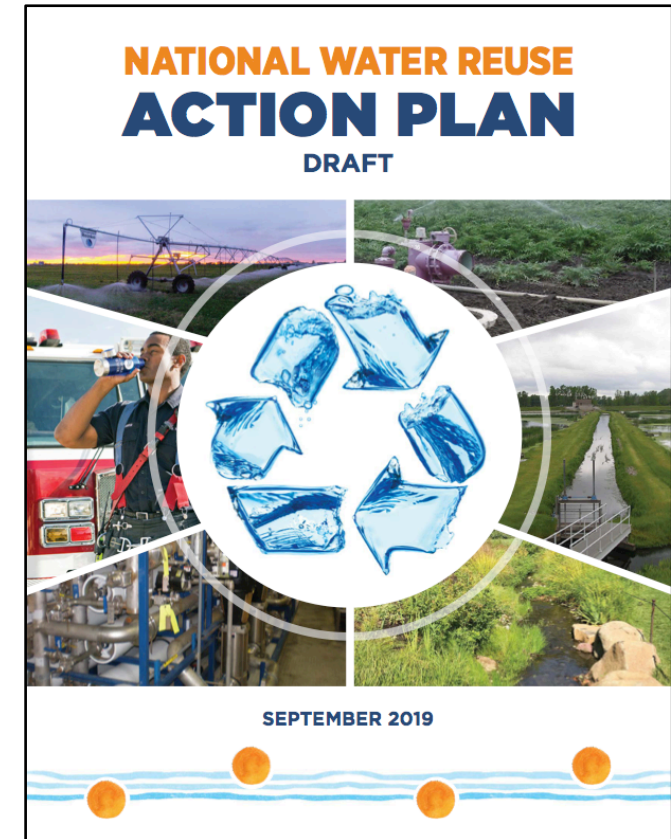
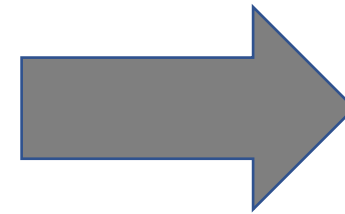


**The mid-latitudes are in the 100th year of a 300 year arid period - which in the past have led to significant stress on civilizations**

# 2020 EPA National Water Reuse Action Plan (WRAP)



Sources: GAO analysis of state water managers' responses to GAO survey; Map Resources (map).

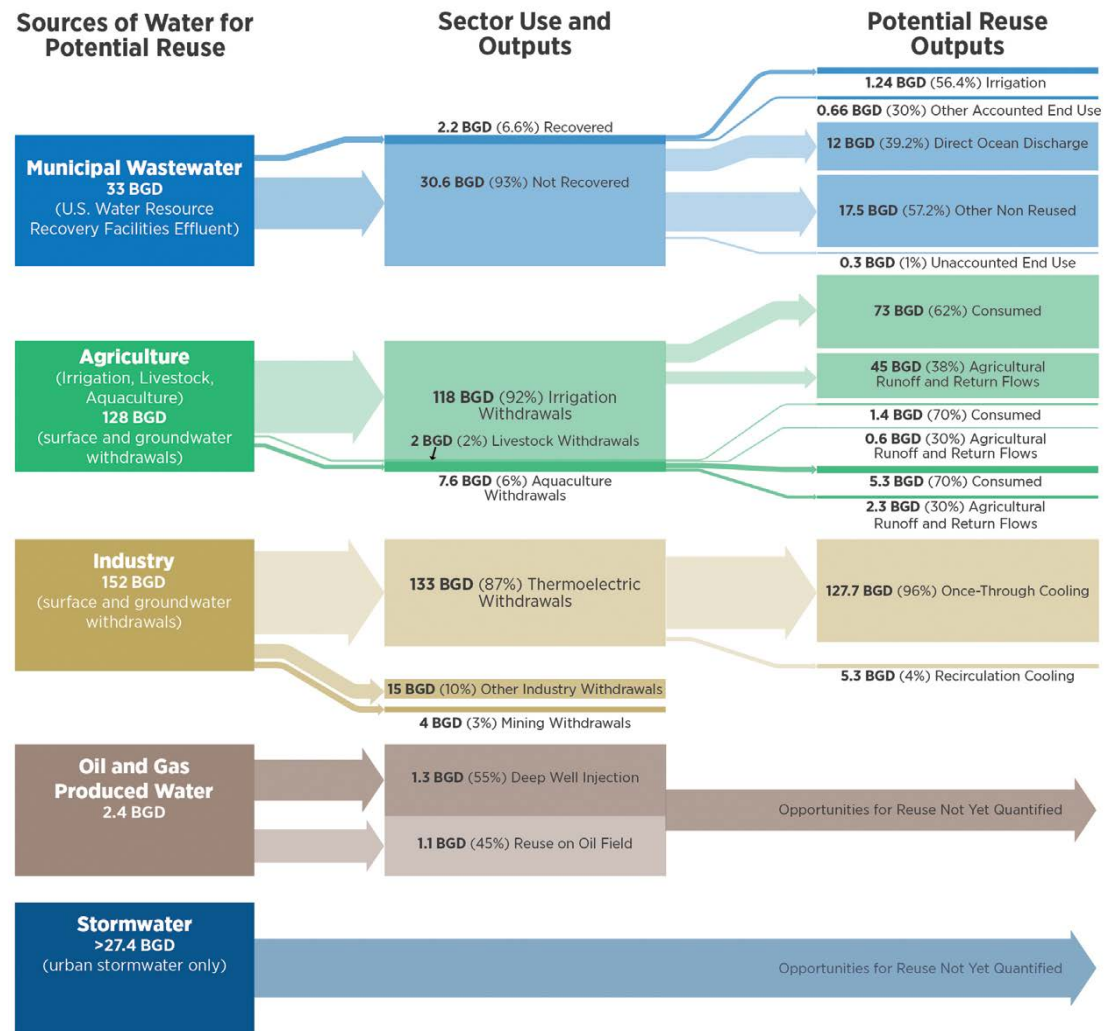


Fresh water stress driving waste water reuse

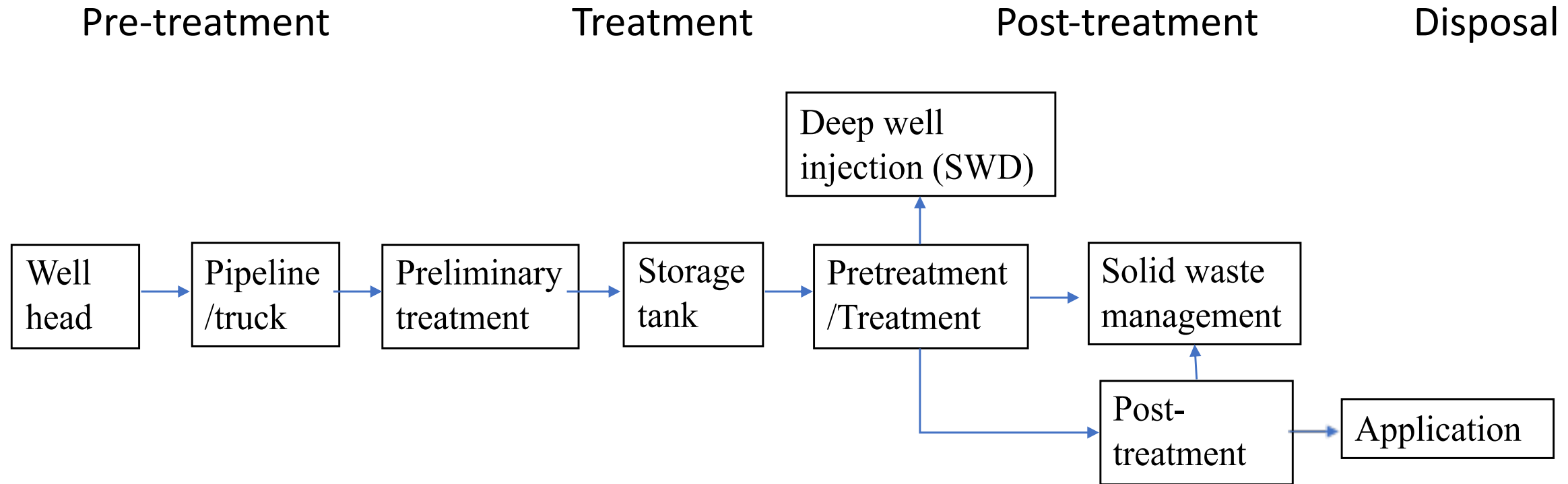
# EPA Priority Waste Water Reuse Sectors

- Clear potential to reclaim more of nation's waste waters
- Sources of water for reuse:
  - 33 BGD - Municipal wastewater
  - 128 BGD - Agriculture
  - 152 BGD - Industry
  - 2.4 BGD - Oil and gas produced water
  - >27.4 BGD – Stormwater

**NMPWRC and the GWPC selected by EPA to lead the Produced Water efforts of the National Water Reuse Action Plan**



# Produced Water Treatment Has Many Benefits



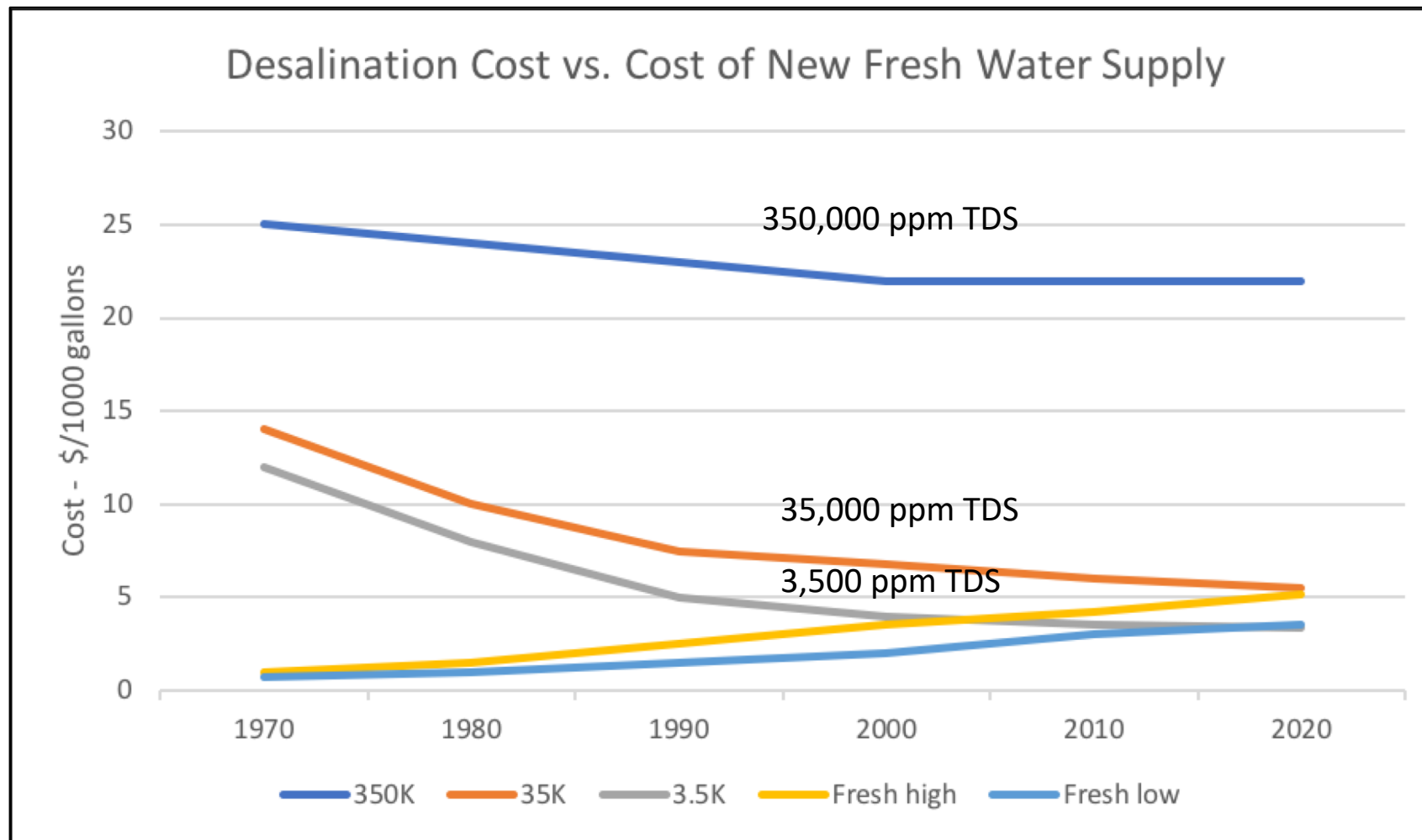
Eliminate fresh water use in drilling and fracking

Water recovery for fit-for-use applications

Mineral recovery

Disposal waste minimization to reduce earthquakes

# Changing Desalination and Produced Water Disposal Costs



**2000 Permian Basin  
Avg. Produced Water  
Disposal costs \$2/1000 gal**

**2020 Permian Basin  
Avg. Produced Water  
Disposal costs \$20-50/1000 gal**

# Socio-Economic Benefits of Produced Water Reuse

Element	Value
Oil production value	\$6-8 B
Gas production value	\$5-7 B
General Fund direct revenues	\$2 B
General Fund	\$1B
Capital Outlay	\$.4-.5 B
Taxes to local government	\$.5 B
Percent of Budget from Oil and Gas Revenues	30%

(NM LFC Finance Facts, 2018)

Benefits for state economic development and industrial growth and societal benefits

Cost/Benefit	Range of Values
Price of Oil (WTI)	\$55.00
Price of Recycled Water per barrel	\$0.50 - \$7.00
Marginal Cost of Production & Taxes	\$20 - \$25
Marginal Cost of Water Disposal per barrel	\$0.50 - \$2.25
Marginal Cost of Transportation	\$0.00 - \$9.00
Marginal Cost of Recycling	\$1.00 - \$16.00
Marginal Private Value of Recycled Water	\$0.25 - \$1.75
Marginal Social Value of Recycled Water	\$0.48 - \$51.24

(UNM - Chermak & Patrick, 2018)

