

Governor approves \$800K for Taos, Colfax counties

By Cody Hooks chooks@taosnews.com

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Overhauling the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge on US 64 with barriers, nets or some other suicide deterrent is no small task. Aside from engineering and the human power needed to eventually install safety improvements, it'll cost several million dollars.

This year, the bridge will get \$30,000. Legislators approved the expenditure with the state budget, which was signed by New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez March 7.

The governor also signed the annual "capital outlay" bill, which allocates state funds for infrastructure improvements, such as water system upgrades and equipment purchases.

The Legislature allocated a bit more than \$1 million for projects in Taos County. While the governor signed off on most big-ticket requests in the region, such as \$150,000 for a Questa ambulance and another \$175,000 for Raton to buy vehicles, she line-item vetoed several projects, such as \$50,000 for plumbing at Enos Garcia Elementary School.

In Colfax County, the governor nixed \$25,000 for water system improvements in Maxwell.

Approved Taos and Colfax county projects

- Acequia del Monte Rio Chiquito diversion: **\$10,000**
- Camino del Medio improvements, town of Taos: **\$75,000**
- Camino del Medio improvements, Taos County: **\$50,000**
- Cimarron, SCCCSHD health care clinic: **\$35,000**
- Colfax County, detention center/sheriff's department furnish: **\$75,000**
- Eagle Nest, Enchanted Eagle Park restrooms: **\$75,000**
- Eagle Nest, senior center emergency generator purchase: **\$35,000**
- El Valle de Los Ranchos WSD improvements, Tafoya: **\$50,000**
- Llano Quemado MDWCA water line: **\$50,000**
- Ojo Caliente MDWCA: **\$25,000**
- Questa, ambulance purchase: **\$150,000**
- Questa, police vehicles purchase: **\$50,000**
- Raton, public works equipment and vehicles: **\$175,000**
- Red River, fire hydrants: **\$75,000**
- Red River, water meters: **\$50,000**
- Springer, Main Street improvements: **\$25,000**
- Springer, streets/ sidewalks/signs: **\$25,000**
- Taos County, veterans cemetery: **\$73,000**
- Town of Taos, street sweeper: **\$50,000**
- Trampas MDWC & MSAWA water system: **\$37,700**

Vetoed Taos and Colfax county projects

- Angel Fire water storage tanks repairs: **\$35,000**
- Don Fernando de Taos land grant building: **\$20,000**
- El Prado WSD water system improvements: **\$50,000**
- Enos Garcia Elementary School Plumbing: **\$50,000**
- Lower Arroyo Hondo MDWC and MSWA water system: **\$25,000**
- Maxwell water distribution system: **\$25,000**
- Taos Pueblo road maintenance vehicles: **\$25,000**
- Taos Ski Valley wastewater treatment plant: **\$50,000**
- UNM-Taos land grant and acequia archives: **\$100,000**

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