

EL VALLE DE LOS RANCHOS WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM

STATE PROGRAM: New Mexico Environment
Department

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: El Valle de Los Ranchos
Water and Sanitation District

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: Over \$4.5M



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The communities of Ranchos de Taos, Talpa, Llano Quemado, Cordillera, and Los Cordovas have been experiencing rapid growth for years which created the need to regionalize their water treatment services and develop wastewater collection and treatment. The El Valle de Los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District was created in response to this challenge. The District's mission is "to promote and protect now and for future generations the quality of surface and ground water for the health and safety of the residents of the District." In 2004, the District began constructing wastewater collection systems in planned phases using funding from the CWSRF, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the state of New Mexico, and from customer payments collected by the District. These ongoing projects replace failing septic systems and leach fields with collection lines and centralized treatment at the Taos Valley Regional Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility.

Since 2012, the District has received three loans from the CWSRF totaling over \$4.5 million to install new sewer connections for residents. The latest phase of this project was completed in 2020 and installed 14,000 feet of collection lines that will serve 165 new sewer connections. This new sewer collection system will allow residents to decommission their former septic systems that were discharging sewage into ground water in this water scarce region. The El Valle de Los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District is a prime example of community engagement between multiple small communities and their residents, all working together to regionalize their wastewater services to provide much needed sewer collection and treatment.

To read more about this case study, please visit https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-02/documents/2020_pisces_compendium.pdf.