



**Michelle Lujan Grisham**, Governor  
**Sarah Cottrell Propst**, Cabinet Secretary  
**Todd E. Leahy, JD, PhD**, Deputy Cabinet Secretary

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department to present  
budget before HAFC and SFC**

*Executive budget would include significant funding for climate priorities*

**Santa Fe, NM** – On Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Cabinet Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst will appear before the [House Appropriations and Finance Committee \(HAFC\)](#) to discuss the department’s FY 22 budget. The Executive Budget Recommendation includes an additional \$7.9 million in a combination of one-time funding and recurring funding for EMNRD climate priorities such as forest and watershed restoration, modernizing New Mexico’s electric grid, environmental compliance and oversight of the oil and gas industry, implementing the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and climate resiliency projects.

In recent years, the governor and legislature have taken quick and decisive action on climate change, enacting the Energy Transition Act, modernizing our electric grid, enacting a new solar tax credit, and more. Multiple bills have already been introduced this session to continue necessary action on addressing climate change. EMNRD is one of the key state agencies responsible for turning these bills into results and ensuring the effective and quick implementation of programs. The Executive Budget Recommendation acknowledges the need to build the Department’s capacity by filling vacant positions and investing in technology that will help EMNRD meet our ambitious goals.

“The Executive Budget Recommendation goes a long way to build EMNRD’s capacity after serious cuts under the previous administration,” said EMNRD Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst. “In the past two years we have made significant progress growing the agency’s expertise and resources, and the Executive Budget Recommendation keeps us on the path to a fully staffed and more efficient agency.”

The Executive Budget Recommendation would not add any full-time employees, but rather allow EMNRD to strategically fill currently vacant positions. It also invests in technology that will collect and analyze seismic, methane, and climate data and move operations to a digital format saving time across the agency and increasing public transparency.

A fact sheet comparing the Executive Budget and Legislative Finance Committee recommendations can be found [here](#).

EMNRD will also present in front of the Senate Finance Committee this week on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm, an updated schedule will be posted [here](#).

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*The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.*

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us>