**Town of Taos Comprehensive Plan**

**Public Works, Policies and Actions/Strategies**

**November 5, 2021 Draft**

**Goals**

**The Town of Taos regularly maintains and improves utility infrastructure, and provides safe, reliable water, wastewater, and solid waste utility services to Taos customers**

**Residents have access to reliable utility services**

**The Town of Taos prioritizes projects to expand renewable energy and efforts to improve and promote sustainable resource management**

**The Taos Water and Sewer Master Plan, 2015, serves as the primary policy document guiding development and management of water and wastewater infrastructure in the Taos**

*Refer to this plan’s Transportation chapter, the Strong at Heart Plan, and regional transportation plans developed by the New Mexico Department of Transportation and the North Central Regional Transit District regarding streets goals, policies, recommendations, and projects*

**Policies**

1. Support ongoing maintenance, repair, and improvements of utility infrastructure and equipment to assure reliable town utility services
2. Responsibly plan for and fund regular utility systems upkeep, repair, replacements, upgrades, and improvements and maintain updated plans, needs, projects, and inventories of city utilities, preferably in an Asset Management Plan, to inform decision-making and resource allocation
3. Support Public Works staffing and resource needs, including efforts to improve interdepartmental collaboration protocols
4. Maintain support for the Regional Landfill Board
5. Establish policies supporting and prioritizing renewable energy projects and sustainable development practices
   1. Prioritize regional collaborations to reestablish and maintain recycling services for Taos and the Taos region
   2. Work with regional partners including community groups to develop and implement strategies for minimizing waste and expanding materials reuse and recycling at the municipal and community levels
   3. Develop a strategy for transitioning Town vehicle fleet to electric vehicles
   4. Actively support efforts to expand access to electric vehicle charging stations in Taos
6. Continue collaboration and partnerships with regional utilities providers to expand and improve electric and broadband services
   1. Work with utility service providers to establish and promote sustainability incentives including efficiency upgrades, energy audits, appliance recycling, weatherization assistance, and others *(refer to EPA Energy Resources for State and Local Governments outlined in the body of this plan)*
7. Collaborate with regional water districts, mutual domestic water consumer associations, and acequia associations to plan for and manage water infrastructure
   1. Review potential costs and benefits of regionalization or other strategies for incorporation neighboring water systems with the town’s
   2. Update the town water model to inform regionalization decisions
8. As outlined in the Water and Sewer Master Plan, the following measures will support compliance with the Abeyta water settlement:
   1. Track rights transfers to monitor compliance with Abeyta Settlement
   2. Prioritize improvements in efficiency of operations and balance of well operations in preparation of bringing wells online as prescribed in the settlement
   3. Long term: Consider Abeyta wells in future system upgrades and renovations
9. Continue work to implement system improvements and upgrades as
10. Research and review the available water supply and capacity to support future growth and develop policies to ensure that protecting and maintaining water resources is a fundamental consideration in future development plans
    1. Provide a clear outline of information on existing water resources and uses to the public