New Mexico Water Security Planning Act: Engagement Summary Report

November 2024

Contents

Tables

Figures

Acknowledgments

The following host organizations, snack sponsors, and staff groups helped make the Regional Water Planning engagement process a success.

Open House Host Organizations

- Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District Office
- Clovis-Carver Library
- Highlands University
- Isabel Castillo Performing Arts and Event Center
- Beatrice V. Q. Martinez Senior Center
- City of Santa Fe Market Station
- University of New Mexico, Taos
- City of Hobbs
- Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District
- City of Alamogordo
- New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources
- Grant County
- City of Las Cruces
- Veterans Helping Veterans
- City of Farmington and the San Juan Water Commission
- University of New Mexico Division of Continuing Education, Albuquerque

Snack Sponsors

- Acequia Association
- INTERA
- Water Dialogue
- Hazen and Sawyer
- Amigos Bravos
- Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District
- New Mexico Wild
- John Shomaker & Associates

Staffing

- NMISC
- NMOSE
- MediaDesk
- Brendle Group

Introduction

New Mexico faces water shortages due to climate change and other factors. These shortages will intensify in the coming decades. The evidence suggests that water availability in New Mexico will decline by 25-30% (and possibly more) while water needs are expected to grow.

Like many of its neighbors, New Mexico has challenges ahead. But its desert climate is nothing new. From time immemorial, the people in the desert southwest have found ways to adapt and sustain in the face of water shortages and will continue to do so into the future. Now is the time to put knowledge into action, reducing use and planning ahead.

The Water Security Planning Act (WSPA) is New Mexico's guiding legislation for regional water planning and management with a goal to secure a resilient water future. It creates a roadmap for regionalized water planning and implementation that prioritizes local communities' unique needs, makes use of the best available science and data, and maintains compliance with federal and state laws.

Purpose and Context of Engagement

Robust engagement is an essential feature of the WSPA, and this report documents the process and results of community open houses, and an online survey conducted by the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) during the Spring and Summer of 2024. The 2024 WSPA open house and engagement process was the first phase in an ongoing commitment to public engagement on New Mexico water planning matters. The insights and perspectives gathered during the 2024 engagement process will inform the development of new Rules and Guidelines for the future of New Mexico's water management, per the WSPA. This Engagement Report, developed by Brendle Group, is the first deliverable to support the Rule and Guideline creation. It serves as a summary of results and themes from the NMISC community outreach and engagement efforts.

Next, Brendle Group will provide observations and interpretation of the engagement results in an Observations and Considerations Report. The Observations and Considerations Report will offer preliminary observations and suggestions to inform the development of WSPA Rules and Guidelines. From there, draft Rules and Guidelines will be created and go through a formal review and promulgation process in 2025. After the Rules and Guidelines for water planning are established, future WSPA public engagement opportunities will inform and shape future regional water plans and implementation.

Table 1. Rules and Guidelines to be Established per Water Security Planning Act

Rule or Guideline
Rule 1: The boundaries and number of water planning regions in the state
Rule 2: The criteria for commission approval of a regional water security plan with prioritized projects, programs, and policies
Rule 3: The procedure for a regional water planning entity to develop and provide notice to the commission of issues and concerns relating to the public welfare of the water planning region
Rule 4: The composition of a regional water planning entity
Rule 5: The procedure for a regional water planning entity to consider public welfare values and the needs of future generations of New Mexicans
Guideline 1: The identification of regional stakeholders and opportunities for stakeholder collaboration
Guideline 2: The public input requirements for regional water planning
Guideline 3: The requirements for a proposal for grants or loans for planning activities
Guideline 4: The process for approval of grants or loans
Guideline 5: The process for state agency collaboration
Guideline 6: The metrics for reporting on regional water projects and, programs, and policies
Guideline 7: The procedures to support implementation of a regional water security plan
Guideline 8: The schedule for implementation of regional water planning, including integration with statewide objectives

History of Regional Water Planning in New Mexico

Regional water planning in New Mexico began in earnest in 1987, when the New Mexico legislature authorized the NMISC to provide loans and grants for regional water planning activities. Jurisdictions seeking funding, whether a county, city, water board, or water commission, could define their planning region for their proposed planning study. Thus, through the process of seeking funding, the water planning boundaries began to emerge, originating from the ground up, and not through a statewide analysis or comprehensive approach.

Historically, several iterations of water planning regions have been developed due to changing needs, but since 1996 the current 16 regions have remained essentially the same (New Mexico Water Dialogue, 1996). The first round of regional water plans was completed between 1987 and 2008. These plans were difficult for NMISC to compare against each other due to differences in methodology and degrees of detail. To address these differences, through the second round of regional planning, which occurred from 2013 to 2017, NMISC adopted a consistent methodology called the common technical platform. The common technical platform ensured consistency across all regions when calculating water supply and demand, making the regional water plans easily comparable. NMISC hired a contractor over the course of two years to help each region develop an updated regional water plan using the common technical platform. Information in these regional water plans were then summarized in the 2018 State Water Plan.

Due to various circumstances, the previous round of regional water planning did not result in an infusion of funds into various water projects/programs/polices around the state. One reason for this was that the projects/programs/policies identified in these plans were not prioritized by the regions. To address this, State Engineer Mike Hamman's 2022 Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force suggested that a re-write of the 1987 regional water planning statute could help reinvigorate the regional water planning process. The New Mexico Legislature unanimously passed the Water Security Planning Act in 2023 because of these efforts and the Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force no longer exists.

The passage of the Water Security Planning Act gives New Mexicans a once in a generation opportunity to reimagine how water planning works for the state by linking local and regional water needs with the funding and technical expertise to implement projects. With NMISC leading water planning, the statute requires NMISC to re-examine and re-envision the process of regional water planning by requiring broad participation from local and regional voices. The process aims to center implementation and public involvement at all steps and allows for New Mexicans to design a system that increases New Mexico's water security.

Methodology

This section describes the methodology used for the statewide engagement process led by the NMISC planning team in the spring and summer of 2024. Consultants with Media Desk and Brendle Group provided technical expertise and additional capacity to support the NMISC's engagement effort. The methodology centered around a series of in-person open house events and an online open house designed to engage New Mexicans in the regional water planning process and gather input to inform the creation of the Rules and Guidelines outlined in the WSPA.

Question Development

The first step in the engagement process was to identify the information and feedback needed to inform each Rule and Guideline outlined in the WSPA. Questions were then developed for in-person and online formats to align with and inform the creation of the Rules and Guidelines.

Questions for the in-person open house format were developed through an iterative process with Brendle Group and NMISC to gather input on respondent concerns, values, and priorities related to the regional water planning and the Rules and Guidelines. Questions were peer reviewed by internal agency working groups and an external working group comprised of select members from the former New Mexico Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force. These questions were then replicated to fit an online survey format. In addition, a second set of questions was developed by NMISC for the online open house only, allowing interested participants to provide input on more detailed and technical topic areas related to the WSPA Rules and Guidelines.

Two primary types of question were developed: fixed-choice response questions and open-ended response questions. Each of these question types has benefits and limitations, described in the following sections, and the mixture of questions was designed to allow for variety in response formats.

In total, 31 questions were developed for the open house events and online open house and the wording and format of each is provided in Table 2. Details about the open house "stations" are provided in the "Open House Events" section of this report and details about the online open house surveys are described in the "Online Open House" section.

Table 2. Engagement Questions by Engagement Forum

Question	In-Person Open House Station	Online Open House Survey	Question Type
What is your ZIP code?	Welcome	Survey 1	Open-ended
Q1: Have you been involved with state-led regional water planning before?	Welcome	Survey 2	Open-ended
Q2: What is most important to you when you think about planning for New Mexico's water future?	Welcome	Survey 3	Open-ended
Q3: What is the biggest water challenge facing you and your neighbors? What are the biggest opportunities?	Why	Survey 3	Open-ended
Q4: In the next 50 years, New Mexico is expected to have at least 25% less water in rivers and a similar reduction in groundwater recharge. As water becomes more scarce, what are you most concerned about?	Why	Survey 3	Fixed-choice with open-ended option
Q5: What do you think is most important to achieve by revising the regional water planning process?	Why	Survey 4	Fixed-choice with open-ended option
Q6: What communities do you consider to be part of your region?	Where	Survey 4	Open-ended
Q7: What do you think is most important in terms of how boundaries are delineated?	Where	Survey 4	Fixed-choice with open-ended option
Q8: Which of the example boundary concept maps resonates with you most?	Where	Survey 4	Fixed-choice
Q9: Are there any other considerations not highlighted here that should be included in determining how to delineate future regional water planning boundaries?	Where	Survey 4	Open-ended
Q10: What are the qualities that you would like to have in a planning process?	Who	Survey 5	Fixed-choice with open-ended option
Q11: What characteristics should future planning entity members have?	Who	Survey 5	Fixed-choice
Q12: How should different groups be involved in regional water planning and in what role?	Who	Survey 5	Fixed-choice
Q13: Is the current requirement for a minimum of two general public meetings during each planning cycle sufficient?	Who	Survey 5	Fixed-choice
Q14: In what other ways should New Mexicans be engaged in the water planning process?	Who	Survey 5	Fixed-choice with open-ended option
Q15: Are there any other considerations not highlighted here that should be included in determining who will be involved in regional water planning and how future regional planning entities will function?	Who	Survey 5	Open-ended
Q16: What key questions should each regional plan answer?	What	Survey 6	Fixed-choice with open-ended option
Q17: What types of implementation strategies should be included in regional water plans to create a balanced water future?	What	Survey 6	Fixed-choice with open-ended option
Q18: What key information would you like to know about the water projects, programs, and policies happening in your region?	What	Survey 6	Fixed-choice with open-ended option
Q19: What information is most important to track in the regional water planning process?	What	Survey 6	Fixed-choice with open-ended option

Question	In-Person Open House Station	Online Open House Survey	Question Type
Q20: To help us better understand your perspective on public welfare, please express how strong you agree or disagree.	n/a	Survey 7	Fixed-choice
Q21: Do you have additional comments on public welfare that you would like NMISC to consider?	n/a	Survey 7	Open-ended
Q22: Who should be eligible to apply for grants or loans for planning activities?	n/a	Survey 7	Fixed-choice
Q23: Choose up to two of the following priorities for evaluating funding of grants or loans for planning activities	n/a	Survey 7	Fixed-choice
Q24: Are there other factors NMISC should consider when thinking about funding water planning activities?	n/a	Survey 7	Open-ended
Q25: A guidance related to state agency collaboration should consider	n/a	Survey 7	Fixed-choice
Q26: Which of the listed ways should the NMISC prioritize when supporting the implementation of regional water plans	n/a	Survey 8	Fixed-choice
Q27: How frequently should future regional water planning entities be required to update their regional water security plans? Note, NMISC anticipates a two-year planning cycle needed to update any regional water security plan.	n/a	Survey 8	Fixed-choice
Q28: Regional water security plans are required to have prioritized projects, programs, and policies. The prioritization of these by region should be accomplished by	n/a	Survey 8	Fixed-choice
Q29: Any other suggestions for how regions will prioritize plan recommendations?	n/a	Survey 8	Open-ended
Q30: What do you think is most needed to ensure that regional water plans can be successfully implemented?	n/a	Survey 8	Open-ended
Q31: Please provide any other highlights, thoughts, questions, suggestions, criticisms or things we might have missed in this questionnaire related to regional water planning in New Mexico.	Thank You/Exit	Survey 9	Open-ended

Fixed-Choice Questions

Fixed-choice response questions were multiple-choice style and designed to gather specific feedback on key issues that connected directly to the Rules and Guidelines outlined in the WSPA. For the open house events, this took the form of dot voting on worksheets (see Figure 1 for an example). For the online open house, these questions were a traditional multiple-choice survey. Most multiple-choice questions allowed participants to choose up to three options from the pre-determined answers. This allowed participants to express their preferences for more than one option, which allowed for answers that may have been someone's second or third response to still rise in the overall distribution of responses.

Figure 1. Example of an In-Person Open House Worksheet with Fixed-Choice Dot Voting and Space for Open-Ended Responses

The fixed-choice questions ensured quantifiable and consistent data was collected across all regions and allowed for the identification of trends and variations across the state in a standardized manner. However, this question style required respondents to choose from pre-determined answer choices, therefore limiting the ability to capture more nuanced responses and opinions. Additionally, the in-person dot-voting format created the potential for each participant's response to be influenced by others, since all dots were visible.

Open-Ended Questions

To address the limitations associated with fixed choice questions and allow for a range of response types, open-ended questions were also included. Many of the fixed-choice questions included an associated option for open-ended comments and there were also several stand-alone open-ended questions.

This style of questions allowed participants to provide written comments with more detailed feedback and highlight individual experiences or opinions that may not have been captured in the fixed-choice answer options. For the in-person open house events, this took the form of either comment boxes for private responses, or sheets on which respondents could review previously responded responses and show support using a checkmark or provide their own response in a designated box. For the online open house, these questions were framed as comment boxes.

Inherent to the question style is that responses are more inconsistent and less easily quantified, making it more challenging to identify regional trends and draw conclusions from the raw data.

Open House Events

Open house events were hosted by NMISC throughout the spring and summer of 2024 to listen to and learn from communities across New Mexico. The open house experience was designed and facilitated by Brendle Group, in close coordination with the NMISC planning team and with support from Media Desk. One open house was held in each of New Mexico's 16 water regions from the previous round of planning (Figure 2). See Table 3 for a list of open house dates and venues by region. All open houses were held from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. to allow a broad window for participation, including for those attending during the workday in a professional capacity and those attending after work. Open house opportunities were promoted via the Main Stream New Mexico marketing campaign, including newsletters, advertisements, blogs, and stories as described in the Marketing Campaign section of this report.

Figure 2. Flyer Advertising Open Houses for Each Region

Table 3. Schedule of Public Open House Events by Region

Date	Region	Venue
April 22, 2024	Region 13 - Estancia	Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District Office, 2506 NM-333, Moriarty, NM
April 23, 2024	Region 1 - Northeast New Mexico	Ingram Room, Clovis-Carver Library, 701 N. Main Street Clovis NM
April 24, 2024	Region 8 – San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	Student Union Building Ballroom, Highlands University, 800 University Ave, Las Vegas, NM
May 13, 2024	Region 9 - Colfax	Isabel Castillo Performing Arts and Event Center, 123 S. 2nd Street, Raton, NM
May 14, 2024	Region 14 - Rio Chama	Beatrice V. Q. Martinez Senior Center, 735 Vietnam Veterans Rd, Espanola, NM
May 15, 2024	Region 3 - Jemez y Sangre	City of Santa Fe Market Station, 500 Market St., Santa Fe, NM
May 16, 2024	Region 7 - Taos	Bataan Hall, UNM, 121 Civic Plaza Dr, Taos, NM
June 10, 2024	Region 10 – Lea County	Old Commission Room, 2nd Floor, Hobbs City Hall Annex, 200 E Broadway St, Hobbs, NM
June 11, 2024	Region 11 - Lower Pecos	PVACD Office, 2303 E 2nd St, Roswell, NM
June 12, 2024	Region 5 - Tularosa-Sacramento	Sergeant Willie Estrada Memorial Civic Center, 800 E First Street, Alamogordo, NM
July 22, 2024	Region 15 - Socorro-Sierra	NM Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, Room 253, 801 Leroy Pl. Socorro, NM
July 23, 2024	Region 4 - Southwest New Mexico	Grant County Veteran's Memorial Business and Conference Center, 3031 US Hwy 180 East Silver City, NM
July 24, 2024	Region 11 - Lower Rio Grande	Las Cruces City Hall Conference Rooms 2007 B & C, 700 N Main St, Las Cruces, NM 88001
August 5, 2024	Region 6 - Northwest New Mexico	Veterans Helping Veterans, 908 E. Buena Vista Ave., Gallup, NM
August 6, 2024	Region 2 - San Juan	Farmington Civic Center, Chaco and Pinon Rooms (6 & 7), 200 W Arrington St, Farmington, NM
August 7, 2024	Region 12 - Middle Rio Grande	UNM Division of Continuing Education, 1634 University Blvd., N.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico

The open house events were designed to be self-guided experiences for participants to work through at their own pace. While each open house setup was unique to the venue, all included informational displays and questions organized around six different "stations" that organize the content and question into similar themes:

- Welcome: Check-in and Open House Logistics
- Why: Background Information and Event Purpose
- Where: Exploring Boundaries for Regional Water Planning
- Who: Identifying Stakeholders and their Roles in Regional Water Planning
- What: Exploring What's Included in Regional Water Planning (Topics & Metrics)
- Thank You: Check-out and Next Steps

The stations included informational display boards for participants to read, with questions for participants to consider. Tables in front of the display boards featured worksheets and comment cards for participants to complete in response to the question prompts. As described in the Question Development section of this report, worksheet questions included a mix of fixed-choice dot voting and open-ended response formats to collect feedback in various formats for data analysis and interpretation. Worksheet questions by open house station are provided in Table 2. See Appendix I for copies of all station materials.

Team members from NMISC and Brendle Group staffed each station, guiding participants through the content and process and answering questions. All written content was provided in both English and Spanish, including worksheets for English and Spanish participation. Spanish-speaking team members were available at each open house to provide opportunities for dialogue and engagement in Spanish.

Most of the open houses also included New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (NMOSE) District Office staff who were available to discuss water rights administration and related questions. Representatives from acequia associations also attended and set up tables at several of the open houses to connect with participants and answer questions.

Beyond the formal input collected via worksheets and comment cards, many participants stayed at the open house events for several hours, discussing water issues and sharing perspectives with other attendees as well as NMISC and NMOSE staff. Refreshments were provided at each open house (see snack sponsors in the Acknowledgments) and Main Stream New Mexico-branded water bottles, bandanas, stickers, and postcards were available to participants.

See Figure 3 for a graphic summary of the open house experience.
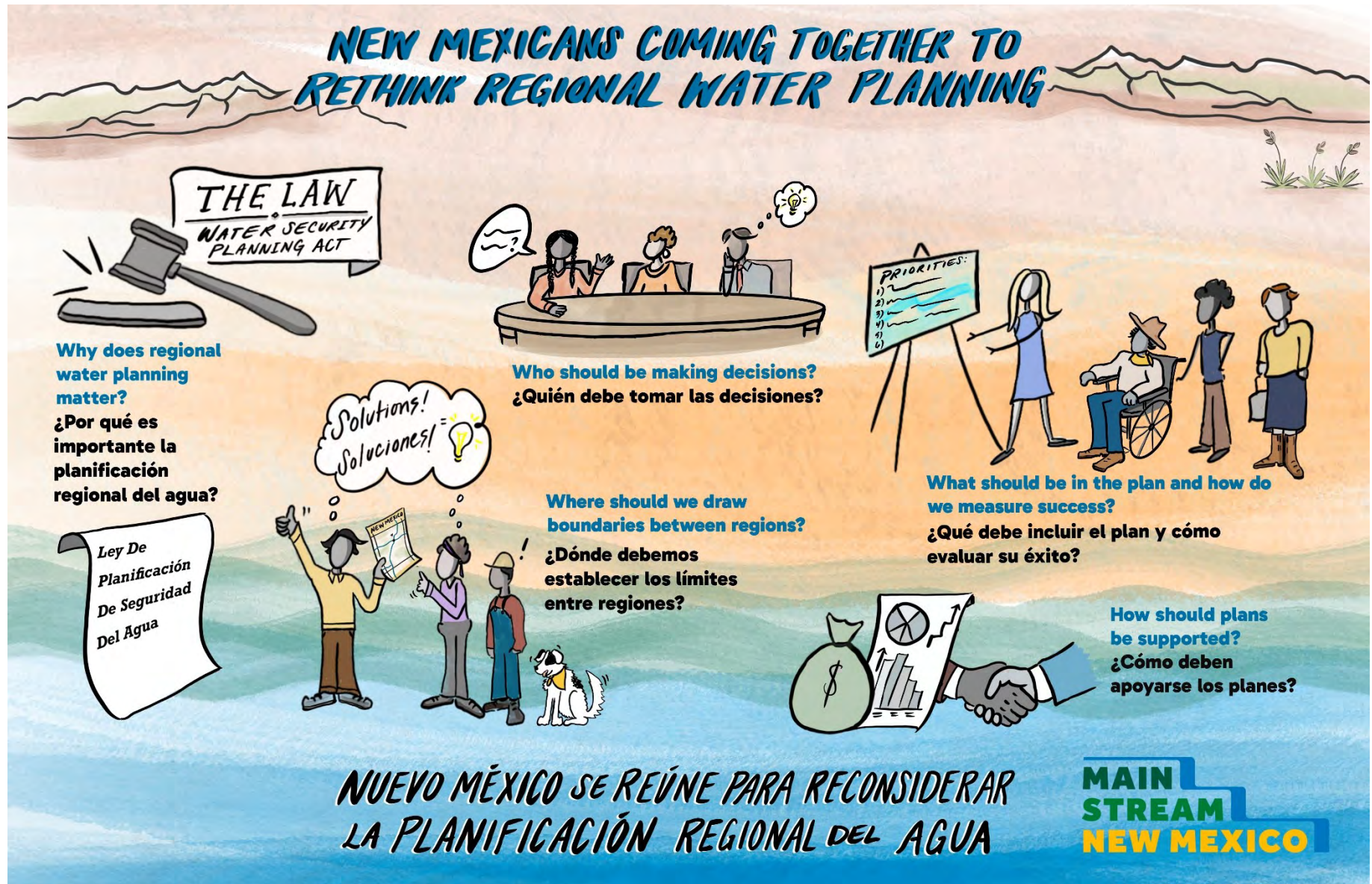
Figure 3. Graphic Summary of the Open House Experience

Online Open House

An online open house was provided on the Main Stream New Mexico website to expand participation in the engagement process beyond the in-person open houses The online open house launched on June 3, 2024, and closed on August 18, 2024. The online open house opportunity was shared at the in-person open houses and promoted through all Main Stream New Mexico campaign avenues described in the Marketing Campaign section of this report.

The online open house was designed to align with the in-person open house experience, including informational content to review and polls and short response questions for participants to complete. A unique component of the online open house included an interactive "StoryMap" to guide participants through regional boundary-setting considerations: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/defa7935afeb43b0a05157b4f514c623.

A series of Community Conversations were held by NMISC staff in July and August to provide support for online survey participants. These Community Conversations were online meetings where NMISC staff presented information and responded to questions, working to spark discussion of water issues and the input questions specifically.

In addition to mirroring the questions at the in-person open houses, the online open house featured additional, more detailed, and technical topic areas with questions to inform rule and guideline development, as described in the Question Development section of this report. These additional topic areas included:

- How: Detailed Procedures
- When: Timeline Considerations
- Other Feedback: Open Comment Form with Document Upload Option

The questions for the online open house were organized into nine surveys, as follows:

- Survey 1: Welcome, Getting Started
- Survey 2: Share Your Voice
- Survey 3: Background Information
- Survey 4: Regions and Boundaries
- Survey 5: Leadership and Public Participation
- Survey 6: Process and Reporting
- Survey 7: Detailed Procedures
- Survey 8: Implementation
- Survey 9: Conclusion

Marketing Campaign

Main Stream New Mexico is a campaign of the NMISC Water Planning Program. Main Stream New Mexico campaign, led by MediaDesk, supported the marketing, advertising, and delivery of the 2024 Water Security Planning Act open house and public engagement process. Key elements of the Main Stream New Mexico Campaign included:

- Website – the campaign website (mainstreamnm.org) is the central repository and hub for Water Security Planning Act information and resources.
- Blogs - a monthly blog series covers key topics of importance, including success stories, information for the public, and NMISC Commissioner profiles.
- Newsletter - a monthly newsletter, which grew from 0 to nearly 3,000 subscribers in the first year, ensured that folks could opt-in for updates and provided regular information on upcoming open houses and opportunities to engage-
- Advertising - digital ads on Meta and Google promoted both in-person and online open houses across all 16 water regions. These ads were viewed 8.4 million times.
- Local Media Stories - Main Stream New Mexico gained significant coverage in New Mexico's media, being featured in 18 stories, including one op-ed, and three radio interviews. This helped raise awareness around water planning and informed the public about input opportunities and the implementation of the Water Security Planning Act.
- Photography - photography and strong and cohesive graphic design helped the campaign establish trust and reflect and relate to communities across the state.
- Print Materials - to ensure the campaign reached communities and New Mexicans with limited access to digital platforms, print materials were created to advertise local open houses.
- Water Bill Inserts – Two rounds of water bill inserts were placed in the Albuquerque Water Utility Authority. The first round of 210,000 were placed in the June 2024 billing cycle. The second round of 210,000 bill inserts were placed in the July 2024 billing cycle.
- SWAG - branded materials were distributed at open houses to reinforce the campaign's identity and goals.

See Figure 4 for a summary of facts and highlights of the Main Stream New Mexico campaign and open house activities. Additional details regarding the Main Stream New Mexico campaign can be found in Appendix II.

Main Stream New Mexico Open House Highlights

8.4 Million
Impressions

Online ads on Meta and Google platforms were seen 8.4 million times.

Open House Participation:

710+
In Person

1,600+
Online

710 people attended Open Houses across New Mexico's 16 water regions and more than 1,600 people completed the online Open House survey.

Engagement Opportunities:

16
In Person
Open Houses

1
Online
Platform

8
Community
Conversations

25+
Presentations

New Mexicans were invited to engage in the process through in-person Open Houses in each of New Mexico's 16 water regions. NMISC also offered an Online Open House for anytime access, as well as community conversations and over 25 presentations to build awareness across the state.

8,000+
Blog Reads

8,000+ readers visited our blog articles, accessing vetted information relevant to regional water planning.

3,000+
Newsletter Subscribers

We gained over 3,000 newsletter subscribers and maintained an average 39% open rate.

154
Advertisements

Statewide advertising included 110 radio ads and 16 newspaper print ads and 28 newspaper digital ads, promoting regional and online Open Houses across New Mexico.

22
Stories

Main Stream and the Open Houses were featured in 18 stories in local newspapers including the Santa Fe New Mexican, including 1 op-ed, and 3 radio interviews.

75,000+
Web Visitors

Over 75,000 users visited MainStreamNM.org, visiting over 109,000 pages on the website.

25,000+
Responses

Collectively, we received over 25,000 responses to questions relating to the future of New Mexico's water.

Figure 4. Summary of Main Stream New Mexico Campaign Opportunities and Outcomes

Related Engagement Efforts

In addition to traditional advertising efforts supporting the Open House Events, the NMISC Planning staff also participated in any and all speaking engagements offered to the team. This included more than twenty-five presentations around the state. These presentations allowed the NMISC to promote the ongoing or upcoming public input opportunities at the open house events. Table 4 summarizes occasions of NMISC presentations related to the Main Stream New Mexico open house.

During the outreach campaign, NMISC Planning staff made over 200 phone calls, sent more than 2,600 emails, and distributed over 400 flyers to engage a diverse group of stakeholders. These stakeholders represented a wide range of sectors, including education, utilities, mutual domestics, acequias, irrigation districts, and soil & water conservation districts, state and federal agencies, legislators, municipalities, and agricultural producers. Tribal outreach was discussed at the NMISC's Water Security Advisory Council (WSTAC) Interim Committee meetings, held by NMISC contractor Laurie Weahkee. The outreach effort aimed to ensure broad participation and gather input from those involved in water management. Through these communications, the planning team sought to foster collaboration and identify key issues and opportunities for regional water sustainability.

Table 4. Summary of Speaking Engagements

Date	Event
12/8/2023	Water Leaders Workshop
1/11/2024	Water Dialogue – Keynote and supporting presentation
2/21/2024	Online – State Agency Update
2/22/2024	Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments
3/7/2024	Land & Water Sumit
3/7/2024	Online – NMOSE/NMISC Update
4/1/2024	Drought Task Force
4/8/2024	Climate Masters – Santa Fe Watershed
4/8/2024	Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments
4/10/2024	Tabling at New Mexico Water Data Conference
5/10/2024	Tribal Planning Roundtable
5/23/2024	Water Leaders Workshop
6/3/2024	Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments
6/16/2024	Manzana Land Grant
6/20/2024	Online – Water Advocates
6/20/2024	Online – Produced Water Consortium
6/21/2024	Next Generation Water Summit
7/9/2024	Online – NMOSE/NMISC Update
7/9/2024	Online – Community Conversation with Friends of Bosque del Apache
7/12/2024	Forest & Watershed Health Coordinating Group
7/15/2024	Online – Community Conversation with Friends of Bosque del Apache
7/17/2024	Online – Community Conversation with NMISC – offered twice this day
7/31/2024	Online – Community Conversation with NMISC – offered twice this day
8/1/2024	Albuquerque Requiem for a River Screening and Discussion Panel
8/14/2024	Online – Community Conversation with NMISC – offered twice this day
8/15/2024	Municipal League

Water Security Tribal Advisory Council

The formation of the WSTAC was initiated in February 2024, with outreach to the leadership of the 24 New Mexico Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations. This effort was led by NMISC contractor Laurie Weahkee and NMOSE Tribal Liaison Myron Armijo, with support and advisement from the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department. In addition to multiple individual meetings and consultations with tribal leaders and water resource professionals, five large-scale meetings were held, each averaging 37 participants.

Table 5. WSTAC Timeline

Date	Event
2/6/2024	Outreach began to Pueblo and Tribal leadership about the WSTAC
2/22/2024	All Pueblo Council of Governors presentation by Director Hannah Riseley-White and Laurie Weahkee
6/6/2024	Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblo meeting – presentation on WSTAC & Interim Committee by Director Hannah Riseley-White and contractor Laurie Weahkee
6/10/2024	First Interim Committee meeting – 45 participants
7/8/2024	Interim Committee – discussed regional boundary considerations, Rules and Guidelines
7/30/2024	Interim Committee – discussed regional boundary considerations, Rules and Guidelines, and the WSTAC structure
8/19/2024	Tribal Water Institute – general overview of WSTAC / Interim Committee progress, and structure options
8/27/2027	Interim Committee – discussed regional boundary considerations, Rules and Guidelines, and the WSTAC structure

An Interim Committee was established to develop recommendations on the structure and function of WSTAC. Discussions during these meetings centered on critical issues, including regional water boundaries, the potential bylaws governing the Council, and the exchange of information between NMISC/NMOSE and tribal partners, particularly regarding regional water planning open houses.

Once WSTAC convenes in the fall of 2024, the Council will review the recommendations of the Interim Committee, provide input on pre-draft Rules and Guidelines, and play a central role in ensuring continued Tribal engagement in statewide water security planning. WSTAC will serve as a forum to enhance collaboration between Tribal nations and state agencies, with a focus on safeguarding tribal sovereignty, protecting tribal water rights, and addressing the water needs of tribal communities within the regional water planning program.

In addition to amplifying tribal perspectives on water management and regional planning, WSTAC will facilitate the timely dissemination of information from the NMISC. The Council's structure will allow for continuity of its priorities and objectives, ensuring that WSTAC remains an effective forum for advancing water security and management goals, regardless of changes in tribal leadership.

Analysis of Results

After completion of the in-person and online open houses, the Brendle Group team began data entry and analysis to inform the development of recommendation related to the Rules and Guidelines outlined in the WSPA.

The raw data were transcribed from completed worksheets for analysis in spreadsheet format. While the data associated with fixed-choice questions were inherently quantified, the open-ended responses required further processing to allow meaningful analysis. To enable categorization and analysis of the open-ended responses, codes were created to group responses into themes that related to a specific topic or perspective.

For open-ended questions that followed a fixed-choice question (e.g., Question 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30) an initial set of codes was created that aligned with the question's corresponding fixed-choice responses. Following this initial list of codes, comments that did not end up corresponding to a fixed-choice response code, were grouped into common themes and assigned a new corresponding code. For open-ended questions that did not have a corresponding fixed-choice component (e.g., Question 2, 3, 9, 15, and 31), unique codes were created based on the responses received.

For all questions, where responses were not directly tied to the question being asked, they were coded as "uncategorized." These answers were reviewed for themes across questions but not counted towards question-specific thematic totals. Regardless of the type of short-answer or open-ended question, comments could receive multiple codes if the comment touched multiple themes.

Both fixed-choice and coded open-ended questions were then reviewed for statewide themes and regional variation, with key findings described in the section of this report. These findings will then inform the development of a separate Observations and Considerations Report to offer reflections and suggestions on the Rules and Guidelines outlined in the WSPA.

Summary Results

This section provides tabulated results and a summary of participation and responses by question, including breakouts by region. The results include questions that were asked at the in-person open houses, and through the online open house questionnaire.

Blue shaded tables and charts display the results of dot-voting or "fixed-choice" questions, while green shaded tables and charts display the results of short answer and open-ended questions. Question 12 had a unique format and is shaded in yellow. All short answer and open-ended responses were coded by Brendle Group team members to group together similar responses and help summarize key themes of the responses.

Detailed responses are provided in Appendix III. The NMISC planning team has the original, completed worksheets from in-person activities. As shown in Figure 5, an interactive dashboard showing the summary results is available at: https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/brendle.group/viz/NMISCCommunityEngagement/StateOverview.
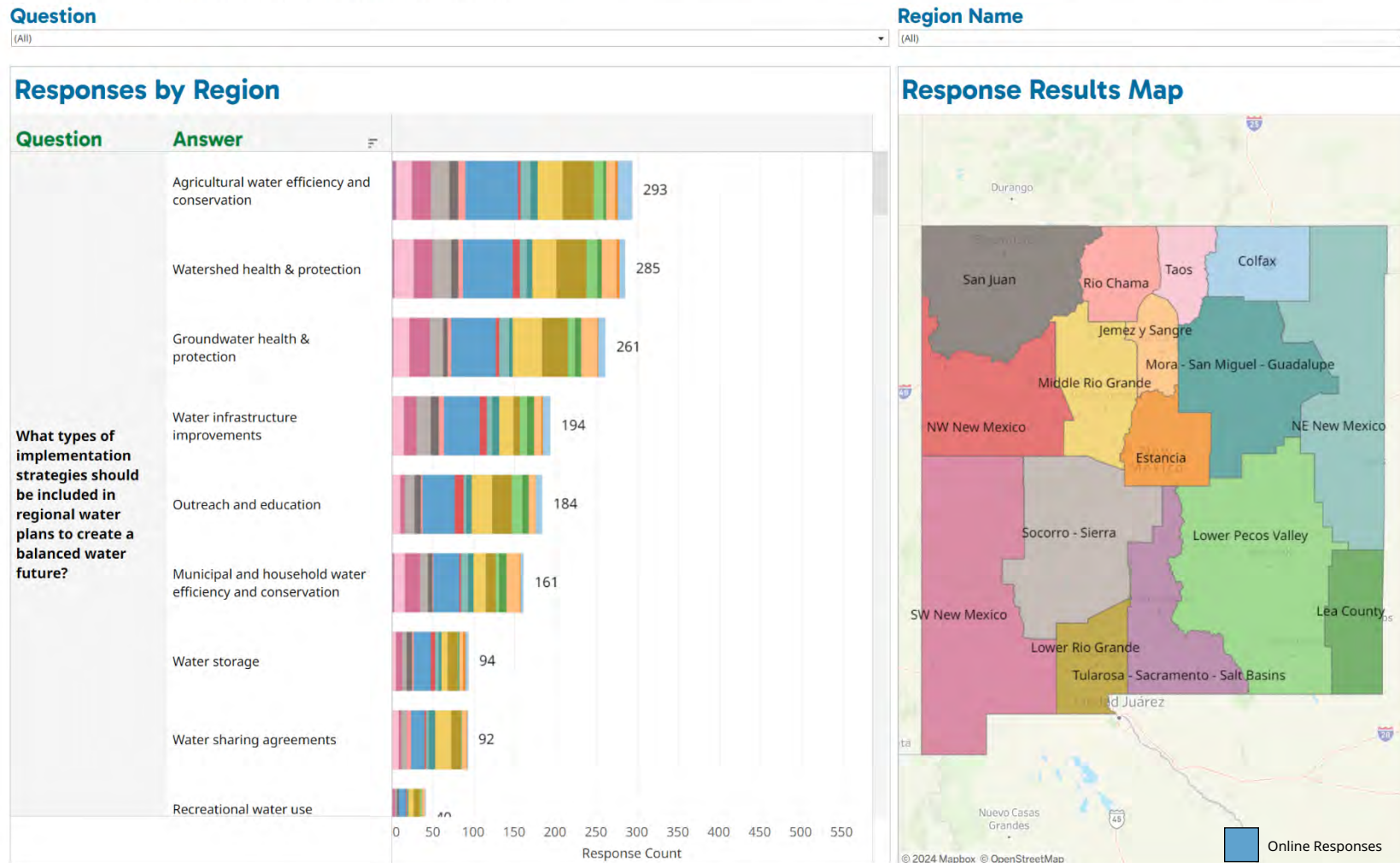
Figure 5. Online Dashboard of Engagement Summary Results

Open House Participation

Signing in was requested of open house participants upon entry; a small number of participants declined to sign in. As shown in Table 6, a total of 710 people signed in at the in-person open house events. The greatest attendance was on August 7, 2024, at the final open house event in Albuquerque (Region 12 – Middle Rio Grande). Only 3 people signed in at the June 12, 2024, event in Alamogordo (Region 5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins). On average, 44 participants signed in at each open house event. See Figure 6 for a map of open house participants by region.

Table 6. Open House Participation by Region

Region	Number of Attendees Who Signed In	Number of Participant Reponses
1 - Northeast New Mexico	42	1,189
2 - San Juan	31	857
3 - Jemez y Sangre	49	1,767
4 - Southwest New Mexico	65	2,218
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	3	259
6 - Northwest New Mexico	21	719
7 - Taos	52	1,971
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	40	986
9 - Colfax	24	942
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	30	1,142
11 - Lower Rio Grande	93	3,299
12 - Middle Rio Grande	114	3,642
13 - Estancia	39	981
14 - Rio Chama	22	590
15 - Socorro-Sierra	67	2,363
16 - Lea County	18	700
Total	**710**	**23,625**

All open house worksheet questions and comment cards were optional. Most participants worked their way around the open house stations answering the majority of the 19 questions. Each dot placed and comment written by participants on the worksheets/comment cards is counted as a "response." As shown in Table 6, a total of 23,625 responses were collected at the in-person open house events. On average, 1,477 responses were collected at each open house event. Of the responses collected at the in-person open houses, 332 (1%) were provided in Spanish.

Online Open House Participation

Online open house participants were required to input a zip code to access the other questions. See Figure 7 and Figure 8 for maps showing geographic distribution of online participants, based on the zip code entry. Responses to all other questions were optional. As shown in Table 7, a total of 3,763 responses were collected via the online open house survey questions, with Surveys 1 and 2 garnering the greatest number of responses. One online response was provided in Spanish.

Table 7. Online Open House Participation

Online Surveys	Number of Responses
Survey 1 - Welcome, Getting Started	1,606
Survey 2 - Share Your Voice	443
Survey 3 - Background Information	327
Survey 4 - Regions and Boundaries	259
Survey 5 - Leadership and Public Participation	231
Survey 6 - Process and Reporting	245
Survey 7 - Detailed Procedures	222
Survey 8 - Implementation	217
Survey 9 - Conclusion	210
Total	**3,763**

The online StoryMap (English and Spanish versions) developed to support responding to questions related to regional boundaries (Survey 4), had 288 viewers (English version) and 114 viewers (Spanish version).
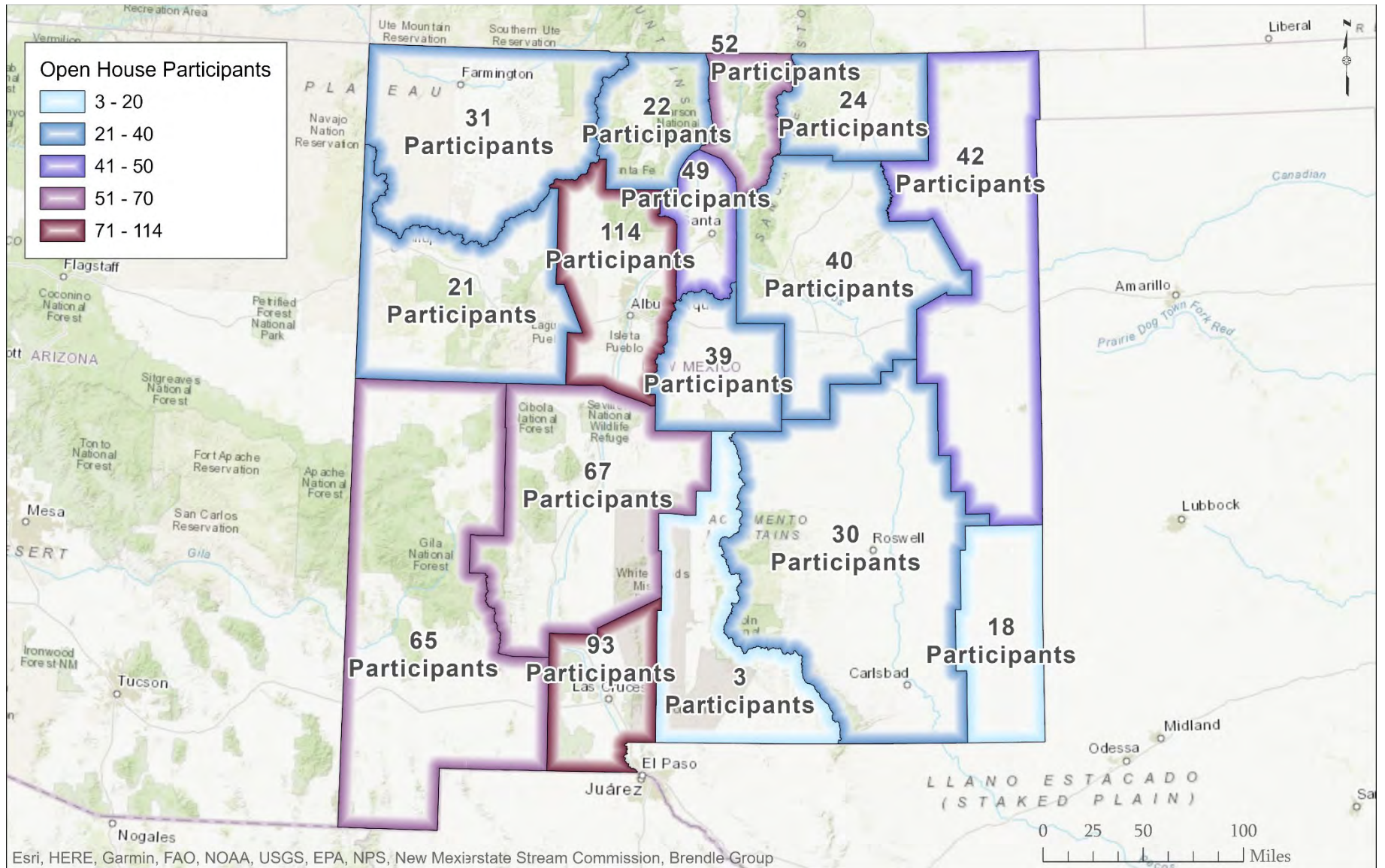
Figure 6. Geographic Distribution of Open House Participants by Region

Online Participants

- 6 - 12
- 13 - 30
- 31 - 125
- 126 - 230
- 231 - 534

28 Participants

6 Participants

25 Participants

7 Participants

18 Participants

226 Participants

534 Participants

19 Participants

28 Participants

229 Participants

83 Participants

32 Participants

6 Participants

119 Participants

123 Participants
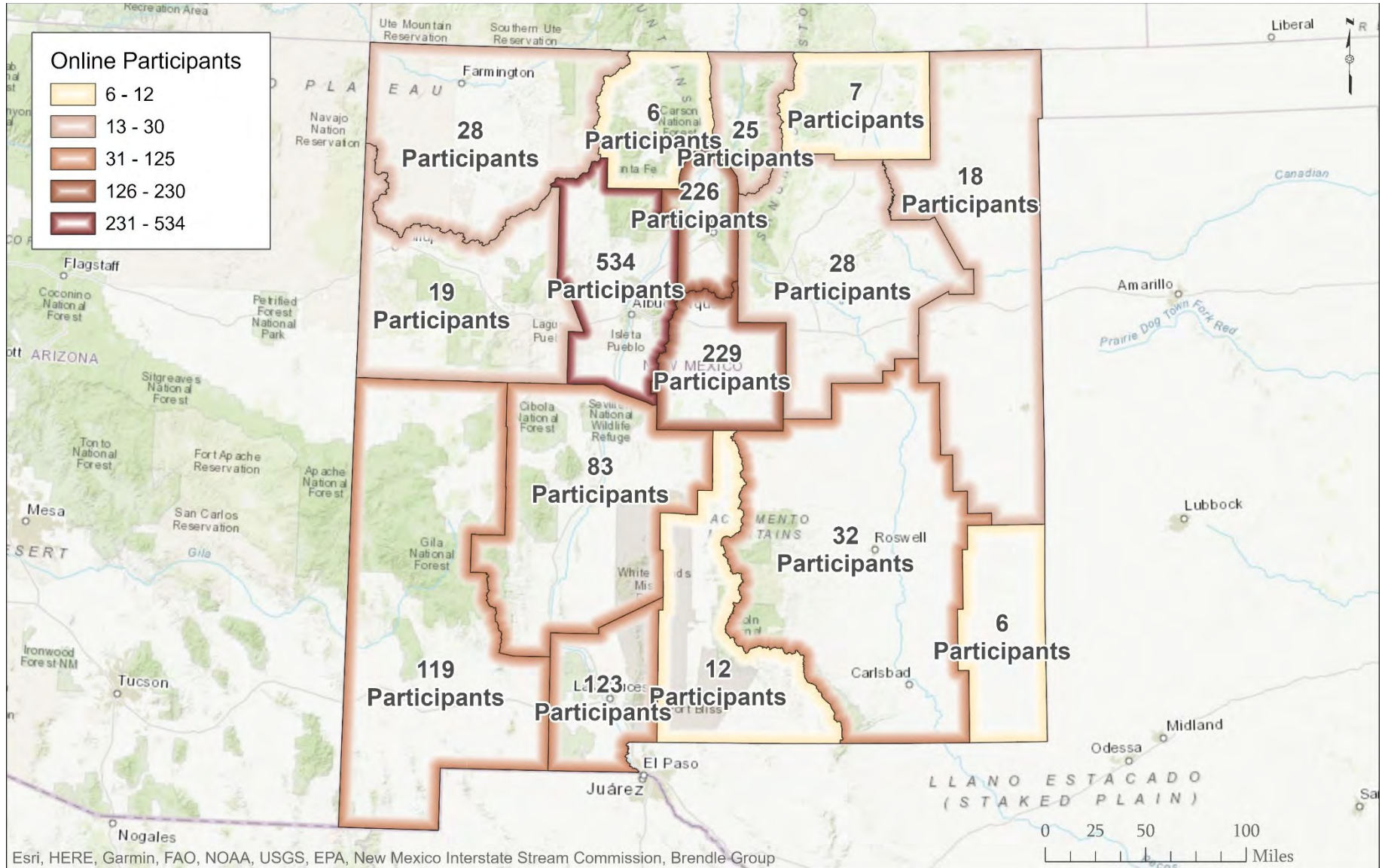
12 Participants

Figure 7. Geographic Distribution of Online Participants by Region based on ZIP Code Responses
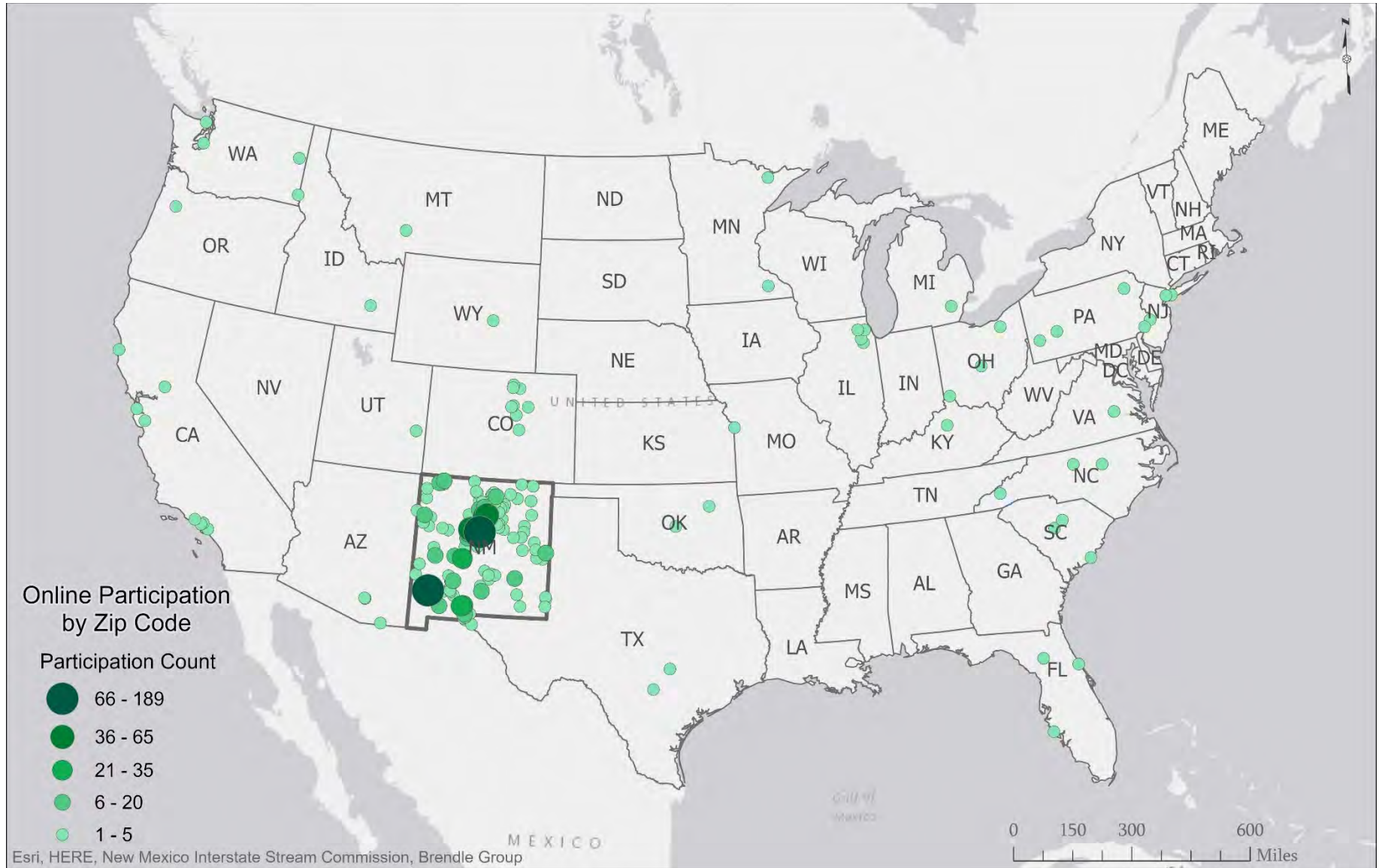
Figure 8. Geographic Distribution of Online Participants based on ZIP Code Responses

Q1: Have you been involved with state-led regional water planning before?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Guideline 2: The public input requirements for regional water planning

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	Place one dot to vote on the response that reflects your previous experience with regional water planning. Use the blank area to add any comments on how you have been involved	
Format	Two column table with designated dot placement in 2nd column. For the final row of table, provide area for open ended responses.	Multiple choice question with comment box for open ended responses.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Question 1 served as an introduction to the open house format and asked respondents whether they had been involved in water planning efforts before. Over half of participants (54%) indicated that they had never participated in either state- or non-state led water planning processes, suggesting that this engagement effort was successful at reaching new audiences. Several regions saw disproportionately high participation from people who had been involved in numerous water planning meetings, including Northeast New Mexico, Jemez y Sangre, Taos, Estancia, and Rio Chama. For online open house participants, the percentage of respondents who were new to water planning efforts was even higher, at 74%.

Open-Ended Responses

Question 1 provided an opportunity for people to share short comments and 141 were received across the regional and online open houses. Participant comments included descriptions of how they had been involved; how they heard about the open houses and engagement process; their familiarity with water topics, and details about their identity, experience and interests. Since the answers to this question were broad in topic and specific to the individuals, they were not coded for this report.

Table 8. Question 1: Fixed-Choice Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Yes - I have attended numerous water planning meetings in the past	Yes - I have attended one water planning meeting in the past	Yes - I have been involved in other, non-state led water planning efforts	No - I have not previously been involved	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	16	1	11	12	40
2 - San Juan	6	2	10	13	31
3 - Jemez y Sangre	17	5	9	17	48
4 - Southwest New Mexico	18	9	11	23	61
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	0	0	2	1	3
6 - Northwest New Mexico	3	3	3	9	18
7 - Taos	15	6	14	15	50
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	7	5	7	13	32
9 - Colfax	4	7	7	9	27
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	5	2	4	15	26
11 - Lower Rio Grande	14	7	11	49	81
12 - Middle Rio Grande	27	14	13	45	99
13 - Estancia	15	6	7	13	41
14 - Rio Chama	7	2	3	6	18
15 - Socorro-Sierra	12	12	13	23	60
16 - Lea County	1	1	6	6	14
Online	44	34	40	311	429
Total	**211**	**116**	**171**	**580**	**1,078**

54%
(580)

20%
(211)

16%
(171)

11%
(116)

Yes - I have attended numerous
water planning meetings in the past

Yes - I have attended one water
planning meeting in the past

Yes - I have been involved in other,
non-state led water planning efforts

No - I have not previously been
involved
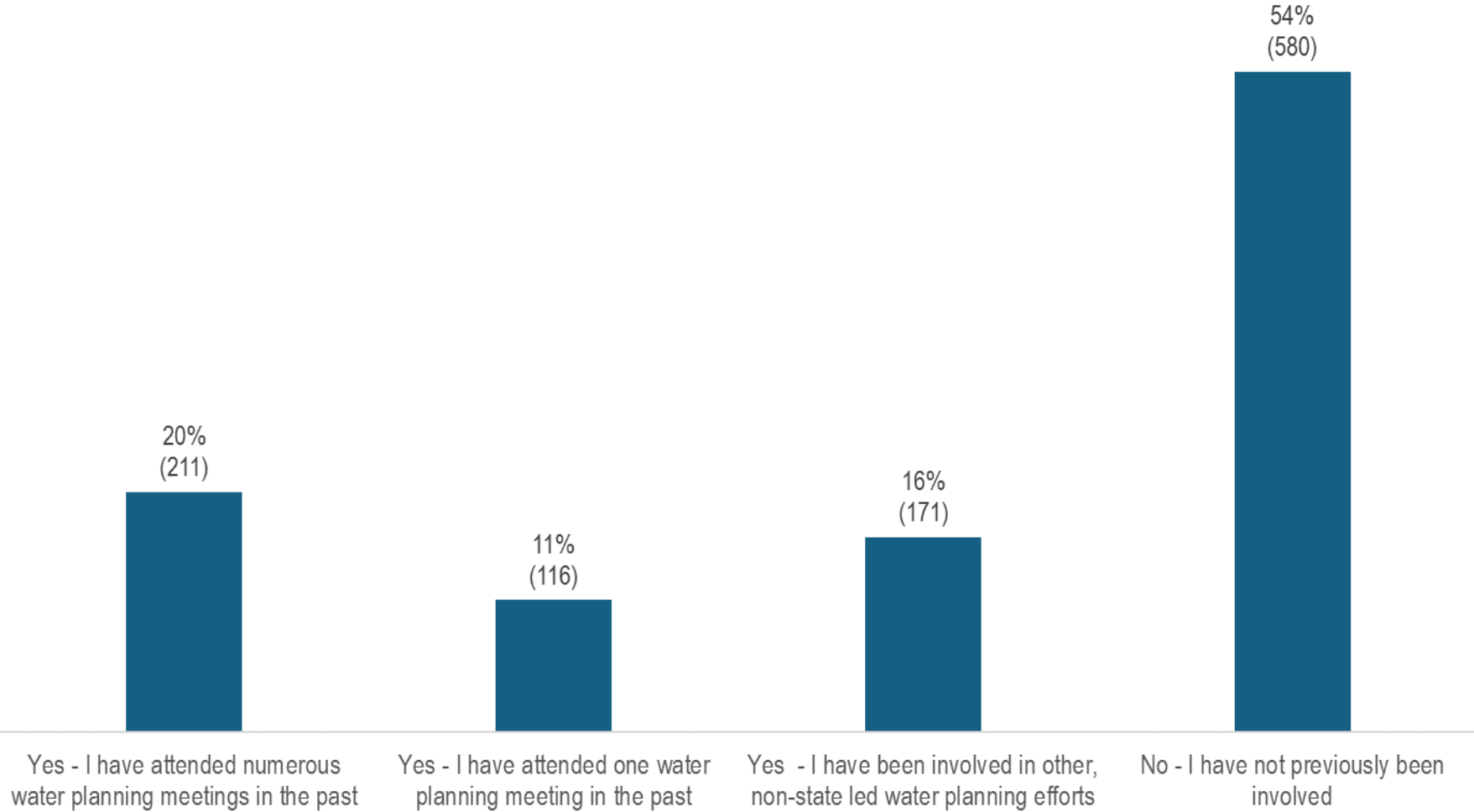
Figure 9. Question 1: Fixed-Choice Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Q2: What is most important to you when you think about planning for New Mexico's water future?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Rule 1: The boundaries and number of water planning regions in the state
- Rule 2: The criteria for commission approval of a regional water security plan with prioritized projects, programs and policies

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	Use one of the blank squares to provide your short answer. If you agree with a response, simply place a checkmark in the box.	
Format	11x17 sheet with question prompt and filled with 3x3 boxes for responses.	Comment box for open ended responses.

Open-Ended Responses

The top coded response regarding New Mexico's water future was "Water Availability," which accounted for the largest share of responses at 26%, indicating a widespread priority on securing reliable water sources for the future. This was followed by "Water Conservation" and "Environment," each representing 14% of coded responses. "Governance, Policy, and Planning" was the fourth most common coded response at 12%, reflecting significant interest in improving water management and regulatory frameworks.

"Water Conservation" was a top coded response in the Lower Rio Grande, Lea County, and San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe. In contrast, "Governance, Policy, and Planning" was a key focus in regions like Taos and Jemez y Sangre where respondents emphasized the need for better water management frameworks. Environmental responses are particularly prominent in Southwest New Mexico and Socorro-Sierra. "Agriculture" was a notable coded response in the Lower Rio Grande, reflecting the ongoing conversations regarding agricultural water management and the centrality of agriculture to the character, identity, and landscape of the Lower Rio Grande area.

MAIN STREAM NEW MEXICO

Q2: What is most important to you when you think about planning for New Mexico's water future?

Instructions: Use one of the blank squares to provide your short response. If you agree with a response, simply place a checkmark in the box.

Intersection between water & Energy Production ✓	Matching growth with water availability ✓ ✓✓	Finding regulatory authorities in order to track + properly control w/ the tools we already have.	Water availability for residents + for wildlife. ✓✓ ✓	Monitoring ✓ ground water pumping, both business? personal residential wells!	Sustainable water use for agriculture since ag uses the most. How do we use water more efficiently? How can we divert loss?	Transition-from growing high water demanding crops.			accurate ✓ info on water availability (e.g. aquifer maps) + Water usage conservation personal + business + agriculture etc.
A SEAT @ the TABLE include NM's VALUED LAND GRANT Communities + Regional Acequia Associations	STOP BUILDING APARTMENTS! THEY ARENT AFFORDABLE HSG. AND THERE IS NOT ENOUGH H2O!!	STOP THE SMOKEY BACK ROOM MANTALITY OF GRANTING BUILDING PERMITS	✓ ✓ Water access and no overuse!	How climate change impacts NM's Water supply and the severity of the impact for future generations ✓	HUMAN USE MUST NOT BE THE ONLY CONSIDERATION, SECURE INSTREAM FLOW (ISF) FOR ALL STREAMS.	Developing New Water	Legal water administration is important. (No "fuzzy" or sneaky stuff.)		
Balanced, adaptive, resilient water management, including ecosystem needs ✓✓	Access to clean potable water and inventing efficient methods for producing clean water	Planning from grass roots up	Recharging Aquifers ✓ Pollution in existing water ways ✓	Planning seriously for a sustainable future	Agricultural Sustainability must follow water plans and be included	Figure out how to share →	Considering growing population in terms of water management	agricultural sustainability, instream flows, supporting small food producing farms	
Working to get primacy for NPDES	Reducing Industrial ✓ discharges	LIMITED RESOURCE PLANNING. WATER WATER BUDGETING	How can a individual (or a family) get help in water recycling in the places where they are living?	Plan for climate change impacts on water availability. Include nature-based solutions, incentives, and finance-based policies to support sustainable water management.	Regionalizing & expanding Mutual Domestic / Municipal & drinking water systems & waste water systems, get off well & septic	using technology to use water more effectively ie. (closed loop) + super higher prices for high water users			What is relationship between public water being installed (new ish in Sani?) + impact on acequias
Ensuring food sovereignty = water to grow food	Holistic Approach, water-budgets, best science, community led Restoration								

Jemez y Sangre

Table 9. Question 2: Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Water Availability	Responses focused on ensuring adequate and reliable water sources in the future
Water Quality and Safety	Responses focused on water quality and minimizing pollution (including drinking water quality)
Water Conservation	Responses focused on reducing waste, conserving water
Infrastructure and Technology	Responses focused on development and maintenance of water infrastructure and technology (including existing and new infrastructure)
Equity and Access	Responses focused on equity and fairness in water distribution, particularly for marginalized communities.
Governance, Policy, and Planning	Responses focused on new or better policy to manage water, or the water planning process.
Agriculture	Responses related to agricultural strategies (e.g., conservation, protecting agriculture, shifting from high water use crops). Responses also included prioritizing water use for agricultural purposes.
Resources and Funding	Responses related to need for resources and funding
Environment	Responses related to ecological and environmental impacts or concerns
Data Needs	Responses related to additional information needs, quantification and/or measurement (e.g., aquifer mapping, measuring impacts of strategies)
Education and Public Awareness	Responses related to educating the public or providing education in schools
Growth and Development	Responses related to the impacts of growth, development, and land use (e.g. Residential development, commercial development, and oil production sites.)
Uncategorized	Responses that could not be grouped with others and/or that may not be directly applicable to this question

Table 10. Question 2: Open-Ended Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Water Availability	Water Quality and Safety	Water Conservation	Infrastructure and Technology	Equity and Access	Governance, Policy, and Planning	Agriculture	Resources and Funding	Environment	Data Needs	Growth and Development	Education and public awareness	Uncategorized	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	13	0	7	2	0	6	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	31
2 - San Juan	18	2	5	4	2	6	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	45
3 - Jemez y Sangre	22	5	11	7	2	21	6	1	16	6	0	0	0	97
4 - Southwest New Mexico	42	15	25	8	6	12	7	10	41	11	0	5	2	184
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
6 - Northwest New Mexico	6	2	2	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	19
7 - Taos	9	1	9	4	9	32	1	0	11	6	3	0	0	85
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	18	12	16	6	6	14	0	6	8	1	0	1	0	88
9 - Colfax	5	7	0	0	0	6	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	22
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	11	12	8	1	0	3	2	0	4	1	0	0	0	42
11 - Lower Rio Grande	29	10	53	3	22	13	31	1	29	7	1	6	1	206
12 - Middle Rio Grande	68	20	9	10	26	22	9	5	25	2	1	7	2	206
13 - Estancia	13	0	4	0	3	7	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	33
14 - Rio Chama	13	5	2	7	2	7	0	2	6	0	0	0	1	45
15 - Socorro-Sierra	34	13	15	1	7	6	3	1	31	5	0	0	0	116
16 - Lea County	7	5	14	2	0	3	2	4	1	0	0	1	0	39
Online	158	50	65	14	28	50	44	7	78	19	17	11	0	541
Total	467	159	247	72	114	211	114	40	254	59	22	35	8	1,802
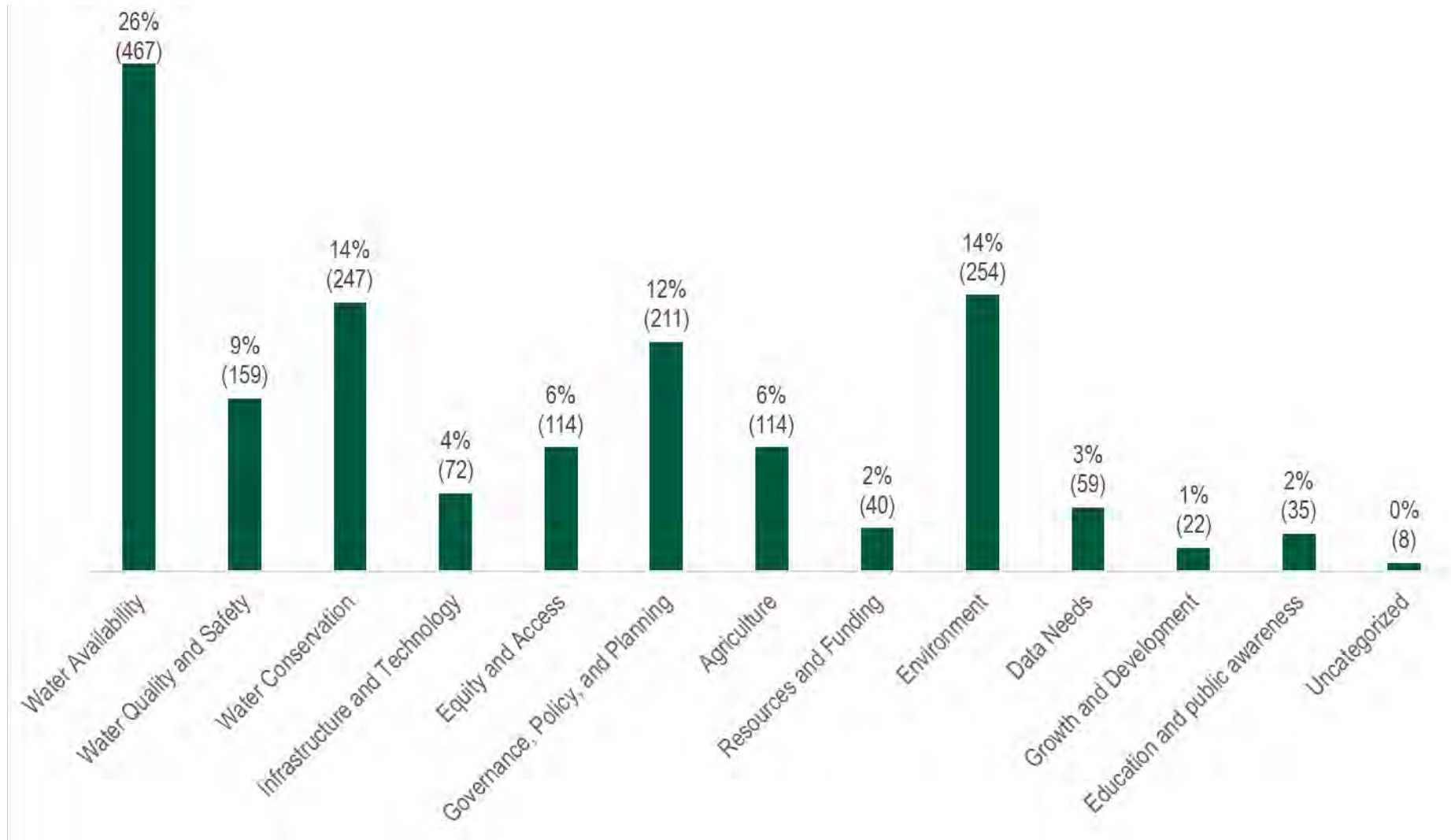
Figure 10. Question 2: Open-Ended Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Q3: What is the biggest water challenge facing you and your neighbors? What are the biggest opportunities?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Rule 1: The boundaries and number of water planning regions in the state

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	Add your response in the appropriate column. If you agree with a response, simply place a checkmark next to it.	
Format	Two column table with space in each row for short responses.	Two questions with comment boxes for open ended answers on challenges and opportunities.

Open-Ended Responses

"Water Availability" was most frequently cited as a challenge across all regions, representing 31% of coded responses. This was followed by concerns about "Water Quality and Safety" at 13% and "Governance, Policy, and Planning" at 12%. For opportunities, the top mentioned topics were "Water Conservation" and "Water Availability," each representing 17% of coded responses. "Infrastructure and Technology" was noted as an opportunity by 14% of coded responses, while "Governance, Policy, and Planning" had 16%.
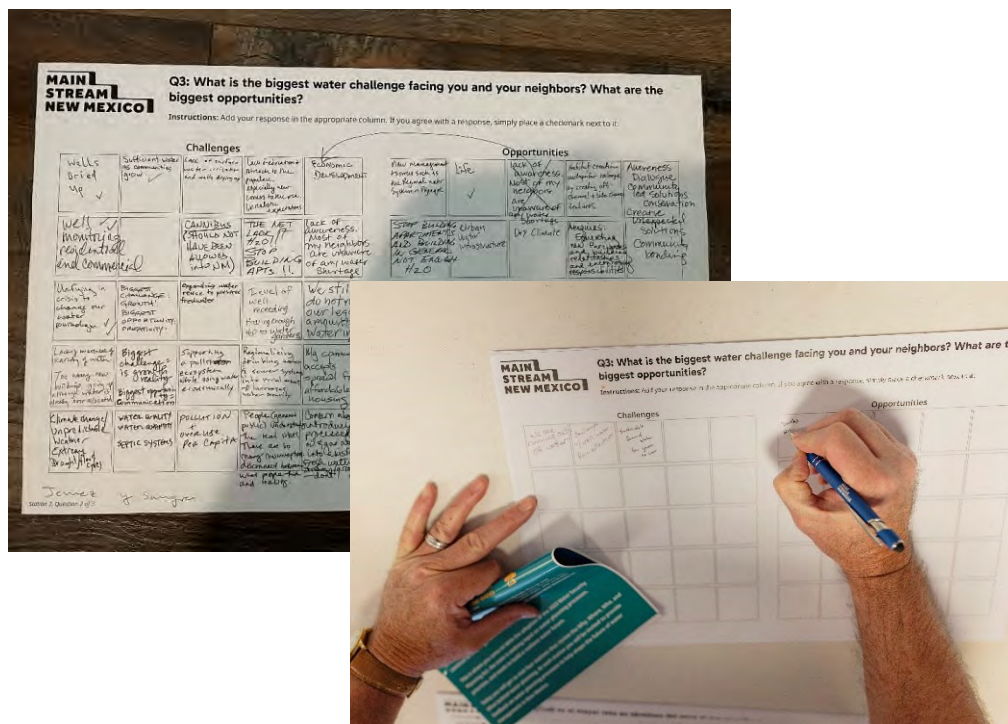
There was little variation in the challenges identified between regions but higher variability within responses regarding opportunities. While "Water Availability" was the most often cited challenge, many respondents identified potential solutions to this as opportunities, resulting in more variation between regions. Northeast New Mexico and San Juan responses indicated a strong emphasis on "Water Availability," with additional interest in governance and infrastructure, reflecting concerns about water security and resource management. In contrast, Jemez y Sangre responses emphasized environmental issues alongside water availability. Southwest New Mexico prioritized water conservation compared to other regions. Taos responses had a distinct focus on "Governance, Policy, and Planning," along with "Water Availability." Similarly, Lower Rio Grande respondents prioritized "Agriculture" and "Education and Public Awareness." Middle Rio Grande responses focused on "Governance, Policy, and Planning," "Water Conservation," and "Infrastructure and Technology" upgrades. Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins and Colfax, present more singular focus areas, with limited responses spread across concerns of water availability and public education.

Table 11. Question 3 Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Water Availability	Responses focused on challenges or opportunities related to ensuring adequate and reliable water sources in the future
Water Quality and Safety	Responses focused on challenges or opportunities related to water quality and minimizing pollution
Water Conservation	Responses focused on water conservation challenges or opportunities
Infrastructure and Technology	Responses focused on challenges or opportunities related to the development and maintenance of water infrastructure (e.g., well technology, aquifer recharge, reuse/graywater/brackish water technology), including existing and new infrastructure
Affordability and Cost	Responses focused on challenges or opportunities related to the affordability and cost of water
Agricultural	Responses related to agricultural challenges or opportunities (e.g., conservation, protecting Ag, shirting from high water use crops)
Environment	Responses related to ecosystem and environmental challenges or opportunities
Equity and Access	Responses focused on challenges or opportunities related to equity and fairness in water distribution, particularly for marginalized communities
Governance, Policy, and Planning	Responses focused on challenges or opportunities related to policy or water planning (e.g., water rates, development limitations, water planning process)
Education and Public Awareness	Responses focused on challenges or opportunities related to public awareness and engagement
Resources and Funding	Responses focused on challenges or opportunities related to resource and funding availability and needs
Growth and Development	Responses related to the challenges or opportunities of growth, development, and land use (e.g., residential development, commercial development, and oil production sites)
Uncategorized	Responses that could not be grouped with others and/or that may not be directly applicable to this question

Summary Results: *Q3: What is the biggest water challenge facing you and your neighbors? What are the biggest opportunities?*

Table 12. Question 3, Part 1 (Challenges): Open-Ended Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Water Availability	Water Quality and Safety	Water Conservation	Infrastructure and Technology	Affordability and Cost	Agricultural	Environment	Equity and Access	Governance, Policy, and Planning	Education and Public Awareness	Resources and Funding	Growth and Development	Uncategorized	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	11	2	1	1	0	4	0	0	7	0	1	3	0	30
2 - San Juan	15	8	3	8	3	1	4	0	6	0	0	0	0	48
3 - Jemez y Sangre	18	7	2	4	0	1	1	0	6	7	1	8	0	55
4 - Southwest New Mexico	38	10	19	6	5	3	13	3	9	4	12	0	0	122
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
6 - Northwest New Mexico	3	2	1	3	0	1	0	1	2	2	4	0	0	19
7 - Taos	30	23	8	4	4	2	5	3	15	2	2	14	0	112
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	22	9	3	0	0	0	10	0	5	5	1	0	0	55
9 - Colfax	7	5	1	3	1	2	4	0	3	1	1	1	0	29
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	11	10	2	3	1	0	1	2	3	1	1	3	0	38
11 - Lower Rio Grande	23	9	16	2	1	15	12	3	8	4	1	5	0	99
12 - Middle Rio Grande	36	11	7	6	8	13	15	3	19	12	2	4	0	136
13 - Estancia	10	3	3	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	21
14 - Rio Chama	4	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	2	0	6	1	0	21
15 - Socorro-Sierra	25	14	2	6	0	3	7	0	5	3	2	4	0	71
16 - Lea County	11	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	22
Online	135	50	30	18	16	19	33	18	58	9	3	21	7	417
Total	400	164	100	72	40	68	106	33	154	53	37	65	7	1,299

Figure 11. Question 3, Part 1 (Challenges): Open-Ended Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Table 13. Question 3, Part 2 (Opportunities): Open-Ended Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Water Availability	Water Quality and Safety	Water Conservation	Infrastructure and Technology	Affordability and Cost	Agricultural	Environment	Equity and Access	Governance, Policy, and Planning	Education and Public Awareness	Resources and Funding	Growth and Development	Uncategorized	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	**10**
2 - San Juan	5	0	3	4	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	**17**
3 - Jemez y Sangre	11	2	3	5	0	0	6	0	3	5	0	1	0	**36**
4 - Southwest New Mexico	9	2	26	6	0	3	9	0	7	3	3	0	0	**68**
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	**4**
6 - Northwest New Mexico	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	**9**
7 - Taos	18	3	13	0	0	6	2	3	14	8	0	7	0	**74**
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	**6**
9 - Colfax	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	**6**
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	**2**
11 - Lower Rio Grande	6	2	9	4	0	11	6	0	10	17	1	1	0	**67**
12 - Middle Rio Grande	9	2	15	9	0	3	6	3	21	17	2	1	1	**89**
13 - Estancia	1	0	8	1	0	0	1	0	6	0	3	0	0	**20**
14 - Rio Chama	2	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	**15**
15 - Socorro-Sierra	7	2	10	3	0	1	3	0	5	9	2	0	0	**42**
16 - Lea County	7	2	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**18**
Online	71	25	62	86	1	31	34	11	62	27	12	10	7	**439**
Total	**153**	**40**	**160**	**128**	**1**	**60**	**70**	**17**	**148**	**89**	**26**	**21**	**9**	**922**

Bar chart values:
- Water Availability: 17% (153)
- Water Quality and Safety: 4% (40)
- Water Conservation: 17% (160)
- Infrastructure and Technology: 14% (128)
- Affordability and Cost: 0% (1)
- Agricultural: 7% (60)
- Environment: 8% (70)
- Equity and Access: 2% (17)
- Governance, Policy, and Planning: 16% (148)
- Education and Public Awareness: 10% (89)
- Resources and Funding: 3% (26)
- Growth and Development: 2% (21)
- Uncategorized: 1% (9)
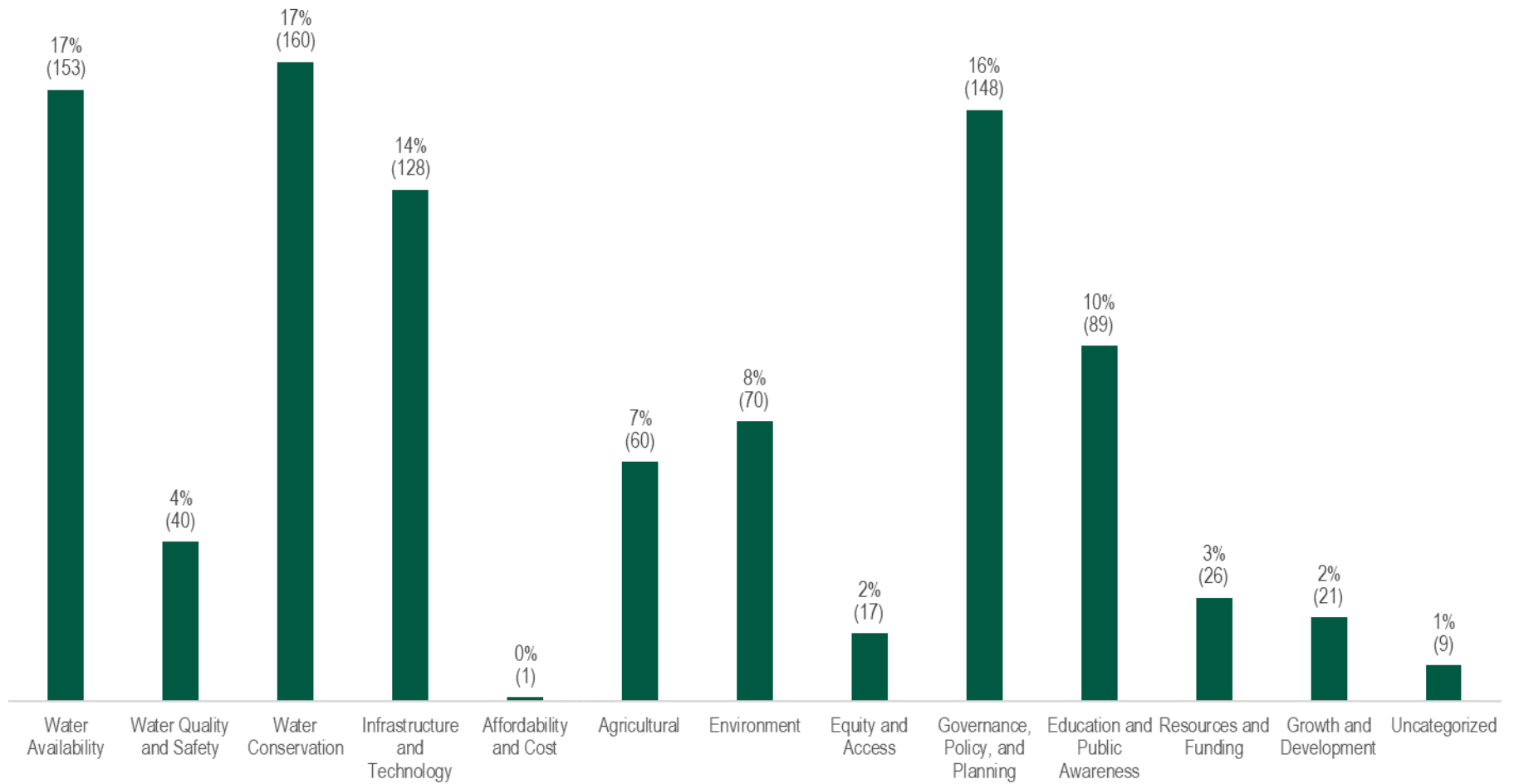
Figure 12. Question 3, Part 2 (Opportunities): Open-Ended Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Q4: In the next 50 years, New Mexico is expected to have at least 25% less water in rivers and a similar reduction in groundwater recharge. As water becomes more scarce, what are you most concerned about?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Rule 1: The boundaries and number of water planning regions in the state

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	Place one dot on up to three responses that reflect your top concerns (one dot only per option, three dots total). Use the blank squares at the bottom to describe any other concerns you have.	Select up to three. If you selected other, please describe.
Format	Two column table with designated dot placement in 2nd column and blank squares at the bottom for short responses.	Checkboxes with ability to select up to three options and comment box for open ended description of other concerns.

Fixed-Choice Responses

The most frequently selected concern was "Replenishment and sustainability of below ground stores of water (i.e., groundwater)," followed by "Enough water for future generations," and "Protecting ecological interests." There was some variation in the top concerns identified between regions, with surface-water dependent regions such as Northeast New Mexico, San Juan, San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe, and Colfax identifying groundwater as a lesser concern. Participants in several regions, including San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe, Colfax, and Lower Pecos Valley disproportionately identified "Traditional agriculture" as a higher concern. Across regional and online responses, "Enough water right now" was not frequently identified as a top concern and this answer had the lowest number of total selections.

Open-Ended Responses

Participants used the open-ended question to expand on their answers to the fixed-choice question and to add additional concerns. The codes used to organize the open-ended responses to Question 4 are described in Table 15. The most common theme, representing 28% of coded responses was related to the protection of ecological interests. This aligns with the fixed-choice question where ecological protection was the second most frequently selected concern. Three new themes emerged from the open-ended responses; related to water administration, equity and access, and education and public awareness; with comments on water administration being the second most common overall at 16% of coded responses. Other responses to this question were distributed among themes related to the fixed-choice answers.

Summary Results: *Q4: In the next 50 years, New Mexico is expected to have at least 25% less water in rivers and a similar reduction in groundwater recharge. As water becomes more scarce, what are you most concerned about?*

Table 14. Question 4: Fixed-Choice Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Safe drinking water for communities	Enough water right now	Enough water for future generations	Water needs are adapted to match water availability (i.e., balancing our water use)	Traditional agriculture	Impacts of water availability on traditional culture	Impact of water availability on local economies	Protecting ecological interests (i.e., fish, rivers, landscapes)	Replenishment and sustainability of below ground stores of water (i.e., groundwater)	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	11	5	20	7	7	0	16	6	14	86
2 - San Juan	10	2	9	3	5	1	10	5	5	50
3 - Jemez y Sangre	13	1	17	11	8	6	5	20	20	101
4 - Southwest New Mexico	22	3	27	18	9	3	6	45	35	168
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	0	0	0	3	1	1	3	1	3	12
6 - Northwest New Mexico	8	0	11	4	1	2	5	3	8	42
7 - Taos	11	2	20	17	16	13	5	21	22	127
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	7	6	12	7	13	3	7	10	10	75
9 - Colfax	10	2	7	7	9	1	5	2	5	48
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	11	0	14	7	14	1	3	4	13	67
11 - Lower Rio Grande	25	2	42	34	11	6	7	42	48	217
12 - Middle Rio Grande	28	8	52	30	21	25	23	49	52	288
13 - Estancia	12	4	17	17	9	7	8	9	18	101
14 - Rio Chama	6	3	6	4	5	7	5	3	8	47
15 - Socorro-Sierra	28	3	28	16	16	5	8	29	31	164
16 - Lea County	8	1	11	3	4	0	3	2	9	41
Online	142	18	143	137	49	34	32	153	169	877
Total	**352**	**60**	**436**	**325**	**198**	**115**	**151**	**404**	**470**	**2,511**

Summary Results: *Q4: In the next 50 years, New Mexico is expected to have at least 25% less water in rivers and a similar reduction in groundwater recharge. As water becomes more scarce, what are you most concerned about?*

14%
(352)

2%
(60)

17%
(436)

13%
(325)

8%
(198)

5%
(115)

6%
(151)

16%
(404)

19%
(470)

Safe drinking water for communities | Enough water right now | Enough water for future generations | Water needs are adapted to match water availability (i.e., balancing our water use) | Traditional agriculture | Impacts of water availability on traditional culture | Impact of water availability on local economies | Protecting ecological interests (i.e., fish, rivers, landscapes) | Replenishment and sustainability of below ground stores of water (i.e., groundwater)
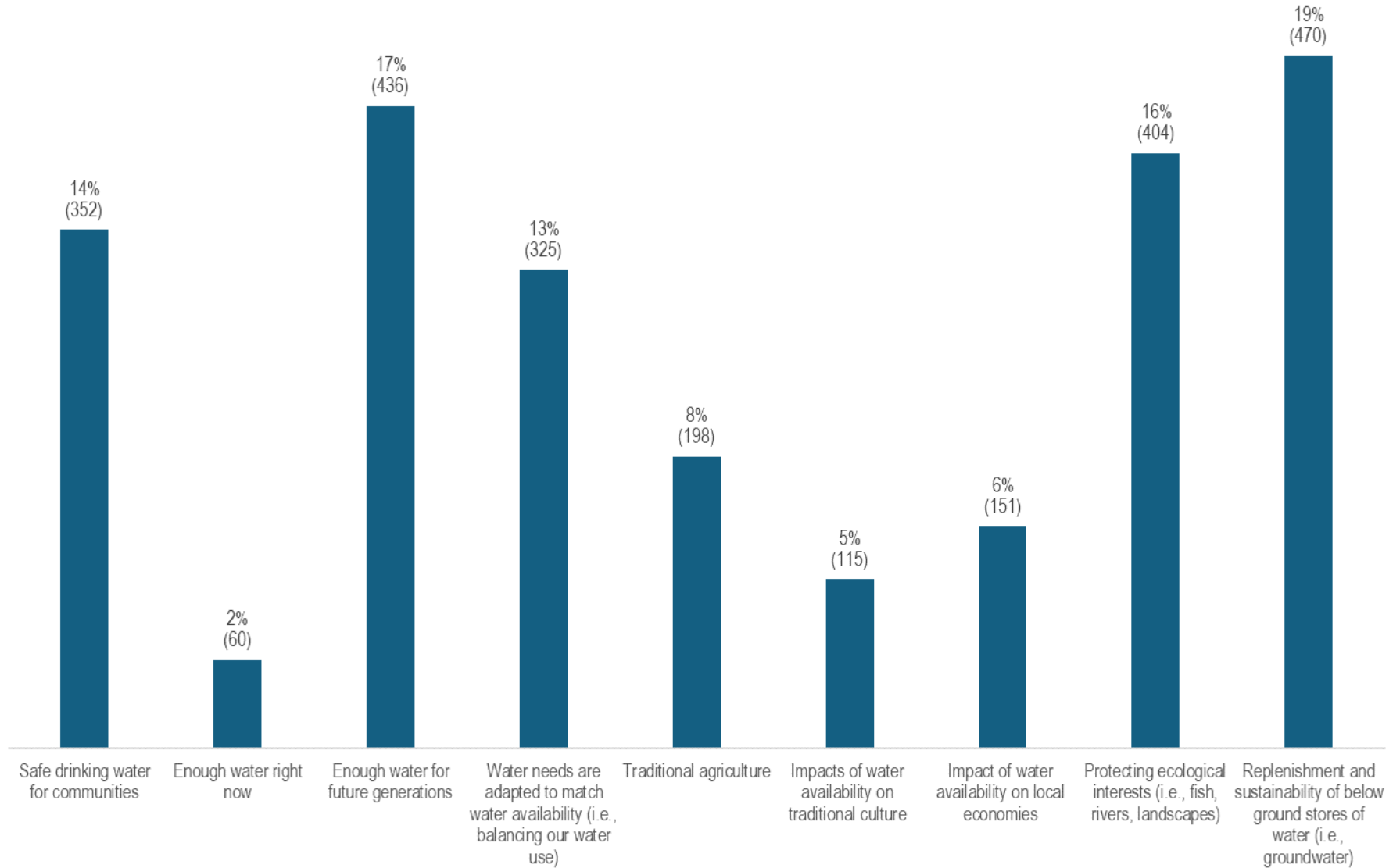
Figure 13. Question 4: Fixed-Choice Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Table 15. Question 4: Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Safe drinking water for communities	Comments related to water quality or ensuring safe/high quality water for communities
Enough water for right now	Comments related to water quantity in the current or near term
Enough water for future generations	Comments related to water quantity in the future (50+ years)
Water needs are adapted to match water availability (i.e. balancing our water use)	Comments related to balancing water needs
Traditional agriculture	Comments related to agriculture and crops that have been historically grown in NM OR maintaining ag in areas where it has been for generations (e.g., Pinto beans, Pecans)
Impacts of water availability on traditional culture	Comments related to water availability to support practices that have historic value in NM
Impact of water availability on local economies	Comments related to water supporting economic values
Protecting ecological interests (i.e. fish, rivers, landscapes)	Comments related to protecting riparian and water habitats, including wildlife
Replenishment and sustainability of below ground stores of water (i.e. groundwater)	Comments related to groundwater scarcity
Education and Public Awareness	Comments related educating the public or providing education in schools
Water Administration	Comment related to the need to adjust water administration (both interstate and intrastate)
Equity and access	Comments related to equitable access to water equity, ensuring water access, or including historically under-represented groups
All of the above	Comments where the comment is "all of these are important"
Uncategorized	Comments that could not be grouped with others and/or that may not be directly applicable to this question

Table 16. Question 4: Open-Ended Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Safe drinking water for communities	Enough water for right now	Enough water for future generations	Water needs are adapted to match water availability (i.e.	Traditional agriculture	Impacts of water availability on traditional culture	Impact of water availability on local economies	Protecting ecological interests (i.e. fish, rivers, landscapes)	Replenishment and sustainability of below ground	Education and Public Awareness	Water Administration	Equity and access	All of the above	Uncategorized	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	4
2 - San Juan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
3 - Jemez y Sangre	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	3	3	0	2	13
4 - Southwest New Mexico	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	1	11
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 - Northwest New Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 - Taos	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	10
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
9 - Colfax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
11 - Lower Rio Grande	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
12 - Middle Rio Grande	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	1	12
13 - Estancia	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
14 - Rio Chama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 - Socorro-Sierra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
16 - Lea County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Online	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	3	2	0	2	0	4	1	19
Total	**1**	**2**	**7**	**6**	**6**	**7**	**3**	**26**	**2**	**2**	**15**	**3**	**4**	**7**	**91**

Summary Results: *Q4: In the next 50 years, New Mexico is expected to have at least 25% less water in rivers and a similar reduction in groundwater recharge. As water becomes more scarce, what are you most concerned about?*

Figure 14. Question 4: Open-Ended Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Q5: What do you think is most important to achieve by revising the regional water planning process?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Rule 1: The boundaries and number of water planning regions in the state

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	Place one dot on up to three responses that reflect your top concerns (one dot only per option, three dots total). Use one of the blank squares to describe any other things that you think are important.	Select up to three. If you selected other, please describe.
Format	Two column table with designated dot placement in 2nd column and 3x3 boxes at the bottom for other responses.	Checkboxes with ability to select up to three options and comment box for open ended description of other factors.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Of the fixed-choice options provided, the "Ability to customize plans to meet local needs" was the most frequently selected response across all regions (23%). All the options garnered more than 10% of responses. The "Ability to calculate surface water availability and need across a region" was a popular selection in regions including the Lower Rio Grande and Socorro-Sierra, while the "Ability to staff regions with more technically qualified professionals" was a common selection in the Middle Rio Grande region.

Open-Ended Responses

Participants wrote in responses to this question to expand on the list of fixed-choice options. The codes to categorize the open-ended responses to Question 5 are summarized in Table 18. The most common category was responses related to the ability to calculate groundwater availability and need across a region, representing 21% of coded responses. Considering that the fixed-choice options in Question 5 included the "Ability to calculate surface water availability and need across a region" but did not include a similar option for groundwater, these responses corroborate interest in data related to water availability and need, regardless of water source. Other open-ended responses provided additional details related to opportunities for plan customization and regional boundary suggestions.

Table 17. Question 5: Fixed-Choice Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Ability for broader participation in planning process	Ability to enhance engagement in and support for plan implementation	Ability for public to monitor plan implementation	Ability to secure more frequent or larger amounts of funding for plan implementation	Ability to customize plans to meet local needs	Ability to staff regions with more technically qualified professionals	Ability to calculate surface water availability and need across a region	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	7	11	10	16	19	11	5	79
2 - San Juan	3	8	1	8	11	10	10	51
3 - Jemez y Sangre	14	8	7	9	22	17	17	94
4 - Southwest New Mexico	8	9	12	10	17	10	17	83
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	2	2	2	1	4	3	1	15
6 - Northwest New Mexico	5	2	2	8	10	5	4	36
7 - Taos	12	10	14	10	24	19	17	106
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	3	4	6	11	13	11	10	58
9 - Colfax	1	2	9	10	15	6	4	47
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	5	3	8	7	19	11	8	61
11 - Lower Rio Grande	23	23	23	18	33	26	33	179
12 - Middle Rio Grande	21	21	16	26	37	33	25	179
13 - Estancia	5	8	6	9	14	4	11	57
14 - Rio Chama	1	2	2	4	9	6	8	32
15 - Socorro-Sierra	13	14	12	20	26	22	26	133
16 - Lea County	3	2	1	8	10	8	7	39
Online	81	77	75	85	149	90	80	637
Total	**207**	**206**	**206**	**260**	**432**	**292**	**283**	**1,886**
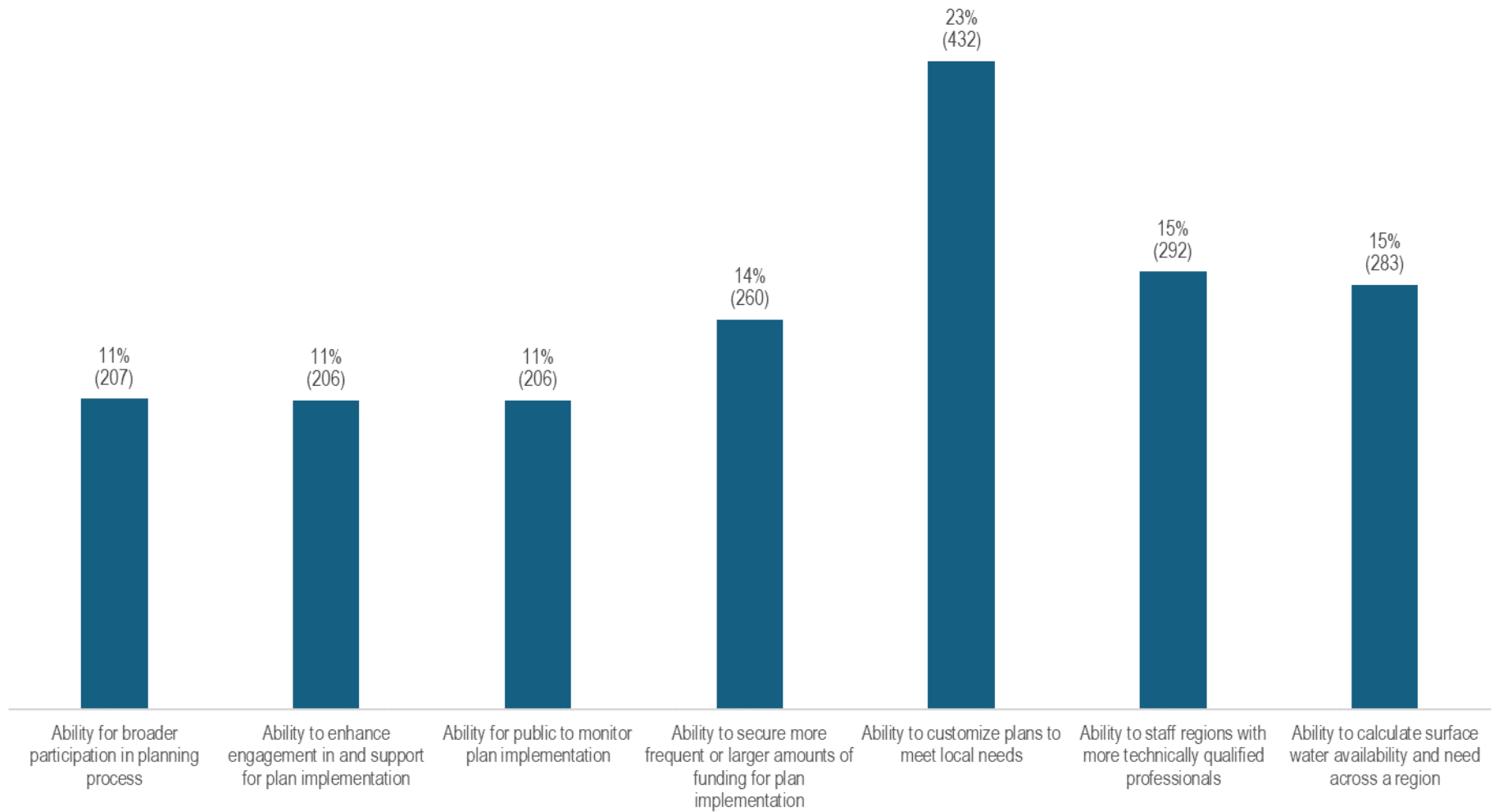
Figure 15. Question 5: Fixed-Choice Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Table 18. Question 5: Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Ability for broader participation in planning process	Responses related to ensuring equity and access to participating in the water planning process (e.g., ensuring public can participate in the process)
Ability to enhance engagement in and support for plan implementation	Responses related to ensuring there is support for plans and that they are implementable
Ability for public to monitor plan implementation	Responses related to public transparency and tracking of plan implementation
Ability to secure more frequent or larger amounts of funding for plan implementation	Responses related to ensuring plans are funded
Ability to customize plans to meet local needs	Responses related to ensuring plans meet local needs, flexibility depending on the community/area
Ability to staff regions with more technically qualified professionals	Responses related to ensuring there is qualified staff to support implementation
Ability to calculate surface water availability and need across a region	Responses related to the ability to calculate surface water availability and needs now and into the future
Ability to calculate groundwater availability and need across a region	Comments related to the ability to calculate groundwater availability and needs now and into the future (e.g., aquifer modeling)
Equity and access	Responses related to the fairness of the planning process and/or the involvement of disproportionately impacted groups and/or groups underrepresented in planning processes
Boundary modifications	Comments related to the regional water planning boundaries (e.g., change the boundaries, do not change the boundaries)
Education and outreach	Comments related to increasing public and stakeholder education and/or outreach throughout the water planning process
Data and tracking	Comments related to the process to be generally informed by data and/or include metric/data tracking
Environment	Responses related to other ecological or environmental considerations (e.g., water quality, climate change, biodiversity)
Uncategorized	Responses that could not be grouped with others and/or that may not be directly applicable to this question
All of the above	Responses that indicated that all of the fixed-choice options were important

Table 19. Question 5: Fixed-Choice Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Ability for broader participation in planning process	Ability to enhance engagement in and support for plan implementation	Ability for public to monitor plan implementation	Ability to secure more frequent or larger amounts of funding for plan implementation	Ability to customize plans to meet local needs	Ability to staff regions with more technically qualified professionals	Ability to calculate surface water availability and need across a region	Ability to calculate groundwater availability and need across a region	Equity and access	No revision is needed	Boundary Modifications	Education and outreach	Data and tracking	Environment	All of the above	Uncategorized	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	**4**
2 - San Juan	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	**3**
3 - Jemez y Sangre	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	6	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	**15**
4 - Southwest New Mexico	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	6	0	0	2	0	4	1	0	0	**18**
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
6 - Northwest New Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
7 - Taos	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	**13**
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	1	0	0	**14**
9 - Colfax	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	**5**
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	**8**
11 - Lower Rio Grande	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	**6**
12 - Middle Rio Grande	4	2	0	5	2	5	5	16	5	0	1	0	4	3	0	1	**53**
13 - Estancia	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	**12**
14 - Rio Chama	0	4	0	0	5	0	1	1	0	0	4	0	2	1	0	0	**18**
15 - Socorro-Sierra	1	0	0	1	4	1	4	9	1	0	4	1	1	1	0	0	**28**
16 - Lea County	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	**7**
Online	5	2	3	2	2	3	6	8	3	0	3	3	2	5	2	1	**50**
Total	**19**	**10**	**6**	**10**	**28**	**12**	**27**	**54**	**12**	**3**	**27**	**8**	**18**	**13**	**2**	**5**	**254**
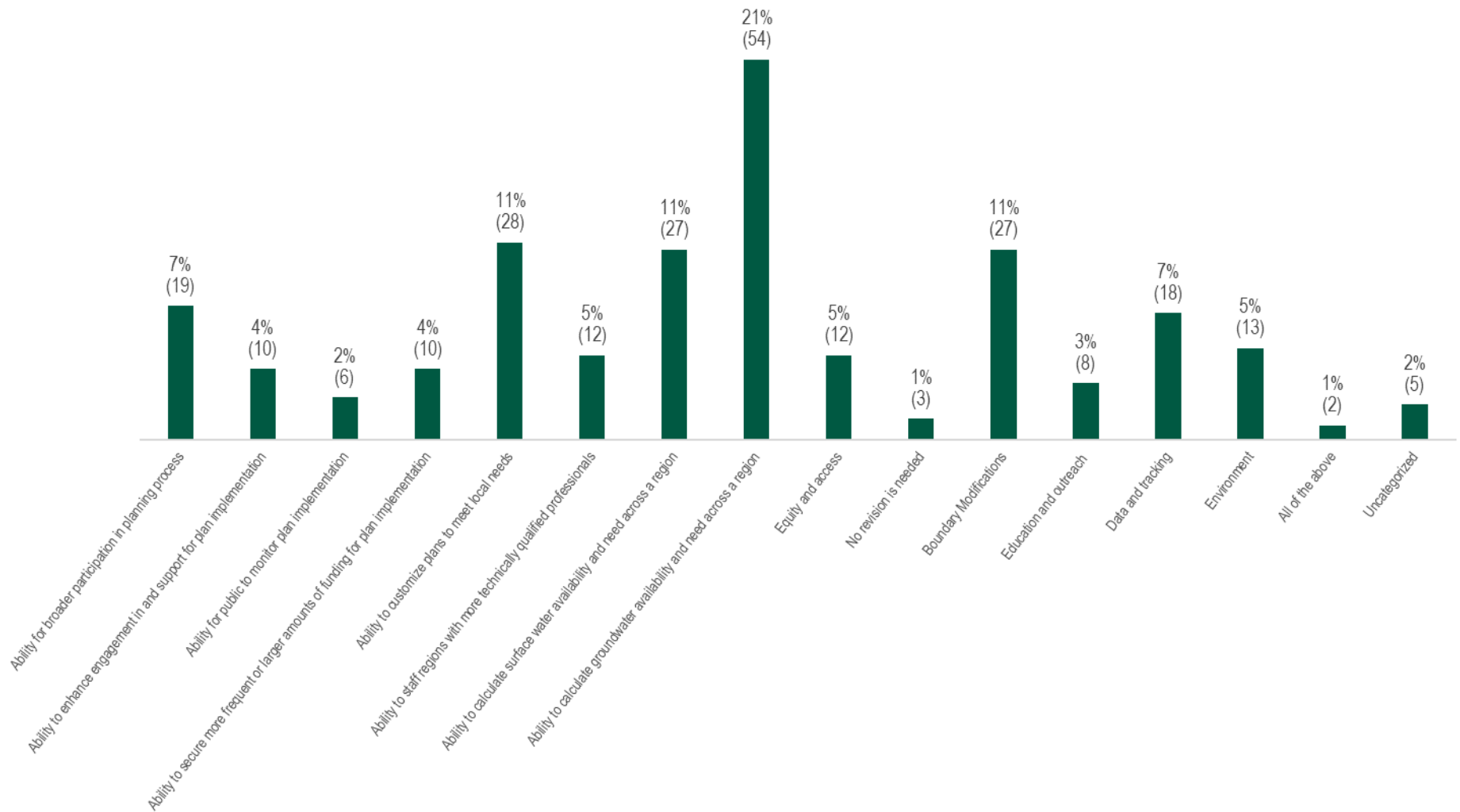
Figure 16. Question 5: Open-Ended Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Q6: What communities do you consider to be part of your region?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Rule 1: The boundaries and number of water planning regions in the state

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	Use the blank squares to write any communities that you consider to be part of your region. Please identify any communities defined in any way that you think is important – geographic, political/administrative, cultural, etc.	Based on your review of the StoryMap, please answer these questions.
Format	Blank 3x3 boxes for people to write short answers.	Short-answer question with prompt to provide zip code. Comment box for short answers.

Open-Ended Responses

The responses to Question 6 displayed regional variability. As summarized in Table 20, results were coded by type of place (e.g., pueblos, tribes, and nations neighborhoods, cities, counties) or by other features (e.g., water features, water use sector, etc.). The most common responses across all regions were the names of cities and counties, representing 47% of coded responses. In the Middle Rio Grande, Lower Rio Grande, and Jemez y Sangre, surface water features were frequent ways to describe those regions. In Lea County, a common way to describe the region was "Southeast New Mexico." In Northwest New Mexico, water use sectors were responses unique to the region.

To summarize the short answer responses provided to Question 6, a word cloud was generated for each region. These word clouds help illustrate the most frequently used words to describe each region, with the larger words/phrases representing a relatively higher frequency of responses.

Table 20. Question 6: Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations	Responses that are generally references to and/or specific names of pueblos, tribes, and nations
Neighborhoods	Responses related to neighborhoods or parts of communities
Cities	Responses that are the names of towns and cities
Counties	Responses that are the names of counties
Surface water features	Responses that reflect surface water features (e.g., lakes, streams, rivers, reservoirs, watersheds, etc.)
Aquifer basins	Responses that reflect the names of aquifers or groundwater basins
State - NM	Responses that reflect the entire State of New Mexico
Geographical area	Responses that reflect general parts of the state and environmental features (e.g., valleys, mountains, monuments, etc.)
Water use sector	Responses related to water use sectors (e.g., agriculture, industry, municipal, etc.)
Acequias	Responses related to acequia communities
Current water planning region	Responses related to the existing water planning region names
Land grants	Responses related to land grant areas
Administrative	Responses related to other administrative entities (e.g., conservancy district, public water systems, etc.)
Other	Responses related to other types of communities (e.g., cultural, professional)
Uncategorized	Responses that were not directly applicable to this question

Table 21. Question 6: Open-Ended Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations	Neighborhoods	Cities	Counties	Surface water features	Aquifer basins	State - NM	Geographical area	Water use sector	Acequias	Current water planning region	Land grants	Administrative	Other	Uncategorized	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	0	0	25	5	0	5	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46
2 - San Juan	4	0	20	17	17	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	62
3 - Jemez y Sangre	25	3	53	3	4	0	3	2	1	4	4	4	1	6	0	113
4 - Southwest New Mexico	0	0	41	81	17	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	148
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
6 - Northwest New Mexico	4	0	3	2	1	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	2	0	20
7 - Taos	0	22	52	33	11	2	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	6	0	132
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	0	1	15	2	4	0	0	8	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	34
9 - Colfax	0	0	4	13	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	0	0	45	8	10	1	0	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	70
11 - Lower Rio Grande	3	3	28	37	29	0	1	16	6	0	2	0	5	3	1	134
12 - Middle Rio Grande	9	5	39	13	33	1	2	4	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	112
13 - Estancia	0	0	41	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	49
14 - Rio Chama	0	0	19	3	5	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	30
15 - Socorro-Sierra	2	0	79	22	16	1	8	7	10	0	1	0	0	2	1	149
16 - Lea County	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Online	18	255	49	60	5	10	51	44	28	8	0	1	11	57	0	597
Total	65	289	514	302	158	23	66	122	53	18	12	9	23	82	3	1,739
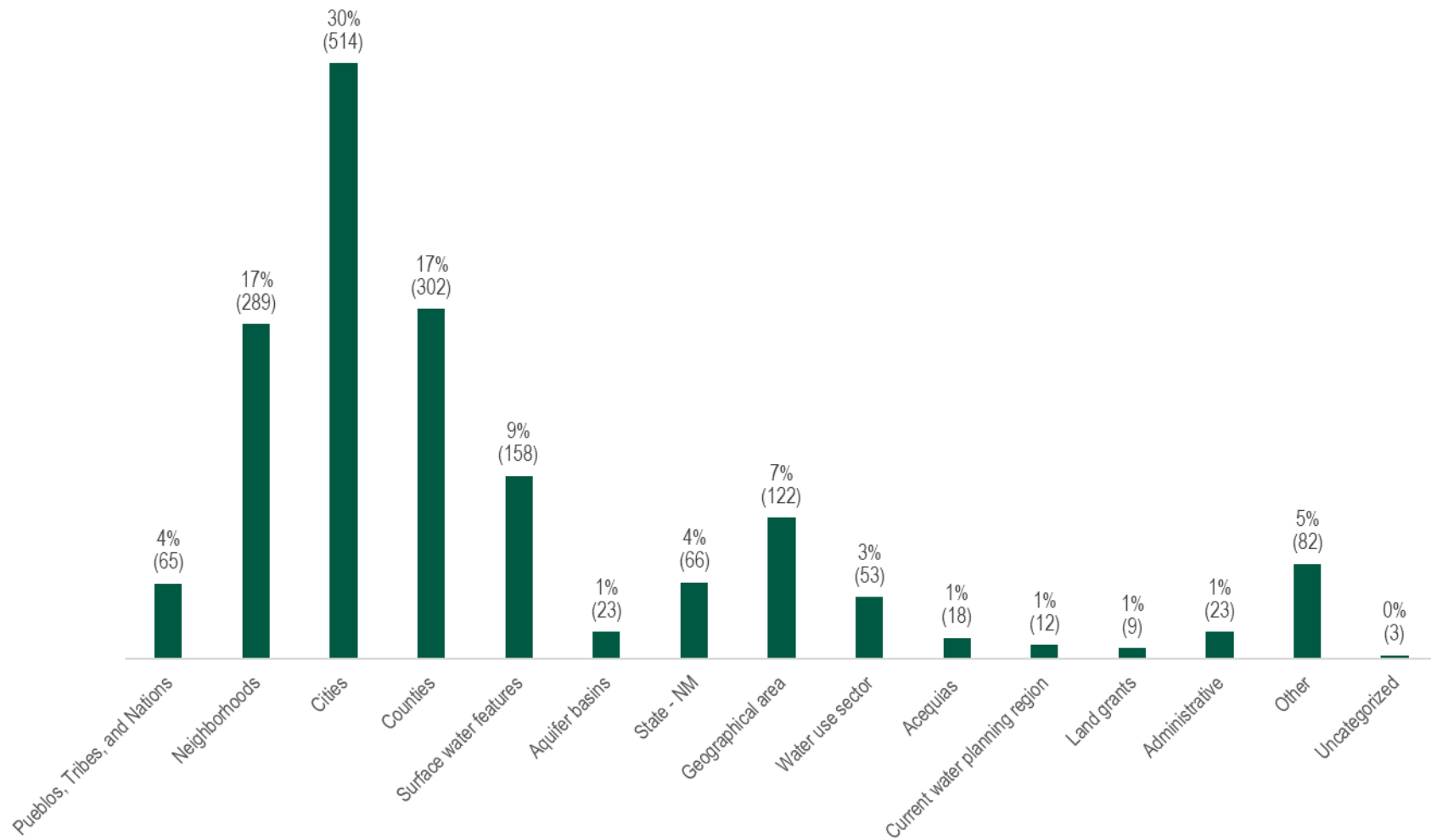
Figure 17. Question 6: Open-Ended Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Figure 18. Question 6: Word Cloud Summary of Communities Listed for Region 1, Northeast New Mexico
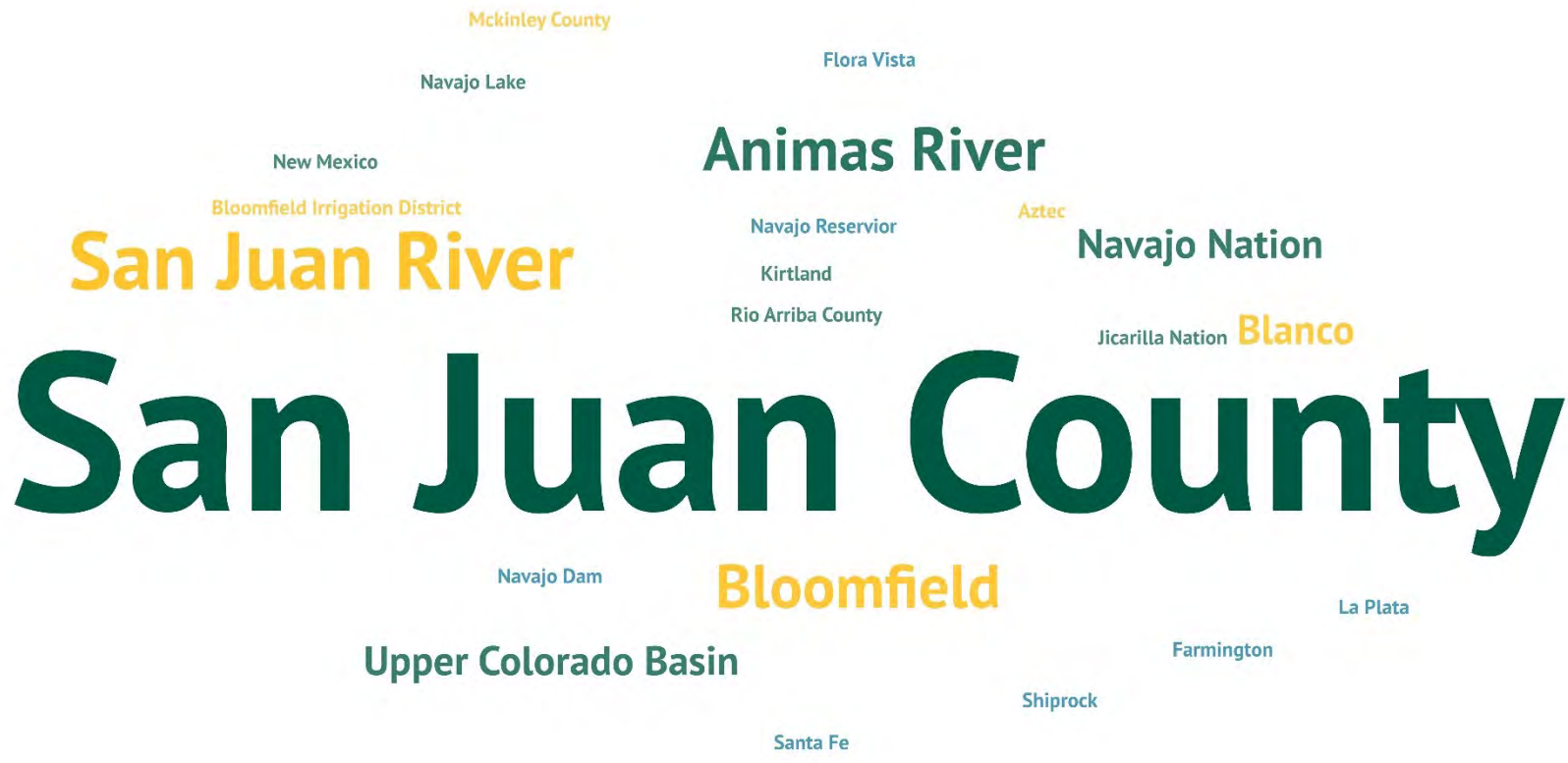
Figure 19. Question 6: Word Cloud Summary of Communities Listed for Region 2, San Juan

Figure 20. Question 6: Word Cloud Summary of Communities Listed for Region 3 Jemez y Sangre

Figure 21. Question 6: Word Cloud Summary of Communities Listed for Region 4, Southwest New Mexico

Soil And Water Conservation Districts

Agricultural Business

Figure 22. Question 6: Word Cloud Summary of Communities Listed for Region 5, Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins

Figure 23. Question 6: Word Cloud Summary of Communities Listed for Region 6, Northwest New Mexico

Figure 24. Question 6: Word Cloud Summary of Communities Listed for Region 7, Taos
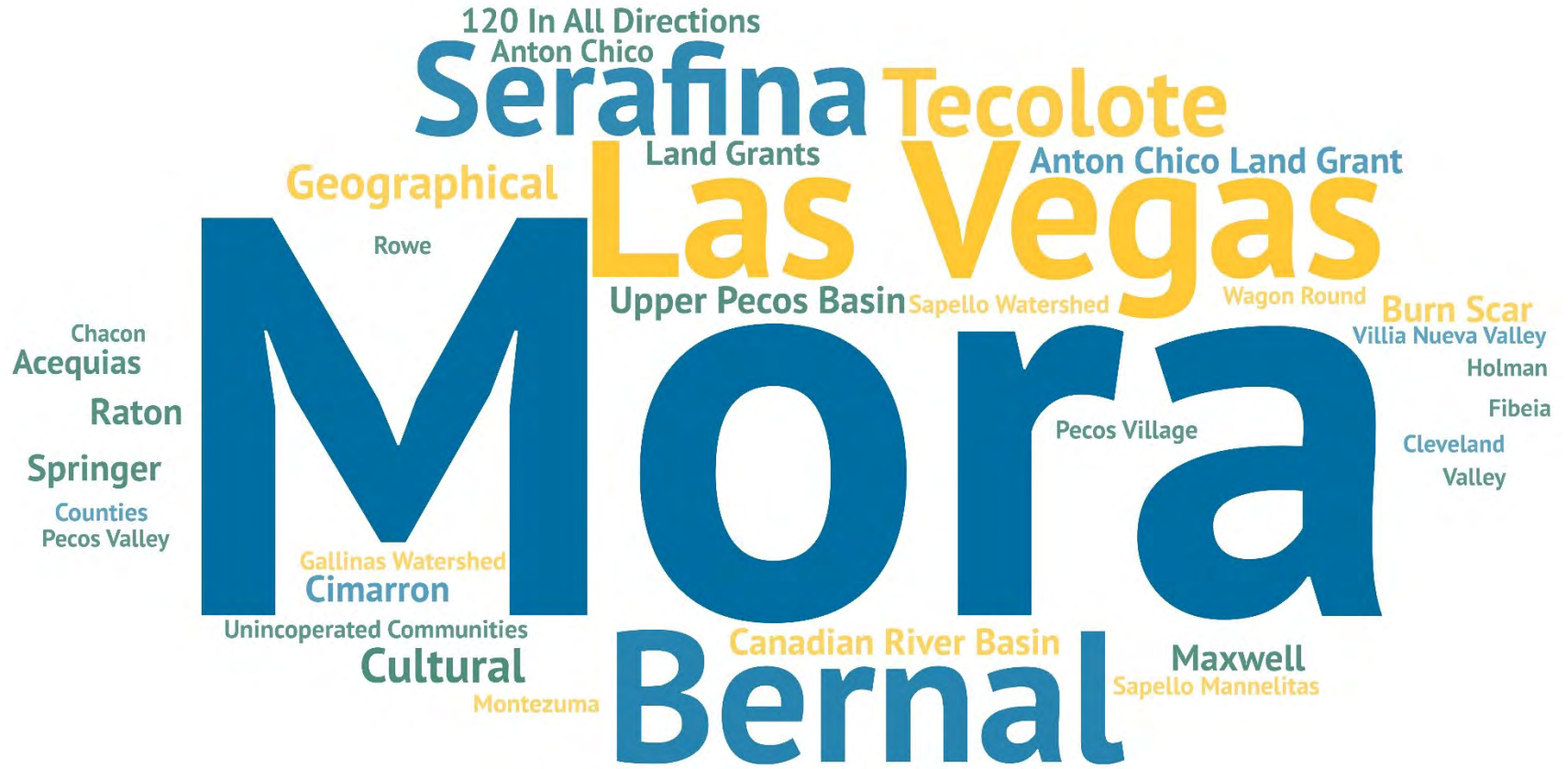
Figure 25. Question 6: Word Cloud Summary of Communities Listed for Region 8, San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe
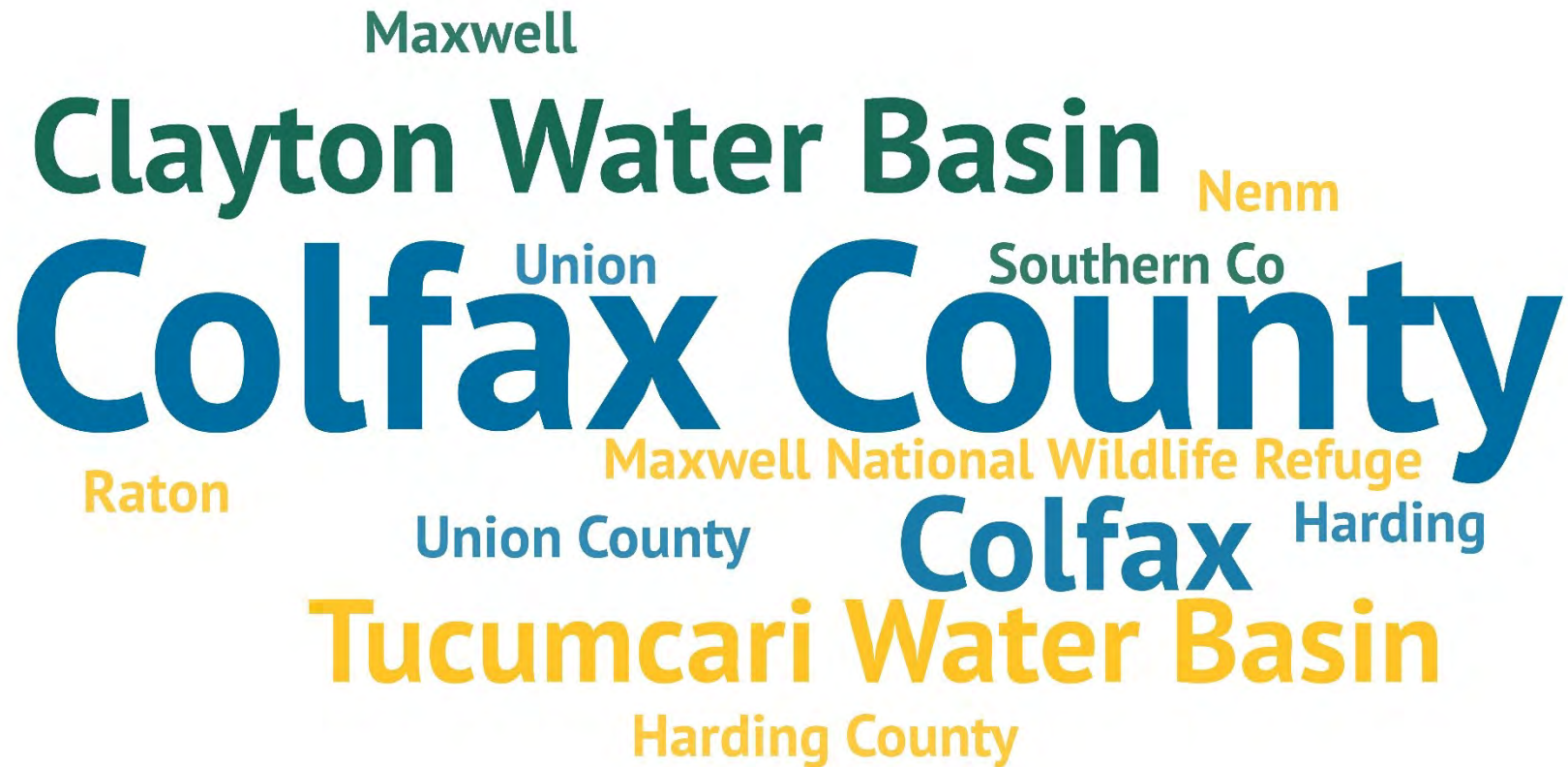
Figure 26. Question 6: Word Cloud Summary of Communities Listed for Region 9, Colfax
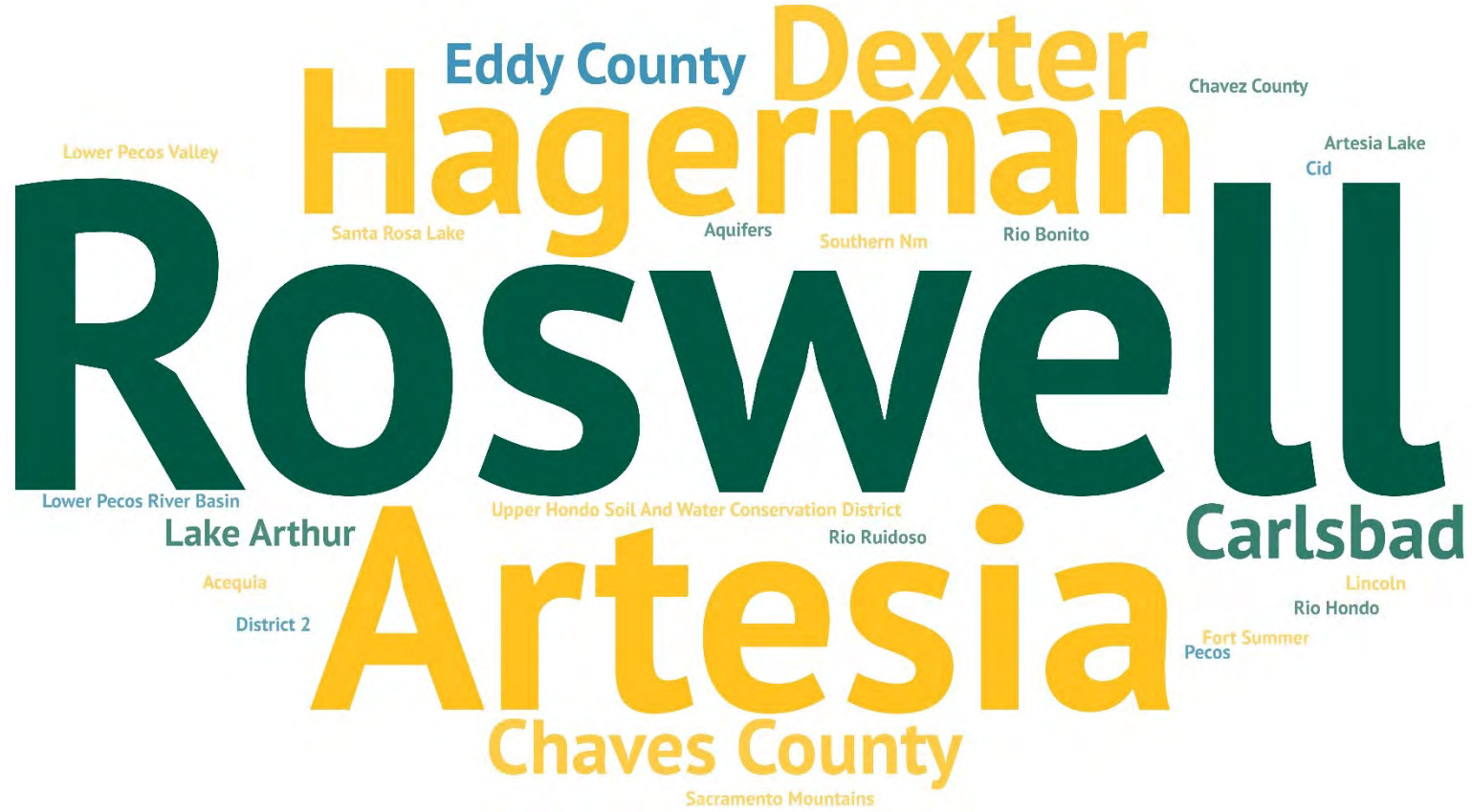
Figure 27. Question 6: Word Cloud Summary of Communities Listed for Region 10, Lower Pecos Valley
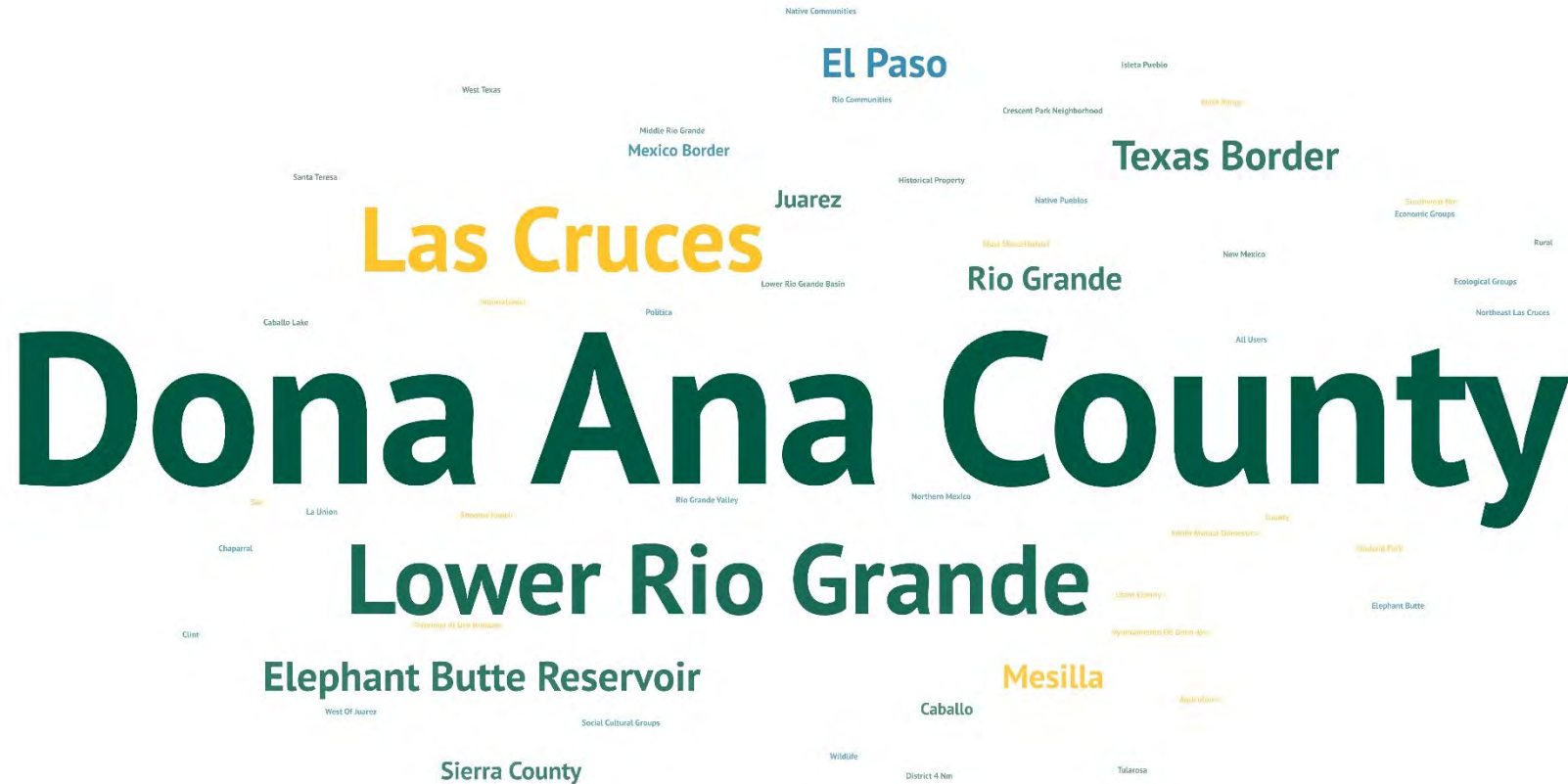
Figure 28. Question 6: Word Cloud Summary of Communities Listed for Region 11, Lower Rio Grande
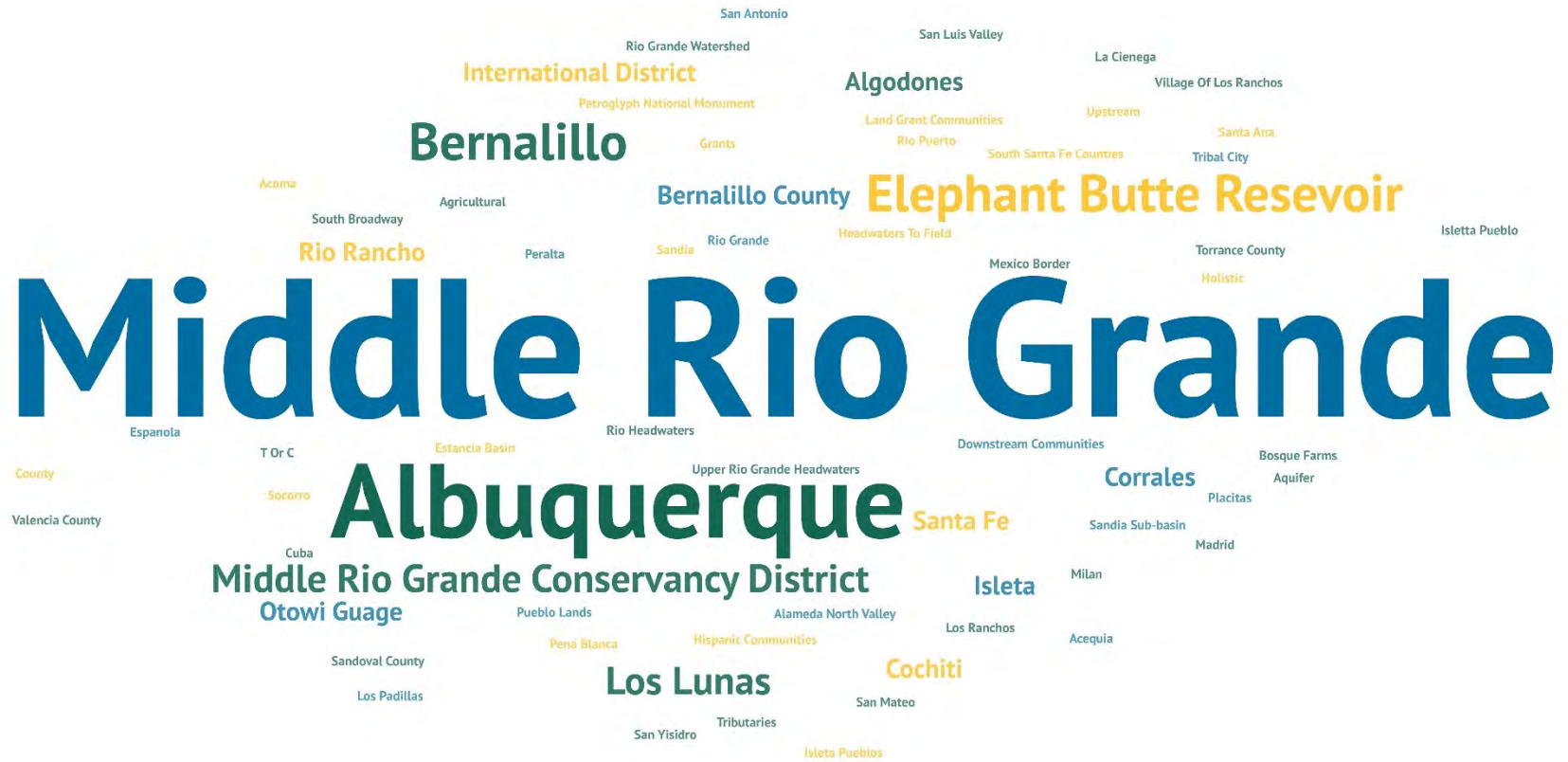
Figure 29. Question 6: Word Cloud Summary of Communities Listed for Region 12, Middle Rio Grande

Figure 30. Question 6: Word Cloud Summary of Communities Listed for Region 13, Estancia

Figure 31. Question 6: Word Cloud Summary of Communities Listed for Region 14, Rio Chama

Figure 32. Question 6: Word Cloud Summary of Communities Listed for Region 15, Socorro-Sierra

Figure 33. Question 6: Word Cloud Summary of Communities Listed for Region 16, Lea County

Figure 34. Question 6: Word Cloud Summary of Communities Listed for Online Responses

Q7: What do you think is most important in terms of how boundaries are delineated?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Rule 1: The boundaries and number of water planning regions in the state

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	Place one dot on up to three responses that reflect your top priorities (one dot only per option, three dots total). Use one of the blank squares to describe any other things that you think are important.	Select up to three. If you selected other, please describe.
Format	Two column table with designated dot placement in 2nd column and 3x3 boxes at the bottom for other responses.	Checkboxes with ability to select up to three options and comment box for description of other factors.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Many responses to Question 7 focused on water-related attributes, including "Where water is stored below ground" (31%) and "Where water is found above ground" (26%). Of these results, regional variation appears to be loosely associated with predominant water source type (e.g., surface water in the Socorro-Sierra and Southwest New Mexico regions, groundwater in the Taos and Jemez y Sangre region). In the Colfax region, the response "Where implementation can be aligned with existing state administration of water rights" was the top response.

Open-Ended Responses

Like the fixed-choice responses, many of the open-ended responses to Question 7 related to "Where water is found above ground" and "Where water is stored below ground." Responses related to "Equity and access" was another theme, with many of those comments coming from the Jemez y Sangre region.

Table 22. Question 7: Fixed-Choice Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Where water is found above ground (shared rivers, lakes, springs)	Where water is stored below ground (shared groundwater sources)	Where existing locally or state funded staffing is in place	Where population centers are concentrated	Where local entities have the most capacity to implement plans	Where water is used for similar purposes	Where implementation can be funded most easily	Where implementation can be aligned with existing state administration of water rights	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	8	20	2	3	2	7	1	6	49
2 - San Juan	13	3	6	3	10	2	5	5	47
3 - Jemez y Sangre	26	28	2	10	6	8	0	6	86
4 - Southwest New Mexico	24	40	4	11	8	5	2	8	102
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	3	2	0	2	2	3	0	3	15
6 - Northwest New Mexico	5	8	5	0	4	2	3	3	30
7 - Taos	32	27	5	9	11	5	3	4	96
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	11	9	0	2	5	5	0	7	39
9 - Colfax	14	6	1	1	2	2	4	15	45
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	19	18	2	1	9	3	1	4	57
11 - Lower Rio Grande	45	54	4	12	11	3	7	10	146
12 - Middle Rio Grande	47	56	7	9	18	5	5	13	160
13 - Estancia	5	22	2	5	9	2	0	4	49
14 - Rio Chama	11	6	1	1	3	2	3	5	32
15 - Socorro-Sierra	33	44	3	6	8	16	2	17	129
16 - Lea County	2	17	3	4	2	3	1	7	39
Online	160	179	21	51	73	44	26	57	611
Total	**458**	**539**	**68**	**130**	**183**	**117**	**63**	**174**	**1,732**
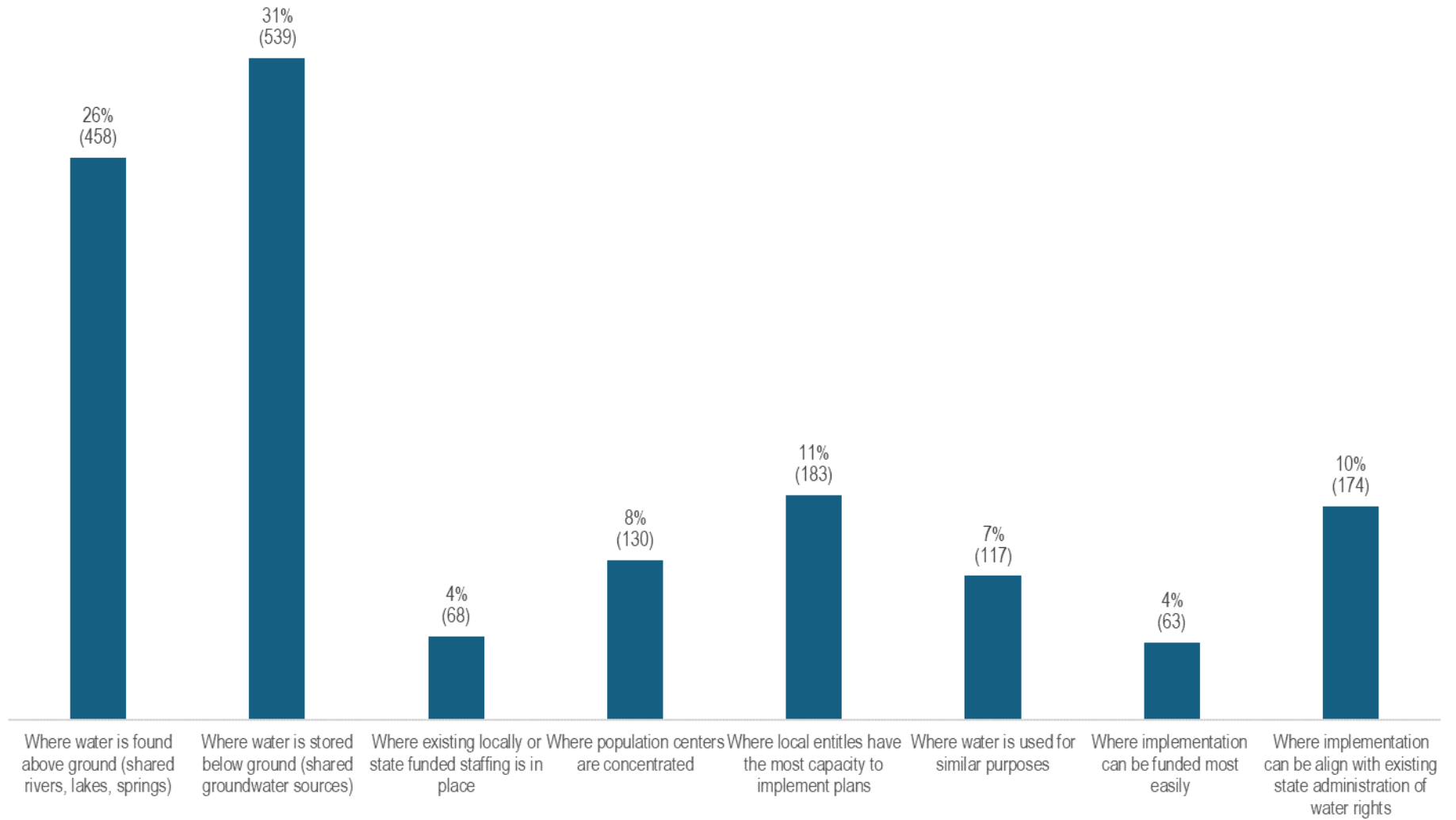
Figure 35. Question 7: Fixed-Choice Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Table 23. Question 7: Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations considerations	Responses related to considering Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations in the boundary setting process
Where water is found above ground (shared rivers, lakes, springs)	Responses related to surface water (e.g., lakes, rivers, streams)
Where water is stored below ground (shared groundwater sources)	Responses related to groundwater (e.g., aquifers)
Where existing local or state funded staffing is in place	Responses related to setting boundaries in a way that ensures there is staffing support in place
Where population centers are concentrated	Responses related to setting boundaries where city/town centers are located (or not located)
Where local entities have the most capacity to implement plans	Responses related to setting boundaries where local organizations (e.g., Soil and Water Conservation Districts, local government, etc.) have capacity to implement plans
Where water is used for similar purposes	Responses related to setting boundaries were water uses apply water in the same way (e.g., grouping agricultural users, grouping domestic users)
Where implementation can be funded most easily	Responses related to setting boundaries where implementation funds exist
Where implementation can align with existing state administration of water rights	Responses related to setting boundaries to align with how water rights are administered
Geographic and Topological considerations	Responses related to setting boundaries to align with geographical or topographical considerations (e.g., a certain region of the state, or setting along a certain mountain range)
Similar opportunities, challenges, and solutions	Responses related to setting boundaries where areas have similar water challenges, opportunities and potential solutions
Equity and access	Responses related to setting boundaries with equity and access considerations
Existing Boundaries	Responses related to the current regional boundaries
Water quality considerations	Responses related to water quality benefits and/or challenges
Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Responses related to Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Uncategorized	Responses that could not be grouped with others and/or that may not be directly applicable to this question

Table 24. Question 7: Open-Ended Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations considerations	Where water is found above ground (shared rivers, lakes, springs)	Where water is stored below ground (shared groundwater sources)	Where existing local or state funded staffing is in place	Where population centers are concentrated	Where local entities have the most capacity to implement plans	Where water is used for similar purposes	Where implementation can be funded most easily	Where implementation can align with existing state administration	Geographic and Topological considerations	Similar opportunities, challenges, and solutions	Equity and access	Existing Boundaries	Water quality considerations	Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Uncategorized	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 - San Juan	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
3 - Jemez y Sangre	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	1	9
4 - Southwest New Mexico	0	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	9
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 - Northwest New Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 - Taos	0	14	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	18
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
9 - Colfax	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	5
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
11 - Lower Rio Grande	2	11	4	4	2	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	32
12 - Middle Rio Grande	3	7	7	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	24
13 - Estancia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
14 - Rio Chama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 - Socorro-Sierra	0	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	9
16 - Lea County	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Online	10	6	1	0	2	1	0	4	2	1	2	6	2	2	0	3	42
Total	15	46	17	7	10	1	4	6	7	3	10	12	6	2	2	11	159

Figure 36. Question 7: Open-Ended Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Q8: Which of the example boundary concept maps resonates with you most?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Rule 1: The boundaries and number of water planning regions in the state

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	Place one dot on the response that reflects your preference.	
Format	Two column table with designated dot placement in 2nd column.	Multiple choice question.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Nearly three quarters (74%) of responses to Question 8 indicated that hydrology-based boundaries resonated the most. This option was the top choice across all regions. The "Water rights district offices" response was the next choice (16% of all responses), and was a particularly common response in the San Juan, Northwest New Mexico, Colfax, and Estancia regions.

Table 25. Question 8: Fixed-Choice Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Hydrology-based boundaries	Water rights district offices	Councils of Governments	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	31	10	8	49
2 - San Juan	10	6	3	19
3 - Jemez y Sangre	27	4	2	33
4 - Southwest New Mexico	35	10	10	55
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	5	0	0	5
6 - Northwest New Mexico	8	6	3	17
7 - Taos	40	7	1	48
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	23	9	3	35
9 - Colfax	10	8	1	19
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	16	4	1	21
11 - Lower Rio Grande	58	11	4	73
12 - Middle Rio Grande	73	3	9	85
13 - Estancia	16	9	1	26
14 - Rio Chama	7	4	4	15
15 - Socorro-Sierra	38	4	8	50
16 - Lea County	14	6	1	21
Online	188	29	22	239
Total	**599**	**130**	**81**	**810**
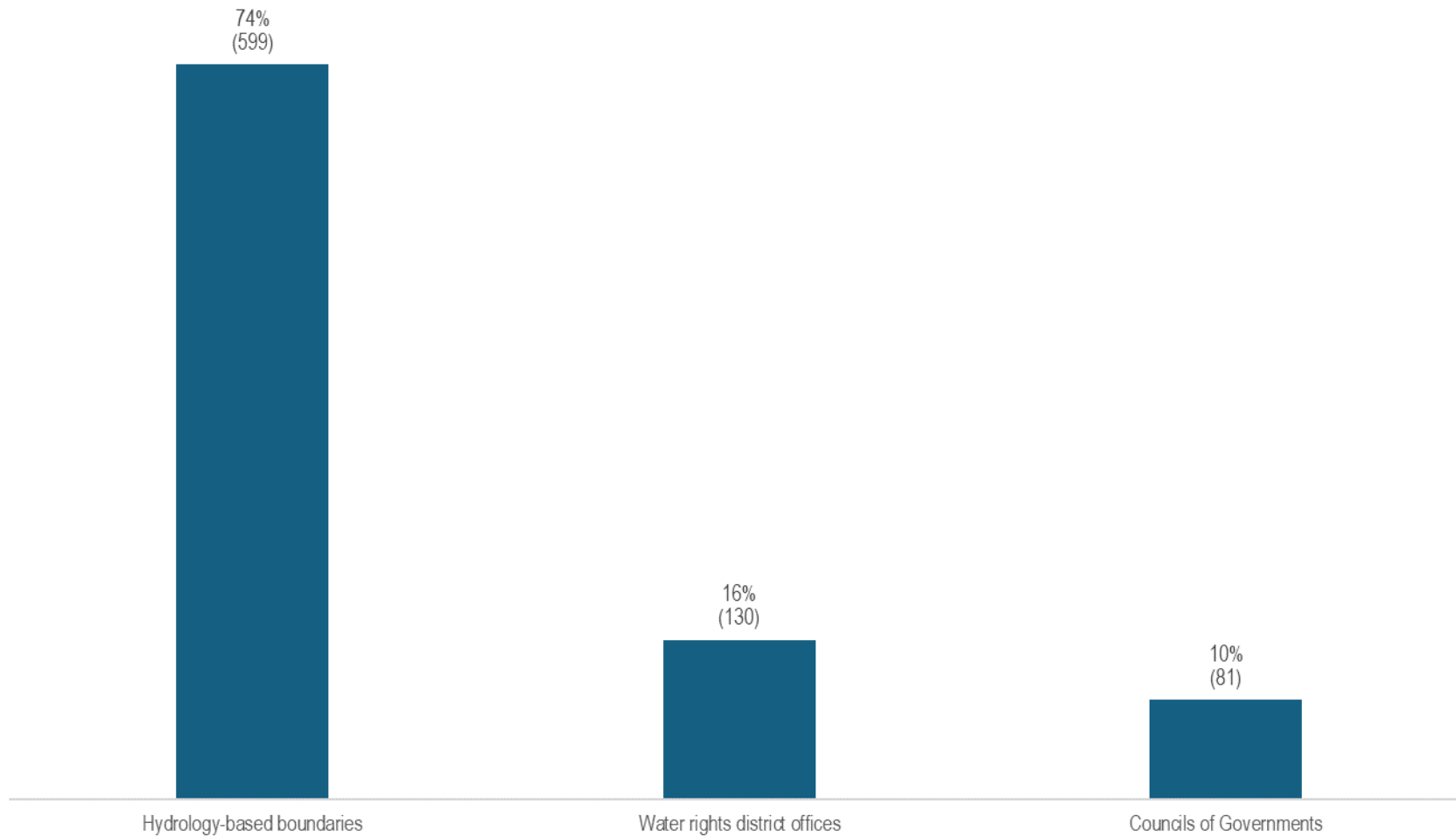
Figure 37. Question 8: Fixed-Choice Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Q9: Are there any other considerations not highlighted here that should be included in determining how to delineate future regional water planning boundaries?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Rule 1: The boundaries and number of water planning regions in the state

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	Use one of the comment cards to describe other considerations that you think should be included.	
Format	Comment cards for collecting feedback	Comment box for open ended answers.

Open-Ended Responses

Responses to Question 9 align closely with responses to Question 7 and emphasize "Where water is found above ground" with 17% of coded responses and "Where water is stored below ground" with 16% of coded responses. Many of the responses provided more specificity and examples relevant to each region. Ecosystems and water rights administration were common categories of responses, especially for online open house participants.

Because this question is very open-ended, a significant number of the of comments (18%) could not be grouped into similar categories. Many of those uncategorized comments reflect general sentiments about water planning opportunities and considerations, not related to establishing boundaries. See Table 27 for all responses provided for Question 9.

Table 26. Question 9: Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations considerations	Responses related to pueblos, tribes, and nations
Where water is found above ground (shared rivers, lakes, springs)	Responses related to surface water
Where water is stored below ground (shared groundwater sources)	Responses related to groundwater
Where existing local or state funded staffing is in place	Responses related to staff resources
Where population centers are concentrated	Responses related to populated areas (e.g., cities, towns, etc.)
Where local entities have the most capacity to implement plans	Responses related to implementation capacity (e.g., existing groups, resources, etc.)
Where water is used for similar purposes	Responses related to water use
Where implementation can be funded most easily	Responses related to funding
Where implementation can align with existing state administration of water rights	Responses related to water rights, agreements, and compacts
Geographic and Topological considerations	Responses related to geographic and topographic characteristics
Similar opportunities, challenges, and solutions	Responses related to the sharing of similar opportunities, challenges, and solutions
Equity and access	Responses related to the fairness of the planning process and/or the involvement of disproportionately impacted groups and/or groups underrepresented in planning processes
Existing Boundaries	Responses related to the existing water planning regions
Ecosystems	Responses related to ecosystems and other features of the natural environment
Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Responses related to Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Water quality considerations	Responses related to water quality benefits and/or challenges
Land grants	Responses related to land grant areas
Uncategorized	Responses that could not be grouped with others and/or that may not be directly applicable to this question

Table 27. Question 9: Open-Ended Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations considerations	Where water is found above ground (shared rivers, lakes, springs)	Where water is stored below ground (shared groundwater sources)	Where existing local or state funded staffing is in place	Where population centers are concentrated	Where local entities have the most capacity to implement plans	Where water is used for similar purposes	Where implementation can be funded most easily	Where implementation can align with existing state administration of water	Geographic and Topological considerations	Similar opportunities, challenges, and solutions	Equity and access	Existing Boundaries	Ecosystems	Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Water quality considerations	Land grants	Uncategorized	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
2 - San Juan	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
3 - Jemez y Sangre	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	10
4 - Southwest New Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 - Northwest New Mexico	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7
7 - Taos	0	4	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	12
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
9 - Colfax	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	9
11 - Lower Rio Grande	2	4	3	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	3	23
12 - Middle Rio Grande	4	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	4	1	3	0	1	0	4	28
13 - Estancia	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	9
14 - Rio Chama	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
15 - Socorro-Sierra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	8
16 - Lea County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Online	25	21	5	6	6	4	2	7	4	3	3	7	0	11	0	1	0	33	138
Total	**32**	**42**	**27**	**8**	**13**	**11**	**6**	**9**	**14**	**3**	**7**	**16**	**4**	**19**	**3**	**3**	**4**	**47**	**268**
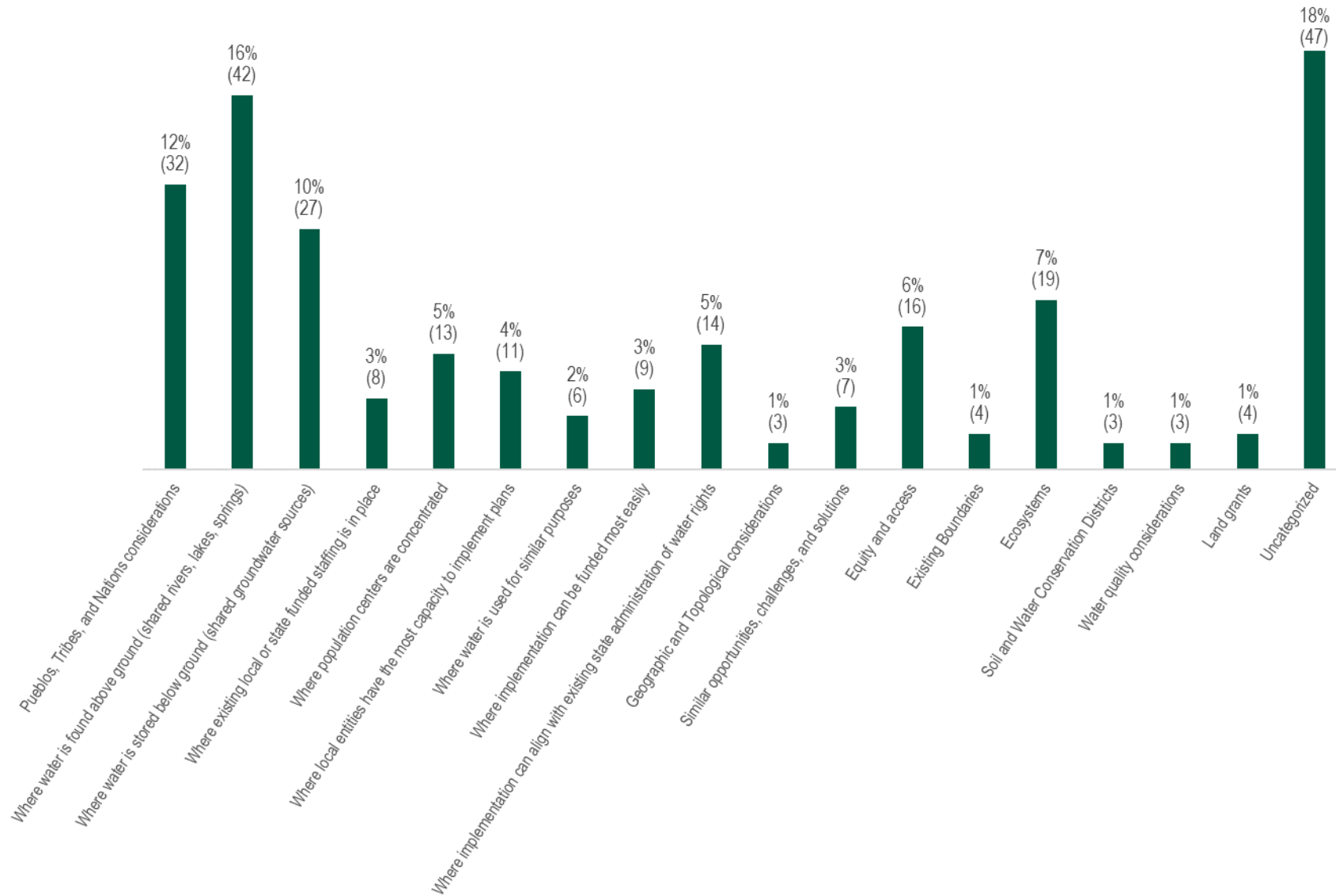
Figure 38. Question 9: Open-Ended Results by Region for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Q10: What are the qualities that you would like to have in a planning process?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Rule 4: The composition of a regional water planning entity
- Guideline 1: The identification of regional stakeholders and opportunities for stakeholder collaboration

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	Place one dot on up to three responses that reflect your top priorities (one dot only per option, three dots total). Use one of the blank squares to describe any other qualities that you'd like to see in a planning process.	Given you review of these alternative planning entity approaches, please answer the following question. Select up to three options. If you selected other, please describe.
Format	Two column table with designated dot placement in 2nd column. For the final column of table, blank squares for short open-ended responses.	Checkboxes with the ability to select up to three options. Comment box for open ended description of other qualities.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Of the fixed choice-options provided, the "Representative of the diversity of water users and stakeholders" was the most frequently selected responses across all regions (31% of responses). All the options garnered at least 10% of the total, with "Nimble, adaptive and responsive to changing local needs" and "Protected from special interest groups" (24% each) garnering a higher response rate than "Informed by state government guidelines" and "Communities can customize" (10% and 11% respectively). Across the regions "Representative of the diversity of water users and stakeholders" was the top response, expect for in San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe and Colfax regions where the top response was "Protected from special interest groups" and San Juan whose top response was "Nimble, adaptive, and responsive to changing local needs."

Open-Ended Responses

Like the fixed-choice responses, many of the open-ended responses for Question 10 were related to ensuring a representative process that is protected from special interest groups (43% of coded responses); however, there was an emphasis on ensuring the process is "Informed by community perspectives" as opposed to water users or traditional stakeholders more generally (18% of coded responses). This was a new theme compared to the fixed-choice responses. Other common new themes from the open-

ended responses were ensuring the process is "Based on ecological and environmental considerations" and "Data driven/measurable" (13% and 11% respectively).

Table 28. Question 10: Fixed-Choice Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Nimble, adaptive and responsive to changing local needs	Protected from special interest groups	Representative of the diversity of water users and stakeholders	Informed by state government guidelines	Communities can customize	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	6	14	22	4	10	56
2 - San Juan	10	7	9	6	3	35
3 - Jemez y Sangre	22	15	27	9	6	79
4 - Southwest New Mexico	25	31	34	8	9	107
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	2	3	5	4	1	15
6 - Northwest New Mexico	8	2	9	4	4	27
7 - Taos	19	22	26	7	15	89
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	8	17	14	1	8	48
9 - Colfax	11	16	10	5	2	44
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	7	16	20	1	11	55
11 - Lower Rio Grande	46	45	50	12	11	164
12 - Middle Rio Grande	44	38	62	18	20	182
13 - Estancia	10	14	17	3	4	48
14 - Rio Chama	7	6	9	4	5	31
15 - Socorro-Sierra	27	28	33	8	9	105
16 - Lea County	4	7	12	6	8	37
Online	145	131	171	67	62	576
Total	**401**	**412**	**530**	**167**	**188**	**1,698**
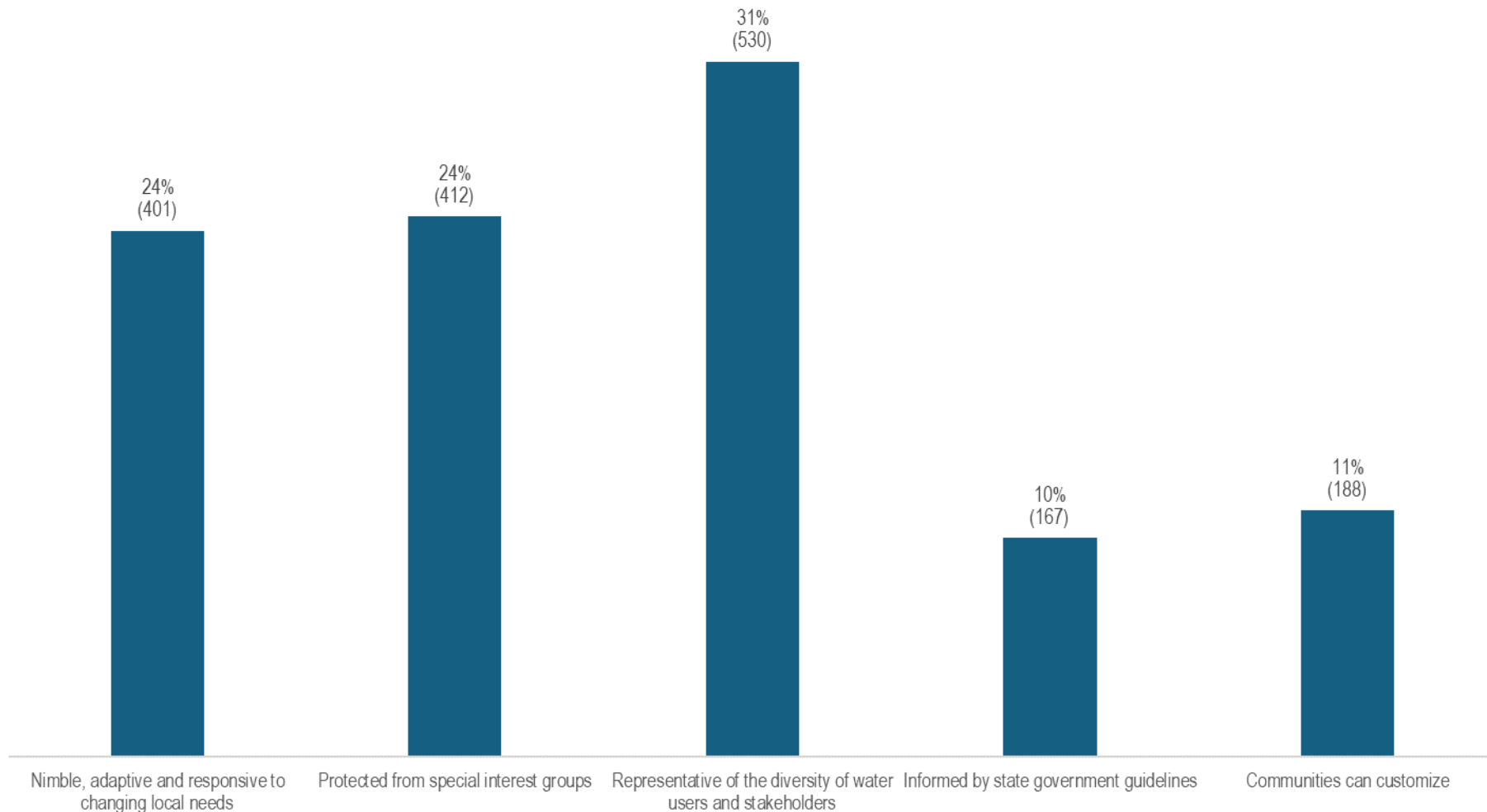
Figure 39. Question 10: Fixed-Choice Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Table 29. Question 10: Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Nimble, adaptive, and responsive to changing local needs	Responses related to ensuring the planning process is flexible as local situations and needs change
Protected from special interest groups	Responses related to ensuring the planning process is not influenced from special interest groups (e.g., large for-profit corporations and oil and gas industry)
Representative of the diversity of water users and stakeholders	Responses related to ensuring the planning process incorporates a diverse stakeholder group (e.g., groups specifically involved in water processes or management)
Informed by state government guidelines	Responses related to ensuring the planning process aligns with state government guidelines (e.g., aligned with the state 50-year water action plan, or other state governmental guidelines)
Communities can customize	Responses related to ensuring the planning process's requirements are flexible to meet a community's needs
Informed by broad community perspectives	Responses related to ensuring the community at large (including the public) is involved in the water planning process and decision making
Based on ecological and environmental considerations	Responses related to ensuring the planning process considers ecosystems needs (e.g., fish, wildlife, habitat)
Equitable	Responses related to ensuring the planning process is equitable and accessible to all
Transparent	Responses related to ensuring the public has insight into the planning process (e.g., hosting public processes, sharing progress)
Data driven/measurable	Responses related to ensuring the planning process is driven by data/science-based information
Hybrid approach	Responses related to having a hybrid approach to planning
Water administration	Responses related to water administration practices such as protecting existing water right holders and processes, as well as compacts
No revision needed	Responses that suggest no changes are needed to the water planning process
Uncategorized	Responses that could not be grouped with others and/or that may not be directly applicable to this question

Table 30. Question 10: Open-Ended Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Nimble, adaptive, and responsive to changing local needs	Protected from special interest groups	Representative of the diversity of water users and stakeholders	Informed by state government guidelines	Informed by broad community perspectives	Based on ecological and environmental considerations	Equitable	Transparent	Data driven/measurable	Hybrid approach	Water administration	No revision needed	Uncategorized	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	5
2 - San Juan	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
3 - Jemez y Sangre	0	2	0	0	7	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	12
4 - Southwest New Mexico	2	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 - Northwest New Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 - Taos	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	7
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
9 - Colfax	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	5
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	6
11 - Lower Rio Grande	0	5	3	0	9	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	22
12 - Middle Rio Grande	1	2	3	0	2	5	2	1	3	0	0	1	0	20
13 - Estancia	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
14 - Rio Chama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 - Socorro-Sierra	2	0	1	0	2	3	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	14
16 - Lea County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Online	1	4	2	0	6	5	1	1	9	0	4	0	3	36
Total	**6**	**18**	**19**	**2**	**27**	**19**	**11**	**8**	**16**	**5**	**7**	**1**	**8**	**147**
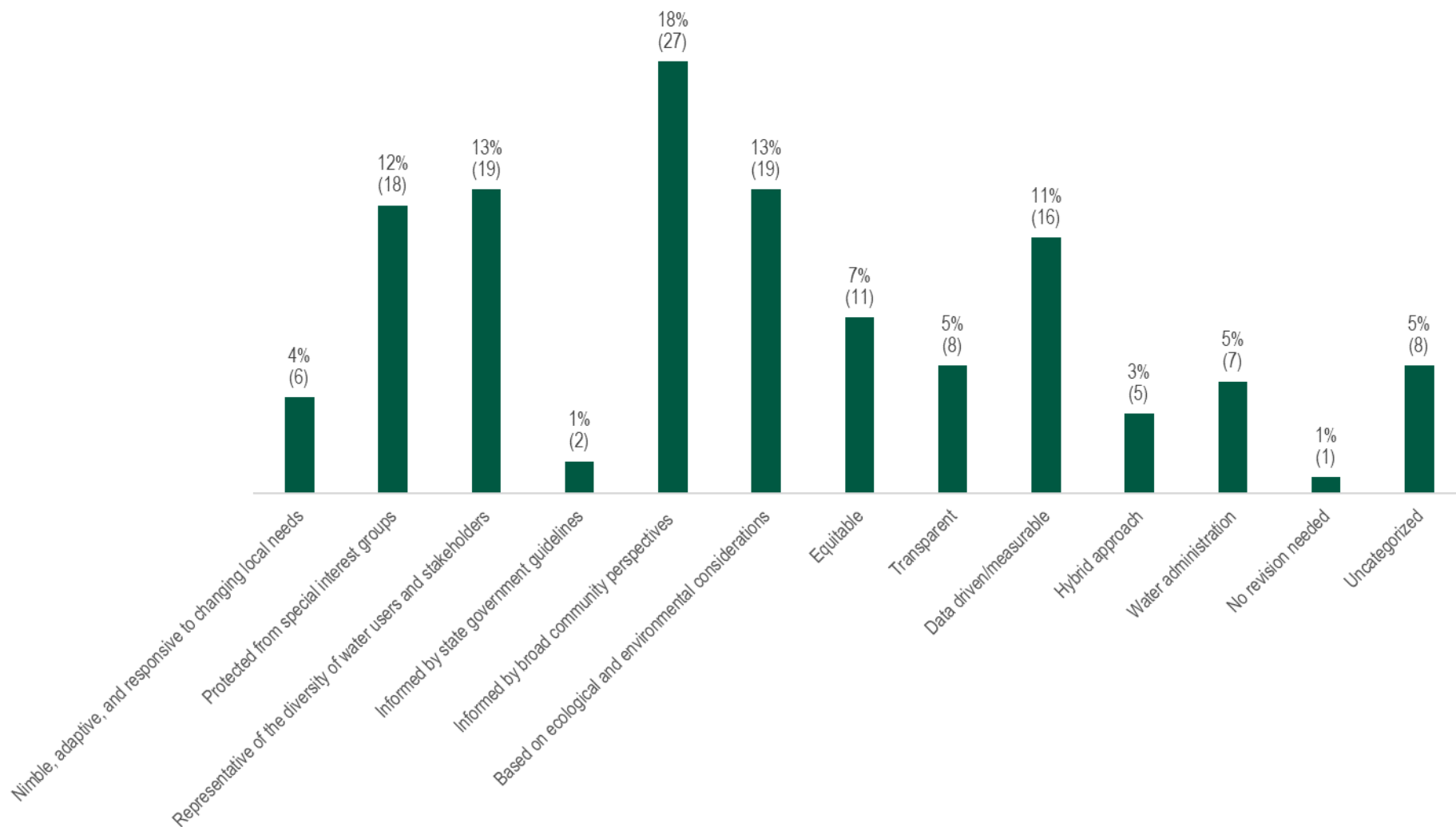
Figure 40. Question 10: Open-Ended Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Q11: What characteristics should future planning entity members have? (pick one answer per line)

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Rule 4: The composition of a regional water planning entity

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	Place one dot in each row to indicate your preference between the two characteristics (pick one answer per line).	
Format	Three column table with designated dot placement in 2nd and 3rd column.	Series of multiple-choice questions with two options for each characteristic.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Question 11 included six scenarios for respondents to identify what specific characteristics were most popular for the water planning members and committee. The top response and breakdown for each across all regions and the online survey (e.g., 17 total "regions") include:

- Members should "Reside within the region" (75% of responses, majority in 17 of 17 regions)
- Members experience was water is "Professional" (64% of responses, majority in 14 out of 17 regions)
- Members shall be "Elected" (58% of responses, majority in 12 out of 17 regions)
- Committee size is "Flexible" (66% of responses, majority in 12 out of 17 regions)
- Terms for serving are "Fixed" (62% of responses, majority in 13 out of 17 regions)
- Fixed terms are "Long (2+ years)" (79% of responses, majority in 17 or 17 regions)

Notably a few respondents placed their answers in-between options, indicating that they would like a mix of appointed or elected members. These are represented as "0.5" in Table 31.

Table 31. Question 11: Fixed-Choice Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Members should:		Members experience with water is:		Members shall be:		Committee size is:		Terms for serving:		Fixed terms are:		Total
	Reside within the region	Be from New Mexico	Professional	Personal	Appointed	Elected	Fixed	Flexible	Fixed	Flexible	Short (shorter than 2 years)	Long (2+ years)	
1 - Northeast New Mexico	28	2	9	12	1	19	12	8	17	3	6	18	135
2 - San Juan	15	7	7	1	5	2	5	4	6	3	2	9	66
3 - Jemez y Sangre	24	8	18	15	7	10	4	16	8	14	4	18	146
4 - Southwest New Mexico	39	3	25	10	14	16	10	19	29	9	7	18	199
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	4	1	3	3	3	2	1	3	4	1	0	5	30
6 - Northwest New Mexico	12	8	7.5	2.5	4	2	2	4	5	3	2	5	57
7 - Taos	28	12	19	11	14	12	9	14	24	1	5	26	175
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	19	9	6	7	1	9	3	7	6	5	3	11	86
9 - Colfax	20	7	15	4	13.5	2.5	10	6	11	3	2	14	108
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	22	4	13	2	3	13	10	5	8	6	3	14	103
11 - Lower Rio Grande	50	14	31.5	16	19	27	8	37	19	26	11	31	289.5
12 - Middle Rio Grande	51	10	34.5	21.5	16.5	33.5	13	34	25	25	6	42	312
13 - Estancia	21	6	16	4	7	14	9	10	18	3	9	10	127
14 - Rio Chama	7	5	4	6	2	6	1	6	4	3	2	8	54
15 – Socorro-Sierra	32	13	29.5	10.5	13	17	12	20	21	13	5	35	221
16 - Lea County	12	3	9	3	2	7	4	4	1	9	1	8	63
Online	159	66	127	81	95	117	65	155	137	83	47	170	1,302
Total	543	178	374	209.5	220	309	178	352	343	210	115	442	3,473.5

Summary Results: *Q11: What characteristics should future planning entity members have? (pick one answer per line)*

Members should:
- 75% (543) — Reside within the region
- 25% (178) — Be from New Mexico

Members experience with water is:
- 64% (374) — Professional
- 36% (209.5) — Personal

Members shall be:
- 42% (220), 220 — Appointed
- 58% (309), 309 — Elected

Committee size is:
- 34% (178) — Fixed
- 66% (352) — Flexible

Terms for serving are:
- 62% (343) — Fixed
- 38% (210) — Flexible

Fixed terms are:
- 21% (115) — Short (shorter than 2 years)
- 79% (442) — Long (2+ years)
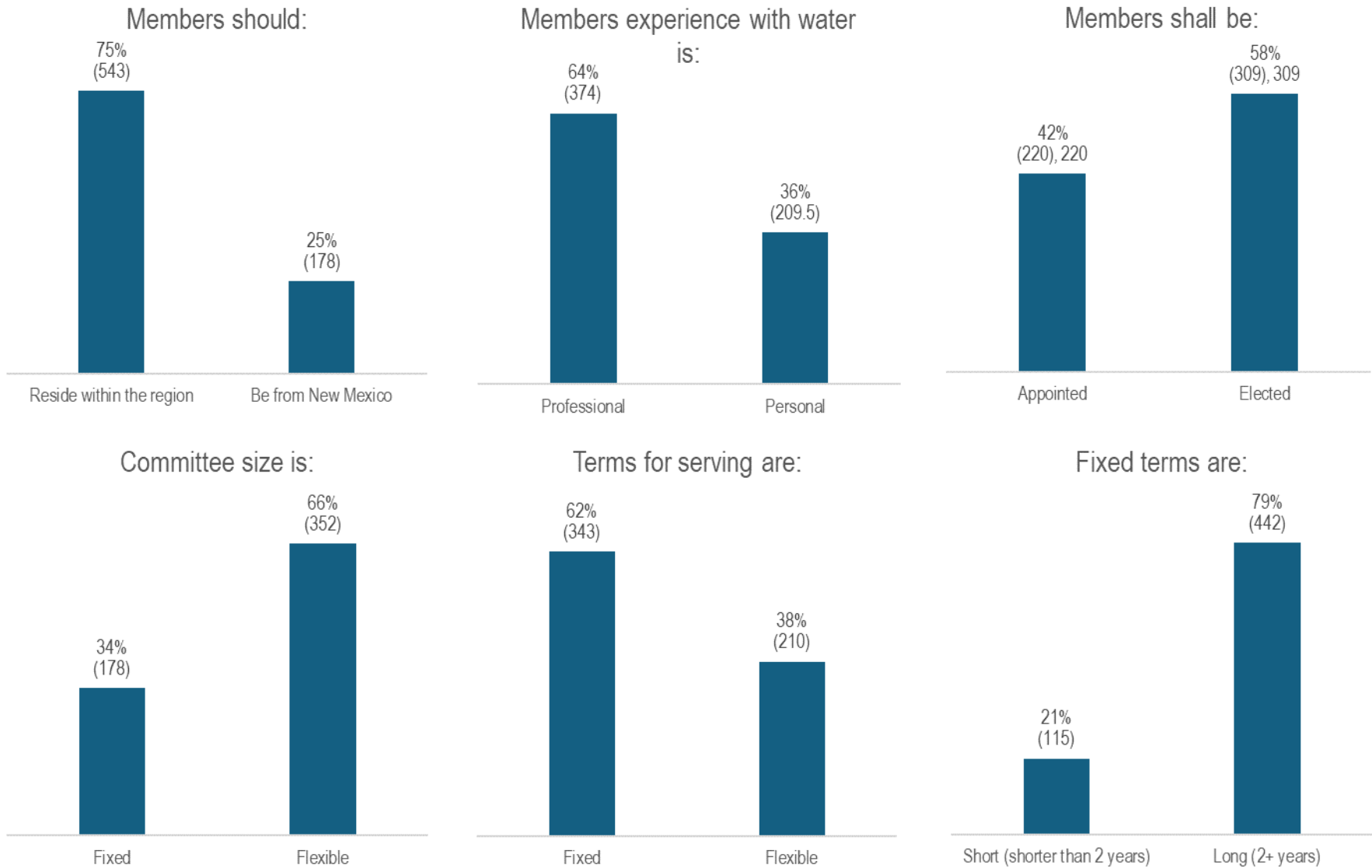
Figure 41. Question 11: Fixed-Choice Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Q12: How should different groups be involved in regional water planning and in what role?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Rule 4: The composition of a regional water planning entity
- Guideline 1: The identification of regional stakeholders and opportunities for stakeholder collaboration
- Guideline 7: The procedures to support implementation of a regional water security plan

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	For each entity you feel should be involved, place a dot in the correlating column for the role you recommend (only one dot per row). If you would like to add other groups to consider, describe the group in the space designated "other." Then use the same process to place a dot at the level of involvement you recommend. You can recommend as many groups for engagement as you suggest.	
Format	Six column table with designated dot placement in columns 2-6.	Matrix with ability to select one option in the spectrum of engagement for each group listed. Comment box for open-ended description of other entities.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Responses to this question were weighted on a scale of 0 to 4, to calculate the average weighted score for each group in each region. A score of 4 represents an interest in full empowerment whereas a score of 0 indicates a desire for no involvement. Across the board, responses indicated a need for high levels of engagement (empowerment) for Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations, especially the responses from the Tularosa-Sacramento Salt Basins (4.0), Colfax (4.0), and Estancia (4.0) regions. Acequia/Community Ditch Associations were identified for elevated levels of engagement as well, particularly in the Lea County (3.8), Taos (3.7), and Jemez y Sangre (3.6) regions. A desire for lower levels of engagement (e.g., informing, consulting) were identified for public interest groups and general members of the public. In several regions, federal agencies were also identified for lower engagement, such as in Lea County (0.9) and Lower Pecos Valley (1.7).

Open-Ended Responses

Responses identified additional groups such as universities, research institutes, and educators. For example, responses noted that universities should be kept informed, while educators and research institutes should be consulted. Comments emphasized the importance of Tribal engagement, government collaboration, public empowerment, and concerns around water utilities and their level of involvement.

| Not Involved (0) | Informed (1) | Consulted (2) | Engaged (3) | Empowered (4) |
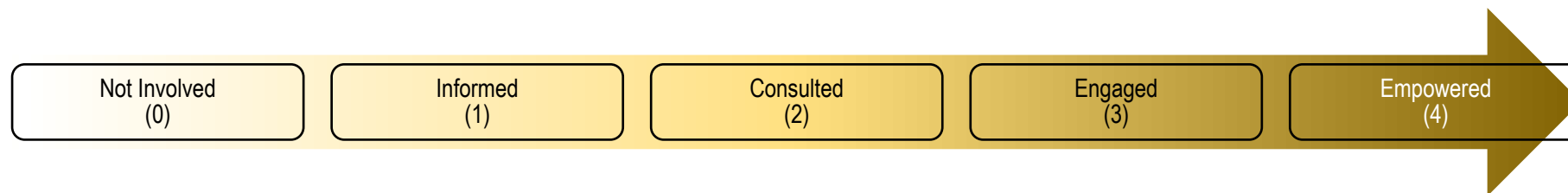
Figure 42. Question 12: Fixed-Choice Results Weighted Average Engagement Score Levels

Table 32. Question 12: Fixed-Choice Results for Regions and Online Survey Responses

	1 - Northeast New Mexico	2 - San Juan	3 - Jemez y Sangre	4 - Southwest New Mexico	5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt	6 - Northwest New Mexico	7 - Taos	8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	9 - Colfax	10 - Lower Pecos Valley	11 - Lower Rio Grande	12 - Middle Rio Grande	13 - Estancia	14 - Rio Chama	15 - Socorro-Sierra	16 - Lea County	Online	Total Average
Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations	3.6	2.9	3.7	3.4	4.0	3.6	3.7	3.8	4.0	3.3	3.9	3.6	4.0	3.8	3.9	2.5	3.5	3.6
Largest Water Users	2.9	3.3	2.8	2.7	4.0	1.9	2.9	3.1	2.1	2.8	2.4	3.2	2.7	3.0	2.7	3.3	2.8	2.8
Agricultural Water Users	3.4	3.2	2.7	3.1	3.7	3.3	3.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.5	3.4	2.9	3.3	3.1	3.4	3.0	3.1
Largest Water Rights Holders	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.0	1.9	2.2	3.0	2.6	3.1	2.4	3.0	2.8	2.7
Any Water Rights Holders	2.5	2.9	2.4	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.6	2.9	2.6	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.0	2.6	2.0	2.6	2.7	2.5

	1 - Northeast New Mexico	2 - San Juan	3 - Jemez y Sangre	4 - Southwest New Mexico	5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt	6 - Northwest New Mexico	7 - Taos	8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	9 - Colfax	10 - Lower Pecos Valley	11 - Lower Rio Grande	12 - Middle Rio Grande	13 - Estancia	14 - Rio Chama	15 - Socorro-Sierra	16 - Lea County	Online	Total Average
Water Utilities	2.6	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.0	2.6	3.2	3.2	3.7	2.7	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.1
Acequia/community ditch associations	2.9	3.1	3.6	3.5	3.5	2.7	3.7	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.8	3.1	3.3
Soil and Water Conservation Districts	3.9	3.2	3.6	3.4	2.8	2.6	3.8	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.4	3.6	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.3
Water associations (e.g., NM Groundwater Assoc., NM Rural Water Assoc.)	3.4	3.1	3.4	2.9	2.8	2.4	3.7	2.8	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.3	2.9	3.3	3.3	2.8	3.1	3.1
State agencies (i.e., NMISC, NMOSE)	3.2	3.2	3.6	2.7	3.8	2.8	3.6	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.4	2.6	3.6	3.5	3.1	3.1	3.2
Federal agencies	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.5	1.8	3.0	3.0	2.6	1.7	2.3	2.9	2.2	3.0	2.5	0.9	2.7	2.6
Municipal governments	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	4.0	2.3	3.2	2.6	3.2	2.7	2.8	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.3	2.9	2.9	3.1
County governments	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.2	4.0	1.9	3.3	3.3	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.5	2.6	2.9	3.1
Public interest groups	2.0	2.8	2.7	1.9	2.3	2.6	2.3	2.2	1.0	1.5	2.8	2.4	1.9	2.1	2.4	1.3	2.5	2.4
Environmental interest groups	2.4	2.3	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.7	1.9	1.5	1.7	3.3	2.7	2.6	2.2	2.7	1.9	2.8	2.7
General members of the public	1.5	2.1	2.4	2.1	2.2	2.7	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.8	2.8	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.9	2.5	2.3

Not Involved | **Informed** | **Consulted** | **Engaged** | **Empowered**

Largest Water Rights Holders

Environmental interest groups

Public interest groups

General members of the public

Any Water Rights Holders

Largest Water Users

Federal agencies

Municipal governments

Agricultural Water Users

State agencies (i.e., NMISC, NMOSE)

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations

Acequia/community ditch associations

Water Utilities

Water associations (e.g., NM Groundwater Assoc., NM Rural Water Assoc.)

County governments
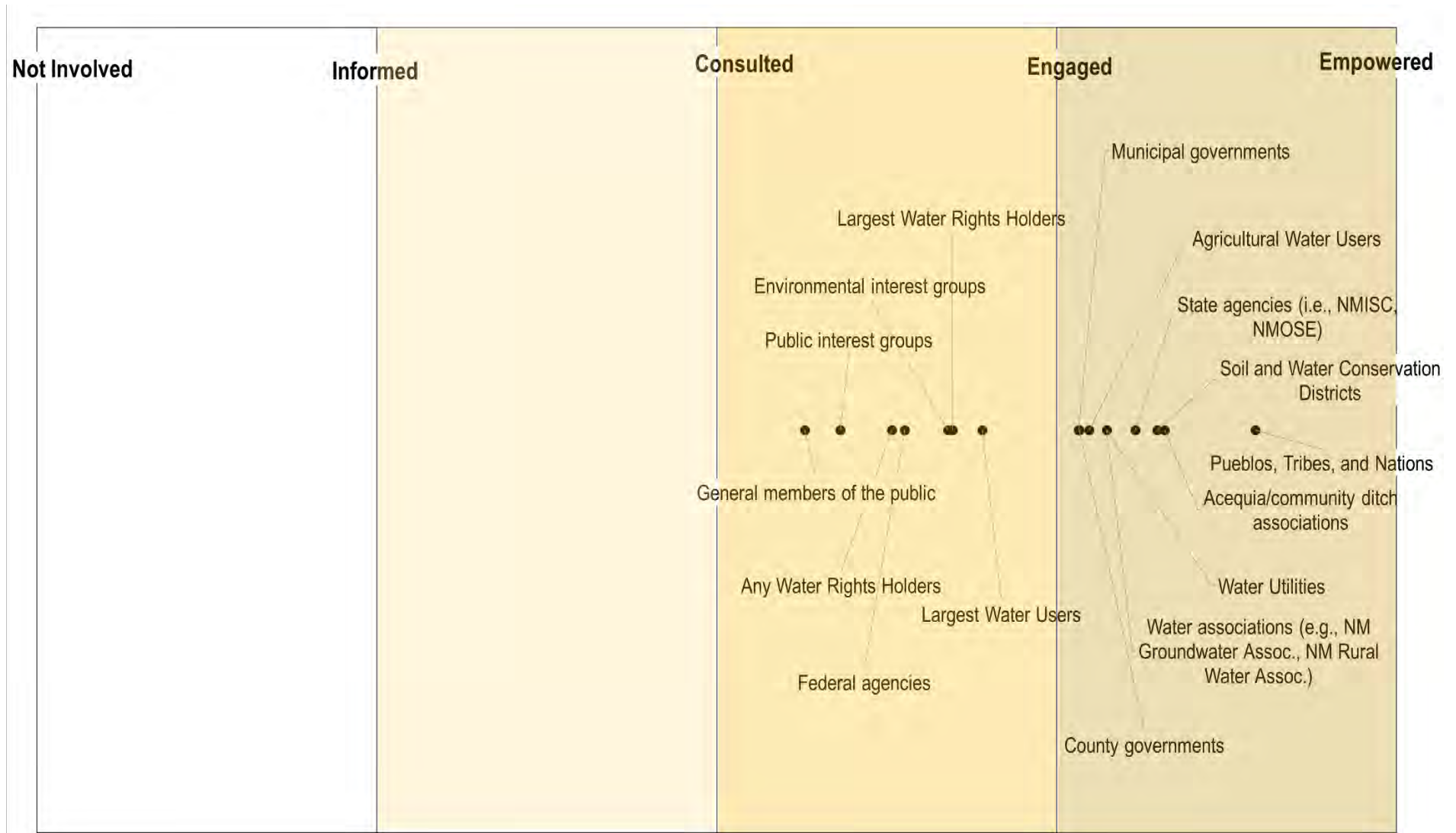
Figure 43. Question 12: Fixed-Choice Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Q13: Is the current requirement for a minimum of two general public meetings during each planning cycle sufficient?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Guideline 2: The public input requirements for regional water planning

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	Place one dot next to the answer you most agree with.	
Format	Two column table with designated dot placement in 2nd.	Multiple choice.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Of the fixed-choice responses provided,100% of the responses indicated that there should be 1 or more public meetings. The top response was "A few more than 2 public meetings should be required" (41%) followed by "A minimum of 2 public meetings should be required" (26%). Combined, 67% of respondents indicated that around 2 public meetings should be required. In comparison, only 21% responded that "Many more than 2 public meetings should be required." Between the regions there is variation between "A minimum of 2 public meetings" or "A few more than 2 public meetings should be required" being the top answer.

Table 33. Question 13: Fixed-Choice Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	No public meetings	1 public meeting should be required	A minimum of 2 public meetings should be required	A few more than 2 public meetings should be required	Many more than 2 public meetings should be required	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	0	0	15	2	8	25
2 - San Juan	0	0	17	1	1	19
3 - Jemez y Sangre	0	3	12	8	8	31
4 - Southwest New Mexico	0	0	4	30	10	44
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	0	0	4	1	0	5
6 - Northwest New Mexico	0	1	4	9	3	17
7 - Taos	0	0	3	19	12	34
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	0	1	5	6	5	17
9 - Colfax	0	0	8	3	2	13
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	0	0	3	17	3	23
11 - Lower Rio Grande	0	0	13	37	17	67
12 - Middle Rio Grande	0	2	18	34	16	70
13 - Estancia	0	0	6	11	2	19
14 - Rio Chama	0	0	3	4	2	9
15 - Socorro-Sierra	0	2	31	12	0	45
16 - Lea County	0	0	11	4	0	15
Online	0	6	84	81	49	220
Total	**0**	**15**	**241**	**279**	**138**	**673**

41%
(279)

36%
(241)

21%
(138)

2%
(15)

0%
()

No public meetings | 1 public meeting should be required | A minimum of 2 public meetings should be required | A few more than 2 public meetings should be required | Many more than 2 public meetings should be required
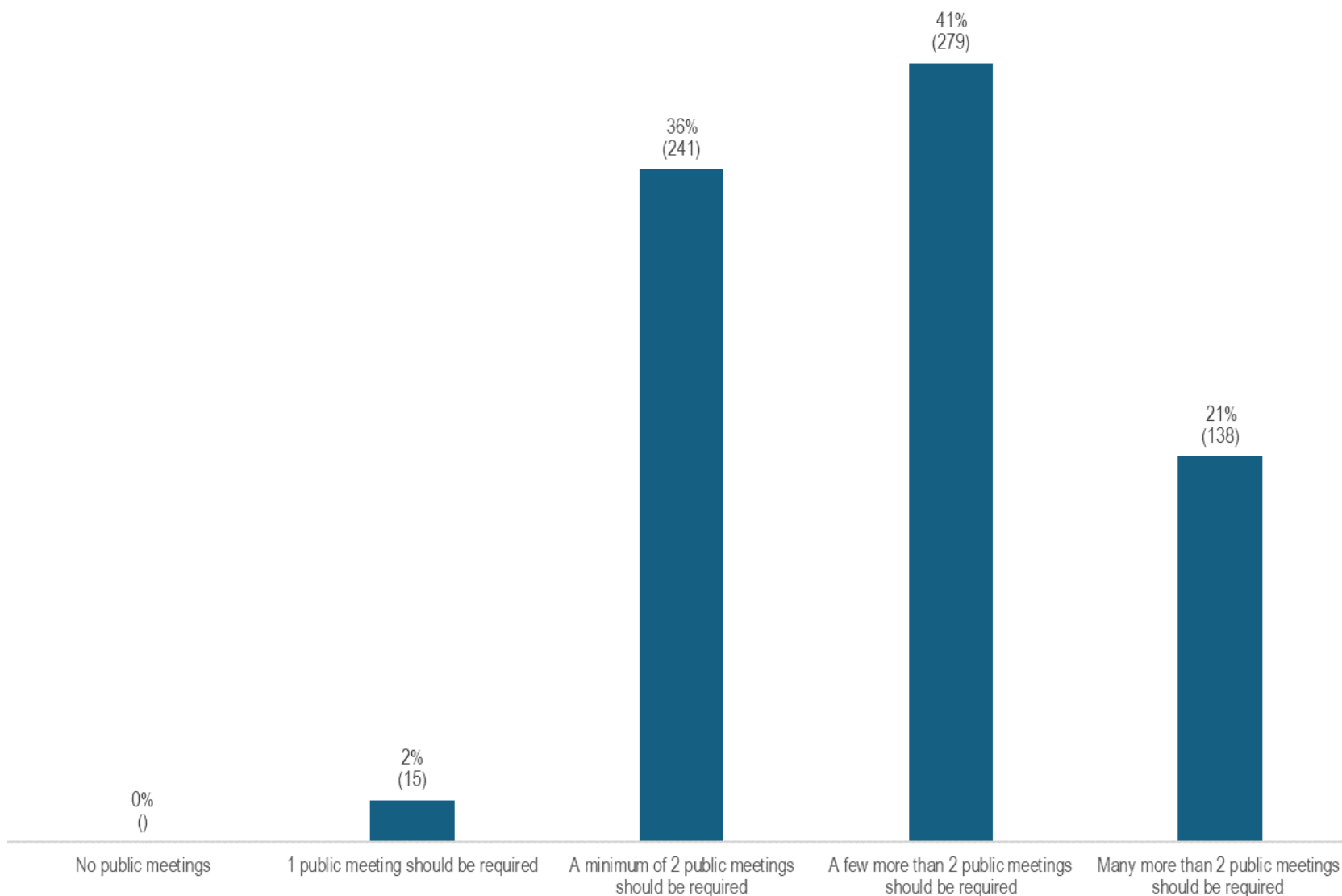
Figure 44. Question 13: Fixed-Choice Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Q14: In what other ways should New Mexicans be engaged in the water planning process?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Guideline 1: The identification of regional stakeholders and opportunities for stakeholder collaboration
- Guideline 2: The public input requirements for regional water planning

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	Place one dot on up to three responses that reflect your top priorities (one dot only per option, three dots total). Use one of the blank squares to describe any other ways that you'd like New Mexicans to be engaged.	
Format	Two column table with designated dot placement in 2nd column and blank squares at the bottom for short responses.	Checkboxes with ability to select up to three options and comment box for open ended description of other considerations.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Of the fixed choice-options provided, the "Be invited to attend information events/open houses about the water planning process" was the most frequently selected response across all regions (26% of responses), closely followed by "Review and comment on draft regional water plans before they are finalized" (25% of responses). All of the options garnered over 10% of the total, however the lowest response was "Complete online surveys/comment forms." This pattern was fairly consistent across regions, with the exception of Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins who indicated they would like to "Complete online surveys/comment forms."

Open-Ended Responses

Of the open-ended responses, the most common responses were related to "Education" (29% of coded responses). These included incorporating water planning into K-12 curriculum, as well as offering general opportunities for the public to learn more about water planning and topics like conservation, administration, and how New Mexicans use water. The following two most common open-ended responses were related to utilizing "All of the above" strategies to engage New Mexicans in the water planning process and to have "Direct engagement with specific stakeholders" (each at 13% of coded responses). Examples of stakeholders identified

for direct engagement include local city council presentation, soil and water conservation districts, acequias, and tribal communities and leaders.

Table 34. Question 14: Fixed-Choice Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Receive information about the process via websites, newsletters, etc.	Be invited to attend information events/open houses about the water planning process	Complete online surveys/comment forms	Participate in focus groups or listening sessions	Review and comment on draft regional water plans before they are finalized	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	12	15	5	7	18	57
2 - San Juan	11	9	9	6	11	46
3 - Jemez y Sangre	11	26	5	18	16	76
4 - Southwest New Mexico	21	29	7	10	35	102
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	4	5	5	1	1	16
6 - Northwest New Mexico	12	13	3	5	5	38
7 - Taos	20	18	5	13	22	78
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	13	14	2	9	8	46
9 - Colfax	8	15	7	7	6	43
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	10	15	2	11	19	57
11 - Lower Rio Grande	28	49	18	27	43	165
12 - Middle Rio Grande	27	38	16	50	50	181
13 - Estancia	4	11	5	7	15	42
14 - Rio Chama	3	5	1	6	6	21
15 - Socorro-Sierra	28	30	17	23	20	118
16 - Lea County	12	11	3	7	4	37
Online	122	145	80	114	157	618
Total	**346**	**448**	**190**	**321**	**436**	**1,741**

26%
(448)

25%
(436)

20%
(346)

18%
(321)

11%
(190)

Receive information about the process via websites, newsletters, etc.

Be invited to attend information events/open houses about the water planning process

Complete online surveys/comments forms

Participate in focus groups or listening sessions

Review and comment on draft regional water plans before they are finalized
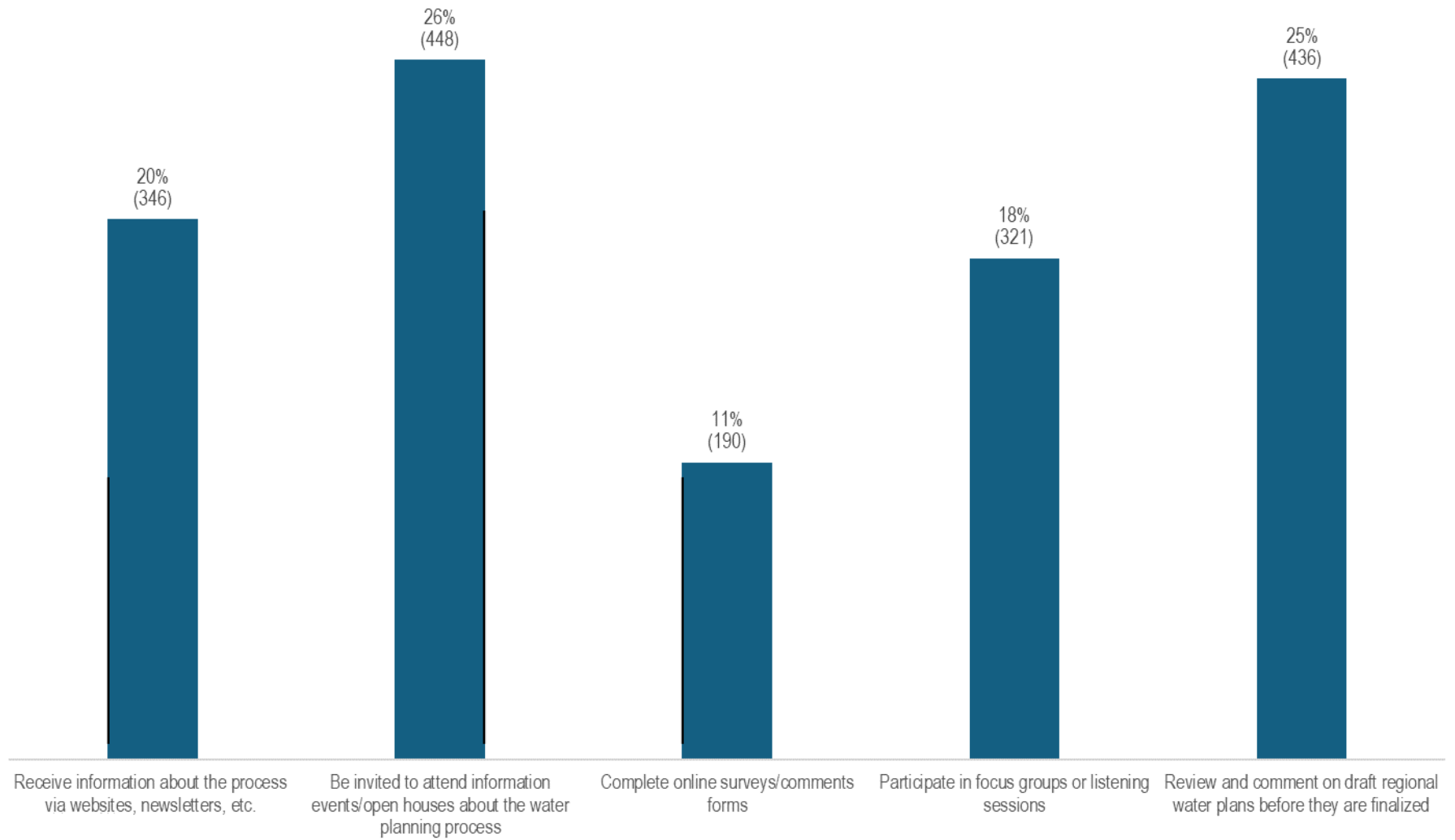
Figure 45. Question 14: Fixed-Choice Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Table 35. Question 14: Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Common media channels	Responses related to receiving information via newsletters, emails, social media, newspapers, etc.
Events	Responses related to attending information events such as open houses, seminars, etc.
Online surveys	Responses related to interactive online surveys or commenting periods
Focus groups	Responses related to interactive focus groups or listening sessions to gather feedback. These are smaller and more specific than more general open house "events"
Comment on drafts	Responses related to commenting on the draft version of the regional water plans
Education	Responses that are related to educating the public or youth around the water planning process or water issues. This can include efforts to incorporate water planning and issues into K-12 curriculum, as well as general education for the public.
Virtual meeting options	Responses that are related to virtual meeting options (e.g., telephone, online)
Direct engagement with specific stakeholders	Responses that are related to direct engagement with specific stakeholders
Transparent process	Responses that say regardless of the methodology, the entire process needs to be transparent to the public
All of the above	Responses that indicate all engagement methods are important and should be utilized
Uncategorized	Responses that could not be grouped with others and/or that may not be directly applicable to this question

Table 36. Question 14: Open-Ended Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Common media channels	Events	Online surveys	Focus groups	Comment on drafts	Education	Virtual meeting options	Direct engagement with specific stakeholders	Transparent process	All of the above	Uncategorized	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
2 - San Juan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	**2**
3 - Jemez y Sangre	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	**3**
4 - Southwest New Mexico	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	**2**
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
6 - Northwest New Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	**2**
7 - Taos	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	**6**
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	**3**
9 - Colfax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	**1**
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
11 - Lower Rio Grande	0	2	0	1	0	7	0	0	1	2	1	**14**
12 - Middle Rio Grande	2	0	1	0	0	4	1	0	1	1	2	**12**
13 - Estancia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	**1**
14 - Rio Chama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
15 - Socorro-Sierra	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
16 - Lea County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Online	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	2	1	4	3	**15**
Total	**3**	**5**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**18**	**1**	**8**	**5**	**8**	**10**	**62**
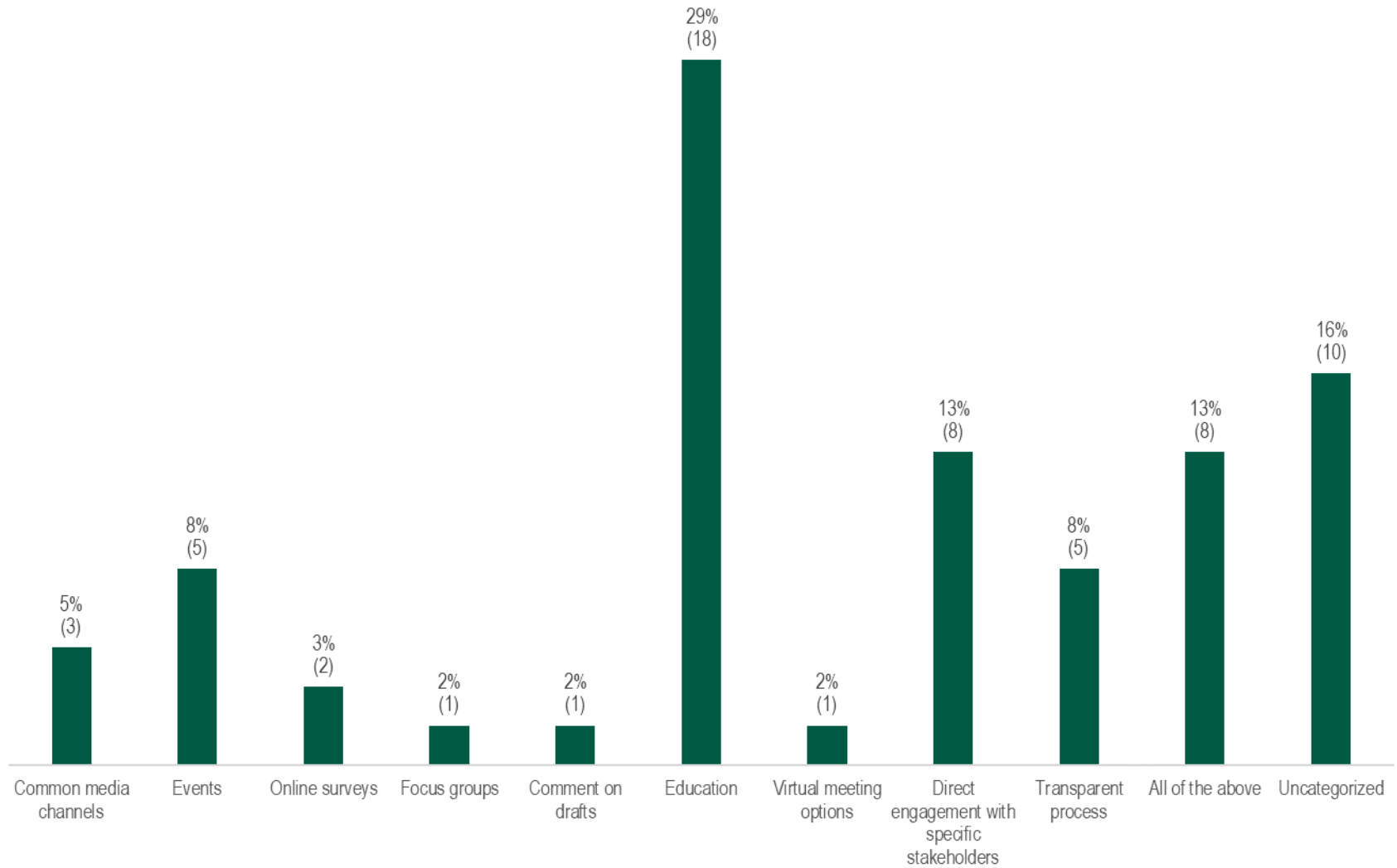
Figure 46. Question 14: Open-Ended Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Q15: Are there any other considerations not highlighted here that should be included in determining who will be involved in regional water planning and how future regional planning entities will function?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Rule 4: The composition of a regional water planning entity
- Guideline 1: The identification of regional stakeholders and opportunities for stakeholder collaboration
- Guideline 2: The public input requirements for regional water planning

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	Use the comment card to provide any other considerations.	
Format	Comment cards for collecting feedback	Comment box for open ended answers.

Open-Ended Responses

The responses to Question 15 align closely to Questions 10 – 14, as reflected in the codes described in Table 37, with the most common open-ended response relating to "Who is on the Planning Entity (Q12)" (40% of coded responses). These responses included comments both on who should, and who should not be, involved on the regional water planning entity. Respondents indicated that ecological interests need to be represented on the planning committee even though they are not a specific "stakeholder." Additionally, there were multiple comments on including youth in the process, as well as subject matter experts.

Comments relating to "Q11: What characteristics should future planning entity members have?", which composed a combined 23% of coded responses, included a handful of comments suggesting that the NMISC consider a mix of personal and professional representation, as well as mix of elected and appointed members. Additionally, responses include several comments requesting clarity on who would be appointing or electing planning members, and indicating the answer may change their response to how and if planning members should be elected.

Other themes including ensuring the process is protected from special interest groups or dominated by specific stakeholders (Planning Process Qualities – 12% of coded responses), as well as involving the public throughout the process and in multiple capacities (Public Involvement – 9% of coded responses).

Table 37. Question 15: Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Planning Process Qualities (Q10)	Responses related to the planning processes characteristics and/or attributes (e.g., flexible, protected from special interest groups, representative of diverse stakeholders, customizable, connected to other goals/processes)
Planning Entity Member Qualities (Q11)	Responses related to the qualities/attributes of members on the planning entity (e.g., reside in New Mexico vs. region, type of experience or background of planning committee members)
Planning Committee Process (Q11)	Responses related to the planning committee processes (e.g., how members get on the board, committee size, terms)
Who is on Planning Entity (Q12)	Responses related to who is or is not on the Planning Entity and in what capacity
Public Involvement (Q12 and Q14)	Responses related to how and in what capacity the public should be involved in the water planning process
Equity and Fairness	Responses related to representation, diversity, and inclusion in the regional planning entity
Uncategorized	Responses that could not be grouped with others and/or that may not be directly applicable to this question

Table 38. Question 15: Open-Ended Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Planning Process Qualities (Q10)	Planning Entity Member Qualities (Q11)	Planning Committee Process (Q11)	Who is on Planning Entity (Q12)	Public Involvement (Q12 and Q14)	Equity and Fairness	Uncategorized	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	5
2 - San Juan	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
3 - Jemez y Sangre	1	8	2	3	0	0	0	14
4 - Southwest New Mexico	0	4	0	2	0	0	2	8
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 - Northwest New Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 - Taos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 - Colfax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	5
11 - Lower Rio Grande	2	4		3	2	1	2	14
12 - Middle Rio Grande	1	2	0	7	1	1	4	16
13 - Estancia	0	4	0	5	0	0	0	9
14 - Rio Chama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 - Socorro-Sierra	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	4
16 - Lea County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Online	17	12	9	54	14	8	9	123
Total	24	34	12	79	18	13	20	200
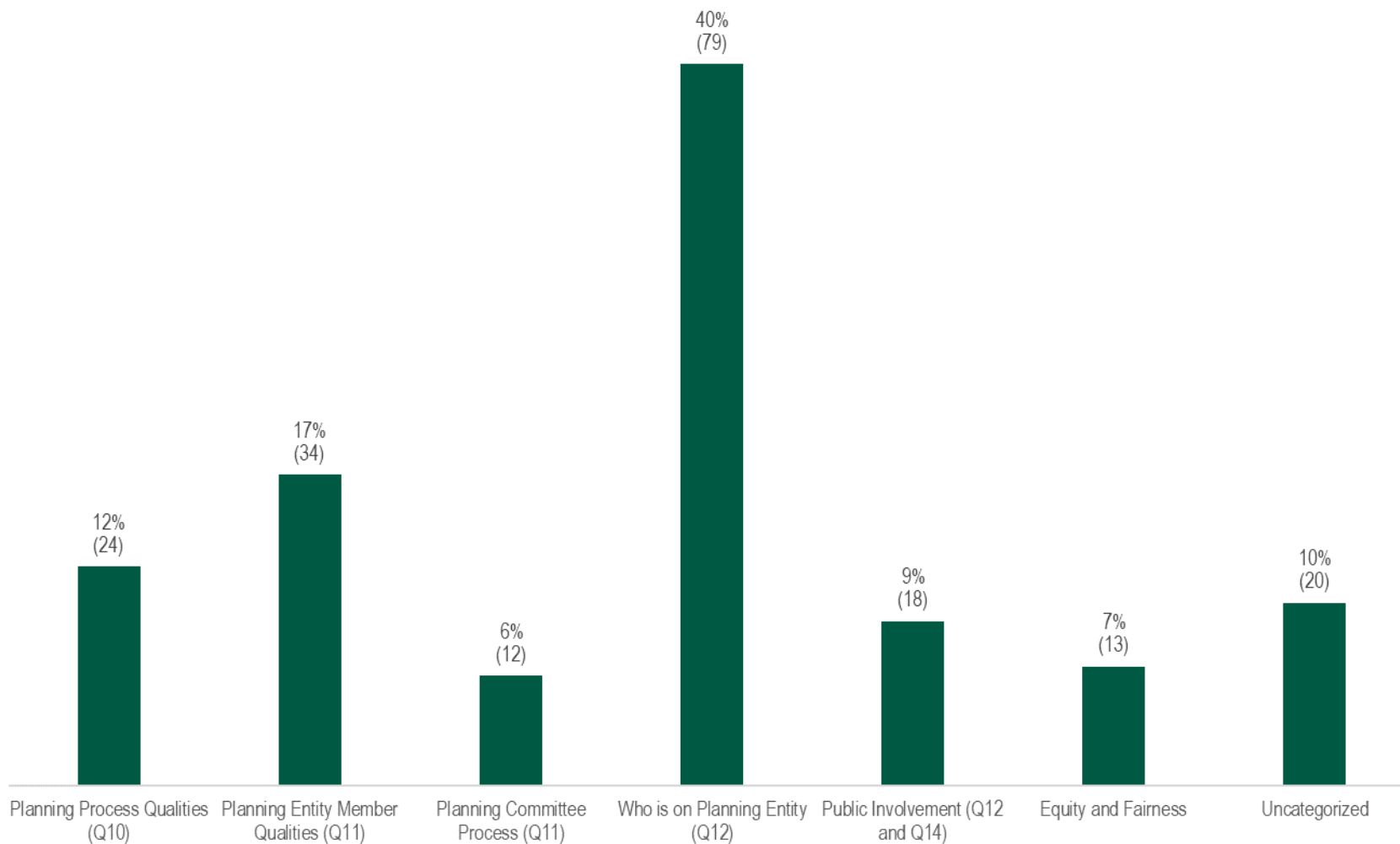
Figure 47. Question 15: Open-Ended Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Q16: What key questions should each regional plan answer?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Rule 2: The criteria for commission approval of a regional water security plan with prioritized projects, programs and policies
- Guideline 6: The metrics for reporting on regional water projects and, programs and policies

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	Place one dot on up to three responses that reflect your top priorities (one dot only per option, three dots total). Use one of the blank squares to describe any other questions that you think the regional plan should answer.	
Format	Two column table with designated dot placement in 2nd column. For the final row of table, provide blank squares for open ended responses.	Checkboxes with ability to select three options and comment box for open ended description of other questions.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Of the fixed choice-options provided "How can the region work to balance water needs to water availability?" was the most common response (17% of responses). The following two most common responses were related fixed-choice responses of "How much water is available?" and "How much water will be available in 2075?" (each 12% of responses). Combined, these related answers account for 41% of responses. While the top answer varies for individual regions, one of these three responses was generally the most common with "How can the region work to balance water needs to water availability?" being the most common responses, except for the Estancia, Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins, and Northwest New Mexico. These three regions all identified "How much water is available?" as the top response. The least selected response was "How was the public involved in developing the regional water plan?" at only 3% of responses.

Open-Ended Responses

Of the open-ended responses the most common responses mirrored the trends in the fixed-choice responses with 30% of coded responses relating to "Future water availability," "Future water need," or "Balancing Water Availability and Needs." The two other most common responses were ensuring "Environmental Impacts" are considered (12% of coded responses) and "All of the above" should be considered at 9% of coded responses.

Table 39. Question 16: Fixed-Choice Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Where does the region's water come from?	How much water is available?	How much water will be available in 2075?	What is the region's current water need?	How much water is used in various sectors in the region?	How much water will be needed in the region in 2075?	How can the region work to balance water needs to water availability?	How was the public involved in developing the regional water plan?	What are the priority strategies (e.g., programs, projects, policies) for the region?	How were strategies prioritized for the region?	Who is responsible for implementing the priority strategies for the region?	What funding or other resources are needed to implement priority strategies for region?	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	9	13	7	6	1	2	11	2	6	4	8	2	71
2 - San Juan	8	11	3	4	9	1	8	2	4	3	3	5	61
3 - Jemez y Sangre	15	9	8	7	10	3	24	3	10	13	13	6	121
4 - Southwest New Mexico	5	18	11	6	8	8	27	5	14	4	10	5	121
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	1	5	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	2	0	1	16
6 - Northwest New Mexico	4	9	6	4	6	3	5	1	7	1	0	4	50
7 - Taos	17	15	17	12	8	6	20	5	7	4	10	7	128
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	2	6	8	2	4	6	7	3	3	6	5	4	56
9 - Colfax	4	4	5	7	0	3	12	3	1	2	6	6	53
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	7	9	8	3	4	3	13	4	3	3	5	6	68
11 - Lower Rio Grande	19	21	27	8	21	12	34	6	12	10	15	15	200
12 - Middle Rio Grande	9	17	29	9	15	12	32	7	20	6	14	13	183
13 - Estancia	5	20	7	5	3	6	13	10	2	4	7	3	85
14 - Rio Chama	2	2	4	5	2	2	6	0	2	1	3	2	31
15 - Socorro-Sierra	11	16	13	8	7	8	24	4	9	3	6	12	121
16 - Lea County	2	6	4	2	1	5	9	1	6	2	6	1	45
Online	68	76	83	52	63	37	111	12	67	16	36	46	667
Total	**188**	**257**	**241**	**141**	**163**	**119**	**357**	**68**	**174**	**84**	**147**	**138**	**2,077**
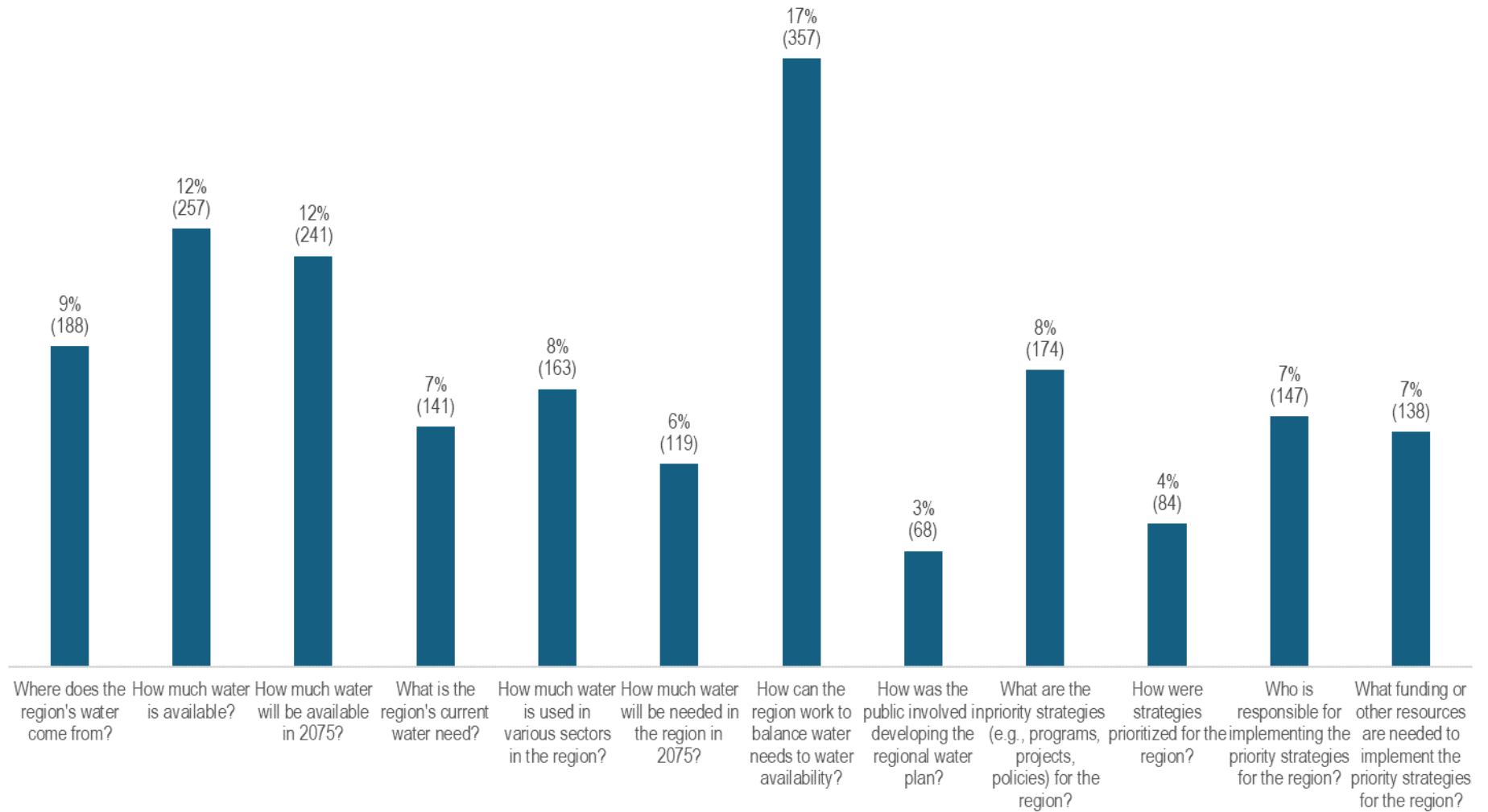
Figure 48. Question 16: Fixed-Choice Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Table 40. Question 16: Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Water source	Responses related to where a region's water comes from
Water availability now	Responses related to how much water is available now
Future water availability	Responses related to how much water will be available in the future including the impacts of factors like climate change on future water supply
Current water need	Responses related to how much water a region currently needs based on current uses
Volume used by different users	Responses related to how much water is used by a region's different sectors (e.g., agriculture vs. residential)
Future water need	Responses related to how much water a region will need in the future
Balancing Water Availability and Needs	Responses related to how to balance a region's water availability with its needs
Public involvement	Responses related to how the public was involved in developing the regional water plan
Regional strategy identification	Responses related to the priority programs, projects, and policies identified in the regional plan
Regional strategy prioritization	Responses related how to select the regional strategies (e.g., programs, projects and policies) listed in the regional water plan
Roles and Responsibilities	Responses related to who is implementing the strategies identified in the regional water plan
Funding and Resources	Responses related to funding and resources needed to implement the regional strategies
Area's Water History	Responses related to the historical or social context of the region.
Environmental Impacts	Responses related to the ecological or environmental impacts of regional water planning decisions (e.g., water quality, habitat, impacts to stream/river health, etc.)
Economic considerations	Responses related to economic impacts of regional water planning in a region
Agricultural	Responses related to agriculture (includes comments related to water conservation in agricultural sector as well as preserving agriculture)
All of the above	Responses that indicate all of the fixed-choice answers should be tracked
Uncategorized	Responses that could not be grouped with others and/or that may not be directly applicable to this question

Table 41. Question 16: Open-Ended Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Water source	Water availability now	Future water availability	Current water need	Volume used by different users	Future water need	Balancing Water Availability and Needs	Public involvement	Regional strategy identification	Regional strategy prioritization	Roles and Responsibilities	Funding and Resources	Area's Water History	Environmental Impacts	Economic considerations	Agricultural	All of the above	Uncategorized	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
2 - San Juan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 - Jemez y Sangre	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3	1	0	1	0	10
4 - Southwest New Mexico	0	3	0	3	2	5	2	5	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 - Northwest New Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	5
7 - Taos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
9 - Colfax	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
11 - Lower Rio Grande	3	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	10
12 - Middle Rio Grande	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	1	0	2	1	15
13 - Estancia	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	8
14 - Rio Chama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 - Socorro-Sierra	0	1	1	0	1	1	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	17
16 - Lea County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Online	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	6	2	19
Total	4	5	12	4	5	12	12	5	8	6	6	2	3	12	4	4	11	8	123
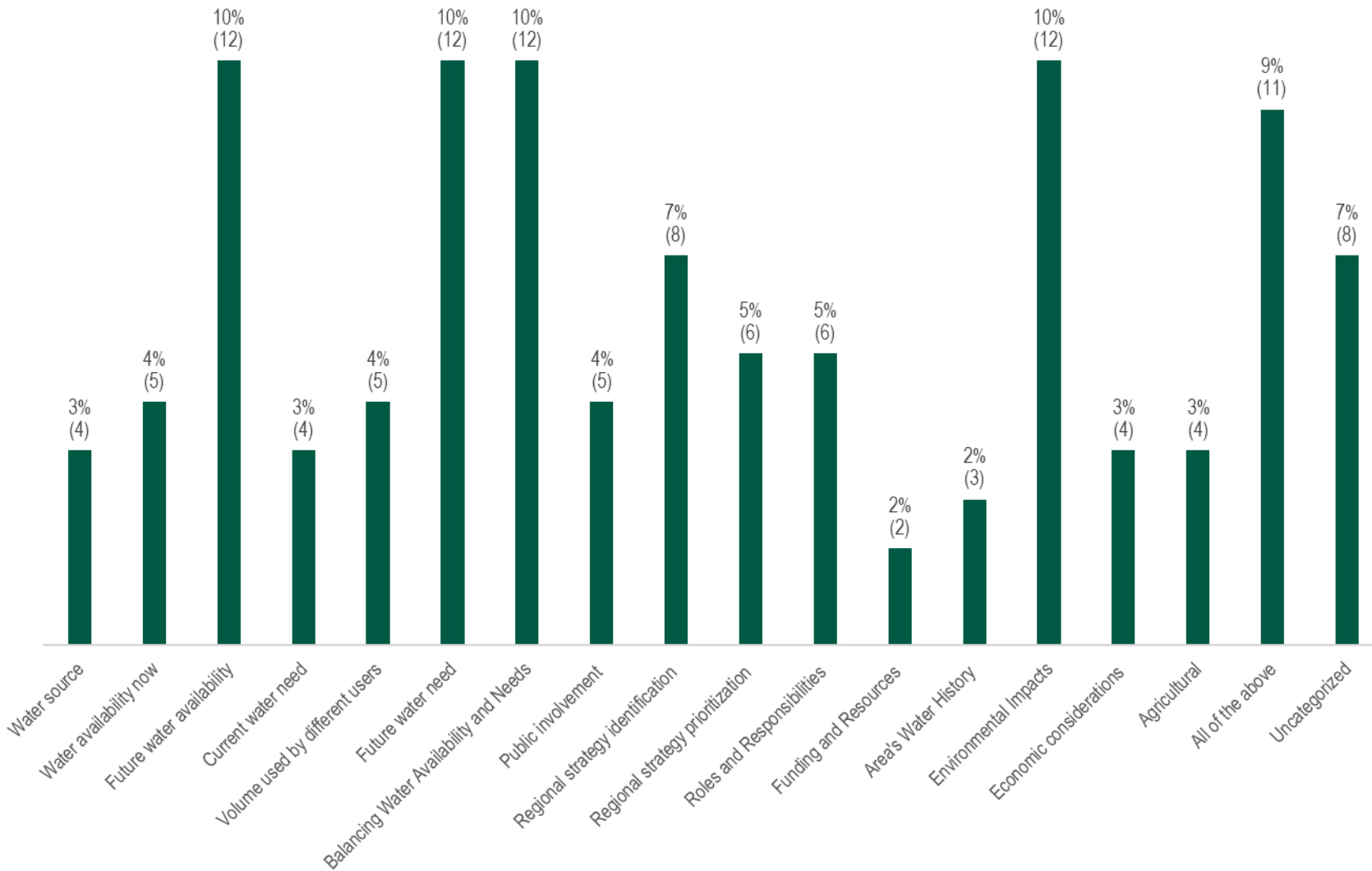
Figure 49. Question 16: Open-Ended Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Q17: What types of implementation strategies should be included in regional water plans to create a balanced water future?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- N/A

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	Place one dot on up to three responses that reflect your top priorities (one dot only per option, three dots total). Use the blank squares to identify any other types of implementation strategies.	
Format	Two column table with designated dot placement in 2nd column. For the final row of table, provide blank squares for open ended responses.	Checkboxes with ability to select up to three options and comment box for open ended description of other strategies.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Of the fixed choice-options the most common response was "Agricultural water efficiency and conservation" (19% of responses). "Watershed health & protection" and "Groundwater health & protection" closely followed at 18% and 16% of responses, respectively. Looking across regions, while "Agricultural water efficiency and conservation" was typically the most common answer there was some variation with "Watershed health & protection" or "Groundwater health & protection" ranking higher in certain regions. "Outreach and education" was the highest for Northwest New Mexico and Lower Pecos Valley. Additionally, Estancia was the only region to rank "Water storage" as one of the top responses and Lea County was the only region to rank "Water infrastructure improvements" as a top response. For all regions "Recreation water use protection" ranked the lowest.

Open-Ended Responses

Of the open-ended responses, the most common responses mirrored the trends in the fixed-choice responses with responses related to "Watershed health and protection" having the highest percentage (16% of coded responses) followed by "Agricultural water efficiency and conservation" (12% of coded responses). Additionally, there were various responses related to "Municipal and household water efficiency and conservation" (11% of coded responses) and "Water reuse and reclamation" (11% of responses) with many respondents commenting on agricultural, municipal water efficiency, and/or water reuse and reclamation together. Comment

related to "Water Administration" centered around protecting water rights and following/enforcing prior appropriation of water rights.

Table 42. Question 17: Fixed-Choice Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Outreach and education	Municipal and household water efficiency and conservation	Agricultural water efficiency and conservation	Water storage	Water infrastructure improvements	Water sharing agreements	Watershed health & protection	Groundwater health & protection	Recreational water use protection	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	3	8	12	5	7	4	9	13	2	63
2 - San Juan	8	5	11	7	10	1	8	6	3	59
3 - Jemez y Sangre	9	16	11	4	9	5	19	20	3	96
4 - Southwest New Mexico	5	19	23	8	15	3	23	25	3	124
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	1	3	5	0	1	0	3	2	0	15
6 - Northwest New Mexico	11	2	4	5	8	2	8	4	1	45
7 - Taos	10	13	20	5	14	9	24	20	1	116
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	7	7	8	3	8	7	7	4	1	52
9 - Colfax	8	3	17	4	9	0	7	9	0	57
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	13	5	12	2	9	1	13	9	2	66
11 - Lower Rio Grande	24	12	38	12	7	12	37	31	8	181
12 - Middle Rio Grande	25	15	31	7	18	20	29	36	6	187
13 - Estancia	0	2	3	3	2	1	3	1	0	15
14 - Rio Chama	2	1	8	2	6	5	6	4	0	34
15 - Socorro-Sierra	12	10	23	5	18	6	23	16	2	115
16 - Lea County	7	8	3	1	9	0	5	7	0	40
Online	67	80	130	29	81	33	117	106	13	656
Total	**212**	**209**	**359**	**102**	**231**	**109**	**341**	**313**	**45**	**1,921**
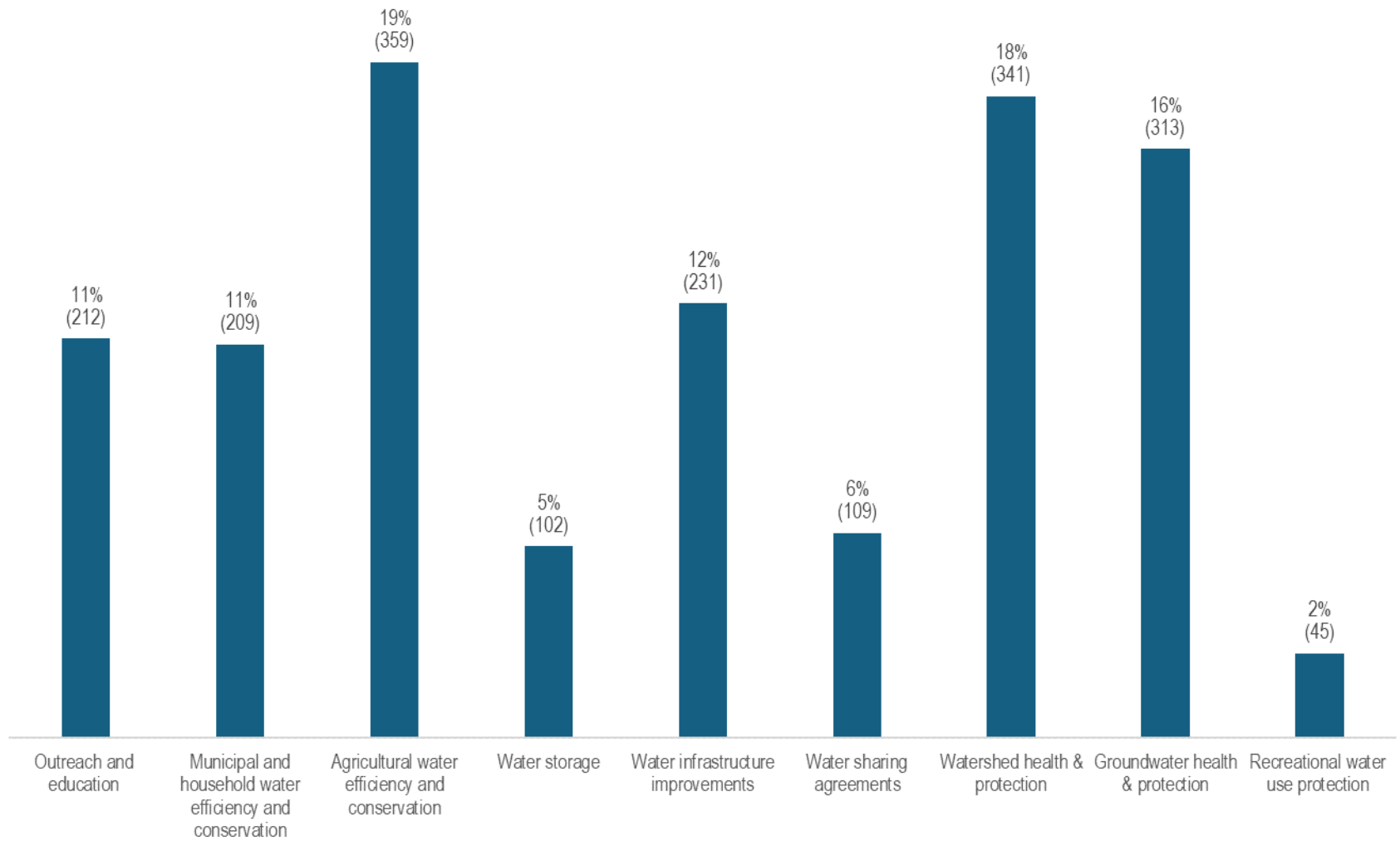
Figure 50. Question 17: Fixed-Choice Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Table 43. Question 17: Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Outreach and education	Responses related to developing awareness in the public including K-12 education, or other events for the general public
Municipal and household water efficiency and conservation	Responses related to water efficiency or conservation at the household, town, city, county, or municipal level
Agricultural water efficiency and conservation	Responses related to agricultural water efficiency or conservation
Water storage	Responses related to water storage solutions (e.g., reservoirs, aquifer storage and recovery)
Water infrastructure improvements	Responses related to water infrastructure improvements (e.g., distribution systems, advanced water treatment, metering)
Water sharing agreements	Responses related to water sharing agreements (e.g., water sharing agreements for droughts or emergencies)
Watershed health and protection	Responses related to watershed health and protection, including rivers, streams, lakes, and ecological considerations
Groundwater health and protection	Responses related to the protection of groundwater sources
Recreational water use protection	Responses related to protecting streams, rivers, and lakes for recreational purposes
Water reuse and reclamation	Responses related to water reuse, graywater, and rainwater collection
Growth and development	Responses related to community growth and development (e.g., non-functional turf rules, development restrictions)
Data and tracking	Responses related to including data tracking or modeling as a implementation strategy
Partnerships	Responses related to partnering across sectors or regions
Water Administration	Responses related to how water is administered (e.g., water right administration, compact compliance, etc.)
Uncategorized	Responses that could not be grouped with others and/or that may not be directly applicable to this question
All of the above	Responses that indicate all of the fixed-choice answers should be included

Table 44. Question 17: Open-Ended Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

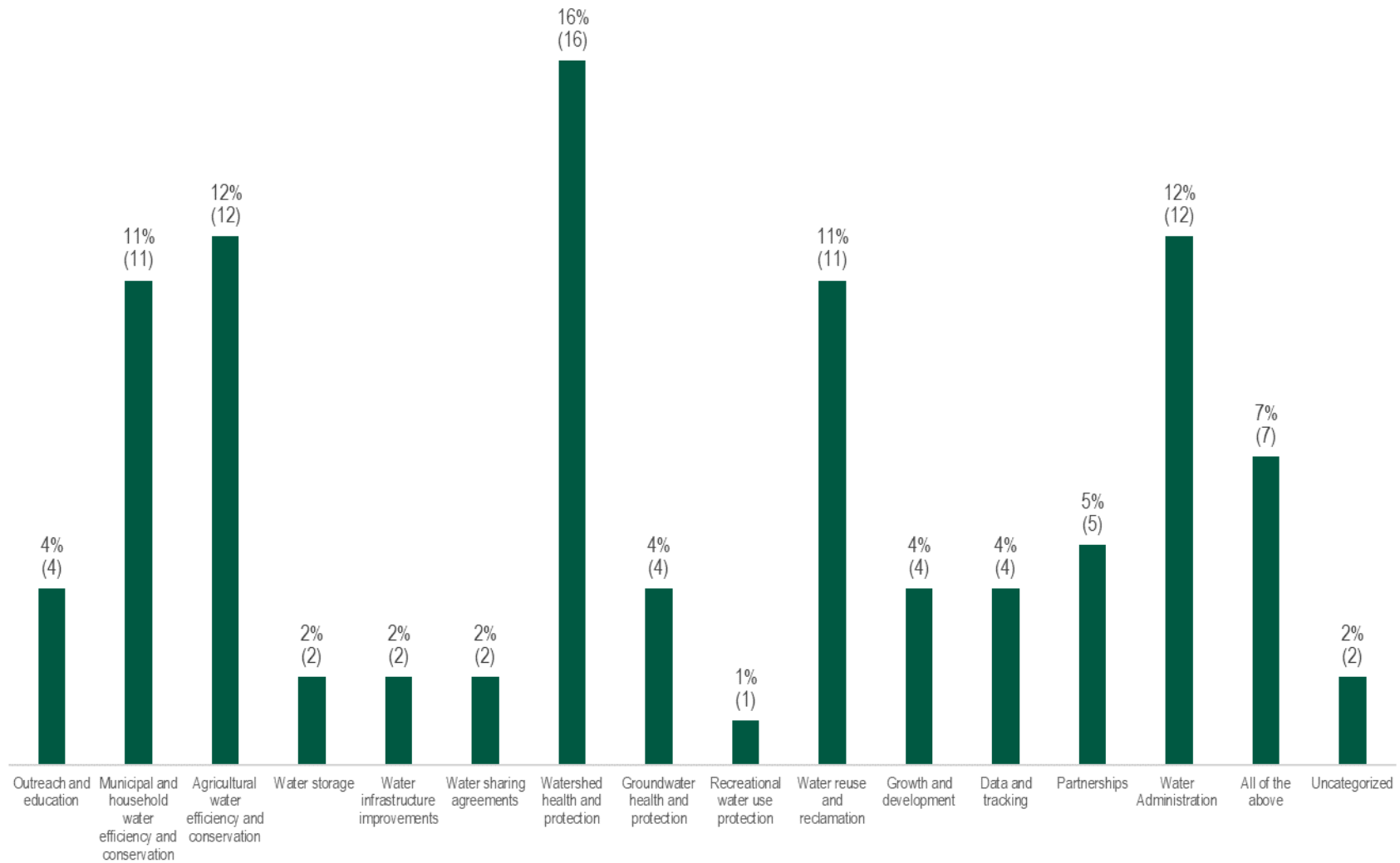| Region	Outreach and education	Municipal and household water	Agricultural water efficiency and	Water storage	Water infrastructure improvements	Water sharing agreements	Watershed health and protection	Groundwater health and protection	Recreational water use protection	Water reuse and reclamation	Growth and development	Data and tracking	Partnerships	Water Administration	All of the above	Uncategorized	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
2 - San Juan	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**2**
3 - Jemez y Sangre	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	**5**
4 - Southwest New Mexico	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	**11**
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
6 - Northwest New Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
7 - Taos	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	**9**
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
9 - Colfax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	**5**
11 - Lower Rio Grande	2	1	2	0	2	1	4	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	**18**
12 - Middle Rio Grande	1	1	6	0	0	0	4	1	0	1	1	0	0	6	0	0	**21**
13 - Estancia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
14 - Rio Chama	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**2**
15 - Socorro-Sierra	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	**2**
16 - Lea County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	**3**
Online	0	2	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	5	1	**19**
Total	**4**	**11**	**12**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**16**	**4**	**1**	**11**	**4**	**4**	**5**	**12**	**7**	**2**	**99**

Figure 51. Question 17: Open-Ended Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Q18: What key information would you like to know about the water projects, programs, and policies happening in your region?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Guideline 6: The metrics for reporting on regional water projects, programs, and policies

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	Place one dot on up to three responses that reflect your top priorities (one dot only per option, three dots total). Use the blank squares to identify any other things that you would like to know about water projects, programs, and policies	
Format	Two column table with designated dot placement in 2nd column. For the final row of table, provide blank squares for open ended responses.	Checkboxes with ability to select up to three options and comment box for open ended description of information.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Of the fixed choice-options the most common response was "Impact on water balance" (26% of responses). This aligns with "Q16: What key questions should each regional plan answer?" whose top answer was "How can the region work to balance water needs to water availability?" The other two top responses were "Type of project, program, or policy" and "Ecological impacts" (each at 21%). This trend was reflected across most regions, with the exception of San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe, whose participants also ranked "Cultural impacts" as a top response.

Open-Ended Responses

Question 18 only had 49 associated comments, with many regions providing no or only a few comments. There was substantial variation in the comments received, with "Impact on water balance" emerging as the most common open-ended response coded theme, followed by "Ecological impacts." This mirrored the fixed-choice responses with "Impact on water balance" and "Ecological impacts" accounting for 19% and 13% of coded responses respectively.

Table 45. Question 18: Fixed-Choice Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Type of project, program, or policy	Location	Cost	Timeline	Impact on water balance	Time sensitivity/urgency	Cultural impacts (e.g., number of people impacted)	Ecological impacts	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	7	9	9	2	17	8	2	6	60
2 - San Juan	14	6	4	0	13	0	5	5	47
3 - Jemez y Sangre	16	3	4	4	29	6	15	25	102
4 - Southwest New Mexico	24	5	6	3	31	6	6	28	109
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	4	1	1	0	4	1	3	1	15
6 - Northwest New Mexico	6	5	3	0	11	1	5	8	39
7 - Taos	27	2	3	5	25	4	12	29	107
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	9	4	6	2	7	2	8	9	47
9 - Colfax	11	7	5	1	7	3	1	5	40
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	16	5	2	3	18	4	2	6	56
11 - Lower Rio Grande	39	6	9	12	45	13	20	46	190
12 - Middle Rio Grande	24	10	9	9	44	11	33	48	188
13 - Estancia	0	1	3	2	4	2	0	3	15
14 - Rio Chama	8	3	2	0	2	3	5	6	29
15 - Socorro-Sierra	23	5	3	9	31	3	9	32	115
16 - Lea County	11	3	4	4	10	0	0	7	39
Online	143	44	43	36	178	38	43	121	646
Total	**382**	**119**	**116**	**92**	**476**	**105**	**169**	**385**	**1,844**
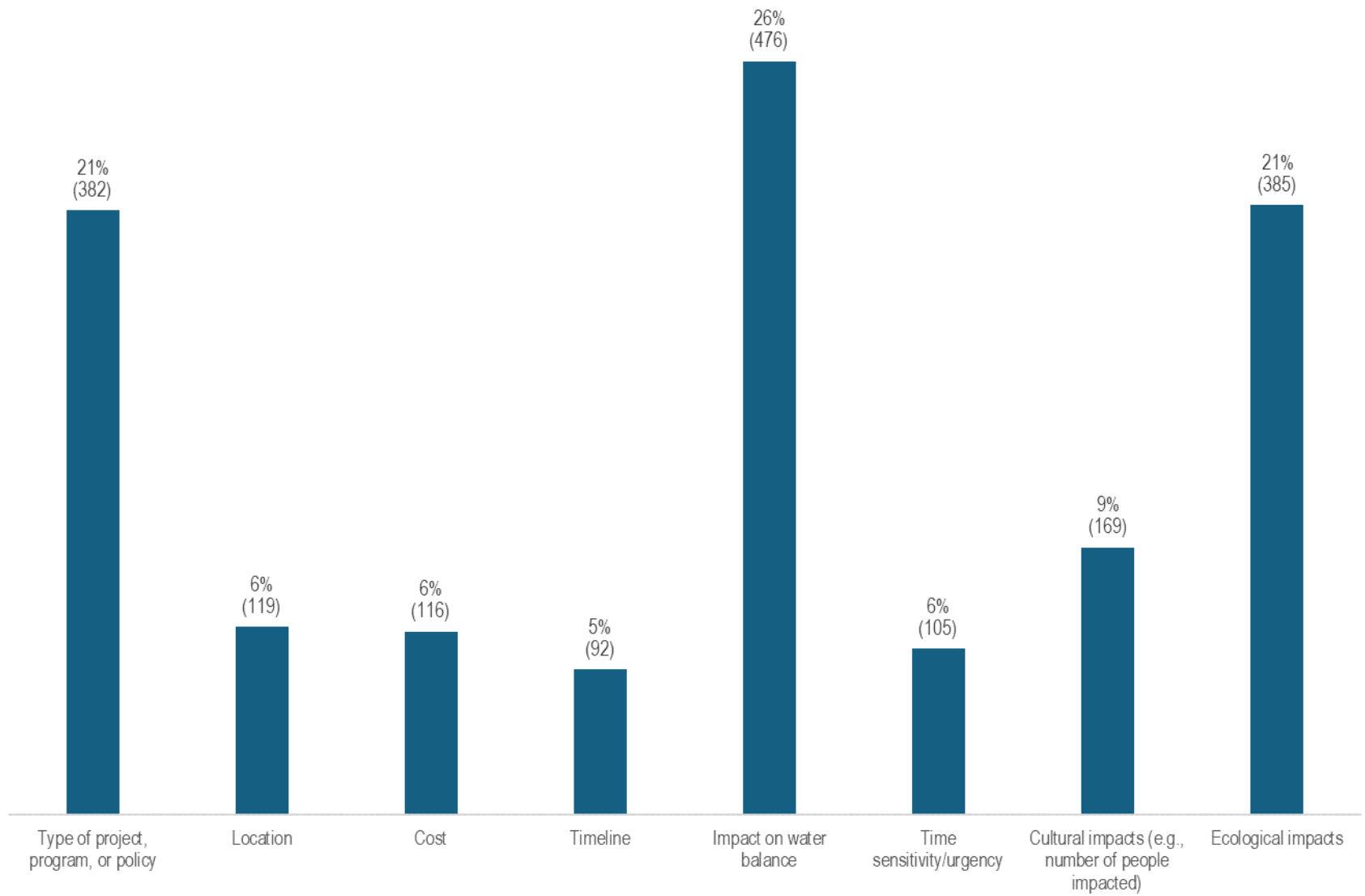
Figure 52. Question 18: Fixed-Choice Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Table 46. Question 18: Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Type of project, project, or policy	Responses related to categorizing the type of project, program, or policy taking place
Location	Responses related to where projects, programs, or policies are taking place
Cost	Responses related to how much a project, program, or policy costs
Timeline	Responses related to how long it will take to implement a project, program, or policy
Impact on water balance	Responses related to how a project, program, or policy will or will not balance an area's water needs with the available water supply
Time sensitivity/urgency	Responses related to how important a project is for an area
Cultural Impacts	Responses related to how people or places will be affected
Ecological impacts	Responses focused on ecological, or ecosystem impacts to riparian areas or animals or lakes
Water quality information	Responses related to understanding the impact on water quality for drinking water sources (e.g., stream and aquifer health for the purposes of drinking water)
Transparency/ accountability	Responses related to ensuring information and progress on a region's projects, programs, and policies are tracked to ensure plans and implemented and that impacts are shared publicly
All of the above	Responses that indicate all the fixed-choice responses should be tracked
Uncategorized	Responses that could not be grouped with others and/or that may not be directly applicable to this question

Table 47. Question 18: Open-Ended Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

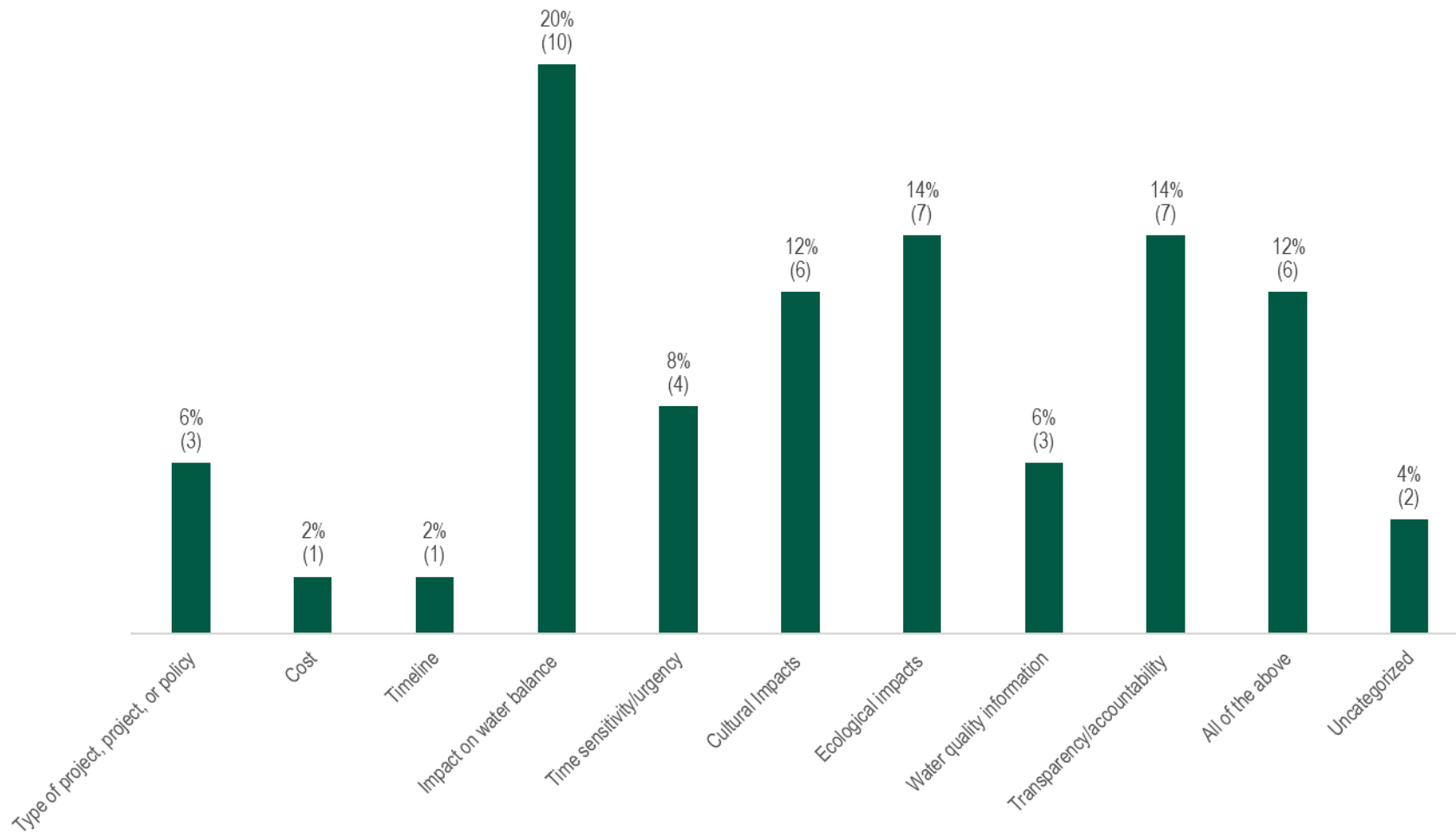| Region	Type of project, project, or policy	Cost	Timeline	Impact on water balance	Time sensitivity/urgency	Cultural impacts	Ecological impacts	Water quality information	Transparency/accountability	All of the above	Uncategorized	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3
2 - San Juan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 - Jemez y Sangre	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
4 - Southwest New Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 - Northwest New Mexico	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
7 - Taos	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 - Colfax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
11 - Lower Rio Grande	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	1	0	0	1	8
12 - Middle Rio Grande	1	0	0	4	1	2	3	1	1	0	0	13
13 - Estancia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 - Rio Chama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
15 - Socorro-Sierra	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
16 - Lea County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Online	1	1	0	2	0	2	1	1	3	4	0	15
Total	**3**	**1**	**1**	**10**	**4**	**6**	**7**	**3**	**7**	**6**	**2**	**50**

Figure 53. Question 18: Open-Ended Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Q19: What information is most important to track in the regional water planning process?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Guideline 6: The metrics for reporting on regional water projects, programs, and policies

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	Place one dot on up to three responses that reflect your top priorities (one dot only per option, three dots total). Use the blank squares to identify anything else that is important to track.	
Format	Two column table with designated dot placement in 2nd column. For the final row of table, provide blank squares for open ended responses.	Checkboxes with ability to select up to three options and comment box for open ended description of other information.

Fixed-Choice Responses

There was variation in the fixed-choice responses. Top answers across all regions include "Contributions to long-term water security for the region "and "Ability to achieve local water balance objectives" for a combined 32% of responses, 20% and 12% respectively, which aligns with earlier questions' identification of the importance of understanding a regions water balance. Across regions, five indicated that "Ability for local entities to implement plans and obstacles encountered" as the top response. Northwest New Mexico, Lower Rio Grande, and Rio Chama also ranked "Climate change impacts" as a top response.

Open-Ended Responses

Question 19 only had 47 associated comments, with many regions not providing any related comments and a lot of variation amongst the types of comments received. The most common open-ended responses related to "Ecological and environmental impacts" (23% of coded responses).

Table 48. Question 19: Fixed-Choice Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Ability for local entities to implement plans and obstacles encountered	Ability to secure funding for plan implementation	Contributions to long-term water security for the region	Ability to achieve local water balance objectives	Contribution to statewide water objectives	Number of projects, programs or policies implemented	Amount of funding received	Amount of water conserved	Number of people involved in the planning process	Number of people impacted by plan implementation	Ability to identify and implement shortage sharing or alternative administration	Impacts to underserved communities	Climate change impacts	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	9	11	6	8	1	1	3	10	0	4	3	2	4	62
2 - San Juan	8	6	3	5	0	1	2	10	0	1	3	1	0	40
3 - Jemez y Sangre	14	7	18	6	6	3	1	4	1	0	8	11	15	94
4 - Southwest New Mexico	15	7	34	10	1	3	1	3	5	5	15	4	13	116
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	11
6 - Northwest New Mexico	8	4	3	6	1	2	4	5	0	1	1	2	8	45
7 - Taos	19	5	21	16	3	2	0	4	2	3	4	17	18	114
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	12	10	6	2	0	2	1	4	3	0	2	8	4	54
9 - Colfax	4	6	11	4	0	0	1	6	0	5	5	1	2	45
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	12	3	13	9	2	1	0	7	0	3	4	0	4	58
11 - Lower Rio Grande	14	7	34	7	4	6	4	28	2	9	11	22	36	184
12 - Middle Rio Grande	22	12	33	14	1	5	4	9	3	6	12	17	27	165
13 - Estancia	1	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	16
14 - Rio Chama	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	1	8	24
15 - Socorro-Sierra	20	4	27	10	3	1	3	2	0	5	6	16	18	115
16 - Lea County	2	5	11	3	0	8	1	4	0	5	4	2	1	46
Online	72	56	134	104	14	11	10	45	9	18	53	37	80	643
Total	**238**	**147**	**359**	**213**	**37**	**47**	**36**	**144**	**25**	**66**	**138**	**141**	**241**	**1,832**

20%
(359)

13%
(238)

13%
(241)

12%
(213)

8%
(147)

8%
(144)

8%
(138)

8%
(141)

4%
(66)

3%
(47)

2%
(37)

2%
(36)

1%
(25)

Ability for local entities to implement plans and obstacles encountered

Ability to secure funding for plan implementation

Contributions to long-term water security for the region

Ability to achieve local water balance objectives

Contribution to statewide water objectives

Number of projects, programs or policies implemented

Amount of funding received

Amount of water conserved

Number of people involved in the planning process

Number of people impacted by plan implementation

Ability to identify and implement shortage sharing or alternative administration strategies

Impacts to underserved communities

Climate change impacts

Figure 54. Question 19: Fixed-Choice Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Table 49. Question 19: Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Ability to implement	Responses related to the ability for local entities to implement plans, policies, or programs (e.g., staffing support or subject matter expertise)
Ability to secure funding	Responses related to funding plans, policies or programs
Water security	Responses related to the ability to achieve long-term water security for the region
Water balance	Responses related to the ability to to achieve water balance (e.g., balance water needs with available supply)
Number of projects, programs, or policies implemented	Responses related to the quantification of projects, programs, or policies implemented
Funding received	Responses related to documentation and tracking of the funding received for implementation
People involved in the process	Responses related to the number and type of people involved in the planning process
People impacted by the process	Responses related to the number and type of people impacted by projects or plans
Impacts to underserved communities	Responses related to understanding impacts to historically underserved or underrepresented communities
Ecological and environmental impacts	Responses related to the ecological or environmental impacts of regional water planning decisions (e.g., water quality, habitat, impacts to stream/river health, etc.)
Education and awareness	Responses related to developing awareness in the public including K-12 education, or other events for the general public
All of the above	Responses that indicate all of the fixed-choice responses should be tracked
Uncategorized	Responses that could not be grouped with others and/or that may not be directly applicable to this question

Table 50. Question 19: Open-Ended Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

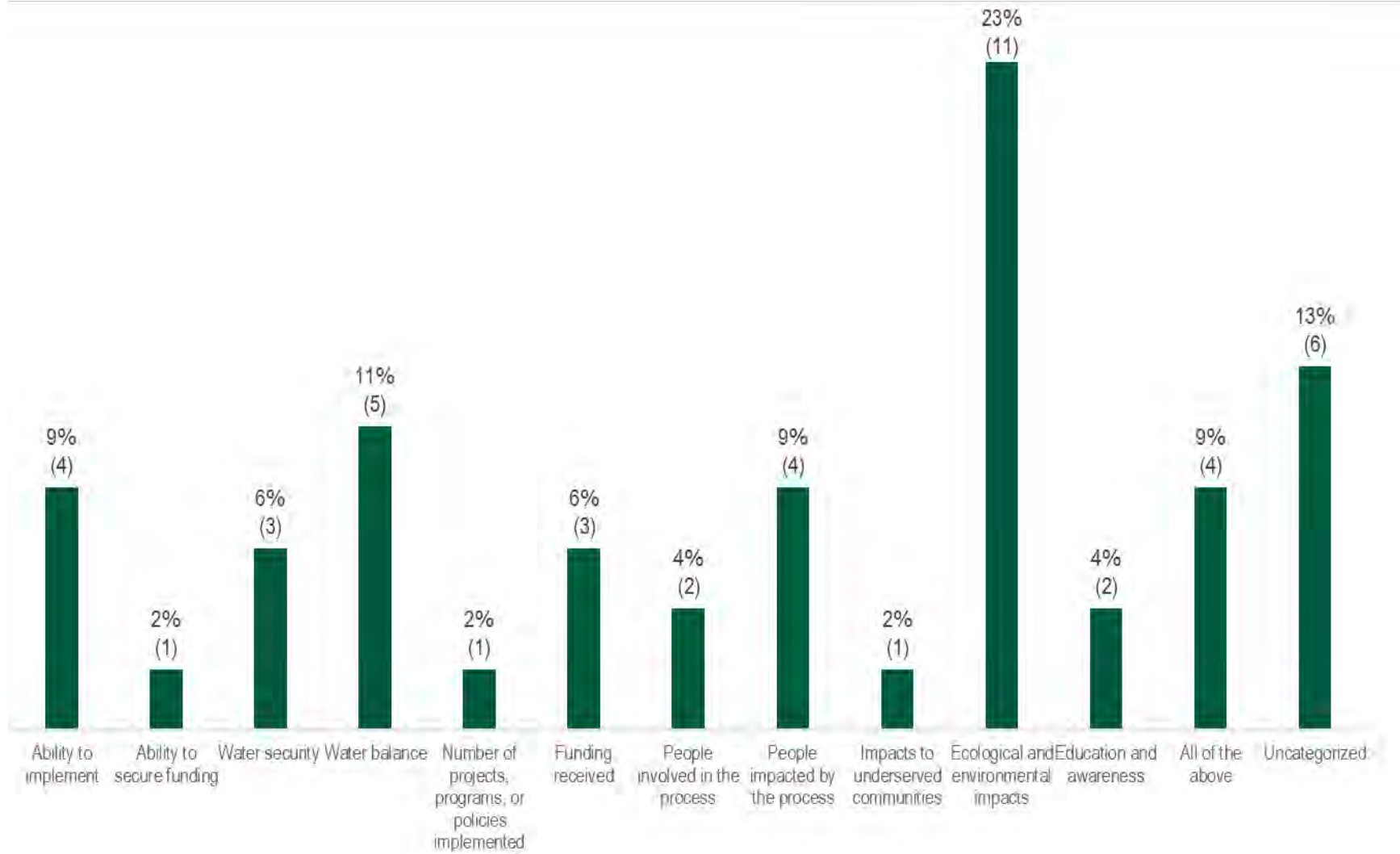| Region	Ability to implement	Ability to secure funding	Water security	Water balance	Number of projects, programs, or policies implemented	Funding received	People involved in the process	People impacted by the process	Impacts to underserved communities	Ecological and environmental impacts	Education and awareness	All of the above	Uncategorized	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	**2**
2 - San Juan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
3 - Jemez y Sangre	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**2**
4 - Southwest New Mexico	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**4**
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
6 - Northwest New Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
7 - Taos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	**1**
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
9 - Colfax	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	**2**
11 - Lower Rio Grande	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	**7**
12 - Middle Rio Grande	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	5	0	0	1	**8**
13 - Estancia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
14 - Rio Chama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
15 - Socorro-Sierra	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	**6**
16 - Lea County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Online	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	3	0	2	0	2	2	**14**
Total	**4**	**1**	**3**	**5**	**1**	**3**	**2**	**4**	**1**	**11**	**2**	**4**	**6**	**47**

Figure 55. Question 19: Open-Ended Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Q20: To help us better understand your perspective on public welfare, please express how strong you agree or disagree.

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Rule 3: The procedure for a regional water planning entity to develop and provide notice to the commission of issues and concerns relating to the public welfare of the water planning region
- Rule 5: The procedure for a regional water planning entity to consider public welfare values and the needs of future generations of New Mexicans

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	N/A	
Format	N/A	Matrix with ability to select one option in the spectrum of agree strongly to disagree strongly for each concept.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Question 20 asked online open house participants to indicate their degree of agreement with a series of statements related to public welfare. Most respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with 6 out of the 7 statements listed, indicating support for fair and broad input on issues concerning public welfare, consideration of issues raised by regional planning entities, and explanation by the State Engineer of public welfare issues in permit application proceedings. However, only 48% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with a statement that determinations as to public welfare issues should not be binding on the State Engineer, and 36% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with that statement.

To help us better understand your perspective on public welfare, please express how strongly you agree or disagree. (Select one choice for each row):
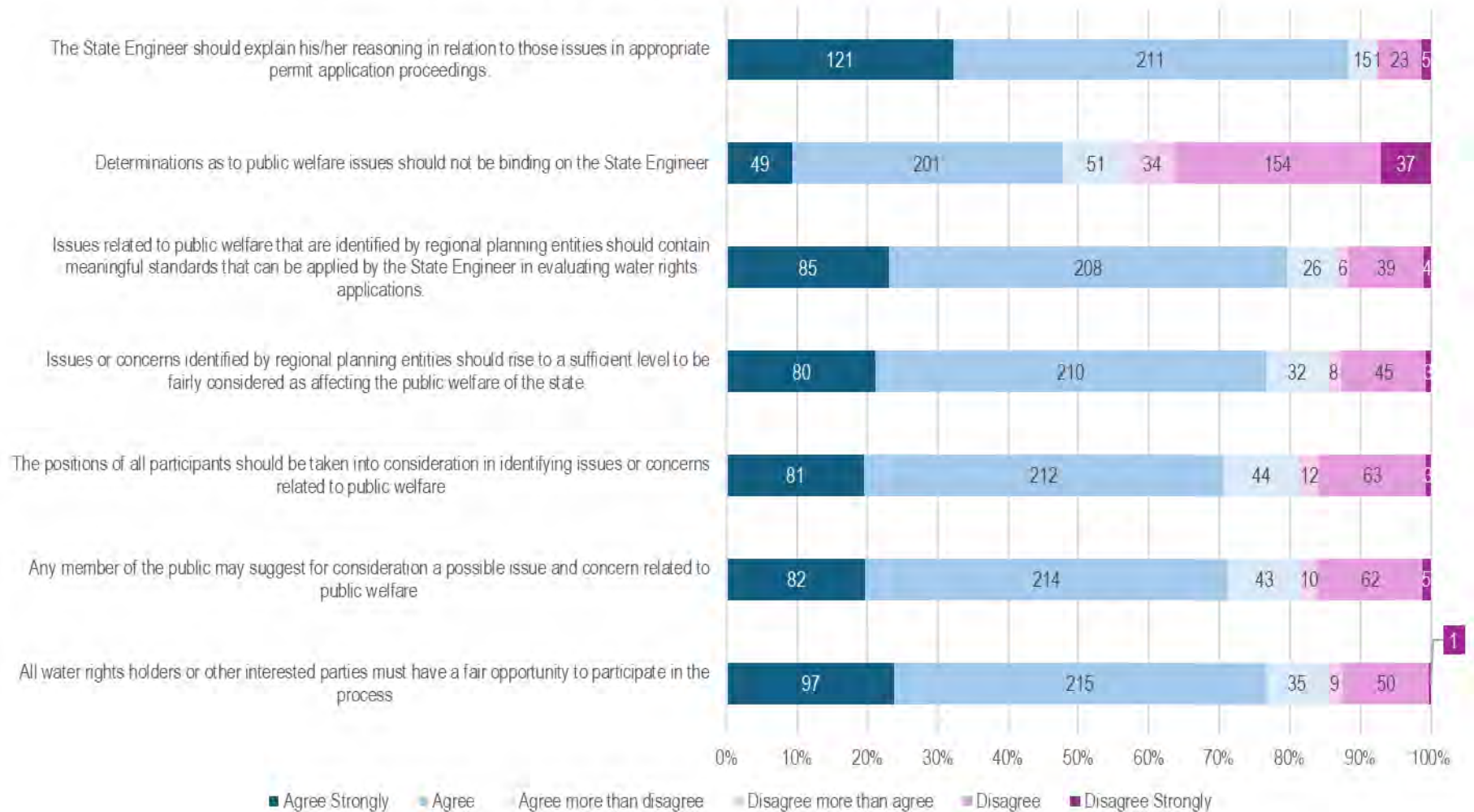
Figure 56. Question 20: Fixed-Choice Results for Online Survey Responses

Q21: Do you have additional comments on public welfare that you would like NMISC to consider?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Rule 3: The procedure for a regional water planning entity to develop and provide notice to the commission of issues and concerns relating to the public welfare of the water planning region
- Rule 5: The procedure for a regional water planning entity to consider public welfare values and the needs of future generations of New Mexicans

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	N/A	
Format	N/A	Comment box for open ended answers.

Open-Ended Responses

Question 21 provided an opportunity for online open house participants to expand on their selections for Question 20 and provide additional comments related to public welfare. A total of 71 comments were received, and they were evenly distributed between those focused on the "Process for defining Public Welfare" (31%), the approach to "Implementation of Public Welfare considerations" (22%), and specific ideas for the "Components of Public Welfare" (40%). Among comments on specific components of public welfare, environmental and wildlife considerations emerged as a common theme.

Table 51. Question 21: Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Process for defining Public Welfare	Responses related to the process for defining public welfare (e.g., who should be involved, interests that should be represented)
Implementation of Public Welfare considerations	Responses related to the process and approach for considering public welfare in water planning (e.g., funding, control of implementation, approach)
Components of Public Welfare	Responses related to specific components of public welfare that should be considered (e.g., climate change, wildlife and habitat, water use sectors)
Uncategorized	Responses that could not be grouped with others and/or that may not be directly applicable to this question

Table 52. Question 21: Open-Ended Results for Online Survey Responses

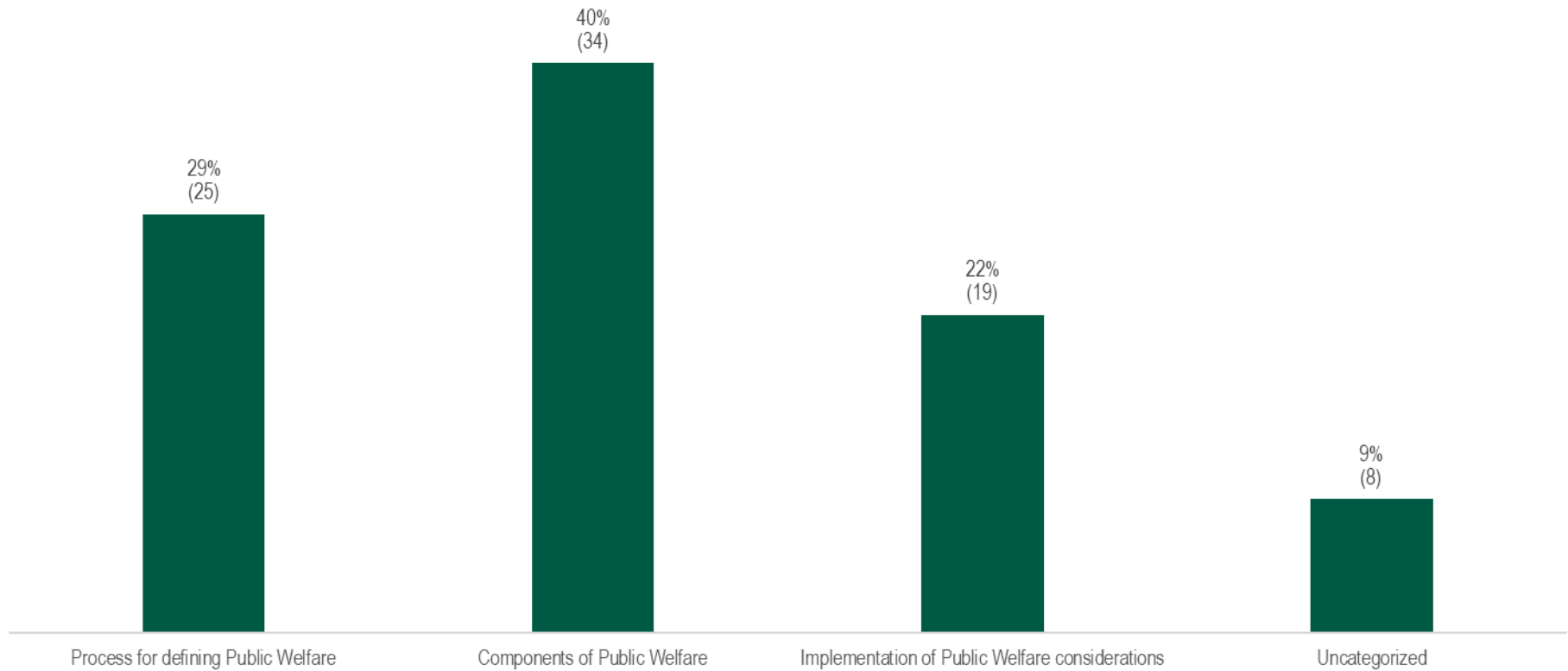| Region	Process for defining Public Welfare	Components of Public Welfare	Implementation of Public Welfare considerations	Uncategorized	Total
Online	25	34	19	8	86

Figure 57. Question 21: Open-Ended Results for Online Survey Responses

Q22: Who should be eligible to apply for grants or loans for planning activities?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Guideline 3: The requirements for a proposal for grants or loans for planning activities

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	N/A	
Format	N/A	Multiple choice.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Question 22 asked respondents to provide input on who should be eligible to apply for grants or loans to support regional water planning activities. A majority (74%) of respondents indicated that both future regional water planning entities and other sub-divisions of the state (e.g., municipalities, soil and water conservation districts, acequias, water utilities and county governments) should be eligible to apply for funding.

Table 53. Question 22: Fixed-Choice Results for Online Survey Responses

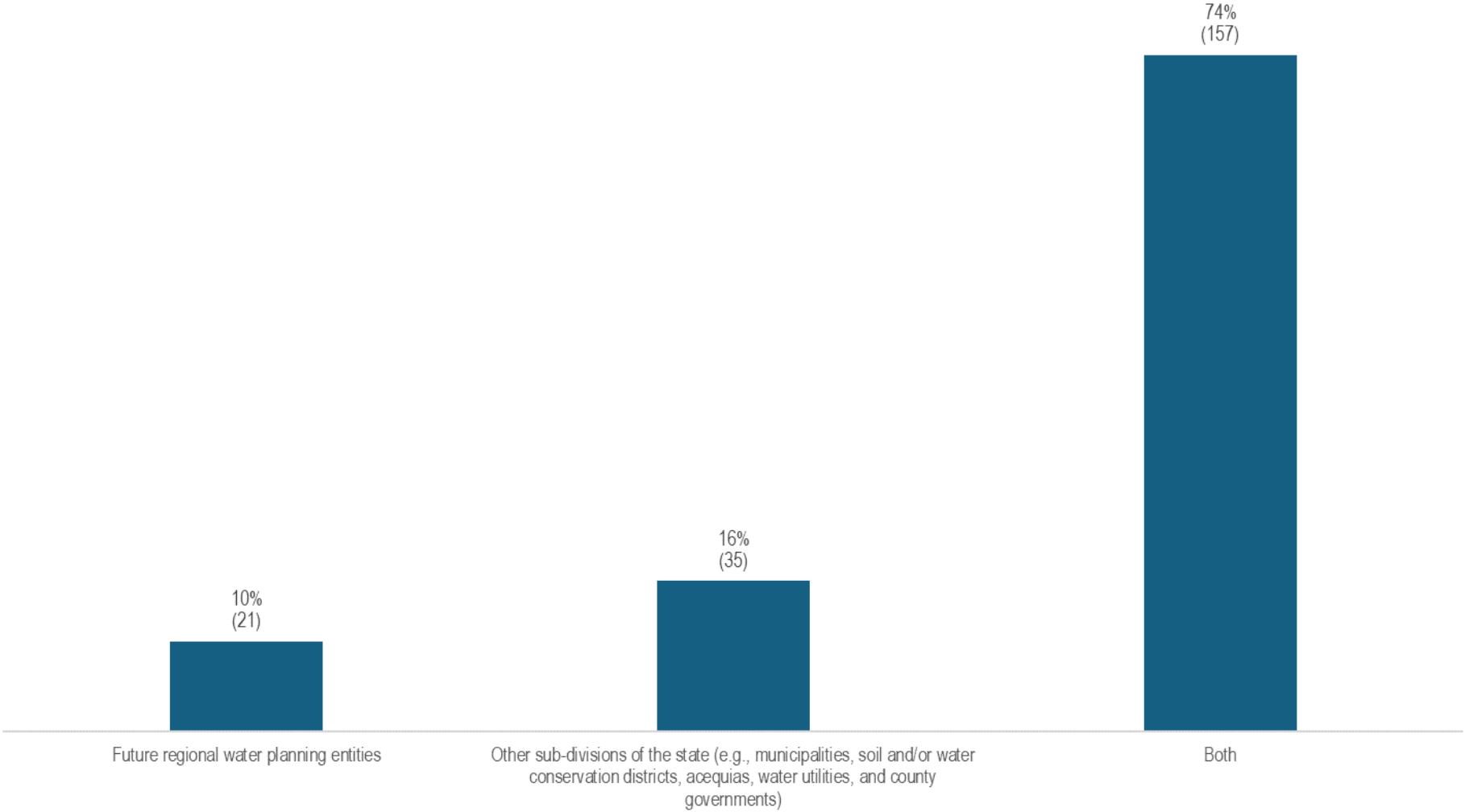| **Region**	**Future regional water planning entities**	**Other sub-divisions of the state (e.g., municipalities, soil and/or water conservation districts, acequias, water utilities, and county governments)**	**Both**	**Total**
Online	21	35	157	**213**

Figure 58. Question 22: Fixed-Choice Results for Online Survey Responses

Q23: Choose up to two of the following priorities for evaluating funding of grants or loans for planning activities

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Guideline 3: The requirements for a proposal for grants or loans for planning activities
- Guideline 4: The process for approval of grants or loans
- Guideline 6: The metrics for reporting on regional water projects and, programs and policies

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	N/A	
Format	N/A	Checkboxes with the ability to select up to two options.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Question 23 asked respondents to provide input on the process and priorities for distributing funding associated with planning activities. The most commonly selected response was for "Funding distributed based on urgency of need" (40%), followed by "Funding distributed on a rolling basis for qualified proposals" (27%) and "Funding preferentially allocated for disadvantaged communities" (21%). The least selected response was for "Funding awarded based on a competitive process" (12%), indicating that most respondents would prefer to see a top-down evaluation and distribution process based on agreed-upon criteria, rather than a competitive application driven process.

Table 54. Question 23: Fixed-Choice Results for Online Survey Responses

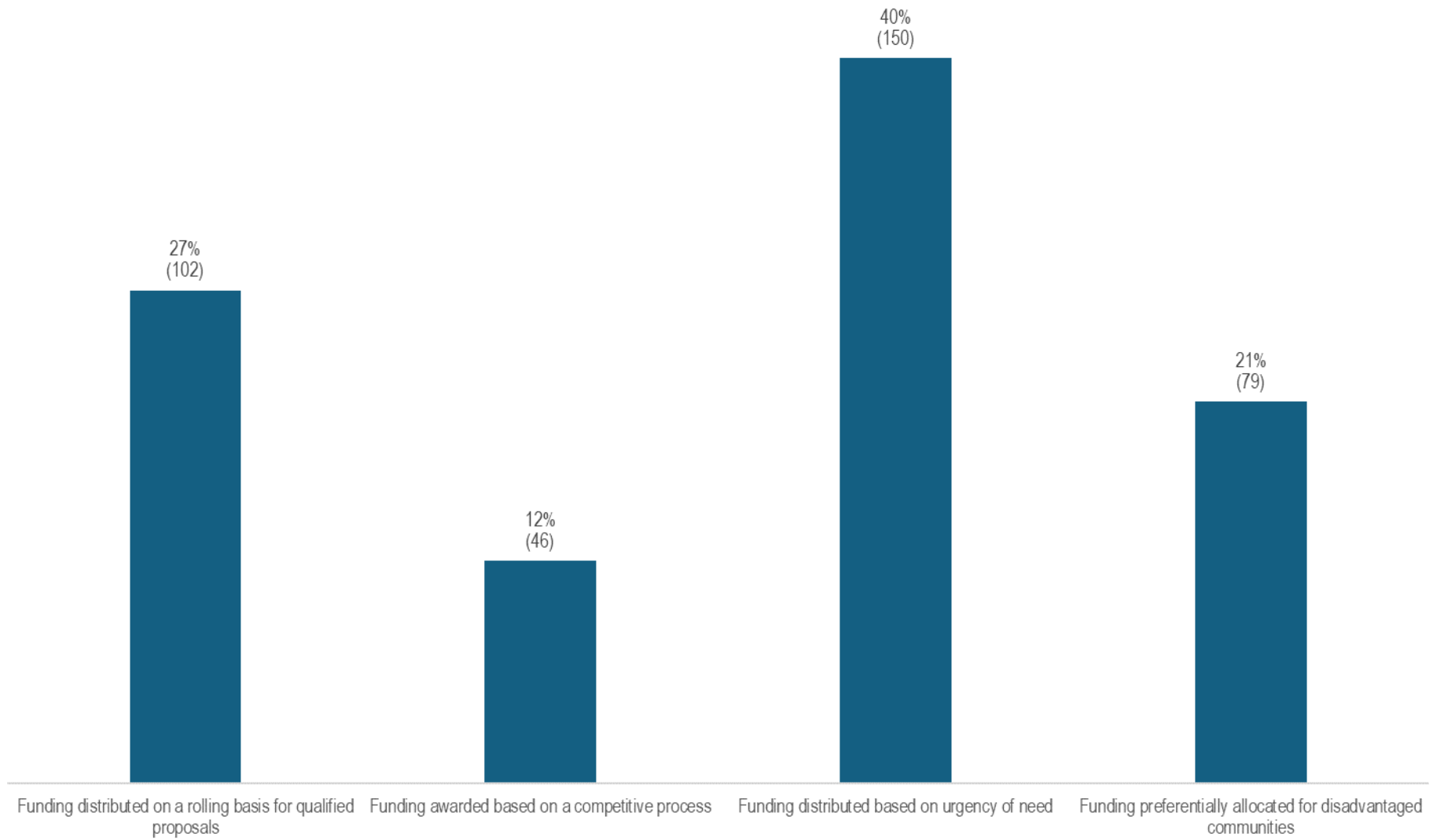| Region	Funding distributed on a rolling basis for qualified proposals	Funding awarded based on a competitive process	Funding distributed based on urgency of need	Funding preferentially allocated for disadvantaged communities	Total
Online	102	46	150	79	**377**

Figure 59. Question 23: Fixed-Choice Results for Online Survey Responses

Q24: Are there other factors NMISC should consider when thinking about funding water planning activities?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Guideline 3: The requirements for a proposal for grants or loans for planning activities
- Guideline 4: The process for approval of grants or loans

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	N/A	
Format	N/A	Comment box for open ended answers.

Open-Ended Responses

Question 24 provided participants with an opportunity to expand on their responses to Question 23 and provide additional comments related to funding for regional water planning activities. In total, 84 responses were received, and they were largely connected to other funding-related questions in this section of the survey. Several responses were coded to more than one theme and 31% of coded responses were related to the prioritization and evaluation of funding allocations, while 24% were related to the process for funding distribution. Other comments addressed the specific types of projects that should be funded (16%) and eligibility criteria for funding (15%).

Table 55. Question 24: Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Grand/Funding Eligibility	Responses related to who is eligible to apply for funds
Funding Distribution	Responses related to process for distributing the funding (e.g., mechanics or logistics associated with how funding is distributed)
Funding Prioritization or Evaluation	Responses related to how to evaluate who receives funding (e.g., qualifications for who receives funding or how it is allocated)
Types of Projects to Fund	Responses related to the specific types of projects that should be funded
Uncategorized	Responses that could not be grouped with others and/or that may not be directly applicable to this question

Table 56. Question 24: Open-Ended Results for Online Survey Responses

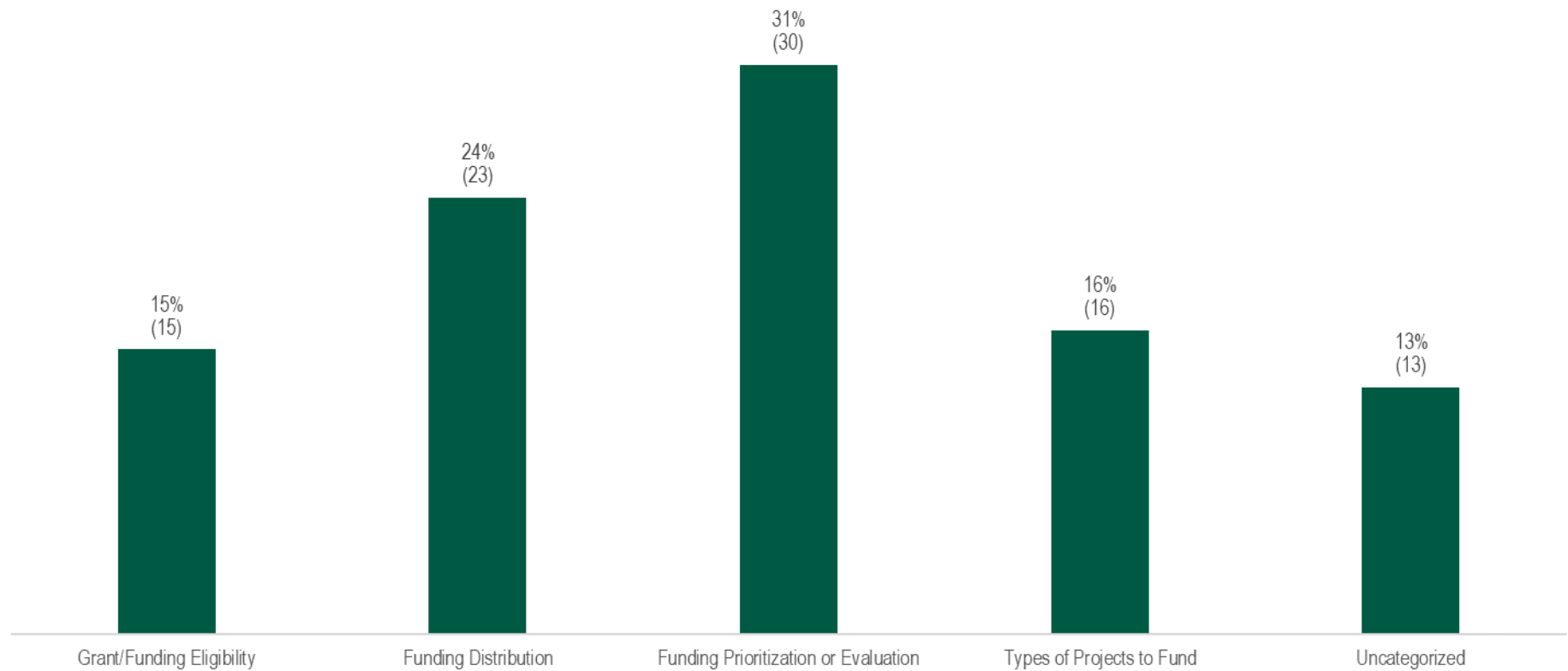| Region	Grant/Funding Eligibility	Funding Distribution	Funding Prioritization or Evaluation	Types of Projects to Fund	Uncategorized	Total
Online	15	23	30	16	13	97

Figure 60. Question 24: Open-Ended Results for Online Survey Responses

Q25: A guidance related to state agency collaboration should consider…

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Guideline 5: The process for state agency collaboration

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	N/A	
Format	N/A	Checkboxes with ability to select all that apply.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Question 25 asked respondents to select considerations that they would like to see incorporated in guidance defining the level and process for state agency collaboration in regional planning efforts. Participants were invited to select all responses that they agreed with, and the results suggest that many selected all three of the options listed. Responses were fairly evenly split between the three options indicating support for guidance to consider the process by which regional water planning entities receive support from state agencies, the process for review and comment on draft plans by state agencies, and the role that state agencies will play in supporting regions to implement plans.

Table 57. Question 25: Fixed-Choice Results for Online Survey Responses

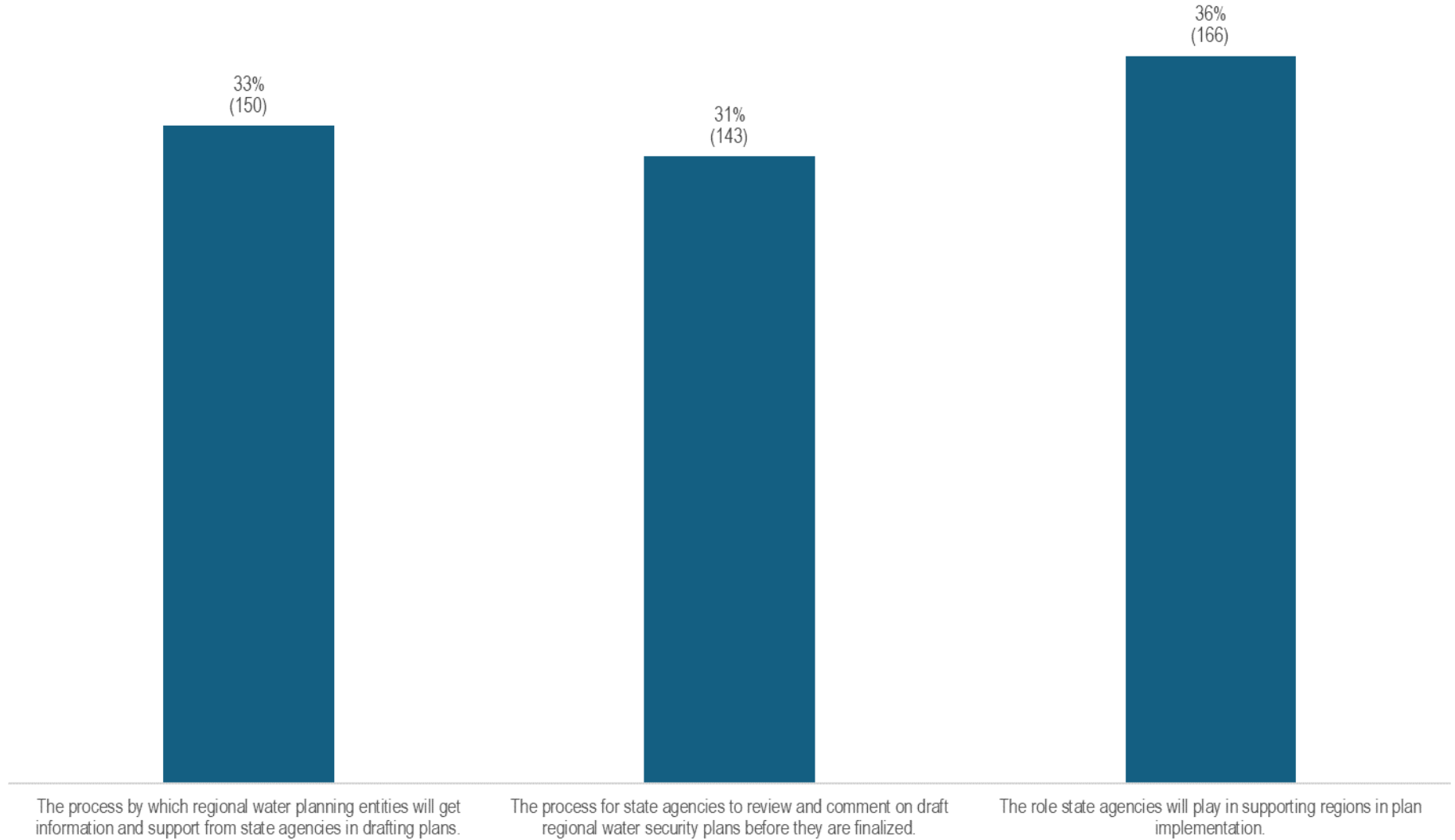| Region	The process by which regional water planning entities will get information and support from state agencies in drafting plans	The process for state agencies to review and comment on draft regional water security plans before they are finalized	The role state agencies will play in supporting regions in plan implementation.	Total
Online	150	143	166	459

Figure 61. Question 25: Fixed-Choice Results for Online Survey Responses

Q26: Which of the listed ways should the NMISC prioritize when supporting the implementation of regional water plans

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Guideline 7: The procedures to support implementation of a regional water security plan

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	N/A	
Format	N/A	Multiple choice.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Question 26 built on Question 25 to ask more specifically about the role of the NMISC in supporting the implementation of regional water plans. The most frequently selected response was for the NMISC to "Serve as a resource for regional water planning entities to help identify resources for implementation" (53%). There was also interest in the NMISC identifying statewide objectives and helping regional entities to meet them (35%) but less interest in NMISC providing ongoing support for two-years during an official round of regional planning (12%).

Table 58. Question 26: Fixed-Choice Results for Online Survey Responses

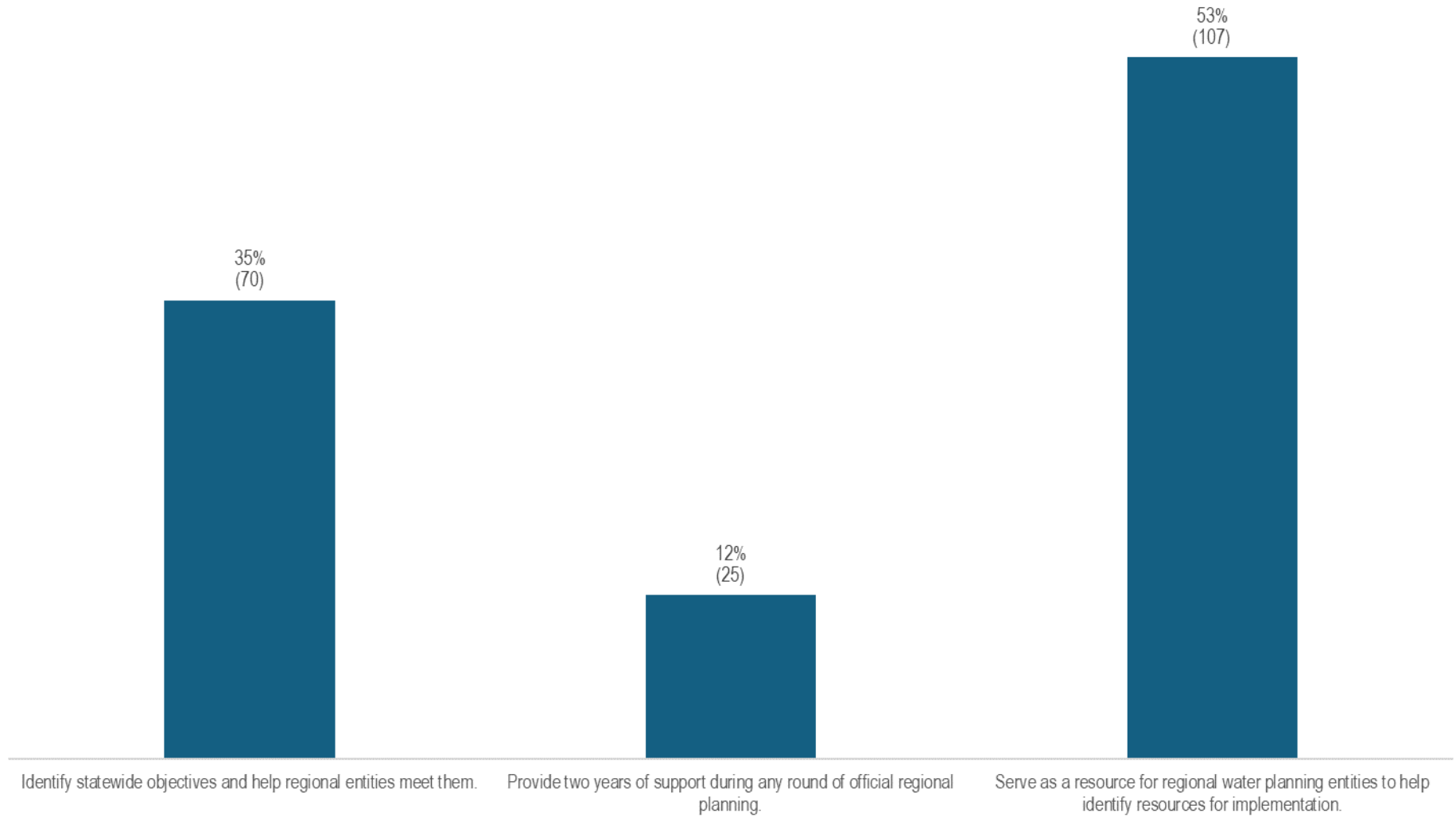| Region	Identify statewide objectives and help regional entities meet them.	Provide two years of support during any round of official regional planning.	Serve as a resource for regional water planning entities to help identify resources for implementation.	Total
Online	70	25	107	202

Figure 62. Question 26: Fixed-Choice Results for Online Survey Responses

Q27: How frequently should future regional water planning entities be required to update their regional water security plans? Note, NMISC anticipates a two-year planning cycle needed to update any regional water security plan.
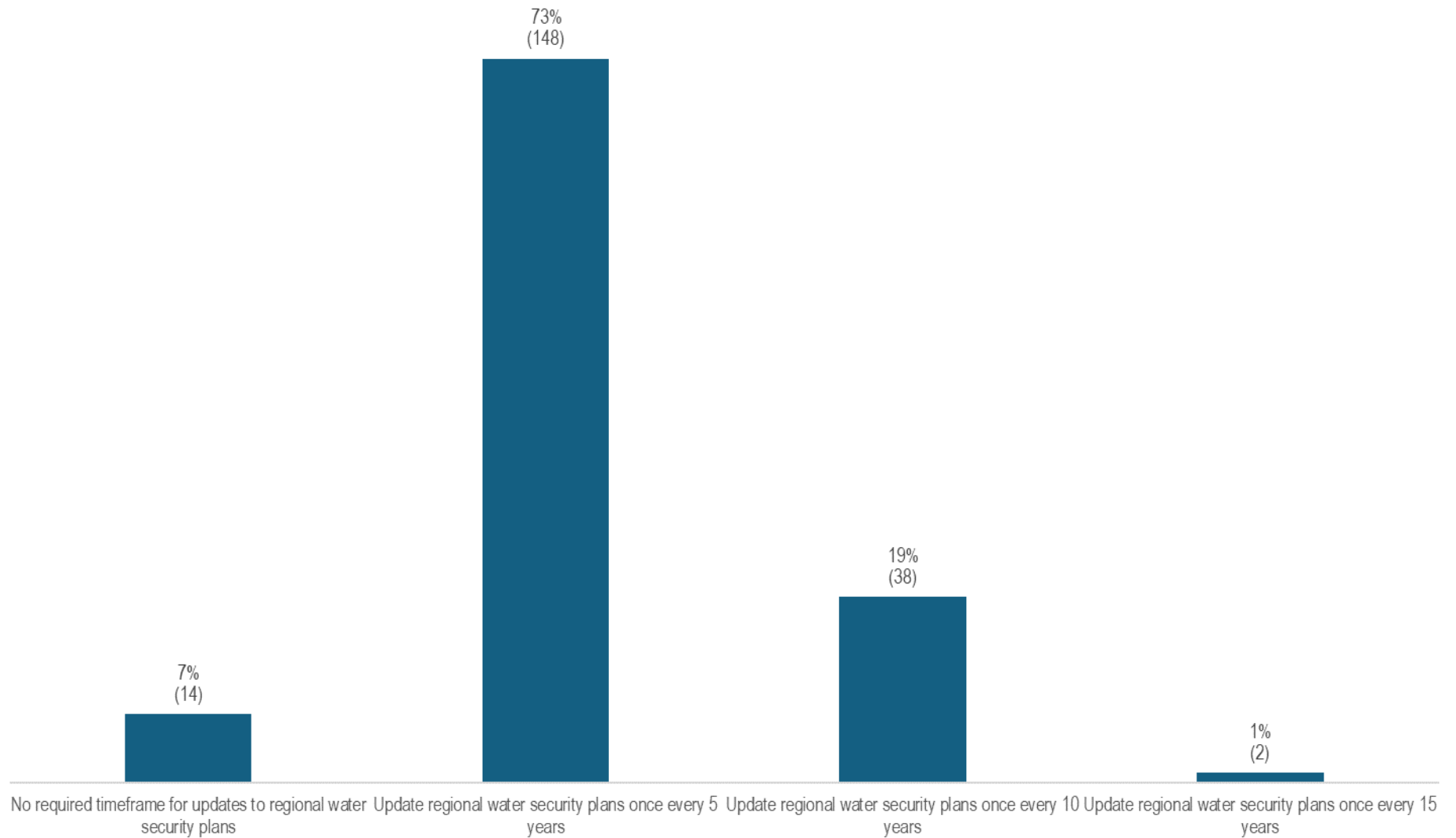
Related Rules and Guidelines

- Guideline 8: The schedule for implementation of regional water planning, including integration with statewide objectives

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	N/A	
Format	N/A	Multiple choice.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Question 27 asked respondents for input on the frequency of regional plan updates. A large majority (78%) of respondents indicated that they would like to see regional water plan updates once every five years, with a smaller percentage of respondents selecting every 10 years for plan updates. Very few respondents indicated that there should be a longer planning timeframe of 15 years (1%) or no required timeframe for updates (7%).

Table 59. Question 27: Fixed-Choice Results for Online Survey Responses

Region	No required timeframe for updates to regional water security plans	Update regional water security plans once every 5 years	Update regional water security plans once every 10 years	Update regional water security plans once every 15 years	Total
Online	14	148	38	2	**202**

Figure 63. Question 27: Fixed-Choice Results for Online Survey Responses

Q28: Regional water security plans are required to have prioritized projects, programs, and policies. The prioritization of these by region should be accomplished by
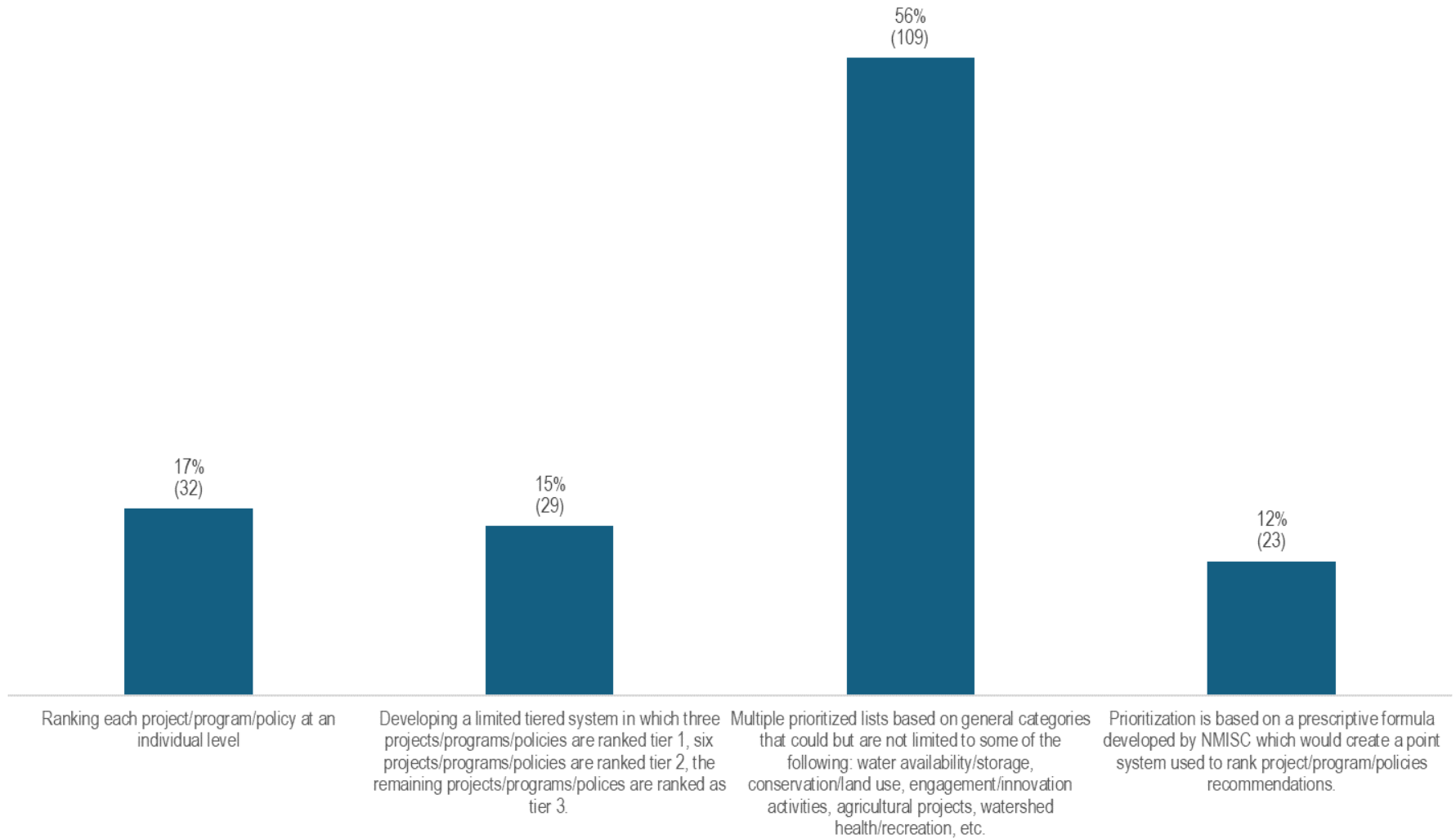
Related Rules and Guidelines

- Rule 2: The criteria for commission approval of a regional water security plan with prioritized projects, programs and policies
- Guideline 6: The metrics for reporting on regional water projects and, programs and policies

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	N/A	
Format	N/A	Multiple choice.

Fixed-Choice Responses

Question 28 asked respondents for input on the process for prioritizing projects, programs, and policies in regional water security plans and provided four potential options. The most frequently selected answer (56%) was for plans to include "multiple prioritized lists based on general categories" or types of projects. The remainder of the responses were split fairly evenly between other three options described, indicating less support for an individual ranking system (17%), a tiered ranking system (15%), or a prescriptive formula approach (12%).

Table 60. Question 28: Fixed-Choice Results for Online Survey Responses

Region	Ranking each project/program/policy at an individual level	Developing a limited tiered system in which three projects/ programs/ policies are ranked tier 1, six projects/ programs/ policies are ranked tier 2, the remaining projects/programs/polices are ranked as tier 3.	Multiple prioritized lists based on general categories that could but are not limited to some of the following: water availability/storage, conservation/land use, engagement/innovation activities, agricultural projects, watershed health/recreation, etc.	Prioritization is based on a prescriptive formula developed by NMISC which would create a point system used to rank project/ program/ policies recommendations.	Total
Online	32	29	109	23	193

Figure 64. Question 28: Fixed-Choice Results for Online Survey Responses

Q29: Any other suggestions for how regions will prioritize plan recommendations?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- N/A

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	N/A	
Format	N/A	Comment box for open ended answers.

Open-Ended Responses

Question 29 provided an opportunity for participants to expand on their responses to the previous question related to the prioritization of projects, programs, and policies in regional water security plans. A total of 55 comments were received and coded into categories shown in Table 61, with some responses addressing multiple coded categories. 34% of the responses built on Question 23 to provide additional input related to the criteria for prioritizing water security plan recommendations should be. 31% of responses were connected to Question 28 and provided input on what the process and methodology for prioritization should look like. Finally, 23% of responses provided suggestions about the types of projects that should be incorporated into regional water plans.

Table 61. Question 29: Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Types of recommendations or projects to prioritize	Responses related to the types of recommendations for regions to prioritize or not
Prioritization criteria	Responses related to what the evaluation criteria or considerations for regions to prioritize recommendations should be
Process for prioritization	Responses related to the process behind how regions will prioritize plan recommendations (e.g., prescriptive formula, prioritized list based on certain categories, tiered ranking system, ranked at individual level)
Uncategorized	Responses that could not be grouped with others and/or that may not be directly applicable to this question

Table 62. Question 29: Open-Ended Results for Online Survey Responses

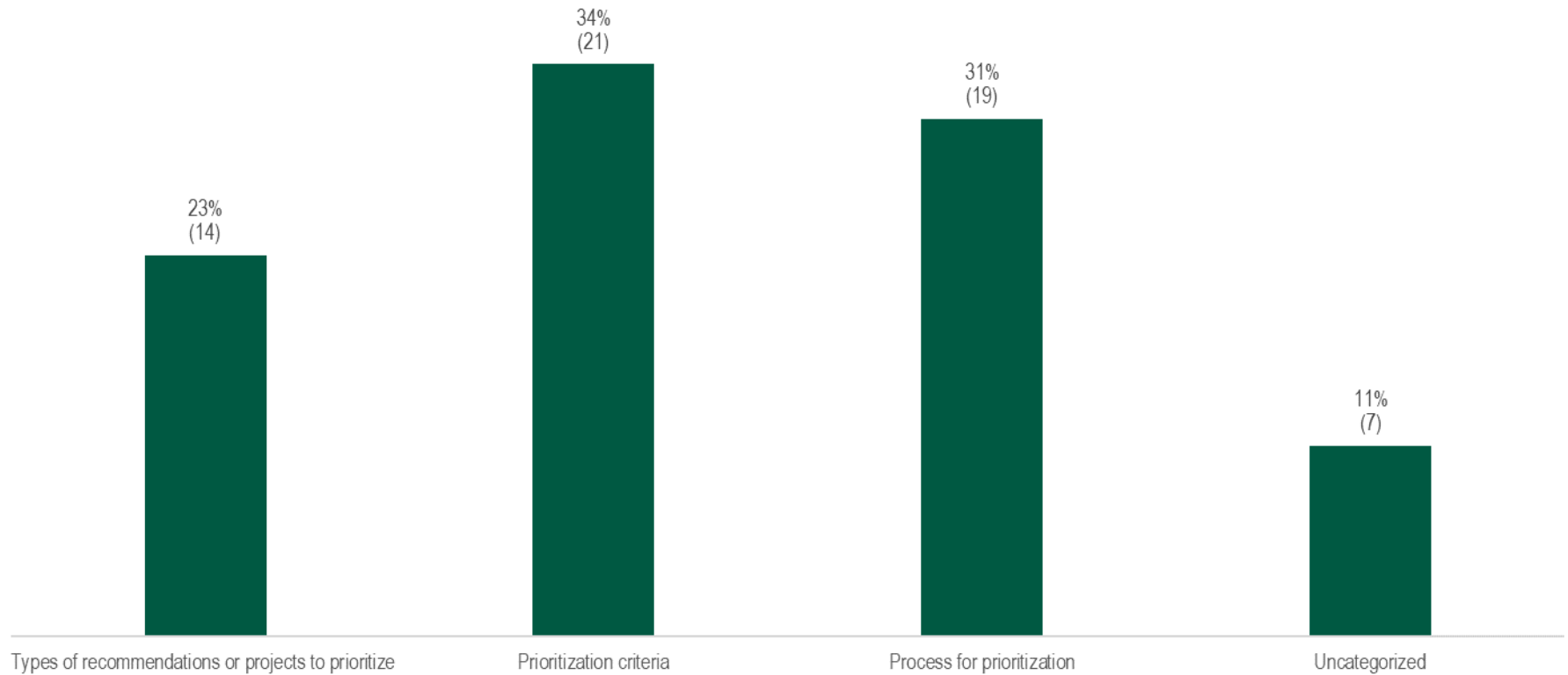| Region	Types of recommendations or projects to prioritize	Prioritization criteria	Process for prioritization	Uncategorized	Total
Online	14	21	19	7	61

Figure 65. Question 29: Open-Ended Results for Online Survey Responses

Q30: What do you think is most needed to ensure that regional water plans can be successfully implemented?

Related Rules and Guidelines

- Guideline 1: The identification of regional stakeholders and opportunities for stakeholder collaboration
- Guideline 6: The metrics for reporting on regional water projects and, programs and policies
- Guideline 7: The procedures to support implementation of a regional water security plan
- Guideline 8: The schedule for implementation of regional water planning, including integration with statewide objectives

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	N/A	
Format	N/A	Comment box for open ended answers.

Open-Ended Responses

Question 30 provided an opportunity for respondents to share input on what they think is most needed for successful implementation of regional water plans. A total of 157 responses were received and coded by theme, with some responses being coded to multiple themes. The most common theme (28%) among responses related to ensuring that there is sufficient funding and resources to implement the regional water plans while others included raising awareness of planning and educating the public about water issues and needs (17%); tracking, monitoring and analysis to ensure success (12%); and involving specific stakeholders in implementation (12%).

Table 63. Question 30: Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Funding and Resources	Responses focused on ensuring there is adequate funding and resources (e.g., staff/people support) to implement the plans
Education and Public Involvement	Responses focused on educating or raising awareness and involving the public in the process
Data and Information	Responses focused on tracking, monitoring, or analysis to ensure implementation success
Stakeholder Involvement	Responses focused on water professional or water stakeholders in the process (e.g., water rights holders, technical experts, etc.)
Regional Collaboration	Responses focused on collaboration across stakeholders within a region and across regions
Plan Structure and Content	Responses related to ensuring plans include information like timeline, roles and responsibilities, goals to ensure implementation
Equity and Access	Responses focused on equity, fairness in water distribution or projects, particularly for marginalized communities
State Involvement	Responses focused on the State's involvement in implementation. This includes NMISC, NMOSE, or other related state agencies.
Enforcement	Responses focused on ensuring the plans can be enforced (e.g., implementation strategies are enforced or that action can be taken if strategies are not being implemented)
Uncategorized	Responses that could not be grouped with others and/or that may not be directly applicable to this question

Table 64. Question 30: Open-Ended Results for Online Survey Responses

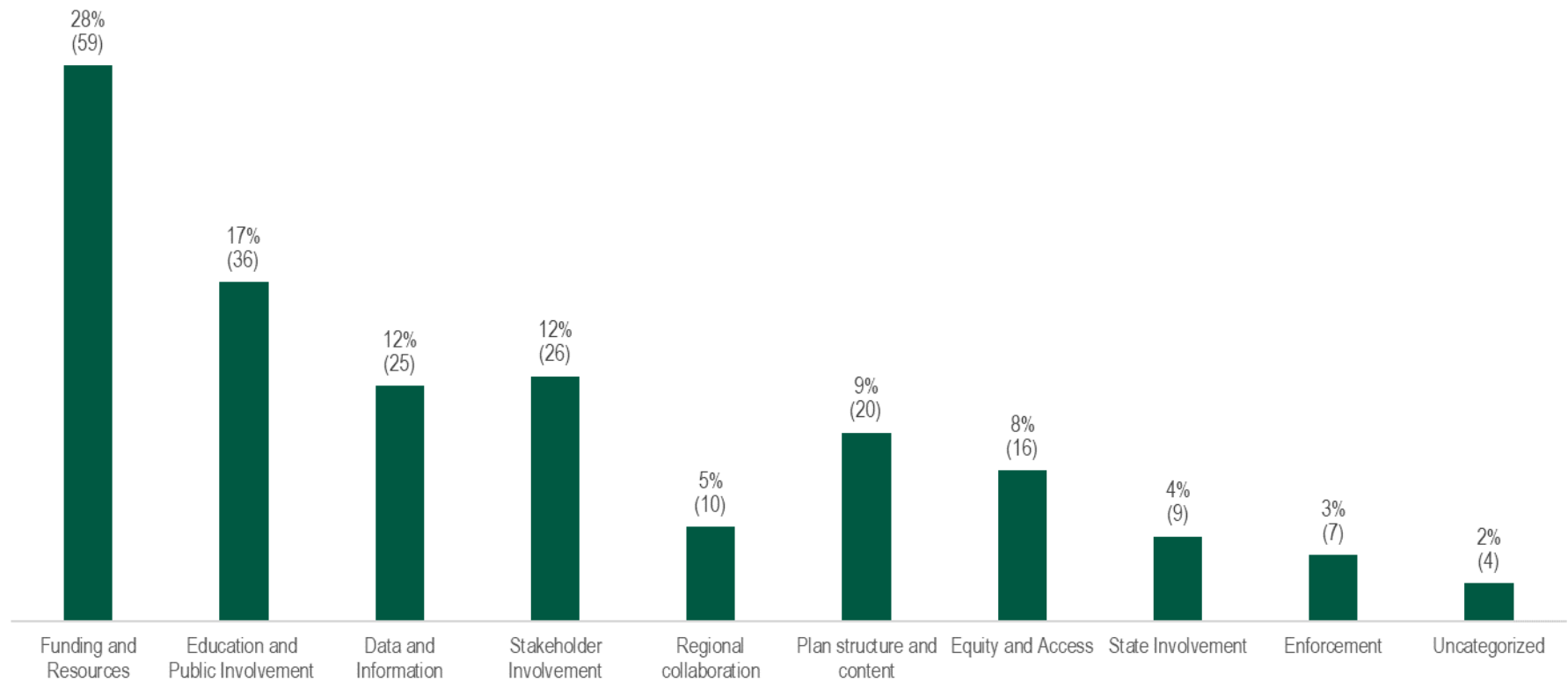| Region	Funding and Resources	Education and Public Involvement	Data and Information	Stakeholder Involvement	Regional collaboration	Plan structure and content	Equity and Access	State Involvement	Enforcement	Uncategorized	Total
Online	59	36	25	26	10	20	16	9	7	4	**212**

Figure 66. Question 30: Open-Ended Results for Online Survey Responses

Q31: Please provide any other highlights, thoughts, questions, suggestions, criticisms or things we might have missed in this questionnaire related to regional water planning in New Mexico.

Related Rules and Guidelines

- *TBD based on input*

Question Format

	Open House	Online
Instructions	We would really like to know if you have highlights, thoughts, questions, suggestions, criticisms, or things we might have missed. Use the sticky notes and/or comment box to share any other questions, comments or thoughts that you have related to regional water planning in New Mexico.	
Format	Open space on the display board for attendees to add comments using sticky notes. Comment cards and box for attendees to provide more detailed feedback.	Comment box for open ended answers. Option to upload documents.

Open-Ended Responses

The final question was optional and provided an opportunity for in-person and online open house participants to share any other thoughts or considerations. See Table 66 for all responses provided for the final question. To inform the development of Rules and Guidelines, the responses to these questions were coded into broad categories that aligned with the open house stations, as shown in

Table 65. The largest share of coded responses (35%) related to who should be involved in regional water planning and in what capacity.

The online open house included an option to upload files and NMISC staff also received letters via email. Table 67 provides a summary of letters submitted online and to NMISC staff. See Appendix III for copies of these submitted materials.
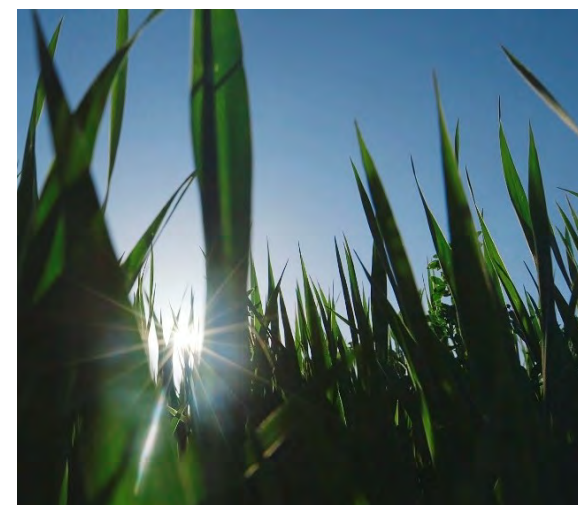
Table 65. Question 31: Codes Used to Organize Responses by Theme

Code	Definition
Who	Responses related to stakeholders and their roles in regional water planning
What	Responses related to what's included in regional water planning (e.g., topics, metrics, etc.)
When	Responses related to the timing of regional water planning
Where	Responses related to boundaries for regional water planning
Why	Responses related to the purpose and need for regional water planning
How	Responses related to the regional water planning process including the Rules and Guidelines, and procedures
Thank you	Responses related to expressions of gratitude about the engagement opportunity and/or process
Uncategorized	Responses that could not be grouped with others and/or that may not be directly applicable to this question

Table 66. Question 31: Open-Ended Results by Region and Online Survey Responses

Region	Who	What	When	Where	Why	How	Thank you	Uncategorized	Total
1 - Northeast New Mexico	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
2 - San Juan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
3 - Jemez y Sangre	9	4	0	0	3	4	3	0	23
4 - Southwest New Mexico	4	2	0	1	1	0	4	0	12
5 - Tularosa-Sacramento-Salt Basins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 - Northwest New Mexico	4	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	11
7 - Taos	6	3	0	1	2	1	0	1	14
8 - San Miguel-Mora-Guadalupe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 - Colfax	9	5	1	0	4	1	0	0	20
10 - Lower Pecos Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 - Lower Rio Grande	6	1	0	0	3	0	4	3	17
12 - Middle Rio Grande	5	3	0	0	3	0	6	1	18
13 - Estancia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 - Rio Chama	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	5
15 - Socorro-Sierra	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
16 - Lea County	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	7
Online	41	24	0	0	33	5	7	15	125
Total	90	46	1	6	52	11	28	24	258
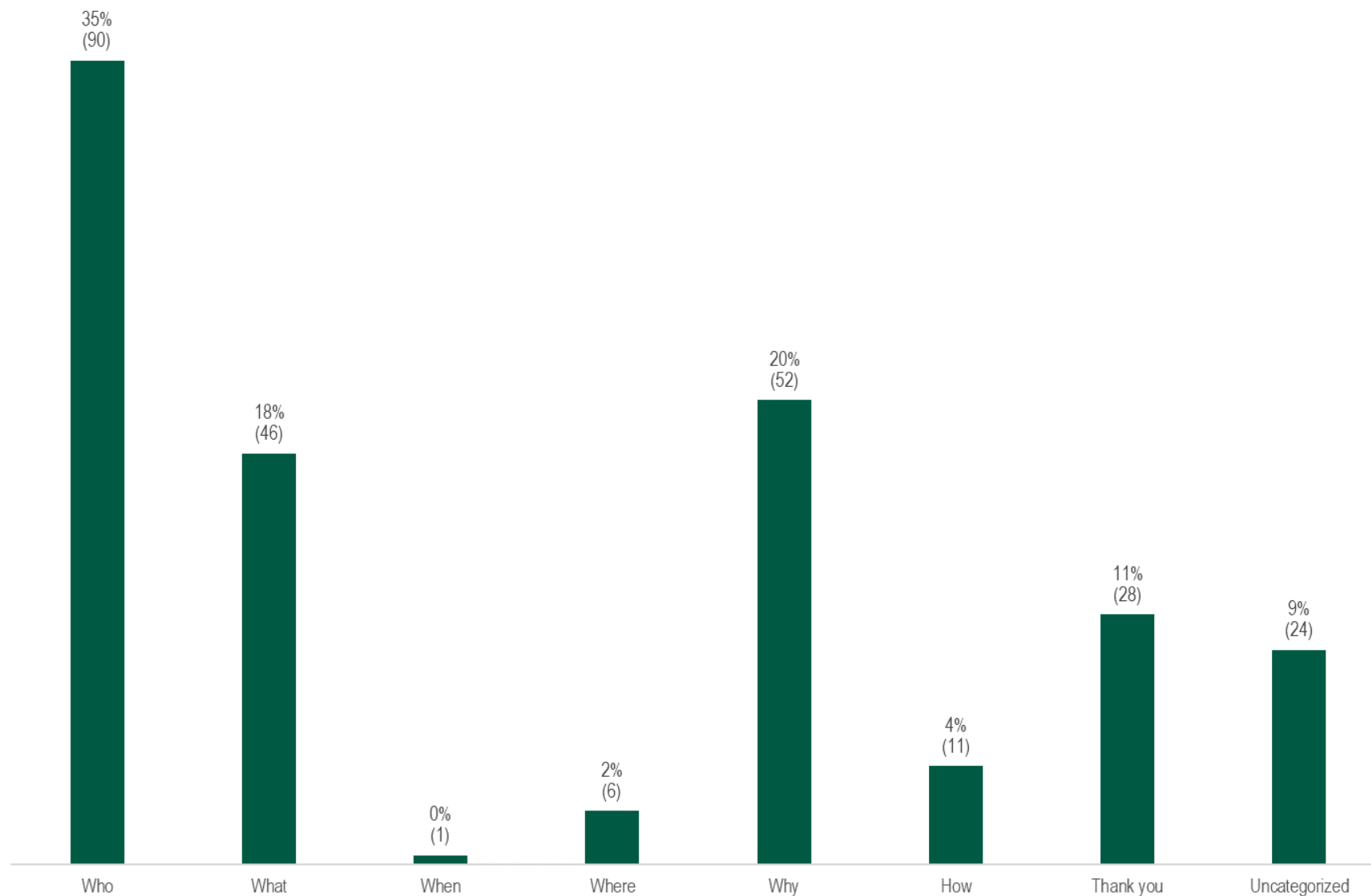
Figure 67. Question 31: Open-Ended Results for All Regions and Online Survey Responses

Table 67. Summary of Letters and Attachments Received

Letter/Attachment Received	Topic Summary
Brackish Water Resources and Opportunities for Desalination In New Mexico	The letter discusses New Mexico's significant brackish groundwater resources and the potential for desalination to address water scarcity in the state.
Ten-Year Cloud Seeding Plan for New Mexico	This report examines the anticipated increase in water demand across New Mexico, explores the impact of water on the state's economy, and introduces cloud seeding as a practical and cost-effective alternative for boosting water supply.
Comments on Water Survey	Addresses the need for New Mexico to collaborate with other states, particularly those in the western U.S., Texas, and California, to address water shortages through conservation, usage, and distribution planning.
EPA Community Based Water Resiliency Guide	The guide provides an action plan kit, tools, resources, and templates to support water utilities and communities prepare for water service interruptions.
Letter from the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee	The committee strongly believes that hydrologic boundaries should guide regional planning rather than political boundaries, as the Estancia Basin spans four counties and three Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Letter from Gila Conservation Coalition	The Gila Conservation Coalition emphasized the need for accurate data, sustainable management of groundwater, and ecological protection of the Gila River. They recommend integrating regional water planning with the New Mexico Unit Fund allocation process to ensure long-term water security and call for inclusive representation of all stakeholders in the planning process. The coalition also advocates for aggressive water conservation measures and greater collaboration among local governments.
New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council Water Statement	The New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council emphasizes the sacredness of water and the need for sustainable and equitable water use to support local food production and cultural practices. The council advocates for policies that protect water rights for farmers, encourage conservation, and hold polluters accountable.
Untitled attachment	Regional water plans should be equitable, actionable, data-informed, funded, and holistic. All water uses, including environmental, recreational, cultural, and traditional, should have equal decision-making power in the planning process. Comprehensive rules and adequate funding, especially for the 2019 Water Data Act, are essential for informed, democratic water planning.
Letter from Trout Unlimited	They emphasize the need for formal representation of environmental interests in planning, broader eligibility for project funding to include NGOs, and a focus on implementation of water projects. They recommend aligning planning regions with watershed boundaries, limiting formal participation to locals, ensuring diverse stakeholder representation, improving water accounting, and seeking sustainable funding sources.
Water Advocates Additional Document	Water Advocates provided an attachment of the online questionnaire with additional comments for questions that required further elaboration.
Letter from Pueblo of Acoma	The Pueblo of Acoma emphasizes the need for Tribes to be recognized as sovereign partners in New Mexico's water management under the Water Security Planning Act. They recommend that Tribal Advisory Council (TAC) include representatives from all New Mexico Tribes, form an Executive Committee, and ensure TAC recommendations are actively implemented. These steps are aimed at fostering genuine collaboration and respecting tribal sovereignty in water resource management.