

# NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

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**NEWS RELEASE**

## Blanco MDWUA Secures Up to \$85k to Connect Harvest Gold to Bloomfield Water

**SANTA FE** – A state Board of Finance meeting held Tuesday morning at the Roundhouse has approved an emergency funding request by the Blanco Mutual Domestic Water Users Authority to interconnect Bloomfield’s city water system with that of the Harvest Gold subdivision east of that city. The funding amount is up to \$85,000, based on the final construction costs. Harvest Gold is currently owned and operated by AV Water Company, LLC.

Lloyd Ayliffe, Blanco’s operator, was on hand to present the request to the Board along with Stephanie Stringer from the New Mexico Environment Department. The importance of the request was substantiated by the urgency of providing clean potable water to Harvest Gold residents who have been on a boil alert since June.

Blanco will be responsible for overseeing and managing the project. Mr. Ayliffe stated that construction would take up to two to three weeks once the funding is secured.

The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) had previously passed a resolution on Wednesday, December 14, supporting Blanco’s request to the Board of Finance as means of securing funding to address the immediate needs of the Harvest Gold customers. The New Mexico Environment Department and local government entities in San Juan County sent letters of support to the Board.

The NMPRC will continue its ongoing probe and investigation of AV Water as well as the additional docketed proceeding to potentially transfer the Harvest Gold system to Blanco MDWUA. The Commission issued an order imposing a \$1 million fine on November 23, which directs AV Water affiliates to file a response stating why they should not be held jointly and individually liable for the fine along with AV Water LLC.

“Collectively working together, Harvest Gold customers – after months on a boil advisory – will soon have safe drinking water,” stated NMPRC Commissioner Lynda Lovejoy.

### **About the NMPRC**

*The NMPRC regulates public utilities, telecommunications companies and motor carriers operating in the State of New Mexico. It also administers the State Fire Marshal’s Office, the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy in Socorro, N.M., and the Pipeline Safety Bureau.*

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