



Memorandum

To: Executive Appropriations Committee

From: Lacey Moore, Senior Financial Analyst

Date: September 20, 2022

Re: Westwater/Blanding Infrastructure Project Update

During the 2021 General Session, the legislature appropriated \$500,000 one-time from the General Fund to the Department of Community and Cultural Engagement for cost share to assist with bringing services to the community of Westwater, including electricity, drinking water, and sewer from the next-door community of Blanding, Utah. Westwater is a small community comprised of approximately 29 residences residing on 120 acres that is owned fee-simple by the Navajo Tribe; however, the property does not fall inside the boundaries of the Navajo Reservation.

During the 2022 General Session, the \$500,000 appropriation was transferred to the Department of Environmental Quality, being the agency that regulates both drinking and wastewater. Also during the 2022 General Session, \$3.5 million one-time from the American Rescue Plan Act was set aside to further the efforts of bringing services to the community of Westwater. This amount was a portion of the \$25 million the Executive Appropriations Committee approved for drinking water projects during the November 2021 meeting.

Kim Shelley, the Executive Director of the Department of Environmental Quality, will present an update and answer questions on the Westwater/Blanding Community infrastructure projects funded by the Legislature during the last two fiscal years.