



EDD

ECONOMIC
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LEDA Investment Boosts Rural Development *Clovis Regional Airport Receives Rural Infrastructure Grant*

CLOVIS, N.M. – The New Mexico Economic Development Department has awarded a new LEDA infrastructure grant to the City of Clovis for airport infrastructure improvements that will help attract new businesses and better serve passengers.

The award from the Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) comes under recent authority given to EDD that allows assistance to rural communities for important infrastructure improvements that can boost jobs and expand economic capacity.

Under the agreement, the New Mexico Economic Development Department (EDD) would provide up to \$2.135 million for the Clovis Regional Airport Water Transmission Extension project, set to begin construction next year.

“EDD’s new Strategic Plan points to inequities in economic development that have been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic,” EDD Cabinet Secretary Alicia J. Keyes said. “We know more needs to be done to help all communities around the state achieve economic growth and sustainability, that’s why boosting rural infrastructure will remain a key goal of our department.”

Rural communities typically have smaller, aging populations, with fewer amenities and no project-ready available business parks. This puts them at a disadvantage when competing for business development projects. Urban areas with readily available commercial and industrial space are much more likely to be successful in the competition to win a deal.

This inequity is what led Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and EDD to expand LEDA in order to help level the playing field for smaller towns and villages by investing in critical infrastructure.

The Moriarty Municipal Airport received a \$283,000 grant in 2020 and was the first to benefit from the new initiative to better assist communities with improvements to publicly owned industrial properties and attract business development.

For Clovis, the water project means continued viability for its airport, which is seeing a depleted flow of water from the Ogallala Aquifer. Other partners for the project are EPCOR Water, the City of Clovis, and the Clovis Industrial Development Corp. The City of Clovis is also a member of the [Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority](#) (ENMWUA), which is pursuing a project to deliver surface water from Ute Reservoir to the City and other ENMWUA member cities and agencies as a replacement for declining groundwater.

“I would like to thank the New Mexico Economic Development Department for their support with this vital project for the Clovis Regional Airport. Constructing a water transmission line extension will have a long-lasting impact on the availability of water to the facility and its economic development opportunities,” Clovis Mayor Mike Morris stated. “The project ensures a future water supply to the airport and any business that utilizes the facility.”

Clovis area residents, including Airmen at Cannon Air Force Base, use the airport as a regional hub to access Denver International Airport and Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

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Clovis Regional Airport

The New Mexico Economic Development Department's mission is to improve the lives of New Mexico families by increasing economic opportunities and providing a place for businesses to thrive.

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