

**Sustainable Water through Integrated Modeling (SWIM): An Interdisciplinary Approach to Understand Stakeholder Awareness, Critical Thinking and Collaborative Reasoning About Water Scarcity**  
**2020-2021 Academic Year**

To: Water users

From: Katalina Salas; Deana Pennington, PhD

Subject: Research Participation Invitation: Water Sustainability Workshop

We invite you to participate in this **virtual workshop series** to improve our understanding of how people engage with scientific models and data about regional water sustainability and to assess the effectiveness of the various mechanisms used to present scientific data and models to these users.

Anyone interested in the future of water in the Middle Rio Grande region is welcome to participate. We aim to include: 1) municipal water users, 2) agricultural water users, 3) industrial water users, 4) those interested in environmental water uses, and 5) water managers and decisionmakers. You are welcome to share this invitation with others who fit the categories mentioned above, or individuals you think would be interested in this workshop. Separately, our SWIM software development team is recruiting for software usability testers. *Please participate in either these water sustainability workshops or the usability tests, but not both.*

If you accept this invitation, you will participate in a 3-hour virtual workshop designed to encourage collaboration and discussion around water issues and water futures in the Middle Rio Grande region. The session will include

1. an overview of water and water users in the region,
2. group discussions on water issues,
3. using interactive web-tools to support understanding of water issues and facilitate decision-making, and
4. answer pre/post surveys about the workshop and workshop activities.

This workshop will be followed by two other workshops that will build progressively upon activities from the previous workshops. **If you are interested in participating in this first workshop, please reply with what days and times work best.** We aim to conduct the first workshop in mid to late August. A registration link will be sent to you once concrete dates and times have been selected. Thank you in advance for your time.

Questions about this research can be addressed to Katalina Salas or Deana Pennington ([ksalas2@miners.utep.edu](mailto:ksalas2@miners.utep.edu), [ddpennington@utep.edu](mailto:ddpennington@utep.edu), or 915-747-5867).

This email message has been approved or declared exempt by the University of Texas at El Paso Institutional Review Board (IRB).