

Timothy M. Keller
State Auditor



Sanjay Bhakta, CPA, CGFM, CFE, CGMA
Deputy State Auditor

State of New Mexico
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

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Contact: Justine Freeman
505-476-3819

State Auditor's Special Audit Underway in City of Jal
Auditors conducting field work for special audit on water billing issues

SANTA FE, NM – Today, State Auditor Tim Keller confirmed that auditors from the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) are in the City of Jal conducting field work for a special audit. The special audit was initiated to review Jal's compliance with laws, regulations and policies after concerns related to favoritism and accuracy of water billing came to light. State law calls for auditors to have unrestricted access to relevant documents and City staff.

“Our office has boots on the ground looking into water billing procedures in Jal,” stated State Auditor Tim Keller. “Water billing brings together New Mexican’s right to be fairly and accurately billed and the importance of managing resources wisely, especially with the tight budgets communities are facing. We appreciate the cooperation of Jal in getting to the bottom of potential issues.”

The OSA has identified widespread water billing problems across New Mexico, especially in rural areas. A Risk Advisory was sent to all municipalities and is available here:

[http://www.saonm.org/media/uploads/Risk_Advisory - Utilities 7-26-16.pdf](http://www.saonm.org/media/uploads/Risk_Advisory_-_Utilities_7-26-16.pdf)

The special audit of the City of Jal is expected late spring.

The Office of the State Auditor helps government work better by providing transparency and accountability for government spending; informing policy choices; and tackling fraud, waste and abuse. OSA is an independently elected executive agency responsible for examining the use of public dollars in New Mexico.

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