



Agenda

**For Presentation at the
2,222nd Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the
Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District**

April 14, 2025 – 3:00 p.m.



Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/2765069278?pwd=V2d0SWppTkxGTTFMb0g5RFhmeERjZz09>

Meeting ID: 276 506 9278 and Passcode: 504470

MRGCD General Office * 1931 Second Street SW * Albuquerque, New Mexico

Meetings are held on second Mondays/month. Any questions please call the Board Liaison at (505) 247-0234.

For more information, visit our website at www.mrgcd.com

All items on Agenda are Subject to Action and times shown are approximate and are subject to change.

- 3:00 1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3:01 2. **Approval of the Agenda**
- 3:03 3. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. Consideration/Approval of Payment Ratification – April 14, 2025
 - b. Consideration/Approval of March 2025 Invoice for Wiggins, Williams & Wiggins PC
 - c. Consideration/Approval of March 2025 Invoices for Spencer Fane LLP
 - d. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Special Board Meeting – March 10, 2025
 - e. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting – March 10, 2025
 - f. Memo on MRGCD Approved Licenses for March 2025 (For Informational Purposes Only)
- 3:05 4. **MRGCD Board of Directors 2025 Election to be held October 7, 2025 – Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO**
 - a. Consideration/Approval of Professional Services Agreement for Automated Election Services for the Administration of the 2025 Election Management and Turnkey Services
 - b. Discussion on the MRGCD Draft Rule No. 20
- 3:10 5. **NM State Engineer Introduction to MRGCD Board of Directors** – Elizabeth Anderson, NM Office of the State Engineer
- 3:25 6. **Report on the New Mexico Legislature** – John Thompson, MRGCD Lobbyist
- 3:35 7. **Presentation for Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust (RGALT) 2024 Annual Report** – Cecilia Rosacker, Executive Director
- 3:45 8. **Report(s) from the Water Operations**
 - a. Report on Water Supply Conditions – Anne Marken, River Operations & Telemetry Manager
 - b. Status Report on Water Distribution – Matt Martinez, Water Distribution Division Manager
- 3:55 9. **Items from the Floor (Comments are limited to three (3) minutes)**
- 4:05 10. **Report(s) from the Department of the Interior**
 - a. Bureau of Reclamation– Jennifer Faler, Area Manager
 - b. Bureau of Indian Affairs – Patrick Taber, Acting Designated Engineer
- 4:15 11. **Report(s) from the Chief Operations Officer** – Eric Zamora, PE
 - a. Update on the Issue of a Drain Pumping License to Randy Sena to Supplement Surface Diversions Due to Upstream Ditch Constructions – Mike Padilla, Right of Way Supervisor, Casey Ish, Conservation Program Manager
 - b. Report on the MRGCD Safety Program, LeeAnn Corwin, Safety Program Manager
 - c. Presentation on the MRGCD Maintenance App – Danielle Feygin, Senior GIS Analyst
- 4:30 12. **Report(s) from the Human Resources Department** – Christine L. Nardi, MBA
 - a. Introduction of MRGCD New Hires
- 4:35 13. **Report(s) from the Secretary-Treasurer/CFO** – Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM
 - a. Consideration/Approval of the Investment Policy

- b. Consideration/Approval of Resolution #M-04-14-25-221 for Disposal of Obsolete Items
- c. Consideration/Approval on the 3rd Quarter Financial Reports

4:50 14. **Report(s) from the Chief Engineer/CEO – Jason M. Casuga, PE**

- a. Discussion/Approval of the Cooperative Agreement MOA between USBOR, MRGCD and NFWF concerning the Middle Rio Grande Water Resiliency Program– Casey Ish, Conservation Program Manager
- b. Update from the Public Information Officer – Amanda Molina, PIO
- c. Report on the Valencia County Flood Control Authority District Meeting, March 27, 2025 – Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO
- d. Report on the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblo Coalition Meeting, April 3, 2025 – Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO
- e. Information on Upcoming Events
 - 1. Family Farm Alliance Annual Conference, October 30-31, 2025 – Reno, NV

5:15 15. **Report(s) from the MRGCD Attorney(s) – Chief Water Counsel or General Counsel**

5:20 16. **Report(s) from the Board**

- a. Report on the Farmers for Future Farmers Meeting, February 11, 2025 – Director Jiron
- b. Report on the City of Albuquerque Meeting, March 11, 2025 – Vice Chairman Baugh
- c. Report on the Urban Waters Meeting, March 11, 2025 – Director Russo Baca
- d. Report on the Valencia County Arroyo Flood Control District Meeting, March 13, 2025 – Director Russo Baca
- e. Report on Rep. Vasquez's Agriculture Advisory Group, March 18, 2025 – Director Russo Baca
- f. Report on the Corrales Siphon Settlement Review and Discussion, March 20, 2025 – Vice Chairman Baugh
- g. Report on the Interstate Stream Commission Meeting, March 20, 2025 – Director Russo Baca
- h. Report on the ISO Meet & Greet Meeting, March 25, 2025 – Director Russo Baca
- i. Report on the Finance & Personnel Committee Meetings, March 26, 2025 – Chairman Kelly and Directors Dunning and Russo Baca
- j. Report on the Election Committee Meeting, March 28, 2025 – Directors Russo Baca and Jiron
- k. Report on the Backyard Refuge Day, March 29, 2025 – Director Russo Baca
- l. Report on the Centennial Committee Meeting, April 2, 2025 – Vice Chair Baugh and Directors Dunning and Russo Baca
- m. Report on the Law of the Rio Grande Conference, April 3 - 4, 2025 – Vice Chairman Baugh and Director Russo Baca
- n. Report on the Pueblo of Isleta Farmers & Irrigators Information Meeting, April 9, 2025 – Chairman Kelly and Directors Jiron, Russo Baca and Baugh
- o. Report on the Mid-Region Counsel of Governments Executive Board Meeting, April 10, 2025 – Director Russo Baca
- p. Report on the 5th Annual Primera Agua Celebration, April 12, 2025 – Director Russo Baca and Baugh

6:00 17. **Executive Session**

- a. NMSA 1978 Open Meetings Act, Section 10-15-1(H)2
 - 1. Limited Personnel Matters
- b. NMSA 1978 Open Meetings Act, Section 10-15-1(H)7
 - 2. Threatened or Pending Litigation



MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Kelly, Board of Directors
Through: Jason M. Casuga, CEO/Chief Engineer
From: DeAnna Philips, Board Liaison
Date: April 7, 2025
Re: Consideration/Approval of the Consent Agenda.

The Consent Agenda includes the MRGCD check book for the month, both legal counsel's invoices from the previous month, the minutes from the previous month's Board of Directors regular and/or special meetings held, and for your information, a list of the approved MRGCD licenses from the previous month.

- a. Consideration/Approval of Payment Ratification – April 14, 2025
- b. Consideration/Approval of March 2025 Invoice for Wiggins, Williams & Wiggins PC
- c. Consideration/Approval of March 2025 Invoices for Spencer Fane LLP
- d. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Special Board Meeting – March 10, 2025
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Staff Recommendation is the approval of the above items within the Consent Agenda.

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
April 14, 2025
Payments for the Period March 01, 2025 through March 31, 2025

3a

Warrant	Vendor Name	Amount	Description	Location
EFT	NEW MEXICO TAXATION & REVENUE DEPARTMENT	21,644.86	FEBRUARY 2025 WITHHOLDING TAX	
EFT	PAYROLL	350,813.11	PAY PERIOD 05	
EFT	PERA	125,827.33	PAY PERIOD 05	
EFT	IRS	47,810.97	PAY PERIOD 05	
EFT	VOYA DEFERRED COMP	7,757.16	PAY PERIOD 05	
EFT	PAYROLL	406,011.47	PAY PERIOD 06	
EFT	PERA	129,060.04	PAY PERIOD 06	
EFT	IRS	63,262.38	PAY PERIOD 06	
EFT	VOYA DEFERRED COMP	8,377.16	PAY PERIOD 06	
TOTAL PAYROLL		1,160,564.48		
153188	LEGALSHIELD	(637.40)	VOIDED CHECK DATED 12.23.24	
153465	WATER STRATEGIES	(9,000.00)	VOIDED CHECK DATED 01.23.25	
Checks				
153836	VITAL CONSULTING	2,209,579.84	SOCORRO CHANEL LINING PHASE 2	GRANTS FUND SOC
153837	ABCWUA	657.74	FEB25	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		359.27	FEB25	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
		701.41	FEB25	GENERAL OFFICE
153838	AUTOMATED ENFORCEMENT	100.00	VIOLATION	GENERAL FUND
153839	BENAVIDEZ, CAROL	544.72	RETIREE HEALTH INS	HUMAN RESOURCES
153840	CENTURY LINK	88.82	FEB25	BELEN DIVISION
153841	CHACON, MARK	19.94	RETIREE HEALTH INS	HUMAN RESOURCES
153842	CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE	196,626.86	MAR25 - HEALTH INSURANCE	GENERAL FUND
153843	CITY OF BELEN	1,469.68	FEB25	BELEN DIVISION
153844	CITY OF SOCORRO	1,045.85	WATER, GAS	SOCORRO DIVISION
153845	GOVERNMENT PORTFOLIO	989.17	JAN25- INVESTMENT SERVICES	ACCOUNTING
153846	GREENWOOD, JEFFREY C	477.14	RETIREE HEALTH INS	HUMAN RESOURCES
153847	HISPANO CHAMBER	5,000.00	GOLD MEMBERSHIP	GENERAL FUND
153848	HM LIFE INSURANCE	1,516.71	MAR25- DAVIS VISION	GENERAL FUND
153849	JARAMILLO, DANNY A.	1,865.18	RETIREE HEALTH INS	HUMAN RESOURCES
153850	JIVE COMMUNICATIONS	2,553.27	MAR25	GENERAL OFFICE
153851	MARQUEZ, DENNIS M	1,511.10	RETIREE HEALTH INS	HUMAN RESOURCES
153852	NEW MEXICO GAS CO	1,036.32	JAN&FEB25	BELEN DIVISION
153853	NEW MEXICO GAS CO	449.32	JAN&FEB25	COCHITI DIVISION
153854	PENA BLANCA SANIT	83.59	WATER, SEWER, REFUSE	COCHITI DIVISION
153855	PNM	170.56	FEB25	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		237.85	FEB25	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
		24.36	JAN25	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		1,228.25	JAN25	GENERAL OFFICE
		3,032.59	NOV24-FEB25	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
153856	RELEVANT INDUSTRIAL	74.85	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
153857	RUSSELL, JIM	415.72	RETIREE HEALTH INS	HUMAN RESOURCES
153858	SANDOVAL COUNTY LAND	85.00	FEB25 LANDFILL	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
153859	SOUTHWEST LANDFILL	9,238.22	FEB25 LANDFILL	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
153860	UNUM LIFE INSURANCE	4,175.75	FEB25- UNUM EE VOL LI/ADD	GENERAL FUND
		2,041.56	FEB25- UNUM EE/ER	GENERAL FUND
		5,034.00	FEB25- UNUM ER	GENERAL FUND
153861	AFSCME COUNCIL 18	1,636.55	PAYROLL UNION DUES	GENERAL FUND
153862	CF PADILLA, LLC	1,014,331.56	LOW FLOW CONVEYANCE CHANNEL	GRANTS FUND SOC
153863	CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT	1,110.94	PAYROLL GARNISHMENT	GENERAL FUND
153864	LOPEZ PRECISION, LLC	461,326.86	BELEN HIGHLINE CANAL OVERFLOW STRUCTURE	BELEN DIVISION
153865	STATE OF NEW MEXICO	258.21	PAYROLL GARNISHMENT	GENERAL FUND
153866	VALENCIA COUNTY CLERK	50.00	RELEASE OF LIENS	ACCOUNTING
153867	4 RIVERS EQUIPMENT	197.66	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		428.25	PARTS & REPAIRS	SOCORRO DIVISION
		43.68	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION

Warrant	Vendor Name	Amount	Description	Location
153868	ACTION ALIGNMENT INC	106.01	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
153869	ACTION HOSE INC.	206.09	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		155.23	PARTS & REPAIRS	SOCORRO DIVISION
		189.97	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	COCHITI DIVISION
153870	ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	619.99	MISC. PARTS/SUPPLIES	BELEN DIVISION
153871	ALBUQUERQUE SUPPLY	2,117.00	NP1	INVENTORY
153872	ALLSTATE HYDRAULICS	125.00	FREIGHT	BELEN DIVISION
		1,717.44	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
153873	AMAZON CAPITAL	375.94	COMPUTER SUPPLIES	INFORMATION SYSTEMS
		1,188.00	DELL TABLETS (2) CHARGERS	INFORMATION SYSTEMS
		533.61	LAPTOP	INFORMATION SYSTEMS
153874	ATMAX EQUIPMENT CO	55.00	FREIGHT	BELEN DIVISION
		299.52	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
153875	BOHANNAN HUSTON	27,257.70	BELEN HIGHLINE OVERFLOW DESIGN	BELEN DIVISION
153876	BUSTED STEM	317.51	TIRES/REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
153877	CENTURY EQUIPMENT	332.34	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		32.22	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
153878	CHASE MECHANICAL LLC	836.15	QUARTERLY A/C MAINTENANCE	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		536.15	QUARTERLY A/C MAINTENANCE	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
		2,500.00	QUARTERLY A/C MAINTENANCE	GENERAL OFFICE
153879	CHOICE STEEL COMPANY	1,417.00	METAL ORDER	INVENTORY
		201.96	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
153880	CONSTRUCTION RENTAL	22.30	FLUIDS/FILTERS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		92.61	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		2,106.15	STIHL PRODUCTS	INVENTORY
153881	CONTINENTAL BATTERY	150.96	BATTERIES	COCHITI DIVISION
		139.74	BATTERIES	WATER DISTRIBUTION
153882	CRITTERS OIL CHANGE	75.00	FLUIDS/FILTERS	BELEN DIVISION
153883	DESERT GARDENS	19,829.69	VEGETATION REMOVAL	RIGHT OF WAY DEPARTMENT
153884	DESERT GREENS EQUIPMENT	68.00	FLUIDS/FILTERS	SOCORRO DIVISION
		28.00	FREIGHT	SOCORRO DIVISION
		2,261.99	JD FILTERS	INVENTORY
		1,791.10	PARTS & REPAIRS	SOCORRO DIVISION
153885	EXPRESS AUTO GLASS	250.00	TINT REMOVAL & RE-TINT	WATER DISTRIBUTION DIV
153886	FINANCE AUTHORITY	27,792.49	MAR25 EQP PURCHASE	DEBT SERVICE
		17,780.35	MAR25 EQP. PURCHASE	DEBT SERVICE
		12,947.12	MAR25 EQUIPMENT	DEBT SERVICE
153887	FLEETPRIDE	107.77	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
153888	GM PIPE, LLC	1,072.98	GRIEGOS DRAIN-VILLAGE OF LOS RANCHOS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
153889	GOMEZ, RAY	1,973.90	RETIREE HEALTH INS	HUMAN RESOURCES
153890	IMSCO DIVISION	7,365.00	CABLE	INVENTORY
153891	INLAND KENWORTH INC.	97.53	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
153892	IRSC	801.50	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
153893	JIFFY LUBE	562.95	EMISSIONS TESTS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		75.06	EMISSIONS TESTS	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
		37.53	EMISSIONS TESTS	WATER OPERATIONS
		161.80	FLUIDS/FILTERS	COCHITI DIVISION
153894	LARRY H. MILLER	399.58	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		45.72	PARTS & REPAIRS	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
153895	LINDE GAS	341.78	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		94.31	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
153896	MATHESON TRI-GAS INC	28.60	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
153897	MAXIMIZED WATER MGMT	33,534.46	CAT LONG REACH AQUATIC RAKE	CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND
153898	MELLOY FORD LOS LUNAS	36.12	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
153899	MESA OIL, INC	150.00	HERBICIDE/OIL DISPOSAL	BELEN DIVISION
		95.60	HERBICIDE/OIL DISPOSAL	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
153900	MORA, RUBEN	669.73	RETIREE HEALTH INS	HUMAN RESOURCES
153901	NAPA AUTO PARTS	(442.47)	CREDIT ON INV# 367599	BELEN DIVISION
		44.97	MISC. PARTS/SUPPLIES	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
		243.67	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		13.91	PARTS & REPAIRS	COCHITI DIVISION
		515.40	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
		68.64	SHOP/WELD TOOLS	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS

Warrant	Vendor Name	Amount	Description	Location
153902	NEW MEXICO MUTUAL	13,254.00	MAR25 - WORKERS COMP	GENERAL FUND
153903	NEW MEXICO TRACTOR S	876.25	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
153904	O'REILLY AUTO PARTS	248.96	PARTS & REPAIRS	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
		141.50	PARTS & REPAIRS	SOCORRO DIVISION
		11.99	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
153905	OLGUIN TAMMY	34.96	RETIREE HEALTH INS	HUMAN RESOURCES
153906	PARTS AUTHORITY	1,101.38	BALDWIN FILTERS	INVENTORY
153907	PNM	577.57	FEB25	BELEN DIVISION
153908	POWER EQUIPMENT	18.45	FREIGHT	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		76.16	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
153909	PRUDENTIAL OVERALL S	100.00	UNIFORM RENTAL	BELEN DIVISION
		156.39	UNIFORM RENTAL	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
153910	QUADIENT, INC.	452.65	POSTAGE METER LEASE	GENERAL FUND
153911	RAIN FOR RENT	51,891.21	MAR25 - CORRALES PUMP RENTAL	CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND
153912	RAKS BUILDING SUPPLY	104.90	CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES	SOCORRO DIVISION
		94.30	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	SOCORRO DIVISION
153913	RED SHOVEL LLC	843.63	LANDSCAPE MONTHLY MAINTENANCE	GENERAL OFFICE
153914	RELEVANT INDUSTRIAL	76.85	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
153915	RIO GRANDE AGRICULTURAL	25,000.00	RGALT MOA	GENERAL FUND
153916	ROBERTS TRUCK CENTER	11,138.82	ENGINE OVERHAUL	COCHITI DIVISION
		75.00	FREIGHT	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		(1,643.64)	PARTS & REPAIRS-CREDIT	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		373.06	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
		255.37	PARTS & REPAIRS	COCHITI DIVISION
153917	RUSH TRUCK CENTERS	210.00	FLUIDS/FILTERS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		140.00	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
153918	SAFETY FLARE INC	2,456.49	ANNUAL FIRE EXTINGUISHER MAINTENANCE	ALL DIVISIONS
153919	SAN ACACIA MDWCA	21.52	WATER SAN ACACIA MAR25	SOCORRO DIVISION
153920	SAN BAR CONSTRUCTION	153.00	PAINT	RIGHT OF WAY DEPARTMENT
153921	SECURITY SOURCE	1,861.50	BOSQUE ACCESS KEYS	INVENTORY
153922	SOCORRO ELECTRIC	466.55	FEB25	SOCORRO DIVISION
		682.97	FEB25 PUMPS	SOCORRO DIVISION
153923	SOUTHERN TIRE MART	26.91	TIRES/REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		684.20	TIRES/REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
		205.46	TIRES/REPAIRS	COCHITI DIVISION
		513.15	TIRES/REPAIRS	WATER DISTRIBUTION DIV
153924	SOUTHWEST CONSTRUCTION	36.45	FREIGHT	BELEN DIVISION
		834.96	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
153925	SPECIALTY COMMUNICATIONS	161.44	FEB25 - RADIO REPEATER	GENERAL FUND
153926	SPENCER FANE LLP	54,995.02	WATER COUNSEL	GENERAL FUND
153927	STAPLES ADVANTAGE	129.24	COPY PAPER	GENERAL OFFICE
153928	STEWART & STEVENSON	1,318.19	DIAGNOSE & REPAIR	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
153929	TAS SECURITY SYSTEMS	37.61	MAR25 ALARM MONITORING	BELEN DIVISION
153930	TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION	2,245.83	FEB25 - DATTO INFINITE CLOUD SERVICE	GENERAL FUND
153931	THE PRINTERS PRESS	481.00	WATER ORDER LOGS	WATER DISTRIBUTION DIV
153932	THOMPSON SAFETY LLC	1,040.00	FIRST AIDE KITS	INVENTORY
153933	TIRES TO YOU, LLC.	185.00	TIRES/REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		320.00	TIRES/REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
		105.00	TIRES/REPAIRS	WATER DISTRIBUTION DIV
153934	TRANSCRIPTION	643.38	FEB25 MINUTES & TRANSCRIPTIONS	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
153935	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES	753.38	MUNIS WORK ORDER	INFORMATION SYSTEMS
153936	V-VARGAS, ERMELINDA	434.86	RETIREE HEALTH INS	HUMAN RESOURCES
153937	VERIZON CONNECT	5,351.20	GPS MONTHLY SERVICE	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
153938	WAGNER EQUIPMENT CO.	42.40	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
153939	WIGGINS, WILLIAMS	17,833.47	GENERAL COUNSEL	GENERAL FUND
153940	WILSON & COMPANY	56,358.71	JAN25 - BELEN WATERSHED DOCUMENTS	GRANTS FUND GO
153941	WILSON & COMPANY	36,375.82	FEB25 - SOCORRO CHANNEL LINING	GRANTS FUND SOC
153942	WILSON & COMPANY	13,222.41	FEB25 - LFCC CONSTRUCTION ADMIN	GRANTS FUND SOC

Warrant	Vendor Name	Amount	Description	Location
153943	ACOSTA EQUIPMENT INC	89.99	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	SOCORRO DIVISION
153944	ALBUQUERQUE GRAVEL P	190.00	CONCRETE/SHOTCRETE	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		3,472.00	CONCRETE/SHOTCRETE	COCHITI DIVISION
153945	AMAZON CAPITAL	138.99	GAS DETECTOR W/ PUMP	SAFETY DEPARTMENT
		22.32	PARTS & REPAIRS	SOCORRO DIVISION
		456.84	PROPANE WEED BURNER	BELEN DIVISION
		119.99	VEVOR PORTABLE AIR BLOWER	SAFETY DEPARTMENT
153946	AMERIGAS PROPANE	369.81	PROPANE	COCHITI DIVISION
153947	AT&T	164.71	MAR25 WIRELESS SERVICE	ENGINEERING & MAPPING
153948	AUTOZONE, INC	856.95	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
153949	BCBS	10,927.30	APR25 - DENTAL	GENERAL FUND
153950	BOHANNAN HUSTON	1,081.63	ALAMEDA DRAIN DESIGN - BHI	GRANTS FUND ABQ
153951	BOHANNAN HUSTON	37,156.87	FEEDER 3 TASK ORDER 5	ENGINEERING & MAPPING
153952	BOOT BARN	294.49	BOOT VOUCHER	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
153953	BOYD-SHUCK NAPA	781.90	PARTS & REPAIRS	SOCORRO DIVISION
		18.99	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	SOCORRO DIVISION
153954	C.C.S CONSULTING LLC	284.13	RANDOM DRUG & ALCOHOL SERVICES	HUMAN RESOURCES
153955	CARRILLO, RALPH	67.32	RETIREE HEALTH INS	HUMAN RESOURCES
153956	CASTLE BRANCH, INC.	136.25	EMPLOYEE SCREENING	HUMAN RESOURCES
153957	CENTURY LINK	181.11	MAR25	SOCORRO DIVISION
153958	CINTAS FIRST AID	55.00	WATER COOLER RENTAL	BELEN DIVISION
		45.00	WATER COOLER RENTAL	COCHITI DIVISION
		45.00	WATER COOLER RENTAL	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
		45.00	WATER COOLER RENTAL	SOCORRO DIVISION
153959	CONSTRUCTION RENTAL	27.84	FREIGHT	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		195.46	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
153960	CRAIG INDEPENDENT	412.93	TIRES/REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
153961	CRITTERS OIL CHANGE	150.00	FLUIDS/FILTERS	BELEN DIVISION
153962	GENSLER, DAVID	302.62	RETIREE HEALTH INS	HUMAN RESOURCES
153963	GENUINE NAPA	77.51	FLUIDS/FILTERS	BELEN DIVISION
		1,165.24	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
		218.32	PARTS & REPAIRS	SOCORRO DIVISION
		218.62	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	BELEN DIVISION
		210.25	SHOP/WELD TOOLS	BELEN DIVISION
153964	GEOTEL CORPORATION	997.30	PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE	ADMINISTRATION
153965	GPS, LLC	456.29	TIRES/REPAIRS	SOCORRO DIVISION
153966	HI-LINE ELECTRIC CO.	-	FREIGHT	BELEN DIVISION
		354.67	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	BELEN DIVISION
153967	LEGALSHIELD	637.40	DEC24	GENERAL FUND
153968	LEVEL 3 FINANCING IN	1,414.77	APR25 INTERNET	COCHITI DIVISION
		263.94	MAR25 INTERNET	BELEN DIVISION
		1,547.59	MAR25 INTERNET	INFORMATION SYSTEMS
		263.94	MAR25 INTERNET	SOCORRO DIVISION
153969	LINDE GAS	218.65	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
153970	MAINTENANCE SERVICE	414.10	MAR25 - JANITORIAL	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		2,036.03	MAR25 - JANITORIAL	GENERAL OFFICE
153971	MELLOY FORD LOS LUNAS	381.16	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
153972	MIDSTATE ELECTRIC	1,052.26	HEATER REPLACEMENT IN BATHROOMS	SOCORRO DIVISION
153973	NED'S PIPE & STEEL	24.00	CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES	SOCORRO DIVISION
		290.00	SAW	BELEN DIVISION
		798.00	STEEL	SOCORRO DIVISION
153974	NEW MEXICO GAS CO	120.97	MAR25	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		441.14	MAR25	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
		218.32	MAR25	GENERAL OFFICE
153975	NEW MEXICO TRACTOR S	152.10	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION

Warrant	Vendor Name	Amount	Description	Location
153976	O'REILLY AUTO PARTS	216.68	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
		31.98	SHOP/WELD TOOLS	BELEN DIVISION
153977	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH	580.10	CONCENTRA INVOICE 18083030	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		133.45	CONCENTRA INVOICE 18083030	BELEN DIVISION
153978	PACIFIC OFFICE AUTO	232.36	MAR25 COPIER LEASE	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		143.84	MAR25 COPIER LEASE	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
		730.25	MAR25 COPIER LEASE	GENERAL OFFICE
153979	PNM	32.87	MAR25	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		21.82	MAR25	BELEN DIVISION
		419.01	MAR25	COCHITI DIVISION
153980	POWER EQUIPMENT	121.81	FLUIDS/FILTERS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
153981	PREVENTIVE PEST	117.53	PEST CONTROL	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
153982	PRINT EXPRESS	2,025.30	BUSINESS CARDS	ALL DEPTS/DIVISIONS
153983	PRUDENTIAL OVERALL S	50.00	UNIFORM RENTAL	BELEN DIVISION
153984	QUEST DIAGNOSTICS	59.00	DOT RANDOM	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		157.35	DOT RANDOM	BELEN DIVISION
		59.00	DOT RANDOM	WATER DISTRIBUTION DIV
153985	RAKS BUILDING SUPPLY	17.98	CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES	BELEN DIVISION
		36.76	CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES	WATER OPERATIONS
153986	RANCHERO BUILDERS	108.07	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
153987	RANDY'S ACE HARDWARE	8.37	MISC. PARTS/SUPPLIES	SOCORRO DIVISION
		2.68	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	SOCORRO DIVISION
153988	RED SHOVEL LLC	252.40	LEAK REPAIR	GENERAL OFFICE
153989	SAFETY-KLEEN CORP.	424.61	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	SOCORRO DIVISION
153990	SANDIA OFFICE SUPPLY	918.94	CENTENNIAL ITEMS	ADMINISTRATION
153991	SOUTHERN TIRE MART	385.52	TIRES/REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		2,324.72	TIRES/REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
		367.98	TIRES/REPAIRS	WATER OPERATIONS
153992	SPECIALTY COMMUNICATION	161.44	MAR25 RADIO REPEATER	GENERAL FUND
153993	STAPLES ADVANTAGE	342.24	OFFICE SUPPLIES	GENERAL OFFICE
153994	TAS SECURITY SYSTEMS	37.61	APR25 MONITORING	BELEN DIVISION
153995	THE PRINTERS PRESS	171.00	FARMER MEETING NEWSLETTER	ADMINISTRATION
153996	ULINE, INC.	80.25	RECORD BOXES	BELEN DIVISION
153997	UNICOR	260.52	FEB25 - SHRED BINS PICKUP	ACCOUNTING
153998	UNIFIRST CORP	263.52	UNIFORM RENTAL	SOCORRO DIVISION
153999	UNIVERSITY MRO LLC	40.00	DOT RANDOM	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		40.00	DOT RANDOM	BELEN DIVISION
		40.00	DOT RANDOM	WATER DISTRIBUTION DIV
154000	VALLEY SANITATION	41.60	TRASH REMOVAL	BELEN DIVISION
154001	WATER STRATEGIES	9,000.00	JAN25 - CONSULTING	GENERAL FUND
154002	WEX BANK	79,675.29	UNLEADED \$19,937 DIESEL \$60,563 REBATES (\$825)	MULTIPLE DEPTS/DIVISIONS
154003	AFSCME COUNCIL 18	1,636.55	PAYROLL UNION DUES	GENERAL FUND
154004	BERNALILLO COUNTY CLERK	25.00	RELEASE OF LIEN	ACCOUNTING
154005	CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT	1,110.94	PAYROLL GARNISHMENT	GENERAL FUND
154006	HOME DEPOT CREDIT	807.00	REFRIGERATOR	BELEN DIVISION
		167.92	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		35.85	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	COCHITI DIVISION
		89.00	SHOP/WELD TOOLS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		179.00	SHOP/WELD TOOLS	COCHITI DIVISION
154007	MRGCD PETTY CASH	5.24	CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES	BELEN DIVISION
		79.84	VEGETATION REMOVAL	BELEN DIVISION
154008	STATE OF NEW MEXICO	258.21	PAYROLL GARNISHMENT	GENERAL FUND

Warrant	Vendor Name	Amount	Description	Location
154009	VALENCIA COUNTY CLERK	100.00	RELEASE OF LIENS	ACCOUNTING
154010	DOCUSIGN, INC.	5,383.94	E-SIGNATURE RENEWAL	INFORMATION SYSTEMS
154011	4 RIVERS EQUIPMENT	57.32	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		175.97	PARTS & REPAIRS	COCHITI DIVISION
		330.90	PARTS & REPAIRS	SOCORRO DIVISION
154012	ACOSTA EQUIPMENT INC	350.62	RENTAL TRASH PUMP	SOCORRO DIVISION
154013	ACTION HOSE INC.	222.01	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		456.68	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
		492.66	PARTS & REPAIRS	COCHITI DIVISION
		60.88	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	BELEN DIVISION
154014	ACUITY INSURANCE	97,310.83	FY25 INSURANCE	GENERAL FUND
154015	ALBUQUERQUE BOLT	73.60	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
154016	ALBUQUERQUE FREIGHT	389.21	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		270.39	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
154017	ALBUQUERQUE GRAVEL	1,425.00	CONCRETE/SHOTCRETE	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
154018	ALL AMERICAN PUMPING	115.00	PORTABLE RESTROOM RENTAL	SOCORRO DIVISION
154019	ALLSTATE HYDRAULICS	1,727.23	HYDRAULIC CYLINDER	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		502.85	HYDRAULIC CYLINDER	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
154020	AMAZON CAPITAL	514.93	COMPUTER SUPPLIES	INFORMATION SYSTEMS
		329.00	MISC. IT. SUPPLIES	INFORMATION SYSTEMS
		249.30	MISC. SUPPLIES	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		169.98	PARTS & REPAIRS	COCHITI DIVISION
154021	BAKER UTILITY SUPPLY	19,900.00	BLACK PIPE	INVENTORY
154022	BUSTED STEM	608.10	TIRES/REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
154023	CENTURY EQUIPMENT	147.71	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
154024	CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE	197,574.35	APR25 - HEALTH INSURANCE	GENERAL FUND
154025	CONTINENTAL BATTERY	74.46	BATTERIES	SOCORRO DIVISION
		139.74	BATTERIES	WATER DISTRIBUTION DIV
154026	CRAIG INDEPENDENT	75.19	TIRES/REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
		25.75	TIRES/REPAIRS	WATER DISTRIBUTION DIV
154027	CUMMINS ROCKY	112.63	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
154028	DESERT GREENS EQUIPMENT	29.99	FLUIDS/FILTERS	COCHITI DIVISION
		155.00	FREIGHT	BELEN DIVISION
		367.27	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		3,496.00	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
		17.45	PARTS & REPAIRS	COCHITI DIVISION
154029	FLEETPRIDE	68.99	FLUIDS/FILTERS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		78.18	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
154030	GPS, LLC	125.00	FLUIDS/FILTERS	SOCORRO DIVISION
		5,865.51	TIRES/REPAIRS	SOCORRO DIVISION
154031	GRAINGER	318.44	LIFE JACKETS	SAFETY DEPARTMENT
		231.82	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		39.64	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
154032	HI-LINE ELECTRIC CO.	390.40	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
154033	HIGH DESERT INDUSTRIAL	75.00	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	BELEN DIVISION
154034	HM LIFE INSURANCE	1,509.76	APR25 - DAVIS VISION	GENERAL FUND
154035	HUNTER BOWER LUMBER	27.95	SEALER FOR SKYLIGHT	GENERAL OFFICE
154036	JIFFY LUBE	75.06	EMISSIONS TESTS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
154037	LEGALSHIELD	686.30	MAR25	GENERAL FUND
154038	NAPA AUTO PARTS	35.29	FLUIDS/FILTERS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		8.59	FLUIDS/FILTERS	COCHITI DIVISION
		17.74	FLUIDS/FILTERS	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
		8.75	FLUIDS/FILTERS	WATER DISTRIBUTION DIV
		283.61	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		21.09	PARTS & REPAIRS	COCHITI DIVISION
		7.32	PARTS & REPAIRS	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
		76.68	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS

Warrant	Vendor Name	Amount	Description	Location
154039	O'REILLY AUTO PARTS	77.78	FLUIDS/FILTERS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		259.98	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		125.37	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
		21.91	SHOP/WELD SUPPLIES	SOCORRO DIVISION
154040	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH	505.84	DOT RECERT & PRE EMP	BELEN DIVISION
		111.93	DOT RECERT & PRE EMP	COCHITI DIVISION
154041	OVERHEAD DOOR CO OF	327.49	OVERHEAD BAY DOOR REPAIR	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
154042	PARTS AUTHORITY	101.37	FILTERS	INVENTORY
154043	PNM	6,025.84	MAR25	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		69.53	MAR25	BELEN DIVISION
		237.85	MAR25	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
		1,144.49	MAR25	GENERAL OFFICE
154044	POWER EQUIPMENT	54.80	FLUIDS/FILTERS	BELEN DIVISION
154045	POWER FORD	133.46	PARTS & REPAIRS	WATER DISTRIBUTION DIV
154046	PRINT EXPRESS	43.35	BUSINESS CARDS	WATER DISTRIBUTION DIV
		43.35	BUSINESS CARDS	WATER OPERATIONS
154047	PRUDENTIAL OVERALL S	100.00	UNIFORM RENTAL	BELEN DIVISION
		156.39	UNIFORM RENTAL	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
154048	PURCELL TIRE COMPANY	1,377.76	TIRES/REPAIRS	EXEC TEAM
154049	RAKS BUILDING SUPPLY	27.82	WALL REPAIR	SOCORRO DIVISION
154050	RANDY'S ACE HARDWARE	29.98	WATER FILTER-ICE MACHINE	SOCORRO DIVISION
154051	ROBERTS TRUCK CENTER	80.12	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
154052	ROBERTS TRUCK CENTER	615.95	DIAGNOSE & REPAIR	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		85.93	FLUIDS/FILTERS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		2,169.82	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		77.93	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
		124.80	PARTS & REPAIRS	COCHITI DIVISION
154053	SENERGY PETROLEUM	3,024.60	OIL	INVENTORY
154054	SOCORRO ELECTRIC	140.37	MAR25	SOCORRO DIVISION
154055	SOUTHERN TIRE MART	150.00	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		1,344.96	TIRES/REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		365.65	TIRES/REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
154056	SOUTHWEST CONSTRUCTION	28.20	PARTS & REPAIRS	BELEN DIVISION
154057	STAPLES ADVANTAGE	159.50	DIVISION CORKBOARD	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
		159.50	DIVISION CORKBOARD	BELEN DIVISION
		159.50	DIVISION CORKBOARD	COCHITI DIVISION
		159.50	DIVISION CORKBOARD	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
		159.50	DIVISION CORKBOARD	GENERAL OFFICE
		159.50	DIVISION CORKBOARD	SOCORRO DIVISION
		21.56	MISC. SUPPLIES	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
		42.81	MISC. SUPPLIES	GENERAL OFFICE
		7.10	MISC. SUPPLIES	HUMAN RESOURCES
154058	UNUM LIFE INSURANCE	1,986.59	APR25	GENERAL FUND
		4,150.75	FEB25	GENERAL FUND
		9,500.34	MAR25	GENERAL FUND
154059	WAGNER EQUIPMENT CO.	181.78	PARTS & REPAIRS	ALBUQUERQUE DIVISION
154060	WESTERN TECHNOLOGIES	2,300.00	DAMAGE DEPOSIT REFUND	GENERAL FUND
Wire Payment				
900017	U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS	827,085.63	NMISC COST SHARE AGREEMENT	GRANTS FUND GO

Warrant	Vendor Name	Amount	Description	Location
Credit Card Payment				
900018	WELLS FARGO BANK	550.00	AWRA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	WATER OPERATIONS
		182.00	AWRA MEMBERSHIP - A. MARKEN	WATER OPERATIONS
		6.00	BERN CO - DOCUMENTS FEE	GENERAL FUND
		163.48	BOARD MEETING AUDIO SITE RENEWAL	INFORMATION SYSTEMS
		142.51	BOARD ROOM SNACKS	HUMAN RESOURCES
		886.14	CONTROL BOARDS - HYDROLOGY	WATER OPERATIONS
		895.00	CULTURAL RESOURCE LAW REGISTRATION	EXEC TEAM
		440.21	CULTURAL RESOURCES LAW - E. ZAMORA	EXEC TEAM
		285.00	ENGINEERING CONFERENCE - A. JIMENEZ	ENGINEERING & MAPPING
		285.00	ENGINEERING CONFERENCE - A. MADERA	ENGINEERING & MAPPING
		380.96	ESRI USER CONF. - FLIGHT D. FEYGIN	GENERAL FUND
		483.96	ESRI USER CONF. - FLIGHT D. STRECH	GENERAL FUND
		559.65	ESRI USER CONF. - FLIGHT M. GEORGINA	GENERAL FUND
		199.11	FEB25 - EMAIL TEXT MESSAGING SYSTEM	ADMINISTRATION
		39.95	FEB25 - INTERMEDIA ANNUAL	INFORMATION SYSTEMS
		2.16	FEB25 - ZENDESK SUBSCRIPTION	INFORMATION SYSTEMS
		20.46	FREIGHT	WATER OPERATIONS
		1,199.00	FY25 TYLER CONNECT REGISTRATION	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
		270.00	IRWA LICENSING MEMBERSHIP - M. PADILLA	RIGHT OF WAY DEPARTMENT
		2,290.00	LAW OF THE RIO GRANDE REGISTRATION - BOARD	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
		2,230.77	MAP FRAMING	GENERAL OFFICE
		200.00	NM WATER LEADERS WORKSHOP REGISTRATION	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
		200.00	NM WATER LEADERS WORKSHOP REGISTRATION	CONSERVATION/PLANNING
		200.00	NM WATER LEADERS WORKSHOP REGISTRATION	EXEC TEAM
		2,191.94	NWRA POLICY CONFERENCE - BOARD	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
		500.97	NWRA POLICY CONFERENCE - C. ISH	CONSERVATION/PLANNING
		500.97	NWRA POLICY CONFERENCE - J. CASUGA	EXEC TEAM
		396.92	OFFICE SUPPLIES	GENERAL OFFICE
		595.00	REGISTRATION NWRA POLICY CONFERENCE	CONSERVATION/PLANNING
		595.00	REGISTRATION NWRA POLICY CONFERENCE	EXEC TEAM
		29.99	RIO GRANDE COMPACT COMMISSION - HOTEL FEE	EXEC TEAM
		384.36	TYLER CONNECT - A. ZAMORA	HUMAN RESOURCES
		384.36	TYLER CONNECT - B. SMITH	EQUIPMENT REPAIR & TRANS
		384.36	TYLER CONNECT - J. GAMBOA	ACCOUNTING
		384.36	TYLER CONNECT - P. FANELLI	EXEC TEAM
		500.00	UTTON CENTER SPONSORSHIP	GENERAL FUND
		1,160,564.48	TOTAL PAYROLL	
		1,504,690.21	TOTAL CHECKS/EFT - GENERAL FUND	
		58,519.96	TOTAL CHECKS - DEBT SERVICE FUND	
		4,158,035.60	TOTAL CHECKS - GRANTS FUND	
		85,425.67	TOTAL CHECKS - CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND	
		<u>\$ 6,967,235.92</u>	GRAND TOTAL	
<div> <div> Pamela S. Fanelli, CMA, CGFM Secretary-Treasurer/CFO </div> <div> John P. Kelly, Chairman MRGCD Board of Directors </div> </div>				

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

MARCH 10, 2025 - 2:00 P.M.

Directors having been duly notified; Chairman Kelly called the special meeting to order at 2:00 pm. The following Directors and Staff were present:

DIRECTORS

John P. Kelly, Chairman
Colin T. Baugh, Vice Chairman
Brian Jiron, Director
Stephanie Russo Baca, Director
Glen Duggins, Director
Michael T. Sandoval, Director
Karen Dunning, Director

Present
Present
Present
Present
Absent
Present
Present

Jason Casuga
Lorna Wiggins
Jeff Wechsler
Pamela Fanelli
Eric Zamora
Anne Marken
Matt Martinez

STAFF

Chief Engineer/CEO
General Counsel
Chief Water Counsel
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Chief Operating Officer
Water Distribution Division Mgr.
Water Operations Division Mgr.

The following names of individuals were interested viewers, callers and/or participants

Tarah Jaramillo, MRGCD
Josh Gamboa, MRGCD

Josh Hind, MRGCD
Amanda Molina, MRGCD

Christine Nardi, MRGCD

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tarah Jaramillo led the Pledge of Allegiance at today's meeting.

Chairman Kelly declared a quorum, and the meeting was publicly noticed. This meeting was a hybrid meeting with both Directors Jiron and Sandoval attending virtually.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Dunning made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING**. Seconded by Director Russo Baca. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

Chairman Kelly
Director Sandoval
Director Russo Baca

Yes
Yes
Yes

Vice Chairman Baugh
Director Dunning
Director Jiron

Yes
Yes
Yes

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 - CONSIDERATION/DISCUSSION OF THE PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

a. Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

b. Chief Engineer/Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Wiggins recommended this discussion take place in Executive Session. The Board agreed and decided that if anyone shows up for Items From the Floor, they will hear that after Executive Session.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 - ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR (Comments are limited to three (3) minutes)

There was no public comment.

The chair requested a motion to go into closed session at 2:04 p.m.

Vice Chairman Baugh made the **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**.
 Seconded by Director Russo Baca. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes.
 The **MOTION CARRIED**.

Chairman Kelly	Yes	Vice Chairman Baugh	Yes
Director Sandoval	Yes	Director Dunning	Yes
Director Russo Baca	Yes	Director Jiron	Yes

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 - EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. NMSA 1978 Open Meetings Act, Section 10-15-1(H)2
 1. CE/CEO Performance Evaluation
 2. Secretary-Treasurer/CFO Performance Evaluation

The chair requested a motion to go back into regular session at 2:43 pm.

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO GO BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION**.
 Seconded by Director Dunning. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes.
 The **MOTION CARRIED**.

Chairman Kelly	Yes	Vice Chairman Baugh	Yes
Director Sandoval	Yes	Director Dunning	Yes
Director Russo Baca	Yes	Director Jiron	Yes

With no further comments, questions, or concerns, Chairman Kelly adjourned the meeting at 2:44 pm.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of March 10, 2025.

ATTESTED:

 Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM
 Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

 John P. Kelly, Chairman
 MRGCD Board of Directors

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**MINUTES OF THE
2,221st REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

MARCH 10, 2025 - 3:00 PM

Directors having been duly notified; Chairman Kelly called the regular meeting to order at 3:03 pm. The following Directors and Staff were present:

DIRECTORS

John P. Kelly, Chairman
Colin T. Baugh, Vice Chairman
Brian Jiron, Director
Stephanie Russo Baca, Director
Glen Duggins, Director
Micheal T. Sandoval, Director
Karen Dunning, Director

Present
Present
Present
Present
Absent
Present
Present

Jason Casuga
Lorna Wiggins
Jeff Wechsler
Pamela Fanelli
Eric Zamora
Anne Marken
Matt Martinez

STAFF

Chief Engineer/CEO
General Counsel
Chief Water Counsel
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Chief Operating Officer
Water Distribution Division Mgr.
Water Operations Division Mgr.

11
12 The following names of individuals were interested viewers, callers and/or participants

Richard Barish

Richard DeLoia, MRGCD

Elizabeth Dicharry

Guy Dicharry

Steve Bassett

Jason Scullion

Mike Gadler

Jorge Garcia

Elaine Hebard

Sheri Crider

John Fleck, UNM

John Thompson, MRGCD

Santiago Maestas

Raquel Dawson, MRGCD

Casey Ish, MRGCD

Peter Rice

Steve Kinberger, MRGCD

Amelia Barrows, MRGCD

Doug Strech, MRGCD

Jared Jojola

Josh Gamboa, MRGCD

Josh Hind, MRGCD

Tarah Jaramillo, MRGCD

Amanda Molina, MRGCD

Linda Liptak

Patrick Taber

Mike Padilla, MRGCD

Luke Smith

Mark Sanchez

Angel Madera Enrique, MRGCD

Christine Nardi, MRGCD

Randy Sena

13
14 **AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

15
16 Richard Parrish led the Pledge of Allegiance at today's meeting.

17
18 Chairman Kelly declared a quorum, and the meeting was publicly noticed. This meeting was a
19 hybrid meeting with both Directors Sandoval and Jiron attending online.

20
21 **AGENDA ITEM NO.2 - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

22
23 Chairman Kelly took Item 8(c) and 8(e) off the agenda, and added Item 14(g) under Reports
24 from the Board, which is a report from Vice Chairman Baugh on the Acequia and Land Grant
25 Education Lesson Plan Development Meeting.

26
27 Vice Chairman Baugh made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA**
28 **WITH THE ABOVE CHANGES.** Seconded by Director Russo Baca. Rollcall vote was
29 administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED.**

30
31 Chairman Kelly

Yes

Vice Chairman Baugh

Yes

Director Sandoval

Yes

Director Dunning

Yes

Director Russo Baca

Yes

Director Jiron

Yes

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 - CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Consideration/Approval of Payment Ratification – March 10, 2025
- b. Consideration/Approval of February 2025 Invoice for Wiggins, Williams & Wiggins
- c. Consideration/Approval of February 2025 Invoices for Spencer Fane LLP
- d. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Special Board Meeting - February 10, 2025
- e. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting – February 10, 2025
- f. Memo on MRGCD Approved Licenses for February 2025 (For Informational Purposes Only)

Director Dunning made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA**.
 Seconded by Director Russo Baca. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes.
 The **MOTION CARRIED**.

Chairman Kelly	Yes	Vice Chairman Baugh	Yes
Director Sandoval	Yes	Director Dunning	Yes
Director Russo Baca	Yes	Director Jiron	Yes

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 - REPORT ON THE NM LEGISLATURE - John Thompson, MRGCD Lobbyist, Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO, Amanda Molina, PIO, Vice Chairman Baugh and Directors Dunning and Russo Baca

Mr. Thompson gave a report on New Mexico Legislature. He thanked all the board members that contributed this legislative session. He discussed House Bill 308, the elections legislation, stating that it passed the House floor on a 55 to 6 vote last Wednesday, and passed the Senate Rules Committee. The only committee it has left before going to the Senate floor for full consideration is the Senate Conservation Committee, which is tentatively set for a Thursday hearing. He feels there is ample time to get it passed and up to the governor before the 22nd. He then talked about capital projects, which were submitted on February 26th, and they should have a list of fully funded projects soon. He mentioned there are growing significant concerns about federal budget cuts and the impacts it will have on state coffers; however, there is no official word on that. Mr. Thompson stated there are several water policy bills floating around, including HB 137, which is a desalination/clean-up of brackish water, that was double referred in the Senate, which will be a challenge for that legislation. Another bill he mentioned was SB 37, that expands uses and creates a more secure form of funding, which is expected to pass. He also discussed SB 21, that has to do with state primacy relative to federal permitting, that will be heard tomorrow morning at House Energy. Other bills he is watching are SB 210, that establishes penalties for Water Law violations, HB 11, Paid Family Medical Leave Act, SB 7, Storm Water Service as a Municipal Utility, SB 332, that would give \$5 million to MRGCD for fire mitigation efforts, and two minimum wage increase bills,

Mr. Casuga added that HB 137 originally started off with brackish and produced water but has now been shrunk down to brackish water. He explained that MRGCD supports these bills, as it would be short-sighted to be opposed to researching and looking at other water sources that could reduce demand on service water.

Vice Chairman asked if SB 37 was the stormwater as a utility bill.

Mr. Thompson responded that SB 37 is the modification to the strategic water reserve, but SB 7 is the stormwater as a municipal authority legislation.

Chairman Kelly voiced he had reservations on the produced water aspect of HB 137, so he is pleased to see it is now just focused on brackish water. He asked if HB 308 was received in favor by the respective committee Chairmans.

Mr. Thompson answered yes, and they have also used that as a talking point.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5- REPORT(S) FROM THE WATER OPERATIONS

a. Report on Water Supply Conditions - Anne Marken, Water Ops Division Manager

Anne Marken gave a report on water supply conditions. She expressed that the moisture from this weekend did not result in much accumulation in the metro area and did not do much to improve the water supply outlook, but did contribute some to the watershed. She displayed the Natural Resource Conservation Services SNOTEL map, which showed well below average snowpack conditions for the year, showing the Rio Grande Headwaters at 67% of median, 65% in the San Juan Chama Basin, 42% in the Rio Chama Basin, and 25% in the Elephant Butte Basin. She said combined storage in Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs are below 400,000 acre feet, so Article 6 and 7 Compact restrictions remain in effect. The only storage water available to MRGCD in 2025 is the 2025 San Juan Chama allocation and small carryover from the 2024 allocation, as San Juan Chama is not subject to Compact restrictions. She explained that a full San Juan Chama allocation is 20,900 acre feet, and the 2025 San Juan Chama allocations are expected to 45% of a full allocation, which is equivalent to just under 12 days of water. New Mexico ended 2023 with 121,500 acre feet of Rio Grande Compact debt and current estimates indicate the debt increased by about 2,000 acre feet. Ms. Marken displayed a hydrograph of the Rio Grande Albuquerque Gage to provide insight to past water conditions in comparison to where we are this year and to show value and importance of having storage water. She expressed that without storage, summer and fall water availability will remain uncertain, as MRGCD will be reliant on summer rain events to deliver water after spring runoff is over. The NWS Seasonal Outlook for March, April, and May shows above average temperatures and below average precipitation, and the summer outlook is showing above average temperatures and equal chances for above or below average precipitation. MRGCD will only have a small amount of water to augment river flows when natural river flow is insufficient to meet needs and may need to release water earlier than usual. Farmers should expect limited irrigation availability once spring runoff ends and MRGCD has exhausted the San Juan Chama water supply.

Director Dunning asked what happened in August 2018 in regard to the graph.

Ms. Marken answered a large monsoon event but noted that 2500 CFS is not too out of the range of what they can see from a monsoon event.

Mr. Casuga added that the graph is a good illustration of the mantra that MRGCD has been saying in meetings, that compliance with the Compact is a conservation measure.

Vice Chairman Baugh thanked Ms. Marken for providing this graph to show people the comparison of years past. He said it also highlighted that when we dialed in with this storage, we operate on that minimum standard but still function in a lot of ways.

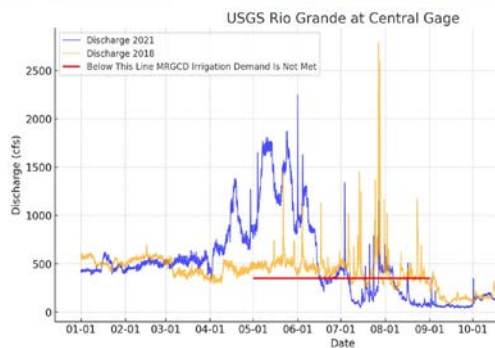
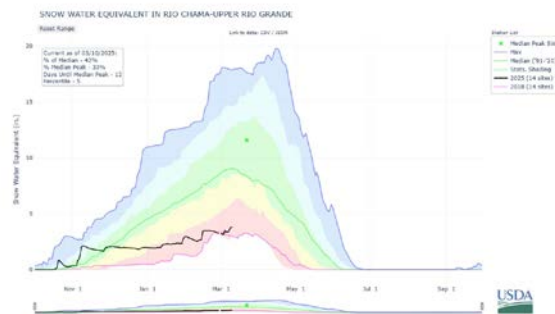
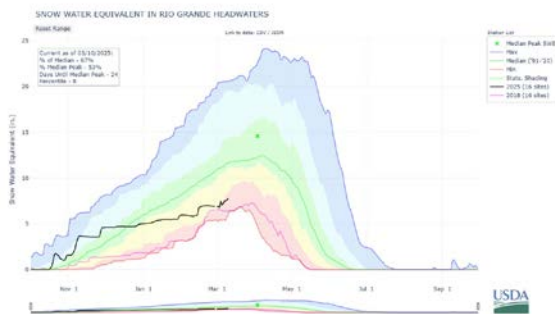
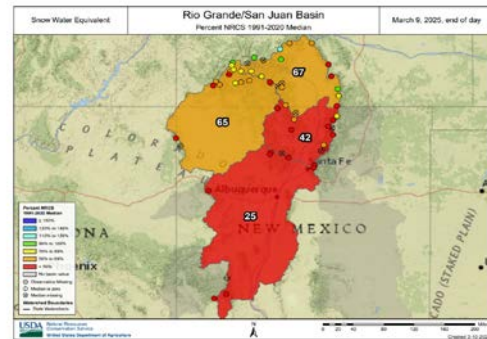
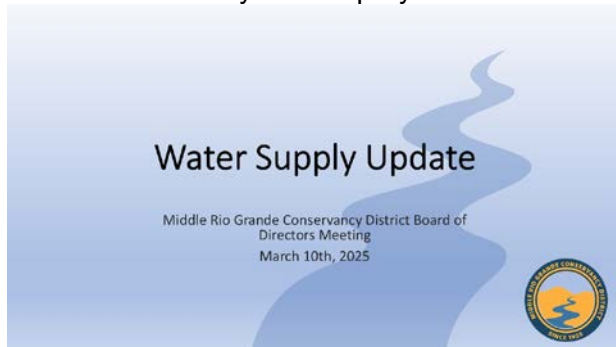
Director Russo Baca voiced that at the ISC Commission Meeting last month they said this year may look more like 2020-2021 season. She asked Ms. Marken's opinion on that.

Ms. Marken responded that it may have been before they got the February forecast out, because since that has come out, the March forecast looks much worse.

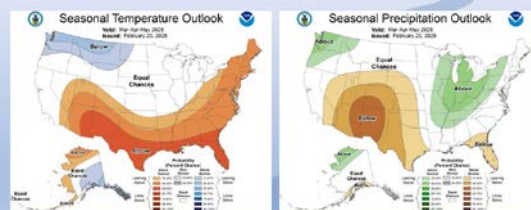
Director Russo Baca asked if the 2019 season was when they released the last of their storage of the 37,000 acre feet they had in savings.

Ms. Marken answered it was 2020.

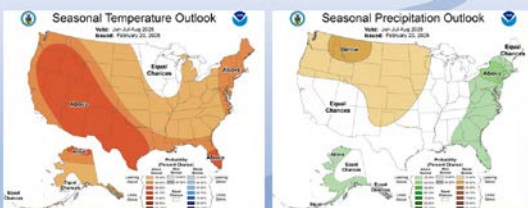
Chairman Kelly said to pray for more snow and cold temperatures.



National Weather Service Seasonal Outlook



National Weather Service Summer Outlook



Questions?

b. Status Report on Water Distribution - Matt Martinez, Water Distribution Division Manager

Mr. Martinez gave a report on water distribution. He expressed they are entering the third week of the 2025 irrigation season and have made steady progress in system charging and early deliveries. He recognized the hard work and dedication of their team. He stated the high winds presented significant challenges and impacted system charging and scheduled deliveries, which lead to major cleanup efforts and issues. Canals had to be shut off or lowered in response, and they paused system charging by March 5th to focus on stabilizing the canals with water. He reported that a large portion of the system has now been charged and flushed, but they still have cleanup and re-runs to do. He showed videos illustrating the impact of wind events. He expressed that they dealt with tumbleweeds, downed trees, and branch failures.

Mr. Martinez then provided area specific updates. For the Socorro Division, he stated that initially the San Acacia was used to begin system charging, but as Unit 7 flows increased, they no longer need diversion, and new canal lining improvements enhanced charged up efficiency. He noted that many canals had to be lowered or shutdown due to the high winds, but all four ISO zones are actively scheduling and delivering water. In the Belen Division, initially the focus was bringing up the west side before transiting to the east side, and operations were moving as planned until the high winds forced them to shift to a more cautious strategy. Initial deliveries began in the lower west side zones and irrigation deliveries in the division are permitted if they do not interfere with charging, and they expect to make deliveries in more zones by the end of the week. In Albuquerque Division, week one operations prioritized charging of a canal serving Isleta Pueblo at their request, and they then focused on bringing up the south valley system. They were on track to begin deliveries until the high winds caused issues that required additional cleanups and re-runs, but they plan to start initial deliveries this week. However, in the north part of the division, the winds forced adjustments to the charging schedule, particularly for the upper Albuquerque Main from Angostura Diversion to Sandia Pueblo, so efforts were redirected to running the lower Main and laterals within the north valley, and the upper main canal and lateral serving Santa Ana and Sandia Pueblo are scheduled for charging this week. In the Corrales Division, pump efficiency remains strong, and pumps have been operating mostly interrupted since February 24th, and the ISO is turning on the second pump as needed but shutting it off at night when the risk of weed clogging increases. He noted they are prioritizing deliveries in Corrales, as they will be the first to feel impacts of low river flows. In Cochiti Division, system charging was postponed due to the weather conditions, but today they began running the Cochiti east side Main Canal for the first time this season, and they expect to have the full Cochiti system charged by the end of the week. Mr. Martinez voiced that they remain on track to meet the overall goal of making widespread deliveries by March 15th for those who need them and have made significant progress in the season startup. He noted that the Middle Rio Grande Valley only received around 0.1 inches of rain, and in higher elevations they had 3 inches of snow, but it melted quickly and soaked into the ground. He said water users can begin contacting their ISOs to access water and place orders, and they are encouraged to ensure their water service charges are current and on-farm systems are prepared and ready to receive water before placing orders.

Vice Chairman Baugh said the videos were great to educate. He asked how heavy the tumbleweeds get when waterlogged.

Mr. Martinez answered that they get very heavy.

Vice Chairman Baugh suggested a more proactive approach to vacant lands that are a nuisance to some of the vegetation plug to maintain fields without weeds

Mr. Casuga responded absolutely.

Mr. Martinez suggested putting fencing along certain sections of canal to catch those weeds, but they have 1200 miles of canals and that would be cost-prohibitive.

Chairman Kelly said that if tumbleweeds land in the lake, it becomes a good crappie spot.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 - ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR (Comments are limited to three (3) minutes)

Elaine Hebard

Ms. Hebard submitted written public comments – reference Appendix I.

Sheri Crider

Ms. Crider explained that she resides on the north end of River Mile 163 Project and knows MRGCD oversees that area. She discussed the increased traffic, which causes safety issues for the families walking on these roads. She suggested some mitigation of traffic. She is also concerned about removing a lot of vegetation and bringing the spoils to the riverbank, as she feels they will have a lot more tumbleweeds. She added that the fire mitigation they are getting from the project will be lost if they put sand on there and grow tumbleweeds.

Guy Dicharry

Mr. Dicharry voiced he is in the northern part of Valencia County, right next to the River Mile 163 Project. He explained the whole project is within the Bosque Open Space Preserve that was a joint powers agreement between MRGCD and the Village of Los Lunas. He expressed that when the project is over, he would like MRGCD to do a multiyear ban on any motorized vehicles using the gate on the west side of the river north of Main Street, as the revegetation will not take place if motor vehicles are in there. He stated that BOR said they will block the access roads using some of the downed trees, but MRGCD needs to assure and assess the adequacy of those boundaries to make sure motorized vehicles are not going into the Bosque during revegetation.

Elizabeth Dicharry

Ms. Dicharry stated that she lives along the Lateral and the Belen Drain, north of Los Lunas. She said she has met with BOR before and during the project and it is much larger than they were led to believe. She shared that they have seen a lot of destruction, including hundreds of cottonwoods have been destroyed, and probably at least a thousand Goodding willows and coyote willows on the west side of the river so far. She showed a photograph of where it is clear cut along the river. She said where she lives there are three 30 to 40 feet wide east-west roads, and when people of Valencia County and Albuquerque discover this, they will find out how easy it is to get their trucks and ATVs back there to party and tear up the vegetation. She said this project has created a very difficult situation and it is necessary that it be replanted, re-seeded, and monitored. Ms. Dicharry explained this will increase the flood risk because the water is running quickly, which is why they are putting spoils on top of the levee. She added that they want it monitored and want to know who is monitoring it.

Randy Sena

Mr. Sena, a farmer in the South Valley of Albuquerque, said he is looking to put a farm of 38 acres back into production. He explained that one of his neighbors on a community ditch upstream has torn the ditch out and installed a 15-inch CMP culvert, and he is concerned about that. He asked if he could put a 6-inch pump, at his cost, and pull water out of the drainage ditch that borders his property to assist with getting the property irrigated to get adequate flow. He explained that if that is not done, he will be in violation of the one hour per acre irrigation rule. He spoke with Mr. Ish about going through one of his programs to apply to see if there is any cost sharing or funding to get this matter resolved, such as to upsize the pipe with time or possible look at rebuilding the ditch to make it more efficient to water the property to put back into a farm and was advised to come here to speak to the Board on the matter.

Chairman Kelly responded that he made a compelling argument and said he would have Mr. Ish follow up with the Bernalillo County Board Members on this as things develop.

Jorge Garcia

Mr. Garcia was there in the capacity of representing the South Valley Regional Association of Acequias, as the secretary, and he is also an irrigator. He thanked the Board for all the support they have provided to the region, especially in education. He said their main goal is to bring consciousness into the community, because unless they raise consciousness with kids and raise creative people that understand what it is going on, nothing is going to happen. He noted they are working with as many schools as they can and are expanding into Valencia, as the future of water in this valley and region relies on naturally developing consciousness from the bottom up. He was grateful for the collaboration taking place in Valle Vista, and they look forward to continuing to expand the model into other schools.

Richard Barish

Mr. Barish commented on what has been happening in Valencia County. He said the was walking north of Main and Los Lunas on the west side the other day and found there was clearing all the way down to Main Street in that area. He expressed he did not understand what that is for. He was shocked at the extent of the clearing and said there were chips left in place. He shared that he would love the Bosque to just be a nature preserve but knows that it is not practical, but did not think it was too much to ask that when work is done in the Bosque, that they minimize the damage to the Bosque. He stated that he hopes the Board will take some action to ensure that the minimization does take place when action is permitted in the Bosque and there is serious restoration of the areas that have been cleared.

Mr. Casuga responded to the River Mile 163 Project comments. He explained that Bosque projects are difficult, and the reality is that we have all enjoyed a Bosque that was set by floods and other things years ago that were worth protecting, enjoying, and investing in, but that is now changing. He said they are looking at an Otowi index with a median that is 20% less than the median five years ago. He added that when they look at projects with the State of New Mexico, BOR, and MRGCD, there is a time coming where the Bosque is going to be touched. He agreed that it looks bad, and they all look bad at the start. However, he asked what it looks like after a damaging flood happens that changes landscape. He noted they are in a time where they have built a system made up of dams and levees and that system requires water to make it to Elephant Butte to function properly. Mr. Casuga further explained that 163 is one of the narrowest sections on the river for this area and that constriction has been a problem on the river for many years and has only got worse as thickness in vegetation came in. One of the primary elements of the project is to reduce the flood risk, as well as fire risk. He shared that he'd be happy to sit down with people and go over the information they have. He said this is a

federal government project out of the River Maintenance Group, and we are in partnership with them and believe it needs to be done, but he could not say exactly what the mitigation plan is.

Director Russo Baca shared that on the MRGCD's website home page, on latest news, there is a public notice specifically about this project and linked the frequently asked questions by BOR.

AGENDA ITEM NO.7 - REPORT(S) FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

a. Bureau of Reclamation - Jennifer Faler, Area Manager

Ms. Faler was not present at today's meeting.

b. Bureau of Indian Affairs - Patrick Taber, Acting Designated Engineer

Mr. Taber expressed that it is going to be a dire year, and the BIA is hoping that they will be able to have enough runoff to meet the estimated demand for prior and paramount as it currently stands. He said there will be storage in El Vado for that, but it is still under testing, and they will find out how that will be. They will continue startup operations of maintenance calls with the Pueblos either next week or the following week, and Cochiti release started last week. He encouraged the board to review emergency management plans.

Chairman Kelly agreed the emergency action plans that have wonderful information, but the most important thing is to keep list of contact's current.

Vice Chairman Baugh asked why they are unsure if they will be able to start storing prior and paramount water depending on the runoff.

Mr. Taber clarified that prior and paramount storage calculations are based on an estimate of stream flow, and given how low the stream flow is, that would increase the amount of storage potential. He said if the irrigation season starts early and the demand exceeds what is available, they may not be able to store the full amount.

Chairman Kelly asked if the conservancy district provided the service and quality of work he was expecting.

Mr. Taber responded there were a few areas that he heard there were some issues, but he thought for the most part things were good.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 - REPORT(S) FROM THE CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER - Eric Zamora, PE

a. Report on the Pueblo of Cochiti & MRGCD Coordination Meeting, February 24, 2025.

Mr. Zamora thanked Governor Herrera and his staff for meeting with him and Mr. Casuga. He noted that it is the only time in his recollection that a Pueblo governor had a meeting here in our offices, and it was a special meeting. He said there was a lot of discussion on water and water delivery, system operations, and projects.

Mr. Casuga added that most of time they are asked to go to the governor's area for meetings, but they wanted to come and meet with us here, and he appreciated that.

b. Report on the Cultural Resources Law: Collaborating with Tribes on Energy & Infrastructure Projects Conference, February 27-28, 2025

Mr. Zamora expressed the conference was geared toward energy and infrastructure projects, and it was nice to know that in a lot of cases, coordination and collaboration efforts with the Pueblos are on par with what they heard at the conference. He noted he learned some things they need to be aware of that he can report on later.

c. End of Off Season Operation & Maintenance Updates

Mr. Zamora gave an update on their construction projects. For the Socorro Main Canal Project, he showed the newly constructed weir, which is a little over a mile south of the San Acacia Dam. For the Bosque No.1 Lateral Wasteway Project, he showed the structure constructed by Lopez Precision. He stated the canal continued south into a highly densely populated area with no outfall, so the structure will divert water and give them the ability to close the turnout at the tail end of the structure, and it now drains to the west into the Atrisco Feeder.

Mr. Casuga added that it was a project designed in-house with engineering staff, with feedback from the field divisions, and he noted there is a movement to name the Wasteway the Angie Wasteway.

Mr. Zamora thanked Pueblo of Santa Ana for their coordination efforts and said they were very good and accommodating to work with. He showed the completed Las Cercas Pilot Project with the Rubicon Gates. Regarding the Belen Highline Canal Overflow Structure, it is under construction right now and the concrete work is complete. He said the contractor is working on the energy dissipator and there has been a change in the access ramp to the left, but the project is moving along. For the Socorro Main Canal Channel Lining Project, he showed the section that was lined with concrete canvas, which was a low cost alternative to lining the channel, and so far it is working out great with much more manageable flows. He talked about the Low Flow Conveyance Channel Maintenance Project, stating work is complete on the left side and crews have started catching up on the right side. He noted that work is proceeding nicely they are ready to continue going south soon.

Director Dunning asked if the Rubicon Gates were delivered before the tariffs.

Mr. Zamora clarified that order was for the Langemann Gates from Canada. The Rubicon Gates are from Australia, but the gates get assembled here in the country.

Vice Chairman Baugh commented that down in Socorro, it seems like all the projects have noticeably helped a lot and suggested talking about that and highlight that.

Mr. Casuga responded that good metrics would gather over time, especially as they see the more on/off, as that is where they see the benefit of the lining. He agreed that to the degree that they can provide it, that can be something they want to do, and they will also want to report later on the maintenance metrics they will see.

Vice Chairman Baugh voiced that the design for the Wasteway is unique, and he loves how it is off to the right. He asked if there was a name for the type of side right weir.

Mr. Casuga answered it would still be considered a weir, but he did not know if it would go in the category of long crested. He thanked Mr. Zamora and his team for the day in and day out work they are doing.

Chairman Kelly thanked Mr. Zamora and the team for all their hard work.

Mr. Zamora updated from the O&M side of things. He had a discussion with Mr. Padilla from the Lands and Licensing Department about reaching out to county zoning to have better coordination effort to get out and talk to people when it comes to projects and issue notices.

Mr. Zamora expressed that Valencia County approved a flood commission and their organizational meeting is March 13th, and he will be in attendance to try and bring them into our Belen Watershed Project. He said Valencia County was reluctant to sign on as an agency partner at their last commission meeting and deferred that decision to the newly formed authority. He said they will resume Bosque cleanup in the Los Lunas area probably next week, doing one day a week for the foreseeable future to try and clear up encampments. Next month they will resume division manager updates for the Board and will begin with Ms. Corwin, as she will be retiring in May. He explained that weather is warming up and there is a lot more activity on the ditch banks, so be aware that MRGCD is out there working. He added that he has instructed staff to do be cognizant that there will be more people out there as well. He thanked Ms. Fanelli and Mr. Gamboa for getting them up to speed on the service order request system, as they are ready to start scheduling training for the pueblos. Mr. Zamora showed a new piece of equipment they acquired, an aquatic vegetation removal tool, which is the mechanical alternative to vegetation management. He said parrot-feather causes problems mostly with slow moving drains and limits the amount of flow they can get through a drain.

Director Russo Baca mentioned that her fish loves to eat parrot-feather, and she suggested bagging it up and reselling it.



437



438



Belen Highline Canal
Overflow Structure
Project Amount: \$1,581,875.40
Amount Spent to Date:
\$698,522.89



439



440



441

Low Flow Conveyance
Channel Maintenance
Project Amount:
\$4,957,030.00
Amount Spent to Date:
\$3,506,340.00



AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 - REPORT(S) FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT -
Christine L. Nardi, MBA

a. Introduction of MRGCD New Hires

Ms. Nardi introduced new hires, including a new field maintenance tech in Albuquerque, and two medium equipment operators, one who is a rehire.

b. Employee Recognition

Ms. Fanelli recognized Raquel Dawson for the Excellence Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution in budget management resulting in MRGCD being awarded the 2024 Director's Award for Budget Management and Fiscal Integrity.



L to R: Pam Fanelli, CFO; Raquel Dawson, Budget Analyst & Jason Casuga, CE/CEO

Note that Director Sandoval left the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 - REPORT(S) FROM THE CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER -
Richard DeLoia

a. Consideration/Approval of the Tub Grinder Bid - Casey Ish, Conservation Program Manager

Vice Chairman Baugh made the **MOTION TO PURCHASE THE TUB GRINDER**.
 Seconded by Director Russo Baca. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes.
 The **MOTION CARRIED**.

Chairman Kelly	Yes	Vice Chairman Baugh	Yes
Director Sandoval	Yes	Director Dunning	Yes
Director Russo Baca	Yes		

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 - REPORT(S) FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER/CFO - Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM

a. Consideration/Approval of Resolution M-03-12-25-220 for Disposal of Obsolete Items

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE M-03-12-25-220 FOR DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE ITEMS**. Seconded by Vice Chairman Baugh. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

Chairman Kelly	Yes	Vice Chairman Baugh	Yes
Director Russo Baca	Yes	Director Dunning	Yes

b. Report on the Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Report

Alan Bowers, Jr., with Carr Riggs & Ingram, gave a report on the Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Report. He discussed the scope of work, timeline, responsibilities, and the auditor's reports. He explained that they did an audit of the financial statements for June 30, 2024, looked at the overall financial statements related to Middle Rio Grande, a single federal program audit and risk assessment, tested the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, and tested for compliance related to the New Mexico State Audit Rule. He explained that in the financial statement, there are three reports, the Independent Auditor's Report, which showed an unmodified opinion, no areas that could not be rendered, and that financial statements were presented fairly, a GAGAS Report, which showed negative assurance and one significant deficiency, and a Uniform Guidance Report, which showed an unmodified opinion.

Chairman Kelly thanked Mr. Bowers for his report, and asked Ms. Fanelli about the significant deficiency.

Ms. Fanelli responded that it was an invoice that was paid after the fiscal year end and accrued back to FY23, and was put in as design for professional services, but should have been put in construction in progress. She found the error and reported it to the auditors, and they ran the transaction through the current year. To make sure that does not happen again, they ramped up the search for unrecorded assets on all accruals.

Chairman Kelly asked Mr. Bowers if they were able to get questions answered and if complete data provided in a timely manner.

Mr. Bowers answered absolutely, and added they are a pleasure to work with.

Chairman Kelly asked where they are in the procurement process of having to change auditors.

Mr. Bowers explained that since they reorganized in January, this is year one and they can have 8 years with one auditor.

Chairman Kelly expressed that they appreciate Ms. Fanelli's work and the fact that they found no significant findings at all. He also thanked Mr. Bowers and voiced that he looks forward to continuing the relationship.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12 - REPORT(S) FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER/CEO– Jason M. Casuga, PE

a. Report on the 2024 Rio Grande Water Fund Activities - Steven Bassett, The Nature Conservancy

Mr. Bassett, Director of Conservation Programs, gave a report on the 2024 Rio Grande Water Fund Activities. He said that he was in the San Juan Chama Project Headwater this morning and it is very different than any other March he has been up there. He explained that the Rio Grande Water Fund started shortly after the Las Conchas Fire threatened the drinking water supply and alerted New Mexicans to the threat of high severity fire, and they set out to support implementation of landscape-scale forest restoration treatments. He talked about extreme fire risk and voiced that the National Interagency Fire Center says this spring has an elevated fire risk, and the San Juan Chama Project source comes out as one of the highest wildfire risk areas. He expressed that since the Las Conchas Fire, more acres have been thinned and burned to build resilience to fire and that is quite an accomplishment. Mr. Bassett talked about their success, including signatory members of the Water Fund, raising federal funds and directing it to source watershed protection, working with many contractors in producing economic stimulus to some parts of the watershed, and they have treated 251,000 acres together, which is way more than the area burned by wildfire. He discussed the San Juan Chama Project accomplishments, including 15,000 acres identified as priority treatment locations that should be restored to mitigate the future fire threat, directed \$1.58 million to the watersheds and restored 1954 acres, and funding being directed to 241 acres of thinning and mastication in the San Juan Chama Project source watersheds. Their goal is to treat around 15,000 acres. Mr. Bassett voiced they have five strategies they are using with the Rio Grande Water Fund, such as coordinating collective action, implementation, influence, strategic analysis, and inspiring investment. He added that they received \$9.8 million from the Forest Service to get this work done, and said they could not do this without their partners. He talked about goals for the Rio Grande Water Fund but focused mostly on the 15,000 acres in the San Juan Chama Project source areas, as they have a lot of momentum there. He noted there are plenty of opportunities to engage with Rio Grande Water Fund.

Director Dunning stated that when this first started, many economic development officials were excited and trying to figure out ways to turn this into economic development and use forest thinning for some projects. She asked if anything ever happened with that or what they do with the lumber they cut down.

Mr. Bassett responded the San Juan Chama Project Source Watersheds in the Navajo drainage is a successful timber operation that they turned into lumber, but the lower value products they are thinning out from the other forests up there do not have a place to go and produce revenue to offset the cost of treatments. He added they were hopeful that something would come up for that, but none of it has been economically viable.

Vice Chairman Baugh expressed that they hope to be getting money from the state to create a fire prevention concept in the Bosque, and MRGCD just bought a big piece of machinery for the trees and debris they have. He said it seems they also have a lot of good expertise and would like to lean on them for direct collaboration.

Mr. Bassett responded that it would be wonderful.

Director Dunning said that originally there was some hope that this would increase available water supply, but early on research said no. She stated that somebody told her that now they think it does.

Mr. Bassett responded that he is not aware of anything super conclusive for the San Juan Source Watersheds, but studies are ongoing.

Mr. Casuga stated he knows the risk is targeted at water, but other models show how fire could progress. He asked if anyone is actively doing modeling like that on what happens in the Bosque through the urban areas if there is a Bosque fire.

Mr. Bassett answered that he does not believe there are any current fuel models to allow that for the Bosque. He added that they update the fuel models for forests regularly, but he does not think the Bosque has been a priority and he has seen a deficiency there.

Mr. Casuga shared it would be worth the conversation, as there is a significant risk. He voiced that he would like to chat about moving that effort forward because he is wondering if they need to start thinking about reducing fire danger associated with the Bosque.



Rio Grande Water Fund Update

Report to the MRGCD Board of Directors

March 10, 2025
Steve Bassett, Director of Conservation Programs
AJ Jones, Forest and Watershed Health Manager
Jason Souillon, Forest Strategy Director



Rio Grande Water Fund

The RGWF supports the implementation of landscape-scale forest restoration including thinning, controlled burns.



Founded in the aftermath of the Las Conchas Fire (2011)



Collaborative protection of water sources from high severity wildfire.



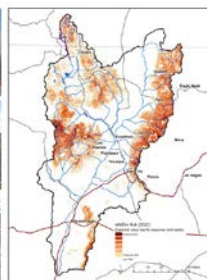
100+ Signatory Organizations

Extreme Fire Risk

• Not just bad luck:
The deck is stacked against us.
• Forests are overgrown.
• Weather getting worse.

• Any individual action is likely insufficient.

• Collaboration is how we can address this giant challenge facing New Mexico.
• Focus on highest ROI activities.
• Water: San Juan Chama Project



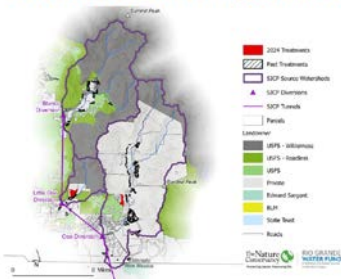
A Decade of Success

Together, with our partners, we have achieved great success:

251,000 acres of forest restoration activities	\$5.3 Million directly raised for restoration	\$52.8 Million public funding brought to the landscape	50+ projects funded	25 implementing partners	103 Signatories	1,500 Jobs supported



San Juan Chama Project Accomplishments



- 15,000 acres identified as priority treatment locations that should be restored as quickly as possible to mitigate the threat of future fire.
- Since 2014, the RGWF has directed \$1.58M to these watersheds and restored 1,954 acres.
- In 2024, RGWF funding was directed to 241 acres of thinning and mastication in the SJCP source watersheds.



Cohesive Strategy at Multiple Scales

Strategic Pillars



• The RGWF will realize its vision and missions through five core pillars that leverage the power of collective action, data-driven strategy, and policy.



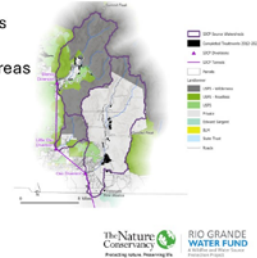
Partnerships for Success

The RGWF has a strong partner network that enables implementation at scale.



Goals for the Rio Grande Water Fund

1. Treat the highest risk acres with partners
2. Treat 15,000 acres in the SJCP source areas
3. Spatial and collaborative planning
4. Grow the RGWF network
5. Advance supportive legislation



Opportunities to Engage with the RGWF

- Implementation Planning
- Communications and Outreach
- 2026 RGWF Signatory Meeting
- Policy (e.g., CO fire liability legislation)



Questions or Comments



AJ Jones
Forest and Watershed Health Manager
ajjones@tnc.org

Jason Scullion
Forest Strategy Director
jason.scullion@tnc.org

Steve Bassett
Director of Conservation Programs
sbassett@tnc.org



b. Report on the South Valley Regional Association of Acequias Spring Meeting, February 13, 2025 - Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO and Vice Chairman Baugh

Vice Chairman Baugh expressed that it was productive to talk to a lot of their constituents regarding the letter coming out of the Office of the State Engineer in response to how the MRG irrigators would be curtailed if we were out of compliance. He noted that Mr. Casuga did a great job unpacking the complexities with irrigators and coming to a good conclusion that the District and the South Valley Regional Association of Acequias being together and being united will be stronger with each other's voices.

c. Report on the Pueblo of Sandia Farmers Meeting, February 20, 2025 - Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO and Anne Marken, Water Ops Division Manager

d. Report on the Village of Corrales Regular Council Meeting, March 4, 2025 - Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO, Eric Zamora, COO and Amanda Molina, PIO

e. Information on Upcoming Events

1. Family Farm Alliance Annual Conference, October 30-31, 2025 - Reno, NV

The chair asked for a motion to table agenda item nos. 12c, 12d, 12e and item 14a.

Director Russo Baca approved the **MOTION TO TABLE ITEMS 12(c), 12(d) and 12(e) and 14(a) TO THE NEXT MEETING.** Seconded by Vice Chairman Baugh. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13 - REPORT(S) FROM THE Mc, RGCD ATTORNEY(S) - Chief Water Counsel or General Counsel

Nothing from either counsel for regular session.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14 REPORT(S) FROM THE BOARD

- a. **Report on the Farmers for Future Farmers Meeting, February 11, 2025 - Director Jiron**

Tabled to the next meeting.

- b. **Report on the Earth Science Day NM Legislature, February 17, 2025 - Director Russo Baca**

Director Russo Baca submitted written reports; reference Appendix II.

- c. **Report on the Interstate Stream Commission Meeting, February 20, 2025 - Director Russo Baca**

Director Russo Baca submitted written reports; reference Appendix II.

- d. **Report on the Socorro Community Conversation on Water Matanza, March 1, 2025 - Directors Russo Baca and Dunning**

Director Russo Baca submitted written reports; reference Appendix II.

- e. **Report on the Land and Water Summit, March 5-7, 2025 - Chairman Kelly, Vice Chairman Baugh and Directors Russo Baca and Sandoval**

Director Russo Baca submitted written reports; reference Appendix II.

- f. **Report on the Personnel and Finance Committee Meeting, March 10, 2025 - Chairman Kelly and Directors Dunning and Russo Baca**

Chairman Kelly noted this was covered in the earlier special meeting and during discussions on the audit in this meeting.

- g. **Report on the Acequia and Land Grant Education Lesson Plan Development Meeting, March 8, 2025 - Vice Chairman Baugh**

Vice Chairman Baugh reported on the Acequia and Land Grant Education Lesson Plan Development Meeting. He said it was an incredible collaboration that was birthed out of the need to find a state certified curriculum and lesson plan for teachers to take into the classroom to highlight cultural relevance and future reality that all students are facing, and how they can have an active role and ownership in that.

Vice Chairman Baugh made the **MOTION TO APPROVE ALL THE REPORTS FROM THE BOARD EXCLUDING THOSE TABLED TO THE NEXT MEETING.** Seconded by Director Dunning. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Chair requested a motion to go into closed session at 5:37 pm.

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Seconded by Vice Chairman Baugh. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED.**

Director Russo Baca
Director Dunning

Yes
Yes

Chairman Kelly
Vice Chairman Baugh

Yes
Yes

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15 EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. NMSA 1978 Open Meetings Act, Section 10-15-1(H)2

1. Limited Personnel Matters

b. NMSA 1978 Open Meetings Act, Section 10-15-1(H)7

1. Threatened or Pending Litigation

Note that Director Jiron left the meeting prior to going into the closed session.

The Chair requested a motion to go back into regular session at 6:13 pm.

Director Dunning made the **MOTION TO GO BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION.**
Seconded by Director Russo Baca. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes.
The **MOTION CARRIED.**

Director Russo Baca
Director Dunning

Yes
Yes

Chairman Kelly
Vice Chairman Baugh

Yes
Yes

With no further comments, questions, or concerns, Madam Chairman Russo Baca adjourned the meeting at 6:13 pm.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of March 10, 2025.

ATTESTED:

Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

John P. Kelly, Chairman
MRGCD Board of Directors

DeAnna Philips

From: Elaine Hebard <eheward@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 3:44 PM
To: DeAnna Philips
Subject: Re: Hebard Comments

Good afternoon,

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, and one playing to the choir at that, MRGCD must step up its game because of the drought.

ABCWUA uses three metrics to determine whether a drought exists and if so, what severity and thus what actions are needed. The threshold metric is the Drought Severity and Coverage Index number for Bernalillo County as shown on the Drought map at <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap.aspx>. When it is less than 300, no drought is declared. It seemingly doesn't matter if the two other indices (gpcd and groundwater pumping) are higher than planned. Nor does it seem to matter that the projections for river flows are to be quite low, temperatures this spring and summer quite a bit higher than normal and precipitation lower than normal. Last week, the ABCWUA Board was told that no additional measures need be taken.

At the same time, farmers were told that there is a reduced snowpack which will turn into a reduced delivery. River flows at Otowi are forecast to be 36% through July. And, since New Mexico owes so much water to our downstream neighbors, storage opportunities are slim. Surface water users are being curtailed, but not groundwater ones?

The message has to be the same -- we're in a drought and everyone must act like it. I would urge the MRGCD to assist its customers by ensuring that all regional stakeholders are hearing the message and acting accordingly.

Drought is a part of reality, especially if used euphemistically for climate change. While desired, new sources of water -- such as brackish water-- have to be evaluated with costs, hydrologic impacts and toxic wastes in mind. Again, MRGCD must be in the conversation!

While World Water Day this year is focused on the importance of glaciers, why not focus here on the importance of snowpack!

Thank you,

Elaine Hebard

PS -- I was quite disappointed that the Board voted on HB 308 prior to hearing the public weigh comment, as your Board Liaison can tell you.

Director Russo Baca Board Reports March 10, 2025**Report on the Acequia Day & MRGCD Declaration NM Legislature February 11, 2025**

Vice Chair Baugh, Director Dunning and Director Russo Baca were in attendance in the gallery during the reading of the declaration celebrating MRGCD's Centennial. There were many parcientes in gallery, as well as many legislators were parcientes on their own acequia. Vice Chair Baugh was given a shout out as the Mayordomo in Duranes on the Pierce Lateral.

Report on Earth Science Day, NM Legislature, February 17, 2025

Earth Science Day at the NM Legislature was an important day to highlight natural resources, water, ag and forestry in New Mexico. The New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources presented the Earth Science Achievement Award for Public Service and Public Policy to New Mexico State Forester Laura McCarthy.

Report on the Interstate Stream Commission Meeting February 20, 2025

Legislative update to the NM ISC and regarding the MRGCD Request by NMISC staff for Amendment #1 to the FY2025 Middle Rio Grande Basin Work Plan to add \$1,000,000 to Element 1 – Channel Maintenance and Restoration – from the funding source 2023 River Channel Special (ZH5106). The report out to the ISC was that 2025 will be another dry year. It looks like there will not be 80% of average snowpack, much below 50% and a potential for repeat of 2021-2022. On the Rio Grande: NM added 1300 AF to Rio Grande debit, discussion to where to store prior and paramount currently stored at Abiquiu. NM is expecting low water, which means a higher P+P storage obligation. BOR continuing to test storage capacity at El Vado—keep at 6,000. Discussion regarding the sediment plug needs more attention. Updates regarding MRGCD- Start irrigating March 6 and all SJCP contractors will get 45% of full allocation.

Report on the Socorro Community Conversation on Water March 1, 2025

This event was a follow-up to last year's gathering that brought the community in Socorro County along the Middle Rio Grande together to talk about important water matters while enjoying a hearty meal. Panel topics included Hydrology of the San Acacia Reach- NMBGMR and NM Tech, the Future of Farming in the Valley- MRGCD- Anne Marken, the Rio Grande Compact, and the Lower San Acacia Reach Improvements Project. Anne Marken gave a very good overview of MRGCD, the Rio Grande Compact, as well as an outlook on irrigation.

Report on the Land and Water Summit, March 5-7, 2025

This year's conference was celebrating 30 years of "Nature-Based Solutions, Putting Our Thumb on the Scale for Mother Nature." This year's conference started with a fabulous tour of the valley starting in Los Lunas to Valle De Oro, Soilutions, Gutierrez Hubbell House, and ending with conversation and walk down Pajarito Acequia. There were many great talks during this conference including about the Rio Grande and the Making of a Modern American City, Bosque Restoration at Sania Pueblo, as well as out of state projects that could possibly be implemented here in NM.













MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Kelly, Board of Directors

Through: Jason M. Casuga, CEO/Chief Engineer

From: Eric Zamora, P.E. Chief Operations Officer

Date: April 9, 2025

Re: Consideration/Approval Executed Licenses for March 2025

Summary: *MRGCD EXECUTED the following licenses for March 2025.*

1. **129-2024** – License to maintain and existing 40' X 60" Ø culvert crossing within the Bosque Interior Drain right-of-way to serve MRGCD Map 105 Lands of Candy Koenig Tract 43B1 in the care of current owner(s) and its successors and/or assigns.
2. **156-2024** – License with Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. to maintain an existing aerial utility crossing within the Las Nutrias Lateral right-of-way.
3. **264-2024** – License with David and Merisa Chavez to temporarily access the Socorro Acequia right-of-way for the purpose of irrigation access.
4. **365-2024** – License with Public Service Company of New Mexico to install and maintain a parallel aerial utility within the outer northerly 5' of the Alameda Lateral right-of-way.
5. **395-2024** – License with Public Service Company of New Mexico to install and maintain an aerial utility crossing within the Duranes Acequia right-of-way.
6. **413-2024** – Temporary license with Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority to install and maintain a temporary 8" Ø force main sewer pipeline within the outer easterly 5' of the Armijo Interior Drain and Pajarito Lateral rights-of-way.



MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Kelly, Board of Directors

Through: Jason M. Casuga, CEO/Chief Engineer

From: Richard DeLoia, Chief Procurement Officer

Date: April 7, 2025

Re: Consideration/Approval – Professional Service Agreement for Election Services

Summary: MRGCD staff is requesting approval of the 2025 Election Management and Turnkey Services through Automated Election Services. Automated Election Services was selected as the winning vendor through the Request for Proposal process and approved at the July 2018 Board of Directors meeting covering the 2019, 2021, 2023 and 2025 MRGCD Elections.

Staff Recommendation: MRGCD Staff is recommending approval of the 2025 Contract to Automated Election Services at the amount of \$5,850.00 per polling location, and payment to Poll Officials and other associated fees in the amount of \$60,000.00 all inclusive. This is the final year Contract.

**MIDDLE RIO GRANDE
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT
FOR
MRGCD ELECTION MANAGEMENT AND
TURNKEY SERVICES**

THIS Contract is made and entered on the 7th day of April 2025, by and between the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (hereinafter referred to as “MRGCD”) and Automated Election Services (hereinafter referred to “Contractor”) and shall receive approval of the Secretary of State.

IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED BETWEEN THE PARTIES:

1. SCOPE OF WORK:

- A. Contractor shall perform those Election Services as prescribed in Schedules I through V of the Request for Proposal. Said Election Services shall be provided by Contractor in accordance with Chapter 73, Article 14, NMSA 1978 pursuant to Section 73-14-18 through 73-14-32 and 74-14-84 through 73-14-86, MRGCD Rule 20, MRGCD Election Calendar and any other appropriate election laws and any rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors pursuant to Section 73-14-84 NMSA 1978. Election Services shall include the Certification and Tabulation of votes for each Voting Convenience Center.
- B. This Contract incorporates all provisions of the Scope of Work detailed in the Request for Proposal attached as “Exhibit A”, Offerors (“Proposal”) submitted to the MRGCD by Automated Election Services dated June 13, 2018 and Best and Final Offer dated June 19, 2018 as “Exhibit B. Exhibits A, B will hereby be merged and made a part of this contract.
- C. This contract constitutes the entire contract of the parties concerning the subject matter of this contract, and there are no contracts between the parties, oral or written, other than specifically set forth and referred to herein.

2. TERM:

- A. The MRGCD Board of Directors at their July 9, 2018 Board Meeting approved and awarded a multi-election award for Election Management and Turn Key Election Services. Contract renewals will be submitted to the Board of Directors for review and final approval for each election. Therefore, this Agreement will be for all services covering the 2025 MRGCD Election. This is the final year Contract award.
- B. Notwithstanding the provision in Section 3.1A.21 of the RFP the Contractor hereby agrees to be available for any and all challenge proceedings which result from the 2025 Election of the MRGCD Board of Directors until said proceedings are formally concluded.

3. COMPENSATION:

The MRGCD shall pay the Contractor an amount not to exceed the following:

1 - 25 Voting Centers	\$5,850.00 per/polling location
26 - 50 Voting Centers	\$5,850.00 per/polling location
51-100 Voting Centers	\$5,850.00 per/polling location

Such amount includes all services for Schedule I through V, including a Real-Time Qualified Electors Data Base.

As agreed by both parties, payment to Poll Officials will be issued by Contractor, and the MRGCD will reimburse Contractor upon receipt of a detailed invoice and supporting documentation. The amount to be paid to the Poll Officials will be at the rates approved by the MRGCD Board of Directors.

GENERAL AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE:

The Contractor agrees to comply with state laws and rules pertaining to general insurance and workers compensation benefits for its employees. If the Contractor fails to comply with the Workers' Compensation Act and applicable rules when required to do so, this (Contract) may be terminated by the MRGCD. The contractor will provide certificate of insurance to the MRGCD when executing this agreement.

4. TERMINATION:

This contract may be terminated by the MRGCD for good cause and non-compliance with terms of this contract upon written notice delivered to Contractor. Such termination shall be effective as of the date of receipt of the written notice by Contractor. By such termination, neither party may nullify obligations already incurred for performance or for failure to perform prior to the date of termination.

5. STATUS OF CONTRACTOR:

The Contractor and its affiliated agents and employees are independent contractors performing professional services for the MRGCD and are not employees of the MRGCD. As a result of this contract, the Contractor and its affiliated agents and employees shall not accrue leave, retirement, insurance, bonding, use of vehicles, or any other benefits afforded to employees of the MRGCD.

6. ASSIGNMENTS:

The Contractor shall not assign or transfer any interest in this contract or any claims for money due or to become due under this contract without prior written approval of the MRGCD.

7. PROTECTION OF INDEPENDENCE OF ELECTION:

MRGCD agrees to seek injunctive relief and damages against any MRGCD board member, staff member or any person that attempts to harass any person running the election or otherwise interfere with the election process or bias the outcome of the election by any means.

8. NON-DISCRIMINATION:

All Vendors/Contractors doing business with the MRGCD must be in compliance with the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title VII of the Act, (Rev., 1979), and the American with disabilities Act of 1990, (Public Law 102-336).

9. SUBCONTRACTING:

The Contractor shall not subcontract any portion of the services to be performed under this contract without prior written approval of the MRGCD.

10. RECORDS AND AUDIT:

Contractor shall maintain detailed time records which indicate the date, time and nature of services rendered. These records shall be subject to inspection by MRGCD, the Department of Finance and Administration and the State Auditor.

The MRGCD or its agents shall be entitled to audit the books and records of the Contractor including subcontractors before and after payment for the initial contract and any change orders. The contractor shall maintain such books and records for a period of three (3) years from the date of final payment.

11. PRODUCT OF SERVICES; COPYRIGHT AND RIGHT OF DATA:

Nothing produced, in whole or in part by the Contractor under this Contract, shall be subject of an application for copyright or letters patent by, or on behalf of the Contractor. All materials developed or acquired by the Contractor under this contract shall become the property of the District.

12. RELEASE:

Contractor, upon final payment of the amount due under this contract, shall release the MRGCD, its officers, directors and employees, from all liabilities, claims and obligations whatsoever arising from or in any way related to this contract and the services to be performed hereunder. Contractor agrees not to purport to bind the MRGCD to any obligation not assumed herein by the MRGCD unless the Contractor has expressed written authority to do so, and then only within the strict limits of that authority.

13. PENALTIES:

The New Mexico criminal laws prohibit, and prescribe penalties for, bribes, gratuities and kickbacks. In addition, the Conservancy Act, Sections 73-14-88 through 73-14-92 NMSA 1978 provide civil or criminal penalties for false voting, unlawful possession of absentee ballot materials, unlawful opening of a ballot box and falsifying an election document.

14. INDEMNIFICATION:

Contractor agrees to indemnify and hold the MRGCD harmless for any liability incurred by the MRGCD as the result of actions or activities performed by Contractor, its affiliated agents and employees under this Contract.

15. CONFIDENTIALITY:

Any confidential information provided to or developed by Contractor in the performance of this contract shall be kept confidential and shall not be made available to any individual or organization by contractor without the prior written approval of the MRGCD.

16. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Contractor warrants that it presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict with the performance of services required under this contract.


17. AMENDMENT:

This contract shall not be altered, changed or amended except by instrument in writing executed by the parties hereto;

18. APPLICABLE LAW:

This contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of New Mexico.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this contract as of the date first written above.

 CONTRACTOR BY: _____ Automated Election Services	MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT BY: _____ Chairman of the Board
--	---

SECRETARY OF STATE

BY: _____

TITLE: _____



**RULE NO. 20
ELECTION OF DIRECTORS
FOR THE
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. Abolition of boards of directors of districts having more than one hundred thousand acres and created prior to 1930.

§73-14-18. As the same are now constituted, any conservancy district organized under the provisions of the Conservancy Act of New Mexico and such conservancy district being created prior to 1930, embracing land situated in four or more counties and having an appointed board of directors, shall, after the election and qualification of the board of directors cease to have an appointed board of directors and in lieu thereof shall have an elected board of directors as provided in Sections 73-14-18 through 73-14-32 NMSA 1978, which board of directors shall bear the name "Board of Directors of the Conservancy District" and shall be a body corporate, may sue and be sued, and which shall succeed to, have, exercise, enjoy, assume and perform all-of-all the rights, powers, obligations and duties now by law vested in, conferred upon, imposed upon or required of, the boards hereby abolished.

2. Boards of directors; membership, qualifications.

§73-14-19. The boards of directors created by Sections 73-14-18 through 73-14-32 NMSA 1978 shall consist of three directors from and representing that portion of the most populous county within the conservancy district, one director each from and representing those portions of each of the remaining counties within the conservancy district and one director from and representing the district at large; provided that each director:

- A. is a qualified elector of the conservancy district; and
- B. resides within the conservancy district and the county from which he is elected or, if representing the district at large, resides within one of the four counties of the conservancy district.
- C. as of the date the candidate completes the Declaration of Candidacy, the candidate is qualified to hold office.

3. Definitions.

§73-14-20. As used in Section 73-14-18 through 73-14-32 NMSA 1978:

- A. "absent voter" means a qualified elector who has requested an absentee ballot forty days prior to an election;
- B. "absentee-early voter" means a qualified elector who has voted early, prior to election day, on an electronic voting machine at a designated absentee-early voter precinct;
- C. "benefited area" means that area described by a property appraisal that received a benefit as a result of the creation of a district for any of the purposes specified in Section 73-14-4 NMSA 1978;
- D. "election director" means the person whom the board of directors may request to provide election services by a contract approved by the secretary of state;
- E. "election officer" means a person appointed by the board of directors to conduct the election in the absence of an election director and who performs all election services required by statute;
- F. "list compiler" means a contractor approved by the board of directors to compile and produce a qualified elector list for a conservancy district;
- G. "qualified elector" means an individual who owns real property within the benefited area of the conservancy district and who has provided proof of an ownership interest to one of the sources specified in Subsection B of Section 73-14-20.1 NMSA 1978 within the required

- time period, or who resides on and owns legal or equitable title in tribal lands and who is over the age of majority;
- H. "qualified elector's list" means the list compiled before each election that contains the individual names of all qualified electors; and
- I. "residence" means a dwelling that lies partially or completely within the benefited area.
- J. "voter identification documents" means a government-issued photo ID, or proof of being a currently enrolled member in a tribe, or two other forms of ID including, but not limited to utility bills, current year tax bill, or a voter ID.
- K. "electronic voting machine" means a vote tabulator, or any other state certified tabulating voting machine that is consistent with the NM State Election Code.

4. Qualified elector list.

§73-14-20.1.

- A. The board of directors of the conservancy district may contract for a list compiler before each election to compile and produce a qualified elector's list for the district. The list compiler shall deliver the completed list to the election director [or election officer](#) no later than forty-five days prior to a district election. An individual who purchases property ninety days prior to an election may become certified to vote in a future election by filing his deed of title with the appropriate county clerk at least ninety days before the next conservancy district election.
- B. Names of qualified electors shall be obtained from the records of the county clerk of the appropriate county, the appropriate county assessor of the appropriate country, records of the conservancy district or from the census bureau and enrollment records provided by the pueblos. The county assessor of the appropriate county, the county clerk of the appropriate county and the tribal representatives of the appropriate pueblos shall deliver to the election director all records regarding qualified electors of the benefited area no later than the last day of each [March-July](#) before a district election.
- C. Updating the qualified elector's list shall consist of adding, for any new qualified elector who has purchased property in the district, the name, address and description of all property owned by the qualified elector in the benefited area and removing the name of any elector who is deceased or is no longer a qualified elector because he no longer owns property within the benefited area.
- D. Proof of ownership of land within the benefited area requires one of the following:
- 1) A recorded deed or real estate contract indicating current ownership of land within the benefited area;
 - 2) An individual's name on county clerk records indicating a description of property the individual owns within the benefited area;
 - 3) An individual's name on a list compiled by the governing body of a pueblo within the benefited area indicating that the individual named is residing on and has legal or equitable title in the pueblo; or
 - 4) A current property tax bill indicating ownership of land within the benefited area.
- E. The election officer or the election director shall distribute to each polling place a current qualified elector's list for the appropriate county. The election officer or the election director shall distribute the qualified elector's list to each polling place within a pueblo located within the benefited area. A qualified elector may vote at any one polling place in the pueblo or county where he owns land. An individual who seeks to cast his vote but finds his name is not on the qualified elector's list shall not be allowed to vote in that election [but may vote on a provisional ballot pursuant to ~~Section 13-7~~ Section 6.3.](#)

Commented [DS1]: Section 13.7 does not appear to exist.

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108 **5. List Compiler.**

109 The board of directors of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District may contract for a List
110 Compiler before each election to compile and produce a qualified elector's list for the district
111 or may request district staff to compile the qualified elector's list.
112

113 **6. Voting.**

114
115
116 6.1 A qualified elector may vote only once for candidate(s) representing the county wherein he or
117 she is a qualified elector of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. A qualified elector
118 may only vote in one county even though they own land in two or more counties within the
119 benefited area of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. Only one vote may be cast by
120 a qualified elector for the candidate representing the District at large.
121

122 6.2 ~~The residents who own legal or equitable title in tribal lands and whose names appear on the~~
123 ~~Pueblo census from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs or a Pueblo enrollment list as provided~~
124 ~~to the List Compiler and are over the age of majority (18 years) in Santa Ana, San Felipe,~~
125 ~~Santo Domingo and Cochiti Pueblos will vote for the Sandoval County candidate and for the~~
126 ~~candidate at large. Since Isleta Pueblo embraces Bernalillo County and Valencia County, the~~
127 ~~residents of Isleta Pueblo will vote either for the Bernalillo County candidate(s) or the Valencia~~
128 ~~County candidate and the candidate at large. Since Sandia Pueblo embraces Bernalillo County~~
129 ~~and Sandoval County, the residents of Sandia Pueblo will vote either for the Bernalillo County~~
130 ~~candidate(s) or the Sandoval County candidate and the candidate at large.~~
131

132 6.3 **Provisional Ballots.** If an individual has failed to present Voter Identification Documents or feels
133 that there has been an error and that ~~he/she/he/she/they~~ **has have** been erroneously omitted
134 from the qualified elector list, the Election Judges will immediately allow the individual to sign
135 an affidavit certifying that they are a qualified elector as defined by state law and representing
136 that they will provide proof of ownership as described in §73-14-20.1(D) and provide copies of
137 ~~his/her/his/her/~~ their proper voter identification to the Election Director or Election Officer within
138 two business days of the signing of the affidavit. The individual will proceed to vote by paper
139 ballot on a Provisional Ballot (see 14.7 Voting).
140

141 The purpose of the provisional ballot is to allow a person not on the Qualified Electors List to
142 vote on Election Day. The provisional ballot ensures this voter that his/her/their vote is secret
143 and protects against fraud in the voting process.
144

145 6.4 Absentee Voting. Absentee ballots and their required envelopes may be mailed to the voter
146 beginning on the fortieth day preceding the election
147

148 6.5 Absentee/Early Voting in Person. Commencing at least two weeks prior to the election, an
149 early voter may vote once in person on a voting system at an early voting location in Bernalillo,
150 Socorro, Valencia, or Sandoval Counties.
151

152 **7. Board of directors; election; terms.**

153 §73-14-21.

- 154
155 A. Each member of the board of directors shall be elected for a term of four years and, unless,
156 removed from office, shall serve until his successor is duly elected and has qualified;
157 provided that in the first election immediately following the effective date of the provisions
158 of this act (73-14-18 to 73-14-32 NMSA 1978), candidates for positions 1, 2, and 5 shall
159 be elected for two-year terms each and candidates for positions 3, 4, 6 and 7 shall be
160 elected for four-year terms each.
161 B. Vacancies on the board of directors shall be filled by the remaining members of the board
162 of directors for the unexpired term of the director whose office becomes vacant. The

person appointed to fill the vacancy shall have the same qualifications as the member whose unexpired term they are -completing.

8. Board of directors; apportionment.

§73-14-22. The representation on the board of directors of the conservancy district shall be apportioned as follows:

- A. three members shall be elected from and by the qualified electors of the most populous county within the conservancy district;
- B. one member each shall be elected from and by the qualified electors of those portions of each of the remaining counties in the conservancy district; and
- C. one member shall be elected from and by the qualified electors of the conservancy district at large.

9. Suspension or removal.

§73-14-23. A member of the conservancy district board may be suspended or removed in the same manner and for the same reasons that a county officer may be suspended or removed.

9.1 Causes for removal of local officers. The following shall be causes for removal of any officer belonging to the class mentioned in the preceding section:

- A. Conviction of any felony or of any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude;
- B. Failure, neglect or refusal to discharge the duties of the office, or failure, neglect or refusal to discharge any duty devolving upon the officer by virtue of this office;
- C. Knowingly demanding or receiving illegal fees as such officer;
- D. Failure to account for money coming into his hands as such officer;
- E. Gross incompetency or gross negligence in discharging the duties of the office;
- F. Any other act or acts, which in the opinion of the court or jury ~~amount~~ amounts to corruption in office or gross immorality rendering the incumbent unfit to fill the office.

10. Time and procedure for election.

§73-14-24.

- A. On the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May- prior to the middle Rio Grande conservancy district election, an election proclamation shall be published that includes a list of the offices for which a candidate may file, the date and place at which declaration of candidacy shall be filed and the date of the election. The election proclamation shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the counties in which the election shall be held.
- B. The members of the boards of directors created pursuant to provisions of Sections 73-14-18 through 73-14-320 NMSA 1978 shall be elected at an election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in October in 2023~~5~~ and in each odd-numbered year thereafter.
- C. The elections for the members of the board of directors of the conservancy district shall be conducted, counted and canvassed as provided in Sections 73-14-18 through 73-14-320 and ~~73-14-84 through 73-14-86 NMSA 1978 shall not be governed by or subject to the provisions of the Local Election Act.~~ The polls may be opened and closed in the same manner as provided for the general election under the Election Code (Chapter 1 NMSA 1978).
- D. If only one candidate has filed a declaration of candidacy for a position to be filled at an election, no declared write-in candidate has filed for a position and there are no questions or bond issues on the ballot, only one polling place for the election may be designated. The one polling place may be located in the office of the election director or in the office of the ~~M~~iddle Rio Grande ~~C~~onservancy ~~d~~istrict.

11. Declaration of candidacy; signatures of electors

§73-14-25. Declaration of candidacy; signatures of electors.

- A. Any person who desires to become a candidate for election as a member of the conservancy district board of directors shall file his/her/their written declaration of candidacy with the election director or with the election officer at least sixty days before the election. The election officer or the election director shall certify the candidates to the board of directors.
- B. The declaration of candidacy shall contain:
 - 1) A statement that the candidate is a qualified elector of the district and meets the qualifications of a director as required by law;
 - 2) The candidate's name, address, county of residence and date of declaration of candidacy;
 - 3) The numerical designation of the position on the board of directors for which he desires to be a candidate;
 - 4) If a candidate for a position representing a county in the conservancy district, a petition signed by at least seventy-five qualified electors of the district who reside in that county;
 - 5) If a candidate for the position at large in the conservancy district, a petition signed by at least one hundred twenty five qualified electors; and
 - 6) A statement that the candidate resides within the conservancy district and in the county for which he desires to be a candidate on the board of directors.
- C. Candidate to present identification showing physical address; i.e. driver's license, voter registration, current utility bill, and/or description of qualifying property, etc.

11.1 Becoming a Candidate

- A. Position on the ballot will be determined by lot fifty seven (57) days prior to the election when candidates draw from ~~the numbers~~ numbers one through twenty-five. The candidate with the lowest number shall be first on the ballot with each following position being determined by the next lowest number. Drawing lots will be done in order of filing the candidate's declaration of candidacy. The name of the candidate shall appear on the ballot in the same form as it appears on the declaration of candidacy.
- B. Only original signatures placed on official petitions established by the Board of Directors for the current election will be accepted.
- C. No employee of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District shall continue employment with the District upon becoming a candidate because a conflict of interest would exist. This section shall not apply to people considered to be employees by virtue of their elected position.
- D. Must not have a felony conviction, or of any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

11.2 Write-In Candidates

Write-In Ballots – The Board of Director's power to regulate procedure at polling places, instructions to voters and determination of voter eligibility does not include the authority to deny the privilege of casting a write-in ballot to elect a board member. *Gonzales v. Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District* 106 N.M. 426, 744 P.2d 554 (Ct. App. 1987).

- A. A person desiring to be a write-in candidate shall file a written declaration of intent with the Election Officer at least fifty-five calendar days prior to the election. The declaration of intent shall be in the form established by the Board. At the time of filing the declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, the write-in candidate shall

be considered a candidate for all purposes and provisions relating to candidates in this Election Rule except that he/she/they shall not be entitled to have his/her/their name printed on the ballot.

- B. The Election Officer shall, fifty-three days prior to Election Day, certify the name(s) of the declared write-in candidate(s) to the Election Director. The Election Director shall instruct Election judges not to advise voters of write-in candidates.
- C. A vote for a write-in candidate shall be counted and canvassed only if:
 - 1) The name written in is the name of a declared write-in candidate, certified by the Election Officer and shows two initials and last name; first name, middle initial or name and last name; first and last name; or the full name as it appears on the declaration of intent and misspellings of the above combinations that can be determined by a majority of the election judges to identify a declared write-in candidate; and
 - 2) The name shall be written in as instructed per the approved voting system or on the proper line provided on an absentee ballot for write-in votes for the position for which the candidate has filed a declaration of intent.
 - 3) A write-in vote shall be cast by writing in the name; "write-in" does not include the imprinting of any name by rubber stamp or similar device, or the use of preprinted stickers or labels and votes cast for any individuals whose names have been placed on the ballot by such means shall not be counted or canvassed.
- D. No unopposed write-in candidate shall have his election certified unless he has received at least the number of write-in votes as he would need signatures on a nominating petition pursuant to the requirements of Section 10 of the Election Rule.

12. Designation of positions for purposes of election.

§73-14-26. For purposes of election to the board of directors of the conservancy district, each office on the board shall be assigned a position number in numerical sequence beginning with the at-large position, and then next those positions with the most populous county. At all elections, the same position numbers shall be used to designate the same offices.

13. Election; location of polling places; notice of election; creation of early voting precincts / polling places, creation of absentee voter precincts and creation of election day voting convenience centers.

- A. For every conservancy district election, the board of directors shall provide for adequate polling places within the boundaries of the conservancy district. In addition, the board of directors shall provide a polling place at the main office of the conservancy district and may provide such other locations as it deems necessary. The board of directors may also create absentee, early voter and absent voter precincts.
- B. Notice of the election shall be published three times in a newspaper of general circulation within each county of the district. Each notice shall state the time, place and purpose of the election and shall be published twenty, ten, and five days before the election.

14. Election judges.

The election officer or the election director shall select two or more election judges for each polling place established within the conservancy district. The election officer or the election director shall also appoint absentee-early voter and absent voter precinct boards.

- 14.1 The judges shall have the authority to preserve order within the polling place and to call in a peace officer if, in their judgment, his presence is necessary. The Election Director will also select such alternate judges as they deem advisable in each county.

In the absence of sufficient alternates to have two or more judges present at each polling place, the judges present shall have the authority to appoint a qualified elector as judge to serve as such upon filing the oath of such judge as required herein.

- 14.2 Election judges shall take an oath to conduct the election to the best of their ability and to fairly and impartially discharge the duties of their office and to recognize and preserve the rights of electors to secrecy of the ballot.
- 14.3 Judges shall be responsible for prominent display of sample ballots in the polling place, along with the Rules and Regulations for Election as promulgated by the Board of Directors, the definition of a qualified elector and the penalties for violating any provisions of the act.
- 14.4 Election judges shall take all action necessary to open the polling places promptly at 7:00 a.m. and to close the polls promptly at 7:00 p.m. Any qualified elector already standing in line to vote at closing time will be allowed to vote.
- 14.5 Judges will require electors to show proper Voter Identification Documentation and sign their name on the designated signature pad signifying that he or she is a qualified elector of the Conservancy District in the county in which he or she is voting and is voting only once in this election. The signature of an elector signing with an "X" will be verified by an election judge.
- 14.6 Judges shall not be present in the voting booth at the time a qualified elector is voting unless the elector is unable to perform the voting procedure without assistance for reasons of physical disability or illiteracy and only when the elector requests such assistance on the form approved by the Board of Directors. The elector may request the assistance of the Election Judges or any other person on such form. In the event the assistance of Election Judges is requested, two (2) judges must assist.
- 14.7 Provisional Ballots. An error or omission may occur whereby a qualified elector's name is inadvertently not included on the list of qualified electors, or if the elector fails to provide proper voter identification. If an individual qualified elector declares that s/he is indeed a qualified elector as defined under the law and an error has occurred resulting in his/her/their name not being included on the list, s/he may vote by paper ballot on a "Provisional Ballot." The Election Judges shall not allow the individual to sign the signature pad, nor shall the Election Judges allow the individual to vote on the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Board approved voting system but will allow the individual to immediately sign and print his/her/their name in the "Provisional Ballot" Poll Book and proceed to vote by paper ballot through the Provisional Ballot process. The Election Judges may ask for identification to insure that the qualified elector is of the age of majority (18 years). An Election Judge will write the number of the Provisional ballot in the "Provisional Ballot Poll Book" next to the voter name. The voter will then be furnished the "Provisional" paper ballot, an inner envelope to seal the ballot and an outer envelope that includes an affidavit for the voter to sign that s/he is a qualified elector of the Conservancy District and that s/he will provide proof of ownership and voter identification to the Election Director or Election Officer by the Thursday immediately following the election day, no later than 4:00 p.m. on that date. The individual voting by Provisional Ballot shall secretly mark his/her/their ballot, place it in the official inner envelope and securely seal the envelope. The voter will then place the inner envelope inside the outer affidavit envelope and securely seal the envelope. The voter shall then read the affidavit on the outer envelope and sign his/her/their name, full address and qualifying property description on the outer envelope and hand it to the Election Judge designated for handling Provisional Ballots. The Election Judge receiving the completed ballot shall then deposit the Provisional Ballot into a sealed

ballot bag or pouch designated for Provisional Ballots. At the close of polls, the Election Judge delivering the voting materials shall also deliver the Provisional Ballot sealed ballot bag or pouch to the Election Director or the Election Officer.

The Election Judge shall ensure that the information on the outer envelope is complete. The Election Judge shall ensure provisional voters are not subject to challenge at the time of voting. The Election Judge shall ensure the provisional ballots are deposited in a special sealed provisional ballot bag or pouch as designated by the Election Director for that purpose.

14.8 Judges will be paid a reasonable sum for their services, as determined by the Board of Directors of the District, and the judge transporting the voting materials with final tally to the Election Director shall be paid mileage as prescribed by law.

14.9 The District will provide training for all judges and alternate judges. A sum may be paid to Judges for attendance at training sessions, as determined by the Board of Directors of the District. Failure to attend training sessions may result in that individual not being selected. All judges and alternate judges shall receive a copy of the "Instruction to Judges."

15. Election.

§73-14-28.1. The board of directors of the conservancy district shall conduct the election pursuant to Sections 73-14-18 through 73-14-30 NMSA 1978 and shall select an election director as defined in Section 73-14-20 NMSA 1978 to provide election services. The election may be conducted by paper ballot, electronic voting machine or any other state-certified tabulating voting machine. The board of directors of the conservancy district shall conduct the election pursuant to Rule 20 or shall select an election director to provide election services. The election director shall operate pursuant to a contract approved by the secretary of state. The election may be conducted by paper ballot or electronic voting machines.

16. Form of ballot.

The election officer or the election director shall oversee the preparation and printing of the ballots for a conservancy district election. Ballots shall be prepared and printed at the expense of the conservancy district. The election officer or the election director shall oversee the preparation of a separate ballot for each county within the conservancy district or the preparation of one ballot for use within the entire conservancy district. The board of directors shall approve the form of the ballot. The ballot shall contain the numbered position or positions, as the case may be, to which directors are to be elected at the election, with the names of all candidates for each position listed under that designation.

16.1 The ballots shall include the at-large candidate(s) where appropriate. Each ballot shall have the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District logo. Paper ballots shall be pre-numbered. All ballots shall be printed in English and Spanish.

16.2 All persons in any way connected with the election shall ~~be~~ pledged to make every effort to preserve the secrecy of the ballot.

17. Election expenses.

§73-14-30. The conservancy district board shall pay out of the district's treasury those sums necessary to meet the actual expenses of elections. The board may levy a tax or assessment sufficient to meet election expenses on all property that is subject to direct assessment or taxation with the district.

18. Absentee voting by ballot permitted; procedure.

- A. In any election of officers of the conservancy district, a qualified elector shall be entitled to vote by absentee ballot. An absentee ballot shall be furnished by the election director in a form prescribed by the board of directors. The election director shall also furnish to each qualified elector requesting an absentee ballot an official inner envelope for use in sealing the completed absentee ballot and an official outer envelope for use in returning the inner envelope to the election director. No absentee ballot shall be delivered or mailed to any person other than the applicant for the ballot.
- B. A qualified elector voting by absentee ballot shall secretly mark his/her/their ballot, place it in the official inner envelope and securely seal the envelope. The qualified elector shall place the inner envelope inside the outer envelope and securely seal the envelope. The qualified elector shall then sign his/her/their name and address on the outer envelope and deliver or mail to the election director or the election officer.
- C. Absentee ballots shall be distributed by the election director or the election officer during the regular hours and days of business from the fortieth day preceding the election up until 4:30 p.m. on the Saturday immediately prior to the date of the election.
- D. No absentee ballot shall be counted unless it is received by the election director or the election officer prior to the closing of the polls on election day.
- E. An absentee ballot received after the closing of the polls on the day of the election shall not be collected by the absent voter precinct board but shall be preserved by the election director or the election officer until the time for election contests has expired. In the absence of a court order after expiration of the time for election contests, the election director or the election officer shall destroy all late official mailing envelopes without opening them or permitting the contents to be examined, cast, counted or canvassed. Before their destruction, the election director or election officer shall count the number of late ballots from voters of the conservancy district and report the number to the election officer and the secretary of state.
- F. Prior to the delivery of the absentee ballots to the absentee-early voter and absent voter precinct board, the absentee ballots shall be held unopened at the absentee voter precinct in a locked ballot box. At the close of the polls on Election Day, the absentee-early voter and absent voter precinct board shall obtain the absentee ballot box from the election director or election officer and tally the absentee ballots. The presiding judge shall have the authority to unlock the absentee ballot box.
- G. Absentee ballots shall be counted and tallied as are other ballots for the conservancy district election.

19. Absentee ballot application.

- A. Application by a qualified elector for an absentee ballot shall be made on the official form prescribed by the board of directors and printed and furnished by the election director. The form shall identify the applicant and contain information to establish his qualifications as a qualified elector for issuance of an absentee ballot. Each application for an absentee ballot shall be signed by the applicant.
- B. The election director shall mark each completed absentee ballot application with the date and time of receipt and enter the required information in the absentee ballot qualified elector list. The election director shall then determine if the applicant is a qualified elector.

- C. If the applicant is not listed on the qualified elector list, an absentee ballot shall not be issued, and the election director shall mark the application "rejected" and file the application in a separate file from those accepted.
- D. The election director shall notify ~~in-writing each applicant~~ each applicant in writing of the fact of acceptance or rejection of his application and, if rejected, shall state the reason for rejection.
- E. If the election director determine that the applicant is a qualified elector, the election director shall mark the application "accepted" and deliver or mail to the applicant an absentee ballot and the required envelopes for use in returning the ballot to the absent voter precinct.
- 19.1 If the Election Director notified the applicant of the fact that he is not listed in the qualified elector list and is therefore, "rejected", the Election Director will also include a notice informing the applicant that he may resubmit his application if he provides proof of ownership as described in §73-14-20.1(D) to the Election Director within the time period that absentee applications may be accepted by law.
- 19.2 If the applicant's proof of ownership is accepted by the election director, the Election Director shall mark the application "accepted" and deliver or mail to the applicant an "Absentee Ballot" and the required envelopes for use in returning the ballot to the absent voter precinct.
- 19.3 The Election Director, Election Officer or the MRGCD may report any discovered election fraud to the District Attorney's office for prosecution.

20. Handling of absentee ballots by absent voter precinct board.

- A. The absentee voter precinct board shall select one member to serve as presiding judge. The election director shall appoint a special deputy to serve at the absent voter precinct.
- B. Upon receipt of the absentee ballots by the absent voter precinct board, the special deputy shall remain in the polling place of the absent voter precinct until he has observed the opening of the official mailing envelope, the deposit of the ballot in the locked ballot box marked for the conservancy district election and the listing of the names on the official mailing envelope in the signature rosters. Upon delivery of the absentee ballots, the special deputy shall obtain a receipt executed by the presiding judge and each election judge appointed to the absent voter precinct board. The special deputy shall return the receipt to the election director for filing. The receipts shall specify the number of envelopes received by the special deputy for each absent voter precinct of the conservancy district and the number of envelopes received by the absent voter precinct board from the special deputy.
- C. Before opening any official mailing envelope, the presiding judge and the election judges shall determine if the required information has been completed on the reverse side of the official mailing envelope.
- D. If the voter's signature is missing, the presiding judge shall write "rejected" on the front of the official mailing envelope. The election judges shall enter the voter's name in the signature roster and shall write the notation "rejected-missing signature" in the notations column of the signature rosters. The presiding judge shall place the official mailing envelope unopened in an envelope provided for rejected ballots for the conservancy district, seal the envelope and write the voter's name on the front of the envelope and deposit it in the locked ballot box.
- E. At 5:00 p.m. on the Monday immediately preceding the date of election, the election officer or election director shall record the numbers of the unused absentee ballots for the conservancy district and shall publicly destroy in the conservancy office all of the unused ballots. The election officer or election director shall execute a certificate of destruction, which shall include the numbers on the ballots destroyed. A copy of the certificate of

destruction shall be sent to the board of directors of the conservancy district and the Secretary of State.

20.1 Given the amount of time required to process absentee ballots, the Election Director shall report the total number of received absentee ballots and the total number of accepted absentee ballots to the MRGCD once a week on ~~a Monday~~s. This information shall be provided by the MRGCD to any individual who requests it.

21. Absentee-early; electioneering.

- A. A voter may apply to vote absentee-early by completing an absentee-early ballot application on the official form prescribed by the board of directors and printed and furnished by the election director. The form shall identify the applicant and contain information to establish his qualifications as a qualified elector for issuance of an affidavit for absentee-early voting. The applicant shall sign each application.
- B. Once it is determined that the application form is complete, the election director shall mark the application with the date and time of receipt and enter the required information in the absentee ballot register.
- C. If the voter is determined to be a qualified elector, the election director shall inform the voter that his application has been accepted and instruct the voter on how to vote.
- D. For the purpose of absentee-early voting, electioneering is not permitted in the election director's office, the middle Rio Grande conservancy district offices or designated satellite locations.
- E. For the purpose of the section, "electioneering" means any form of campaigning within one hundred feet of the election director's office, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District office or designated satellite locations and includes the display of signs or distribution of campaign literature.

22. Election; procedure.

The board of directors shall promulgate necessary and reasonable rules for the procedure to be followed at the polling places, instructions to voters, methods to allow for write-in candidates and methods of determining voter eligibility.

22.1 There may be one poll watcher for each candidate at each polling location at the candidate's expense on Election Day. Notification of the name of the watcher shall be given to the presiding judge of the polling location at the opening of the polls.

There may be one poll watcher for each candidate at the candidate's expense on the day of the Provisional Ballot Canvass. Notification, in writing, of the name of the watcher shall be given to the Election Director at least one week prior to the Provisional Ballot Canvass.

Poll watchers will take no active part in the conduct of the election ~~nor~~ interfere with its orderly progress.

~~22.2 If a qualified elector in the Conservancy District is married, and both husband and wife are listed on the recorded deed for their property, both husband and wife are entitled to vote. If only one person is listed on the recorded deed, that one person is entitled to vote.~~

~~22.3 All natural persons that are listed in the ownership records of the County Assessors or the County Clerks or the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, inclusive of~~

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~~those Natural persons who are buyers and in possession of real estate located within the benefited area of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District under a recorded real estate contract shall be eligible to vote and not the seller of the real estate under said contract, as they are listed.~~

22.34 A person may vote in only one county in the Conservancy District in which such person is qualified as an elector. Only one vote may be cast by each qualified elector for one candidate for each position representing that county.

22.45 Only one vote may be cast by each qualified elector for the at-large position of Director of the Conservancy District regardless of the number of counties in which a voter is a qualified elector.

22.56 A voter will be required to sign an affidavit stating that he or she is a qualified elector as defined herein, and also to present Voter Identification Documents. A person failing to present proper Voter Identification Documents shall, at his or her option, either decline to vote or vote by a Provisional Ballot as provided in Section 2422.8.

~~22.7 A person whose property is held in a a Trusttrust, or through a business, partnership, corporation, company or similar entity may vote in a District election provided the person is a beneficial owner of the property and has been must be a beneficial owner of the property named ion the a Certificate of Trust or designated by affidavit as the voting representative of the entity. The trust or entity must have held title to the property for at least ninety days (90) before a district election to vote in that election, and the person or representative must reside in Bernalillo, Sandoval, Socorro or Valencia County. The affidavit or Certificate of Trust must be submitted to the Election Director no later than July 1 prior to the election, or that person shall vote provisionally and provide as noted in Section 22.8.,22.6 A. A person whose property is held in a trust may vote in a District election provided the property is within the benefitted area and the person is named in a Certificate of Trust. The trust must have held title to the property for at least ninety (90) days before a District election for the person named in the Certificate of Trust to vote in the election. The Certificate of Trust must be submitted to the Election Director no later than ninety (90) days prior to the election, or that person shall vote provisional and provide as noted in Section 22.8.~~

B. A person whose property is held through a business entity, including a sole proprietorship, partnership, or corporation, may vote in a District election provided ~~that the property is within~~ the benefited area and the person is designated by affidavit as the voting representative of the business entity. The business entity must have held title to the property for at least ninety (90) days before a District election to vote in that election. The affidavit must be submitted to the Election Director no later than 90 days prior to the election, or that person shall vote provisionally and provide as noted in Section 22.8.

~~Any person whose property is in a business must reside within the benefited area of the district and must be an owner of the property named on the operating agreement ninety days before a district election to vote in that election.~~

22.78 An individual who finds his/her/their name is not listed or found in the qualified elector's listing may vote immediately on a Provisional Ballot (Sec. 143.7). The individual must sign an affidavit that s/he is a qualified elector and must provide one of the proofs of ownership of property as described in §73-14-20.1(D) to the Election Director or the Election Officer by the Thursday following the election day by 4:00 p.m. An individual who has failed to present proper Voter Identification Documents may also vote

Commented [DS3]: There are concerns about this rule, as there is no standardized way to identify properties listed under a real estate contract from the Notice of Value data received from the County Clerks' offices.

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Commented [DP5]: Question to AES: does a person need to present voter identification documents

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immediately on a Provisional Ballot, in which case he or she must present proper Voter Identification Documents to the Election Director or the Election Officer by the Thursday following the Election Day by 4:00 p.m.

22.89 The Election Judges will return all voted ballots sealed in the transfer case provided, election materials and the sealed Provisional Ballot bag or pouch to the MRGCD General Office to the Election Director, Election Officer or the designated appointee after the close of polls and all procedures have been completed as per the "Instructions to Judges Close of Polls".

22.940 After return to the MRGCD General Office after the close of polls, the sealed Provisional Ballot bag or pouch will remain sealed and be placed in a designated secure area. The Election Director will ensure the secrecy of the provisional ballot and protect against fraud. The Election Director will govern and allow procedures for reviewing the qualifications of provisional ballot envelopes, absentee and other paper ballots in case of a contest recount or recheck of election results.

22.104 On the morning of the next business day following the Election Day, the Election Director or the Election Officer will total the number of sealed Provisional Ballots from the totals certified by the Election Judges on the Provisional Ballots Poll Books. The Election Director or Election Officer will transfer the Provisional Ballot totals to a "Provisional Ballot Final Tally" sheet and will add totals by polling location and position.

22.121 The Election Director or Election Officer will designate a "Provisional Ballot Precinct Board".

22.132 The Provisional Ballots will not be counted until a Provisional Ballot voter provides one proof of ownership of property as described in §73-14-21.1(D) to the Election Director or Election Officer. The Election Director or Election Officer will confirm the individual's name in the Provisional Ballot Poll Book and shall initial in the notations column that proof has been received. The Election Director or Election Officer will verify or reject the proof of ownership provided within two business days of the Election Day. The Election Director or Election Officer will initial in the notations column of the Provisional Ballot Poll Book "ACCEPTED" or "REJECTED" A provisional ballot shall be rejected if the voter has not provided one proof of ownership of property as described in §73-14-21.1(D) to the Election Director or Election Officer. Unqualified ballots shall not be opened and shall be deposited in an envelope marked "unqualified provisional ballots" and retained twenty-two (22) months.

22.143 If the Election Director or Election Officer find that the proof of ownership and Voter Identification Documentation provided by the Provisional Ballot voter is "ACCEPTED", the Election Director or Election Officer will unseal the Provisional Ballot bag or pouch of the polling location where the Provisional Ballot voter voted and retrieve only the unopened Provisional Ballot of the voter and reseal the Provisional Ballot bag or pouch. The Election Director or Election Officer will then write in red on the outer envelope "ACCEPTED," take off the outer envelope and attach it to the proof of ownership and deposit the unopened ballot in a single sealed "Provisional QUALIFIED Ballot bag or pouch." The outer provisional ballot envelope for qualified voters shall be deposited in an envelope marked "qualified provisional ballot outer envelopes" and retained for twenty-two (22) months.

22.154 On the Thursday following the Election day beginning at 8:00 a.m. the Provisional Ballot Precinct Board shall obtain the Provisional QUALIFIED Ballot bag or pouch from the Election Director or Election Officer and tally the qualified Provisional Ballots. The

presiding judge shall have the authority to unseal the Provisional QUALIFIED Ballot bag or pouch.

22.165 Qualified Provisional Ballots shall be counted and tallied as are other ballots for the Conservancy District election. After the tally of qualified provisional ballots, the Election Director or Election Officer will deposit the counted provisional ballots in an envelope marked "counted provisional ballots" and be retained for twenty-two (22) months.

23. Compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act.

23.1 All election information and material for the use of the qualified elector will be printed in English and Spanish in compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act. Where necessary, assistance in the form of translators will be provided.

24. Electioneering Too Close to the Polling Place

24.1 Electioneering too close to the polling place consists of any form of campaigning on election day within one hundred (100) feet of the building in which the polling place is located and includes the display of signs or distribution of campaign literature.

24.2 Whoever commits electioneering too close to the polling place is guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

25. Unlawful Possession of Alcoholic Liquors

25.1 Unlawful possession of alcoholic liquor consists of the use or possession of any alcoholic liquor by any member of the precinct Board while performing his/her/their official duties on Election Day. Unlawful possession also consists of the use, possession or carrying of alcoholic liquor within two hundred (200) feet of the polling place during any election.

25.2 Whoever commits unlawful possession of alcoholic liquors is guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

26. Election Centers

26.1 Election judges may call election information centers if the same are provided by the Election Director or the Election Officer to verify current ownership of land within the benefited area of the District and within the county in which the qualified elector wishes to vote.

27. Election for certain districts; counting ballots; certification of results to the board.

For conservancy districts having more than one hundred thousand acres within the district, the presiding judge of each polling place within that district shall, not more than six hours after the polls have closed, deliver to the election director a certified copy of the certificate of returns. Not more than twenty four hours after the polls have closed, the election director shall deliver a certified copy of the certificate of returns to the board of directors.

28. Election; canvass; certificates of election.

- A. On the morning of the first Friday following the election, the board of directors shall meet and canvass the returns certified to it by the election judges.
- B. After canvassing the returns, the board shall issue election certificates to the candidate or candidates receiving the highest number of votes for each position on the ballot. The board

shall declare the results of the election in writing and forward a copy of the declaration to the secretary of state and to the state engineer.

29. Recounts, Rechecks, Cost of Proceedings

- A. The District shall post the recount and recheck cost determinations on the District's website when the District issues its cost determinations. The District shall determine the cost of a recount per polling location and a recheck per voting machine no later than fifteen (15) days following a request for a recount. An applicant for a recount shall deposit with the District sufficient cash, or a sufficient surety bond, to cover the cost of a recount for each polling location for which a recount is demanded at the time the demand is made. An applicant for a recheck shall deposit with the District sufficient cash, or a sufficient surety bond, to cover the cost of the recheck for each voting machine to be rechecked. The deposit or surety bond shall be security for the payment of the costs and expenses of the recount or recheck in case the results of the recount or recheck are not sufficient to change the results of the election.
- B. If an error or fraud changes the winner of the election, the costs and expenses of the recount or recheck shall be paid by the District.
- C. If no error or fraud changes the winner, the costs and expenses for the recount or recheck shall be paid by the applicant. Costs shall include, if any, docket fees, mileage of the sheriff in serving summons and fees and mileage at the same rate paid to District employees.

790 **30. Voluntary campaign finance reporting.**

- 791
- 792 30.1 The board of directors shall establish a voluntary campaign finance reporting system
- 793 for all board of director candidates including designating an election director that shall
- 794 specify the form, method and provide for the collection and posting of the reports on
- 795 the District website. Each report will be on a form prescribed by the board and shall
- 796 include:
- 797 A. the name of the candidate;
- 798 B. the office sought;
- 799 C. all expenditures made and contributions received by the candidate (as
- 800 those terms are defined in NMSA 1978, § 1-19-26 (2003)), including:
- 801 1. the name and address of the person or entity to whom an
- 802 expenditure was made or from whom a contribution was received;
- 803 2. the occupation or type of business of any person or entity making
- 804 contributions of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) or more in the
- 805 aggregate per election;
- 806 3. the amount of the expenditure, contribution, or value thereof;
- 807 4. the purpose of the expenditure; and
- 808 5. the date the expenditure was made, or the contribution was
- 809 received.
- 810
- 811 30.2 Candidates choosing to file campaign finance reports shall:
- 812 A. File with the election director by 5:00 p.m. on August 25th, September 25th,
- 813 and November 1st a report of all contributions and expenditures not
- 814 previously reported. Any contribution or pledge to contribute that is
- 815 received after September 25th at 5:00 p.m. and that is for five hundred
- 816 dollars (\$500) or more shall be reported to the proper filing officer on a
- 817 prescribed form within twenty-four hours of receipt except that any such
- 818 contribution or pledge to contribute that is received after 5:00 p.m. on the
- 819 Friday before the election may be reported by 12:00 noon on the Monday
- 820 before the election.
- 821
- 822 30.3 Candidates choosing to file campaign finance reports need not report anonymous
- 823 contributions; provided that, each individual anonymous contribution does not exceed
- 824 one hundred ~~dollars~~dollars, and the aggregate amount of anonymous contributions
- 825 received during an election cycle does not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500).
- 826

827 [END OF RULE NO. 20]

828

829



4/14/2025

Board of Directors
Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
1931 2nd Street SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Members of the Board,

The 2025 New Mexico Legislature adjourned March 22nd at noon. 1,182 pieces of legislation were introduced with 195 passing which translates to 16.5% passage rate. The Governor had until April 11th to act on bills that passed or they were considered a 'Pocket Veto'. Of the 195 bills passed, 160 were signed into law, 18 were vetoed, and 17 were pocket vetoed.

The purpose of this document is to highlight legislation acted upon, tracked or pertinent to the MRGCD and also offers a brief review of other major policy actions.

Elections Legislation:

HB308 / Remove MRGCD from Local Election Act:

HB308 passed the House Floor on a 55-6 vote and passed Senate unanimously. HB308 carried and emergency clause and became effective upon the Governor's signature on March 21.

Capital Outlay

In the 2025 session, the district was successful in obtaining awards for the Loretta intersection and open space access improvement at \$525k. Additionally, \$50k was awarded to the Valle Vista Outdoor Classroom initiative.

Water Policy:

HB137 / Strategic Water Supply / Desalination: HB137 establishes a Strategic Water Supply Program designed to reduce reliance on fresh water by promoting the use of brackish water. The law enables state agencies to enter contracts and grants for projects that treat and utilize brackish water. To qualify for funding,

projects must comply with environmental standards, demonstrate economic and community benefits, and contribute to reducing freshwater use. The law also creates a fund for these projects, with specific appropriations for aquifer monitoring and technological development in water resources. Additionally, it sets forth requirements for drilling new wells or recompleting existing ones to ensure that water rights and public welfare are not compromised. PASSED & SIGNED

SB37 / Strategic Water Reserve Fund: SB 37 creates the Strategic Water Reserve Fund. The ISC will administer the fund that is non-reverting except for any unexpended or unencumbered balance exceeding \$15,000,000. It limits the use of the Fund to no more than twenty-five percent of the money expended for the purpose of aquifer recharge and ground water depletion reduction.

SB 37 expands the purposes for which the SWR may be used to include assistance in water management and water conservation efforts designed to support aquifer recharge or reduce ground water depletion in order to promote stream flow or other environmental benefits. It prohibits the conversion of surface water leased or purchased for the reserve to ground water via any methods other than natural, passive infiltration through the streambed.

SB 37 mandates when the ISC sets priorities of the acquisition of water or water rights and storage rights for the SRW, that the ISC consider whether the acquisition will provide supplementary benefits, including supporting traditional and cultural practices, habitat improvement, or recreational opportunities. If it provides a supplementary benefit and meets one of the main purposes for use of the SWR, the ISC may give that acquisition priority.

SB21 Water Quality, Permitting & Pollution: The Senate Judiciary Committee Substitute for Senate Bills 21 & 22 modifies New Mexico's Water Quality Act by expanding regulations on water pollution control, permitting, and enforcement. It establishes new definitions, revises public notice and appeal processes, and introduces the Neglected and Contaminated Sites Fund for pollution cleanup. The bill enhances penalty enforcement, allowing fines up to \$25k per day, and aligns state water discharge regulations with federal standards through the New Mexico Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Act. It also creates exemptions for agricultural activities, mandates compensatory mitigation for environmental harm, and ensures greater public and tribal involvement in water quality management. PASSED & SIGNED.

HB348 / SB210 Max Penalty for Water Law Violation: Increased the maximum penalty for a violation of water law and provides for an annual increase in penalties for a violation of water law to account for inflation.
DIED.

Other:

HB 11 / Paid Family & Medical Leave Act: Tabled.

SB7 / Storm Water Service as Municipal Utility: SB7 relates to municipalities, authorizing them to acquire, operate and maintain a municipal utility to provide for storm water service and to charge fees or advance payments for this service. The bill also adds storm water facilities to the definition of “Municipal Utility” in the Municipal Code. PASSED & SIGNED.

HB246 / Increase Minimum Wage: Increases minimum wage to \$17/hr as of 1/1/26 with CPI increases after 1/1/27. DIED

HB522 / Wage Increases for Certain Employees: Provides an annual cost-of-living increase to the state minimum wage rate beginning in 2026. HB522 provides that certain tipped employees receive an hourly rate that is twenty-five percent of the prevailing hourly minimum wage rate plus tips. It also requires that public contracts provide for increased contractor and subcontractor reimbursement and worker wage increases in accordance with and concurrent with state minimum wage increases. DIED

SB332 / MRG Fire Prevention: Appropriated \$5 million for fire mitigation efforts in the MRGCD.
DIED

Budget Items:

Matching Funds:
\$75 million is included in HB2.

Water Trust Board:
HB2 includes \$200 million for the WTB.

This is a brief summary of complex and detailed issues. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

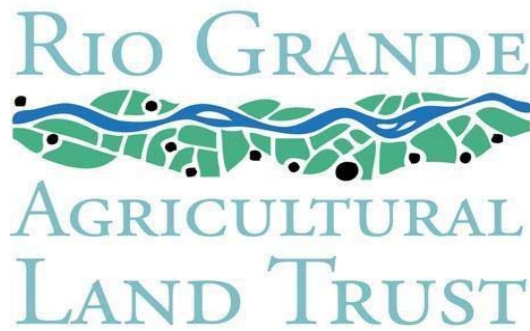
Thank you for the opportunity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John L. Thompson". The signature is stylized with a large, loopy initial "J" and "T".

John L. Thompson

505-804-4473

John@LobbyistNM.com



MRGCD/RGALT MOA 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

The Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust (RGALT) is a 501(c)3 accredited land trust organization founded in 1997. RGALT's mission is to protect land and water for people and wildlife in the Middle Rio Grande (MRG), New Mexico. RGALT's main geographic focus area overlaps the MRGCD service area and includes Sandoval, Bernalillo, Valencia, and Socorro Counties. We work with private landowners, providing the option to protect their land and water in perpetuity with voluntary conservation easements (CEs). CEs are legally binding deed restrictions that serve as a useful tool to protect land and water on farmland and natural habitat in the MRG. We are committed to identifying common ground to help build private and public partnerships for effective collaborations. We accomplish our mission by working collaboratively with government agencies, tribes, and other non-profit organizations aimed at protecting and enhancing the Rio Grande ecosystem.

We are grateful for our partnership with the MRGCD through this MOA that provides the capacity support necessary for RGALT to permanently protect land and water in our shared service area. RGALT understands that MRGCD supports many organizations all doing great things for our communities, including habitat restoration, trash clean-up, local food and agriculture initiatives, cultural promotions, and much more.

RGALT's conservation work is permanent, and we could not achieve our work without MRGCD's partnership and investment in our organization. In the last few years, some of our CE landowners have passed on, but their conservation legacy lives on through their conservation easements. The land and water we have protected in partnership with the landowners will continue to provide open space, wildlife habitat, and agricultural opportunities for the benefit of future generations.

RGALT is currently working with 11 agricultural landowners interested in obtaining funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Agricultural Land Easement (NRCS-ALE) program. Some of these projects are currently under development and some are still in the application phase. If all 11 landowners move forward with an NRCS-ALE application, this will result in \$6-8M in federal conservation dollars invested in the MRG to permanently protect close to 1000 acres of land and the appurtenant agricultural water rights. By the end of March, we will have completed 4 NRCS-ALE projects in the last 15 months, bringing \$1.5M in funding to protect 120 acres of irrigated farmland and 92 acre-feet of water rights.

RGALT's conservation goal is to protect 10% of the irrigated acres in MRGCD's service area in the next five years. We hope we can work together to achieve this goal.

MRGCD/RGALT MOA Background

RGALT entered into this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with MRGCD in February 2019 to conduct various tasks that support and advance the mission of the MRGCD and our shared conservation partners. In 2021, building on the momentum of the partnership agreement, the MRGCD increased and extended RGALT's financial support to \$50K/year from July 2021 - June 2026 with the option to renew the agreement.

RGALT's partnership with the MRGCD provides numerous benefits to the District by supporting its mission to manage and protect water resources, sustain agricultural viability, and enhance conservation efforts in the MRG. RGALT's work supports the MRGCD's conservation goals by permanently protecting farmland and water rights with voluntary CEs. By ensuring that water rights remain tied to agricultural land, RGALT helps prevent the sale of water for non-agricultural purposes, which supports MRGCD's long-term goal of maintaining water availability for farmers and the ecosystem. This aligns with MRGCD's mission of balancing water use between agriculture, conservation, and community needs. RGALT works with local farmers and landowners to help them apply for state and federal conservation programs, making it possible for them to access funding for land protection and on-farm improvements. By working directly with landowners, RGALT helps facilitate conservation projects that align with MRGCD's priorities without requiring the District to allocate additional resources or staff for these efforts. RGALT's work supports state and regional conservation efforts to improve wildlife habitat, soil health, and water quality and quantity - outcomes that align with MRGCD's interests in sustainable land and water management. Our partnership strengthens MRGCD's role as a leader in conservation while ensuring that agricultural land and riparian habitat is protected for future generations and that adequate water is available for farmers.

Support from MRGCD has allowed RGALT to leverage other partnership agreements and seek grant funding to increase organizational capacity. With this MOA funding, in December 2022 we hired one additional staff member, Amy Erickson, RGALT's Conservation Specialist. The Conservation Specialist assists the Executive Director (ED) in all activities with a focus on seeking third-party funding for conservation projects and organization capacity, CE implementation, annual CE monitoring, landowner outreach and technical assistance, and expanding conservation partnerships. The ED supervises all tasks mentioned above, and also works with elected officials and conservation partners to implement policy initiatives that make conservation funding more accessible to landowners, safeguard water rights, and strengthen our partnerships.

To date, RGALT has successfully leveraged MRGCD's support to double our operating income from \$160K/year in 2019 to \$370K/year in 2024. This has greatly improved RGALT's ability to serve MRG landowners, communities, and partners in meeting their conservation goals. The increased capacity has resulted in a record number of CE projects funded through the NRCS-ALE program which brought almost \$1.5M to the MRG in 2024. MRGCD funding supported RGALT's capacity to develop a partnership with Bernalillo County to implement the Bernalillo County Conservation Easement Program (BCCEP) which provides funding for CE projects in Bernalillo County. MRGCD's support allowed RGALT to work with partners to pass the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund and improve access to the NM Natural Heritage Conservation Act Funding program for conservation easements, and improve access to NRCS easement programs.

The MRGCD MOA funding has allowed RGALT's staff to participate more fully in policy initiatives and to expand our grant applications, both for conservation easement projects and organizational capacity. In 2024, we were awarded an NRCS Equity in Conservation Outreach grant to help landowners apply for NRCS programs. This grant supports a portion of current RGALT staff salaries and includes partial funding to hire

two additional staff members in 2025. Unfortunately due to the federal funding freeze, we are holding off on hiring until we know if this funding is still available. We are also unsure of the status of RGALT's two 2025 NRCS-ALE project applications for over \$2M to protect 200 acres of land and 800 acre-feet of water rights. We are in the process of developing several more project applications that could bring an additional \$2-5M to protect hundreds of acres of farmland and appurtenant water rights. The federal funding freeze makes the MRGCD MOA funding even more critical for sustaining RGALT's organizational capacity in this time of uncertainty.

Exhibit A of the MRGCD MOA provides the List of Work to be accomplished by RGALT. Please see details of work accomplished under each deliverable below.

1) Conduct public outreach to promote agricultural land and water conservation to stakeholders in the MRGCD, including private landowners. Organize, publicize, coordinate, or participate in at least four community workshops per year. Participate in community events and produce articles and public service announcements in various media sources (print, on-line, radio, social media) acknowledging the funding and contribution of Grantor.

- NRCS-ALE workshop, January 2024. Cecilia attended this workshop in Denver hosted by the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) and University of Wyoming's Ruckelshaus Institute to discuss challenges and opportunities with the NRCS-ALE program. See the 2024 NRCS Easement Recommendations Report [here](#).
- Thornburg Foundation - Saving Tomorrow's Agricultural Resources (STAR), January 2024. RGALT staff attended a workshop on a new initiative to help agricultural landowners adopt conservation practices.
- Socorro Community Conversation on Water, January 2024. RGALT staff attended this public event hosted by the Utton Center to discuss water-related topics with Socorro community members. We also supported the event with a \$500 donation.
- New Mexico Natural Resources Committee Socorro Meeting, August 2024 - RGALT staff attended this meeting and gave public comments on the state Natural Heritage Conservation Act program and other policy initiatives that will advance land and water conservation in NM, such as increasing the state tax credit for conservation easements and conservation easements on water rights.
- New Mexico Coalition to Enhance Working Lands (NMCEWL) annual summit, February 2024. Amy attended this workshop in Truth or Consequences to network with landowners and discuss the benefits of conservation easements.
- IWJV Joint Ventures Fly-In in DC, March 2024. Cecilia joined the IWJV for the DC Fly-In where we spent a week meeting with agency leaders and key congressional delegates about conservation programs and conservation needs in the West. Cecilia and Audubon Southwest Director Jonathan Hayes and his staff met with NM congressional delegates to discuss landscape partnerships in the MRG and our shared partnership with the MRGCD. Cecilia delivered the NRCS Easement Workshop Recommendations Report to NM delegates and agency leaders, speaking about the challenges of accessing and implementing the NRCS Easement programs, including MRGCD's RCPP.
- IWJV Management Board Meeting, April 2024. Cecilia participated in the IWJV's annual management board meeting held in Santa Fe. Cecilia sent the invitations to our NM partners and coordinated their attendance of the events. This was a multi-day event that included multiple meetings and presentations, a tour of forest restoration projects at Santa Clara Pueblo, a tour of

Santa Fe watershed restoration projects by Forest Guild, and luncheons/dinners with key policy makers, agencies, and foundations in NM.

- American Farmland Trust rangeland soil health virtual training, April 2024. Amy attended this 3-day virtual workshop to discuss opportunities for soil health practices on rangelands.
- NRCS State Technical Committee, April 2024. RGALT staff attended this event in Albuquerque to hear about and provide input for NRCS programs.
- Socorro County Irrigators Meeting, July 2024. RGALT staff attended this meeting hosted by MRGCD to discuss water delivery and provide updates on projects.
- Urban Farm Dinner at Farm Shark, September 2024. RGALT hosted a farm-to-table dinner at a small urban farm in Albuquerque's South Valley. We limited invitations to key supporters to allow for meaningful conversations over dinner. Over 30 attendees got to tour a small urban farm of less than 1-acre farm to gain an understanding of the importance of protecting every agricultural acre and the community benefits provided by local farms and agribusinesses. It also provided an opportunity for attendees to establish relationships and share our common conservation goals.
- Land Trust Alliance Rally Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, September 2024. Cecilia and Amy attended this 4 day conference with over 2,300 attendees from around the country.
- Land Trust Alliance NRCS Luncheon, September 2024. The RGALT team was invited to attend a special luncheon for land trusts using NRCS easement programs. Cecilia raised concerns about NRCS program rules and regulations that impact conservation projects and discussed specific issues we have faced with NRCS easement staff's interpretation of NRCS forms. It became apparent that this was an issue faced by land trusts throughout the country. Since then, Cecilia has had regular meetings with the Land Trust Alliance NRCS Team, American Farmland Trust, and national NRCS managers to work on solutions to improve NRCS easement staffs' understanding of their forms and implementation of easement programs. This has resulted in NRCS providing new staff webinars and workshops to improve their understanding of the easement programs and how to better convey information to partners and landowners.
- MRGCD, November 2024 - Per Jason Casuga's request, Cecilia and Amy met with Casey Ish to discuss ways to strengthen our partnership and improve conservation in the MRG.
- Festival of the Cranes, December 2024. RGALT gave a public presentation on conservation easements and how our work helps sustain the Central Flyway.

In addition to our in-person outreach events and community workshops, RGALT continues to promote conservation opportunities via social media posts, e-newsletters, and hardcopy newsletters.

- Facebook: We shared over 500 posts and stories in 2024 with 2,300 accounts reached. 1,143 people follow us, up by 124 followers since 2023.
- Instagram: We shared over 500 posts and stories in 2024. 938 people follow us, up by 91 followers since 2023.
- We sent out 30 E-newsletters in 2024. Average open rate was 39.3%. Subscribers are up by 49 since 2023, bringing the total number of subscribers to 1,381.
- We sent hardcopies of our [Annual Newsletter](#) to approximately 700 people and continue to distribute them at outreach events and agency partners' establishments.
- In late 2022 we developed a [25th Anniversary Commemorative Video](#), with landowners sharing stories about why they chose to protect their land with a CE. The video is posted on our website and

shared on social media platforms. Jason Casuga asked if the video could be shared on the MRGCD website. We would like to work with the district to upload the video.

2) *Recruit private landowners to pursue Conservation Easements and water conservation projects on their properties.*

Conservation easements are complex real estate transactions that permanently protect land by removing or severely restricting a landowner's right to develop or subdivide the property, ensuring the conservation values are maintained forever. These restrictions remain in place even if the land changes ownership. The "conservation easement value" is determined by the worth of the rights being extinguished, which typically amounts to about 50% of the property's fair market value.

RGALT's biggest 2024 accomplishment in regard to conservation easements was convincing the CE appraiser to value the water rights encumbered by the CE as a distinct and separate property right. While RGALT's CEs have always encumbered water rights on irrigated farmland, the monetary value of pre-1907 water rights was previously not considered as a separate property value from the land value for the CE valuation. After years of advocating for water rights to be recognized as a distinct property right protected by the CE alongside the land, we finally achieved a breakthrough. In 2023, RGALT launched a new initiative, working the CE appraiser, consulting with almost a dozen water right experts to determine the encumbered water rights value in CE appraisals. The 20-acre Roots Farm NRCS-ALE CE that closed in December 2023 includes the value of three acre-feet of certified pre-1907 water rights transferred from a Socorro farm to a well for year-round specialty crop production. The 40-acre Tome NRCS-ALE CE includes the value of 89 acre-feet of certified water rights. By incorporating the value of these pre-1907 water rights, the total value nearly doubled on the Tome CE which significantly increased the funding from the \$420K originally requested up to \$705K. This achievement creates a powerful financial incentive for landowners with historic transferable water rights to protect their land with a CE and keep the water rights in the MRG.

In the Middle Rio Grande, completing CEs is particularly challenging because many landowners are land-rich but cash-poor. High transaction costs—ranging from \$60,000 to \$80,000 per easement regardless of property size—create a significant financial barrier to land conservation. To make CEs feasible for landowners, RGALT must secure third-party funding to support "bargain sale" easements, where landowners receive partial payment for the CE value and/or funding to cover transaction costs. The NRCS-ALE program, which has been RGALT's main source of project funding for the past few years, does not cover transaction costs, meaning landowners have to pay these costs out-of-pocket. Now with the new state NHCA program, we can provide landowners with some funding for transaction costs, albeit the NHCA program has a cap of \$45,000 or 3% of the CE value for CE transaction funding.

Addressing the issue of transaction costs is a high priority for RGALT. In 2023, MRGCD and RGALT entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which provided RGALT with \$50,000 to partially cover the transaction costs for four NRCS-ALE projects, with each project receiving \$12,500. These four projects brought \$1.5M in federal conservation dollars to the MRG and collectively protect 120 acres of highly threatened irrigated farmland and water rights. These projects would not have been possible without the support of the MRGCD MOU funding. The closing on the final NRCS-ALE project, which protects 40 acres and appurtenant water rights adjacent to Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, is scheduled to close in March 2025.

Conservation Easement Projects Completed in 2024:

- *Mark Garcia, Village of Tome (41 Acres)*. RGALT secured NRCS-ALE project funding (\$705K) to permanently protect Mark's irrigated farm and 89 acres of pre-1907 water rights. This was a groundbreaking project where we requested that the appraiser include the encumbered water rights as a separate property value. Water rights have always been encumbered by RGALT's CEs, but including the valuation in the appraisal doubled the CE value and the funding that the landowner received. We strongly believe this project will set a precedent going forward since water rights were not formerly included in the appraisal. RGALT began this project in 2020. The long timeline for completion was due to NRCS bureaucracy, which we are trying to address via our policy initiatives and work with elected officials, Land Trust Alliance and American Farmland Trust policy advisors, and national-level NRCS staff.

Conservation Easement Projects Currently Underway:

- *Don Kettwich, Albuquerque Mountain View Neighborhood (40 acres)*. RGALT secured NRCS-ALE project funding (\$500K) to protect this irrigated farmland directly adjacent to Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. The project has been in development since 2020. We should be able to close on this project in March 2025.
- *Susan Jones, North Valley Albuquerque (4 acres)*. This is a partnership project with Bernalillo County and the BCCEP where Bernalillo County is providing funding for the CE transaction costs. The project is well underway with the Deed of Conservation Easement, Baseline Documentation Report, and other due diligence items being nearly completed. We anticipate closing on this project in summer 2025.
- *Glen Duggins, Lemitar, Socorro County (78 acres)*. Glen has signed the engagement letter and paid the commitment fee. We submitted an NRCS-ALE application requesting \$624,000 for his project, which is currently under consideration. We also submitted the project for Natural Heritage Conservation Act funding. NHCA awarded us \$348,500 which will cover a portion of the CE acquisition and some of the transaction costs. We will move forward with the project once we hear back about NRCS-ALE later this spring.
- *Kyle and Michelle Duggins, Lemitar, Socorro County (118 acres)*. Kyle and Michelle have signed the engagement letter and paid the commitment fee. We submitted an NRCS-ALE application requesting \$936,000 for this project, which is currently under consideration. We also submitted the project for Natural Heritage Conservation Act funding. NHCA awarded us \$382,600 which will cover a portion of the CE acquisition and some of the transaction costs. We will move forward with the project once we hear back about NRCS-ALE later this spring.
- *Andrew and Katie Stone, Rio Grande Boulevard, Albuquerque (5 acres)*. This is a partnership project with Bernalillo County and the BCCEP where Bernalillo County is providing funding for the CE transaction costs. In January, RGALT, the landowners and Bernalillo County signed the engagement letter and due diligence activities have begun. We hope to close on this project in late 2025 or early 2026.
- *Ray and Lisa Garcia, Village of Tome (40 acres)*. The RGALT already hold one CE with the Ray Garcia that protects 34 acres of irrigated farmland. We submitted an NRCS-ALE application for this project in December 2024. After numerous discussions with NRCS staff regarding this administration's freeze of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding, we decided to withdraw the application that was submitted for the ALE projects under IRA funding. We will re-submit the application when the NRCS

General ALE application cycle opens in fall 2025, provided NRCS-ALE program funding is still available under the new administration.

Potential Projects Under Consideration:

Bernalillo County

- *Anaya Estate, Albuquerque, Los Duranes (11 acres)*. The estate consists of two parcels of 5 irrigated acres in Bernalillo County and one irrigated acre across the street within the Albuquerque city limits. RGALT received approval from Bernalillo County to fund this project through the BCCEP, but it is currently on hold as the family deals with health issues.

Valencia County

- *Daniel Brannon, Belen (60 irrigated acres)*. The landowner is interested in protecting his irrigated farm with a CE as long as he can receive funding that covers the transaction costs. RGALT staff met with him at the farm in spring 2024 to discuss funding opportunities through NRCS-ALE and NHCA. The project is on hold as he deals with some personal health issues.
- *Scott Edeal, dairy farmer in northern Valencia county*. We sent Scott RGALT's landowner information packet but have not had further communication with him. He indicated that he would only move forward with a CE if he could receive full funding for a bargain sale CE purchase and also get the transaction costs covered. In order to do that, we would need to use both the NRCS-ALE and the NHCA program. Meanwhile, he is trying to develop his farmland. He may have more interest now that we can ensure the water rights value would be included in the appraisal. Due to the federal funding freeze, we are unsure about our ability to secure NRCS-ALE funding for this project.

Socorro County

- *Marvin Meadows, Escondida (50 acres, 30 of which are irrigated with water rights via an irrigation well)*. Marvin is interested in protecting his property with a CE if he can get funding to cover transaction costs. RGALT staff met with him in August 2024 and gave him the landowner information packet. He may be a good candidate for NHCA funding since he just needs the transaction costs to be covered. He would also like to explore opportunities for habitat restoration on his property. We have reached out to Save Our Bosque Task Force and will reach out to Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District about potential funding opportunities. We will meet with him again before the next round of NHCA funding is released. Time is of the essence for this project as Marvin is 84 years old and would like his property protected before it is passed on to his heirs.
- *Guy McElvain, Lemitar (300+ irrigated acres)*. We have had numerous meetings with Guy and his staff. Guy would like to protect his entire farm using NRCS-ALE funding. However, he would like the ability to separate parcels so we are exploring the best way to proceed. We are advising this project to be separate CEs and multiple NRCS-ALE applications because of the layout of the property. We will continue discussions with him this spring before the next NRCS-ALE application round opens. Meanwhile, we have let them know about the NRCS application criteria and that they need to register the property with the Farm Service Agency, which they were working on as of December 2024.

Conservation easement enhancement:

RGALT works with numerous partners to help connect our CE landowners with conservation opportunities. Amy introduced the Roots Farm CE in Valencia County to the Save Our Bosque Task Force to receive habitat restoration funding through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. The program will provide funding to plant native trees and shrubs on a portion of the property that was burned in the 2022 Big Hole fire. The restoration project is currently in process.

RGALT partners with Socorro County to implement habitat restoration projects on our riparian bosque CEs within the county. Socorro County has received Bureau of Land Management funding for the past 4 years to remove saltcedar and restore native plants on 5 RGALT CEs in Bosquecito. So far, over 120 acres of salt cedar has been treated and funding received this year will treat an additional 40 acres.

Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District (SSWCD) also provides funding for habitat restoration. In 2023, a wildfire burned the majority of one of our CE properties just east of the river from Socorro. The landowner received funding from SSWCD to repair burned fences and re-establish native vegetation on approximately 40 acres. The project should begin later this spring.

3) Research, and make application to, prospective third-party funding sources to fund development of alternative public/private funding partnerships for meeting the MRGCD's and the grantee's conservation goals.

RGALT has made great strides in our efforts to seek third-party funding and create formalized partnership agreements. In April 2024, RGALT was awarded an NRCS Equity in Conservation Outreach cooperative agreement. This agreement provided RGALT with \$541,457 over three years to support current staff, hire existing staff, and assist landowners with NRCS program applications. At this time, the funds are frozen and we do not know if the funding will be available under the new administration. In addition to our completed and in-process conservation project funding described above, RGALT has applied for and been awarded numerous grants and is engaged in funding agreements with the following partners described below.

Multi- year funding agreements:

- *Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District MOA.* \$50,000/year for 5 years (July 2021-June 2026).
- *Bernalillo County/Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District Intergovernmental Agreement.* \$15,000/year for 2 years (March 2023-June 2025). This is a reduced amount from our previous agreement of \$27,000/year for 2 years. The funding supports RGALT staff capacity to conduct outreach and technical assistance for conservation easement projects funded through the BCCEP.
- *Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge/Friends of VdO NWR.* \$10,000/year. We renewed this agreement in September 2024 to help connect South Valley landowners with conservation opportunities and to conduct outreach and communication about our work and shared conservation goals.
- *SB Foundation* – The SB foundation provided RGALT with \$5,000/year for 3 years (2021-2023) for general capacity support. We were awarded an additional \$10,000 in December 2023 for the 2024 fiscal year.

- *SunZia Community Benefits Agreement – Pledged \$50,000/year for 10 years.* RGALT developed an “enforceable” pledge agreement proposal which was submitted to Sunzia/Pattern Energy. RGALT shared the agreement draft with the Save Our Bosque Task Force, who also submitted a pledge agreement proposal. Sunzia/Pattern Energy accepted and signed both agreements in August 2022, committing \$50K/year to RGALT beginning 2026 when the first powerline goes into operation. SOBTF will receive the same community benefit award of \$50,000/year for 10 years.

Grant applications awarded in 2024:

- *American Farmland Trust Soil Health Stewards* - RGALT was awarded \$10,000 in April 2024 to be paid in 3 installments for attending a 3-day virtual training session.
- *Santa Fe Community Foundation/Wallace Genetic Foundation* - RGALT received \$15,000 in April 2024 to support staff time spent applying for federal grants in 2023 and 2024..
- *NRCS Racial Equity and Justice cooperative agreement* - RGALT received this \$171,900 grant in 2022. In 2024 we submitted the final two invoices to spend down and close the grant. In 2024 we received two payments for a total of \$26,303. This grant provided organizational capacity for RGALT to help connect underserved landowners with NRCS program opportunities.
- *NRCS Equity in Conservation Outreach cooperative agreement* - We were awarded \$541,457 in late 2023 and the final agreement was signed in April 2024 for a 3-year grant agreement. In 2024, we received 2 payments for a total of \$76,368. We received the third payment of \$39,400 in January 2025. After that, the grant was frozen by the Trump administration and we can no longer invoice or receive funds. This grant was to build upon and expand our work completed under the Racial Equity and Justice grant.
- *LEF Grant* - unsolicited - received \$2000 in September 2024.
- *Thornburg Foundation* - Received \$50,00 in November 2024 to continue our work on policy initiatives and reforms.
- *Land Trust Alliance Rally Scholarship* - Awarded \$500 in November 2024.
- *Ducks Unlimited and Nebraska Community Foundation* - Awarded \$3000 to support Cecilia’s travel expenses for the Washington DC Joint Ventures Fly-in in March 2024.

Grant applications submitted but not awarded in 2024:

- *Nusenda Community Rewards* - not awarded
- *Nusenda Sponsorship* - not awarded
- *Nusenda Financial Education Innovation* - not awarded
- *McCune Foundation* - Our 2023 application for 2024 funding was not awarded. We submitted a 2024 application and should hear back later this spring.

4) Coordinate with appropriate MRGCD staff and partners in efforts to protect and promote agricultural lands and water conservation in the MRGCD service area.

RGALT staff maintains regular communication with Chief Engineer Jason Casuga, Water Resource Specialist Casey Ish, Stephanie Russo-Baca, Glen Duggins, and other MRGCD staff and board members. We promote the MRGCD water leasing program via our E-news and in-person outreach events and attend MRGCD public events. We invite MRGCD staff and board members to attend our outreach events and tours of conservation projects. RGALT keeps the MRGCD team apprised of our policy initiatives and informs

policy makers about our shared challenges in accessing conservation funding. RGALT has made efforts to address NM's anti-donation clause that prevents both MRGCD and RGALT from using state funds for conserving land and water on private lands. RGALT is working on policy initiatives such as increasing the amount landowners can receive through the Land Conservation Incentives Act, which is the state tax credit for conservation easements. Increasing the amount of the state tax credit, which currently has a cap of \$250,000/year, would greatly increase the incentive for landowners to pursue conservation easements to protect their land and water.

RGALT has been in discussions with Jason and Casey about hosting an in-person "Conservation Easements 101" presentation for MRGCD staff and board members. We would like to deliver this informative presentation in early 2025 to provide more details about conservation easements, the process, conservation easement funding programs and tax incentives, conservation challenges and opportunities, and how conservation easements benefit MRGCD's continued operations by permanently protecting farmland and preventing off-farm water transfers. In 2025, an RGALT staff member will regularly attend MRGCD's monthly board meetings to keep informed about MRGCD's work.

Ongoing and New Partnership Efforts for 2024

- *Natural Heritage Conservation Act (NHCA)* - RGALT is a member of the coalition of conservation organizations that assisted with the 2023 passage of the "Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund" that funds 11 state conservation programs, including NHCA. In 2024, the first Request for Proposal was released. They only received one application due to the outdated rules of the 2010 legislation. RGALT's ED sent a list of challenges to the program with recommendations to the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD). Following that, all of the NM land trusts began meeting regularly to identify rules that created access challenges and develop an official letter requesting the proposed changes. EMNRD met with the land trusts and agreed with most of the recommendations. EMNRD provided this information to their legal counsel, who incorporated the recommendations in the rules. These are now under review and will likely be adopted by the next round of RFPs in August.
- *World Wildlife Fund (WWF)* - The WWF is a new partner who is trying to elevate New Mexico Rio Grande issues by engaging with local organizations working to protect the river. WWF staff Enrique Prunes (Manager of Sustainable Waters) and Brian Richter (President of Sustainable Waters) asked if we could meet with them to discuss challenges and opportunities for protecting the MRG landscape. RGALT staff took Enrique and Brian on a tour of our project sites in Socorro County in August 2024. We met with Glen Duggins and Guy McElvain so the WWF team could get two different landowner's perspectives on water and farming in New Mexico.
- *American Farmland Trust (AFT)* - RGALT continues to engage with AFT on policy initiatives and efforts to improve federal programs, focusing on the NRCS easement programs. RGALT staff participated in AFT's Soil Health Stewards virtual training in spring 2024 which included a \$10,000 award. Cecilia regularly communicates with AFT's Senior Policy Advisor Cris Coffin to discuss federal conservation program policies and rules. Cecilia is participating in AFT's Navigator Program to help develop information and outreach strategies to landowners about estate planning.
- *Bernalillo County* - RGALT has successfully established a partnership with Bernalillo County Parks and Open Space and Real Estate Department to implement the Bernalillo County Conservation Easement Program (BCCEP). This is a bargain sale program that will, at a minimum, reimburse landowners for transaction costs on CE projects in Bernalillo County. This program provides the

opportunity to protect smaller agricultural parcels that may not qualify for other funding. We currently have 2 BCCEP projects under development.

- *Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District* - Through our Intergovernmental Agreement with Bernalillo County and Ciudad SWCD, Ciudad SWCD provides RGALT with \$15,000 per year to implement the BCCEP.
- *Land Trust Alliance (LTA) NRCS Team* - In 2024, RGALT developed a new partnership with the LTA NRCS team to address NRCS easement programs. Through regular emails and virtual meetings we have honed in on issues such as NRCS staff misinterpretations, new and old policies that impact program accessibility, and the general inefficiency of NRCS programs. Together, we discuss these issues with key NRCS national policymakers and managers and deliver recommendations to make NRCS easement programs more user-friendly.
- *New Mexico Land Trusts Water Discussions* – RGALT has participated in numerous discussions with Colorado land trusts, NM Land Trusts, Denise Fort at Wallace Genetic Foundation, and attorney Matthew McQueen to discuss water issues, including groundwater easements, in-stream flow, and the valuation of agricultural water rights. We are involved in discussions to create a NM Water Trust.
- *Thornburg Foundation* - RGALT was invited to submit a 2024 grant proposal and was awarded \$50K to continue our work on policy reforms. RGALT's ED continues to communicate with Dave Nezzie and Patrick McCarthy at Thornburg Foundation about conservation challenges and policy initiatives needed for protecting land and water. RGALT is regularly invited to participate in meetings regarding water issues, policy initiatives, agricultural programs, and to work with other partners that support agriculture and water conservation in NM. Dave requested Cecilia's input on Thornburg's Food and Ag Policy Program's Five Year Strategic Plan, and Patrick McCarthy requested Cecilia's input on an analysis of crop water use. Dave Nezzie left the organization in fall 2024 and we will work to establish a relationship with Sarah Wentzel-Fisher, his replacement. Cecilia has requested a meeting with Sarah and Patrick to discuss our work and how it supports the conservation of water as well as the land. RGALT's newest board member, Mike Hamman, will join us at this meeting.
- *Intermountain West Joint Ventures* - The MRG was designated as a priority focus area for the [IWJV's Water 4 Initiative](#). RGALT has partnered with IWJV for over a decade to help advance partnerships and conservation planning in NM. Cecilia is a member of the IWJV Government Relations Committee and participates in monthly calls to discuss Farm Bill Programs, the Infrastructure Bill, and other agency programs and policies that impact conservation in the West. Cecilia has joined the IWJV for the Joint Ventures Fly-In to Washington D.C. for the last two years to meet with congressional staff about Inflation Reduction Act program funding, Farm Bill programs, and policy initiatives that would make federal programs more accessible. In 2024, Cecilia, Jonathan Hayes (Director of Audubon Southwest) and his staff met with NM delegates to deliver a cohesive message about the conservation needs of New Mexicans and to share information about the strong partnerships and collaborations currently underway in NM, particularly in the MRG.
- *Senator Heinrich's Office* - Cecilia has continued communication with Senator Heinrich's office about the conservation needs of NM's landowners, and particularly about the need for NRCS-ALE to fund transaction costs. Senator Heinrich officially requested that NRCS allow the program to fund transaction costs. We later learned that for the program to support transaction costs would require a legislative change to the statutes. Cecilia and Jonathan Hayes met with Senator Heinrich's office in DC to discuss our partnership with each other and the MRGCD and how we are working to protect the MRG for people and wildlife, particularly migratory birds and the Central Flyway. We are

working together with the IWJV to schedule Senator Heinrich's attendance at our spring bird tour where the IWJV will present a Conservation Policy award to Senator Heinrich.

- *Save Our Bosque Task Force* - RGALT continues to collaborate with SOBTF on landowner outreach and restoration on our CE properties. We have facilitated restoration projects (saltcedar removal and native habitat restoration) on numerous conservation easements, including the Roots Farm CE in Valencia County and 5 of our riparian habitat CEs in Socorro County.
- *IWJV / University of Wyoming Ruckelshaus Institute Easement Workshop*. Cecilia participated in an Easement Workshop in Denver hosted by these two organizations. The goal was to discuss NRCS policies and rules that hindered or prevented access to their easement programs. Attendees included NRCS State Conservationists and easement staff from Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana. NM NRCS staff was invited but did not participate. Other attendees included National Fish and Wildlife Service staff, representatives from various Colorado land trusts, Land Trust Alliance staff, and American Farmland Trust staff. Cecilia was the only attendee from NM. Over the span of 3 days, we developed the content of the [NRCS Easement Workshop Report and Recommendations](#). The Ruckelshaus Institute produced the final document.

5) Coordinate with other private and public partners on the collaborative development of conservation easements within the MRGCD service area.

As described above, RGALT works closely with NRCS to promote and implement the NRCS-ALE program, which provides bargain-sale funding to landowners to protect agricultural land. RGALT completed one NRCS-ALE project in 2024 and we have another in process that should be completed within the month. The NRCS District Conservationist and other staff do not promote this program nor do they have sufficient knowledge about CEs in general to provide proper technical assistance to landowners. Instead, NRCS relies on land trust organizations like RGALT to deliver their CE programs.

In January 2022, RGALT was awarded a 2-year NRCS Racial Equity and Justice (REJ) cooperative agreement for \$171,900 to connect underserved and socially disadvantaged landowners with NRCS conservation programs, with a focus on NRCS-ALE. The funding supported RGALT staff capacity to conduct outreach events and help landowners in the MRG apply for NRCS and partners' conservation programs. This grant was completed and closed out in early 2024.

In April 2024, RGALT was awarded a three-year NRCS Equity in Conservation Outreach (ECO) cooperative agreement to continue and expand upon the work completed under REJ. This award for \$541,457 is currently frozen by the Trump administration and we can no longer send invoices or receive payments. So far, we have only received \$115,769 and there is \$425,687 remaining. As this grant includes funding to cover half of the salary for RGALT's two current employees and to hire additional staff, we are devastated by the potential loss of nearly half a million dollars of legally obligated funding for our small organization.

One of RGALT's biggest hurdles in completing CEs are the high transaction costs, which range from \$60,000 to \$80,000 per CE, regardless of whether the easement protects are one acre or 10,000 acres. Landowners must pay these expenses out-of-pocket. As conveying a CE means the landowner gives up approximately half of the value of their land via the extinguishment of development rights - and has to pay the transaction costs - promoting and implementing CE projects is challenging. Most landowners who want to see their land protected forever simply can't afford to, even if they receive agency funding.

Because CEs are highly complex real estate transactions, they require the expertise of multiple professionals including appraisers, surveyors, geologists, hydrologists, biologists, attorneys, and title companies. In addition, landowners must pay RGALT's due diligence costs and make a stewardship and legal defense contribution to ensure the CE remains enforceable in perpetuity. The real estate market boom in recent years has driven up transaction costs by nearly 50%. Adding to the challenge is the lengthy project implementation timeline. CE projects that receive agency funding typically take two to three years to complete due to the time spent navigating the agency's bureaucracy and the many professionals and agencies involved. CE appraisers are in especially short supply. Currently, only one qualified CE appraiser serves the entire state of New Mexico, with wait times of up to a year. The cost of a CE appraisal alone has risen to \$20,000–\$25,000. Many professionals must be paid before the CE closes, meaning the landowner has to pay these costs sometimes years before they receive funding.

While the NRCS-ALE program provides bargain-sale funding for CE projects (the program can pay landowners up to 50% of the CE value), it does not cover any of the transaction costs. After extensive discussions with NRCS staff, we discovered that allowing the program to cover transaction costs would require a legislative amendment to the statutes, which appears unlikely. The NRCS-ALE program also does not provide any funding for RGALT staff time, even though the projects can take up to three years and hundreds of hours of staff time to complete.

Bernalillo County and the BCCEP is one source of funding for transaction costs. Bernalillo County implemented a community led [GreenPrint](#) that lists agricultural land and local farms as values that are important to community members. Previously, Bernalillo County had been purchasing land outright to protect it from development. Land acquisition and the subsequent maintenance comes at a tremendous cost to Bernalillo County taxpayers. Through the BCCEP and their partnership with RGALT, Bernalillo County is now permanently protecting land by covering the transaction costs needed to convey a CE. Bernalillo County spends a fraction of the amount on transaction costs as they would on fee land acquisition, and the end result is the same - the land is protected from development forever.

However, due to New Mexico's anti-donation clause, landowners protecting their land through BCCEP are still required to pay the transaction costs up-front and get reimbursed after closing. To address this issue, RGALT has actively engaged the Bernalillo County Real Estate Department, which has recognized the need for a solution. The department has now agreed to pay appraisers and surveyors directly, acknowledging that these expenses are no different from those incurred when the county purchases property outright. Since conveying a CE through the BCCEP involves the county acquiring a real property interest, covering transaction costs is simply a necessary part of the process. This shift in approach represents a major step forward in making CEs more accessible to landowners in Bernalillo County and ensuring the long-term protection of vital agricultural and natural lands.

Another potential source of funding for CE transaction costs is the state Natural Heritage Conservation Act. The program can pay up to \$45,000 or 3% of the CE value to cover transaction costs. However, this is still not sufficient for many landowners. The NHCA program was only allocated \$1.5m during the last funding cycle. Much like the NRCS-ALE program, all land trusts in New Mexico are applying for project funding from the same small pot of money. The application process is also very arduous, requiring RGALT staff to commit many hours of staff time and make multiple public presentations in Santa Fe.

6) Monitor and hold stewardship funds for all conservation easements held by RGALT.

RGALT holds board-restricted funds for defending and stewarding our CEs that exceeds Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices for accreditation. RGALT conducts annual monitoring site visits on all CEs and completes an official monitoring report. RGALT's annual CE monitoring allows for continued engagement with our landowners, stronger relationships, and provides the opportunity to inform landowners about our partners' conservation programs. Over 80% of RGALT CEs are currently or have previously been enrolled in agency conservation programs that support agriculture, wildlife and migratory bird habitat, water conservation, or ecosystem resiliency.

In addition to annual monitoring, RGALT develops Baseline Documentation Reports for all CE projects. The baseline includes a biological assessment, geological assessment, hydrology/water rights assessment, photo documentation, and a conservation plan. The CE document and baseline is used as a reference for monitoring each CE and ensuring the conservation values are maintained over time.

7) Work with Bernalillo County, Corrales Farmland Preservation, and other communities in the MRGCD service area to raise community awareness and facilitate protection of private lands necessary to sustain agriculture, wildlife, and ecosystem resiliency.

- *Bernalillo County Conservation Easement Program (BCCEP)* - The details of the BCCEP are thoroughly described in the above sections. This partnership program is now well established - RGALT has already completed one CE under the BCCEP with two more projects in process. RGALT developed a [Bernalillo County Conservation Brochure](#) and [CE Guidebook](#) to provide information to the community about the BCCEP and CEs in general.
- *Valle de Oro / Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge* - RGALT has a professional service agreement with the Friends of VdO to conduct outreach and community events in the Mountain View neighborhood and South Valley of Albuquerque. VdO has an interest in protecting farmland and open space adjacent to the refuge. We have one 40-acre CE that will close in March which borders the south side of the refuge and is adjacent to Rio Grande.
- *Corrales Farmland Preservation Program* – RGALT continues to reach out to the Corrales Farmland Preservation Committee and key community members regarding the Village of Corrales program and funding. Corrales passed a new bond initiative for farmland preservation and they are providing outreach to local landowners about conservation easements. There continues to be some behind-the-scenes politics with the New Mexico Land Conservancy (NMLC) as one of their board members is the Corrales contractor for this effort. This has prevented RGALT from being part of the community outreach efforts. Recently, RGALT Board Member Mike Hamman and Sayre Gerhart, a Corrales Farmland Preservation Committee member, reached out to the Mayor about inviting RGALT to conduct a conservation easement outreach event. They let the Mayor know that RGALT would have less of a conflict of interest issue than NMLC given their board member's financial gain as a contractor involved in the effort. In addition, RGALT has been involved in a landscape partnership effort that would bring our partners' programs and goals to the community. RGALT will follow-up about conducting an outreach event in Corrales.
- *Valencia County Soil and Water Conservation District* - We continue to communicate with Valencia County SWCD and Valencia County partners about CEs and the need to protect farmland around the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area. This has become somewhat challenging with their leadership changes over the last 18 months. In the past, we discussed collaborations on grants for restoration and land protection. Currently, one of our CE holders who lives adjacent to Whitfield is working with

the Save Our Bosque Task Force and Partners for Fish and Wildlife to do a small habitat restoration project on part of the property that was burned in the Big Hole fire in 2022.

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [ehebard](#)
Cc: [DeAnna Philips](#)
Subject: Re: Q for the SE
Date: Monday, April 14, 2025 9:25:19 AM

Elaine,

Good morning. It was good to see you on Saturday. I will be sure to ask and I can also include your email in public comment.

Thanks!

Stephanie

From: Elaine Hebard <ehebard@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 9:06 AM
To: Stephanie Russo Baca <russobaca@mrgcd.us>
Subject: Q for the SE

Good morning, Stephanie,

I will miss your Board meeting and the intro of the SE. Shucks, I know!

Anyway, I hope someone will ask her if and when a letter like was sent to the MRGCD by Mkie Hamman will be sent to other water providers in the MRG. After all, the dire straits that we find ourselves in cannot be on the back of the MRGCD alone.

Thank you,

Elaine

MRGCD BOARD MEETING (4-2-2025)

1. Heron Summary

Content: 57,798 ac-ft (4/2/25)
 Azotea tunnel: 25 cfs
 Total SJC inflow in 2025: 1,926 ac-ft
 Currently releasing: 0 cfs
 Current MRGCD storage: 14.7 ac-ft

2. El Vado Summary

Total storage (all contractors and natural): 16,901 ac-ft (4/2/25)
 Native in El Vado: 9,995 ac-ft
 MRGCD's SJ-C storage in El Vado: 2,282 ac-ft
 P & P: 9,995 ac-ft
 Other SJ-C contractors: 4,624 ac-ft
 Current release is 200 cfs RG inflow is 190-300 cfs

3. Storage in Abiquiu

Content: 100,141 ac-ft (4/2/25)
 MRGCD's SJ-C storage: 90 ac-ft
 P&P: 0 ac-ft

Total supplemental water released in 2025: 0 ac-ft

Snow Water Equivalent at SnoTel Sites as of 4/2/2025 (% of median)

Rio Chama Basin.....	39%
Upper Rio Grande Basin.....	62%
Sangre de Cristo Basin.....	27%
Jemez Basin.....	4%
San Juan River Basin.....	64%

- Reclamation carried over about 4,400 ac-ft of supplemental water from 2024 and may have leases for about 10,000 ac-ft of 2025 water, although that volume could be much lower depending on the San Juan – Chama Project allocation.
- The current capacity of the Rio Chama channel below Abiquiu Dam is uncertain but it is hoped that it may convey up to about 1,000 cfs.
- The El Vado “first fill” successfully reached 6,810 ft (16,297 ac-ft or 9.4% of full). As runoff tapers off, Reclamation plans to increase the reservoir to 6,820 ft (25,185 ac-ft).
- Most low elevation SnoTel sites have melted out.

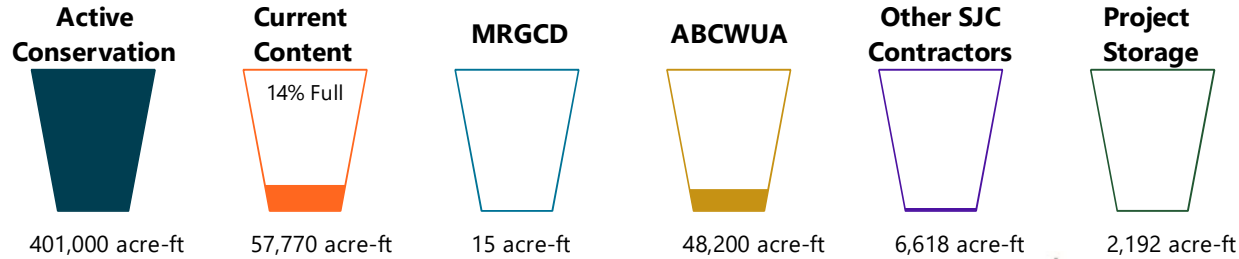
Reservoir Storage Status

Apr 1, 2025 data

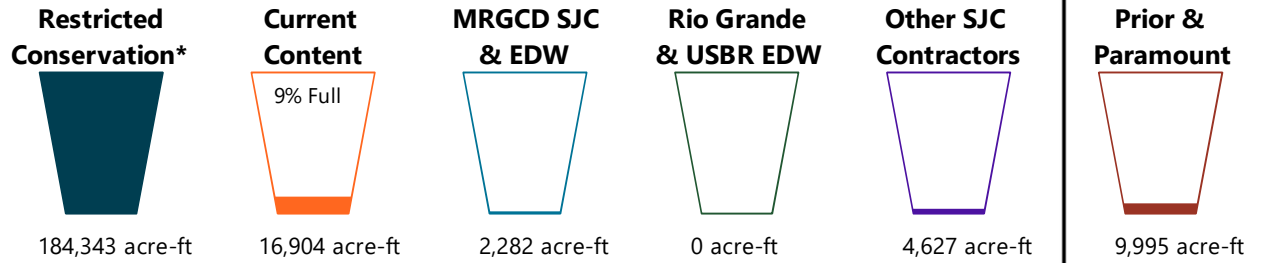


— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

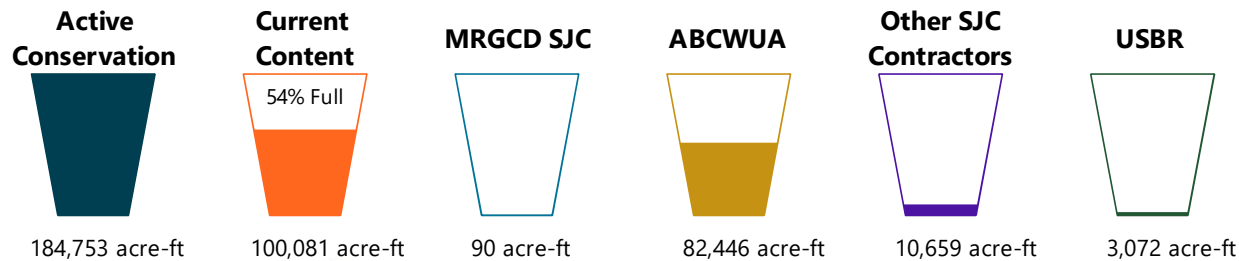
Heron



El Vado



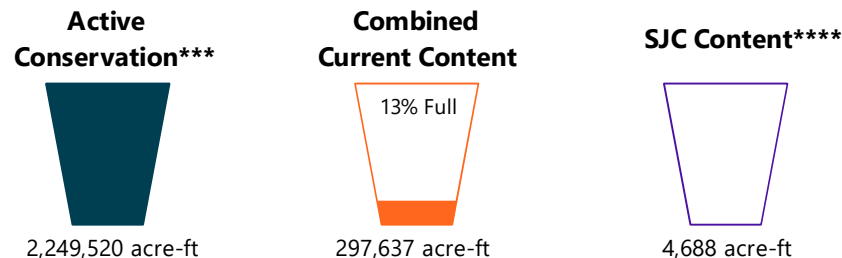
Abiquiu



Cochiti



Elephant Butte and Caballo



* 172,656 AF 06/01 - 09/30 unless waiver requested. Otherwise, reported number.
 ** Includes storage in both El Vado and Abiquiu
 *** Varies by time of year. Reported number is for 04/01 - 09/30.
 **** Max San Juan-Chama storage in Elephant Butte is 50,000 AF.
 Total reservoir content may include incidental storage of water in transit.

MEMORANDUM

TO: MRGCD Board Chair John Kelly, Jason Casuga, Eric Zamora

FROM: Casey Ish, Conservation Program / Special Projects Manager
Michael Padilla, Right of Way Supervisor
Matt Martinez, Water Distribution Manager

DATE: March 23th, 2025

RE: STAFF RECOMMENDATION PERTAINING TO - REQUEST BY RANDY SENA FOR MRGCD TO ISSUE A DRAIN PUMPING LICENSE TO SUPPLEMENT SURFACE DIVERSIONS DUE TO UPSTREAM DITCH CONSTRICTIONS.

During the March 10th, Regular Board Meeting for the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, staff were directed by the Board to investigate the potential for issuing a drain pumping license to Mr. Randy Sena for his lands described below and shown on Exhibit 1.

MRGCD Map 59 TR 36A1A, 36A3A, 36C1A, 36D1, 36E1A, 3632A, AND 39A1

ISSUE - The reason for the pumping request, as staff understands it, is to supplement insufficient gravity delivery of irrigation water to the tracts described above, which correspond to roughly 30 acres of irrigated area based on observations of the field.

SITE VISIT - Casey Ish and Michael Padilla inspected the private farm ditch on March 20th. The ditch feeds off the Barr Main Canal, via a 30" concrete culvert at the intersection of Vidal Rd SW and the Barr Interior Drain. The earthen ditch runs south from this point for approximately 765' at which point the ditch makes a 90-degree turn to the west, enters a 24" turnout and crosses the Barr Interior Drain via a water pass. At the 90-degree elbow, there is an 18" turnout which feeds a concrete ditch for another 680' due south before going into an approximately 390' stretch of 15" CMP which was installed by one of the adjacent landowners. At the end of this 15" pipe section, the concrete channel continues for approximately 780' further south before arriving at the northwest corner of Mr. Sena's property. In total, water must be delivered approximately half a mile from the Barr Main Canal to Mr. Sena's property.

While Mr. Sena is correct that the 15" pipe installed upstream of his fields by an adjacent landowner is a constriction given that the turnout that feeds their ditch is an 18", there are other constrictions to water flow that MRGCD identified during our site visit that are likely more detrimental to the lack of flow and water pressure than the 15" pipe system.

- 1) Immediately downstream of the 18" turnout that feeds the concrete ditch, are two very large elm trees growing in the middle of the ditch (see photos).
- 2) The entire length of the concrete ditch (~1,460'), except for the 390' of 15" piped section is in serious disrepair and in need of rebuilding. Slabs of concrete have been pushed up, dislodged, and broken by the large elm trees that line the ditch.

Staff also inspected the Barr Interior drain which had no observed flow at the time of our visit. Water was present in the lower section of the interior drain; however, this is water backflowing into the drain from the Riverside Drain and was no more than a few inches in depth. To provide a pool of sufficient depth to pump out of the interior drain, MRGCD would either need to build a temporary weir adjacent to Mr. Sena's property or construct a temporary weir inside the riverside drain to backflow water into the interior drain to a sufficient depth. Both options have limitations and potential impacts to adjacent properties.

POLICY REVIEW – Staff also reviewed the existing policies and procedures of issuing a pumping license. Upon review, staff agreed that the circumstances surrounding Mr. Sena’s request do not fit into any of the pumping license conditions that the policy currently addresses. Specifically, the Policy for pumping out of a drain (*MRGCD Water Distribution Policy Sec. L(4)*) states in part, “Permits will not be issued if the land can receive water via gravity from a canal”. Mr. Sena’s fields are certainly capable of being irrigated via the existing ditch, and thus, this situation does not allow us to apply the drain pump license as it is currently written.

Due to the lack of coverage provided by the existing pumping policy, and in anticipation of similar situations arising in the future, staff are currently working on a pumping policy revision recommendation aimed at addressing “Temporary Agricultural Pumping Licenses” which would acknowledge the use of an existing, inefficient gravity irrigation system and allow for an irrigator to supplement the gravity system with pumping from a canal or drain until the gravity system can be improved to meet MRGCD’s 1 acre per hour Water Distribution Policy. Staff have developed draft recommendations and intend to present these recommendations to the Irrigation Committee in the coming months.

SUMMARY – In summary, District staff are concerned that any pumping out of the Interior Drain will not be enough to satisfy the shortfalls of the irrigation ditch that feeds Mr. Sena’s property. MRGCD is planning for a very low water supply year and cannot recommend that Mr. Sena be permitted to pump out of the drain as a form of supplemental water. Instead, District staff would like to encourage Mr. Sena 1) reduce the initial size of land being put back into production if he intends to irrigate in 2025, and or 2) to approach the other irrigators along the private farm ditch and attempt to work together on repairing and improving the conveyance capacity and efficiency of the ditch by removing several large elms trees and repairing the ditch.

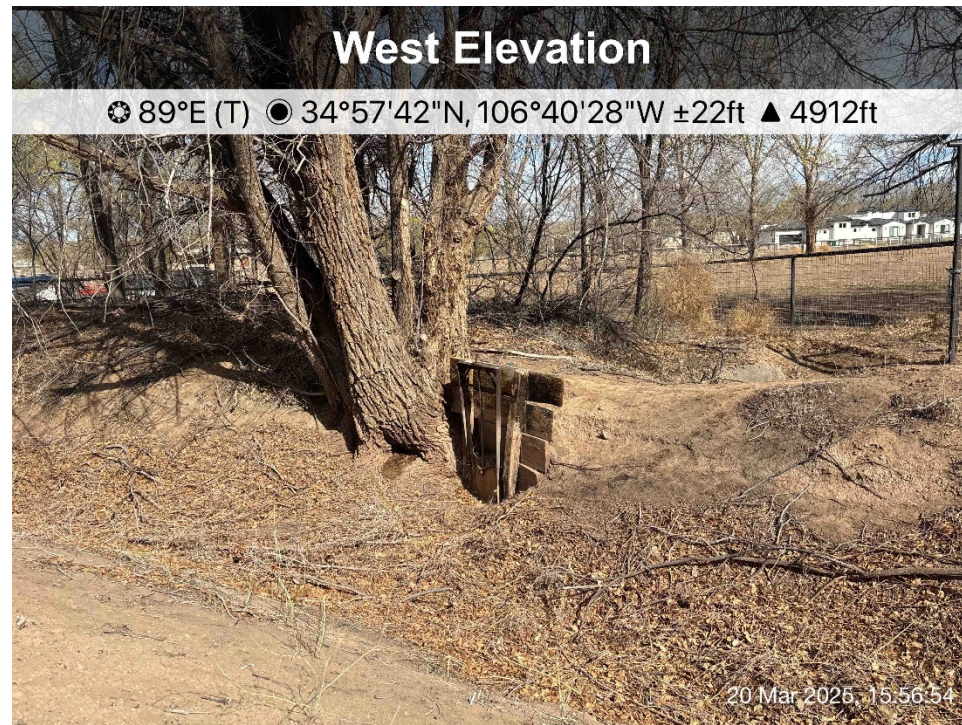
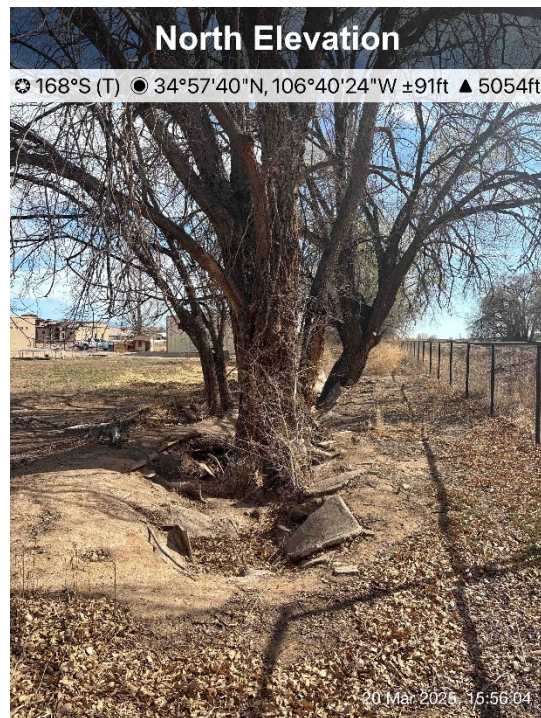
Currently, MRGCD Staff recommend denying the request to pump out of the Barr Interior Drain by Randy Sena as a means of supplementing gravity feed irrigation for the 2025 season.

3.24.2025 UPDATE TO MEMO

Staff had a call with Mr. Sena on 3.24.2025 and explained our position and concerns about relying on drain pumping to supplement irrigation for the 2025 season. Mr. Sena indicated that he would pursue working with his neighbors as recommended by staff to improve the farm ditch in 2025 and not pursue a pumping license. Staff indicated to Mr. Sena that MRGCD may be able to help with certain improvements to the farm ditch through financial or technical cost share.



Casey Ish
Conservation Program / Special Projects Manager



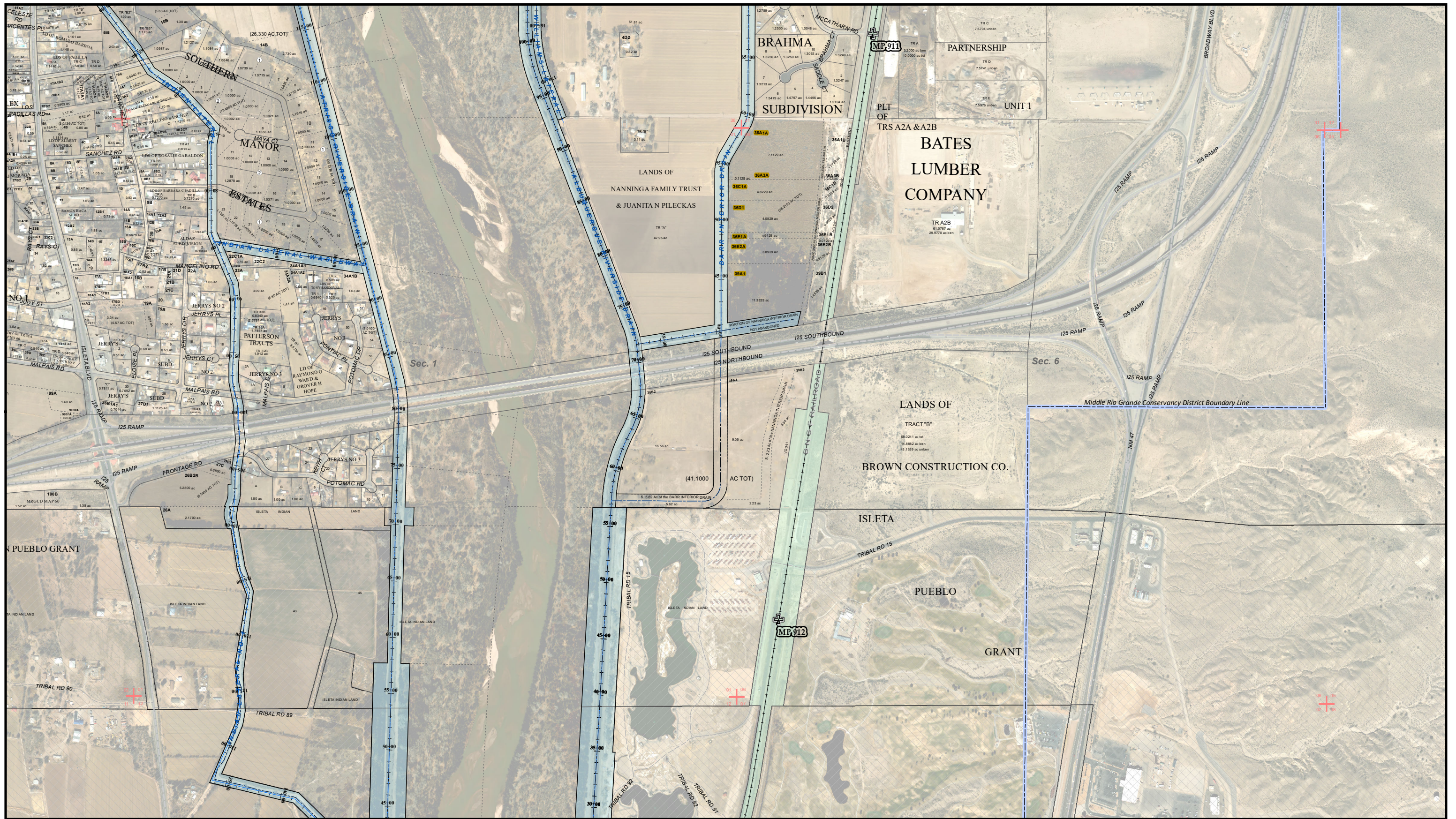
Sena Site Map

General Site View

Legend

- 15" CMP
- Discharge Route
- Gravity Fed System Path - Sena
- Sena Property

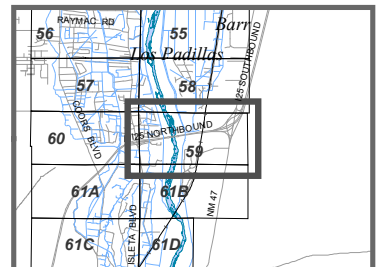
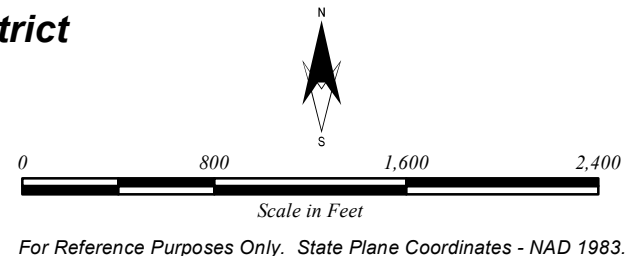




**MAP
59**

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Public ROW | County Boundary | Section Corner |
| Parcel Line | MRGCD Jurisdiction | Railroad Milepost |
| Combination Line | Pueblo Land | |
| MRGCD Facility | National Wildlife Refuge | |
| Road Network | MRGCD Right of Way | |
| MRGCD ROW | | |
| MRGCD Easement | | |

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
2019 PROPERTY MAP
BERNALILLO COUNTY
T8N R2E 1 & R3E 6



**MAP
59**

	MONDAY		14-Apr-25		TUESDAY		15-Apr-25		WEDNESDAY		16-Apr-25		THURSDAY		17-Apr-25		Friday		18-Apr-25	
	DITCH	STN.	DESCRIPTION		DITCH	STN.	DESCRIPTION		DITCH	STN.	DESCRIPTION						DITCH	STN.	DESCRIPTION	
Heavy Equipment	Various ditches		Hauling dredgings		Various ditches		Hauling dredgings		Various ditches		Hauling dredgings		Various ditches		Hauling dredgings		Various ditches		Hauling dredgings	
	Nichols Lateral		Build Up Banks		Nichols Lateral		Build Up Banks		Nichols Lateral		Build Up Banks		Nichols Lateral		Build Up Banks		Nichols Lateral		Build Up Banks	
					Bernalillo Lateral		Clean/run													
	Various ditches		Grading Ditch Bank		Various ditches		Grading Ditch Bank		Various ditches		Grading Ditch Bank		Various ditches		Grading Ditch Bank		Various ditches		Grading Ditch Bank	
	Indian Interior Drain		Rake Vegetation		Indian Interior Drain		Rake Vegetation		Indian Interior Drain		Rake Vegetation		Indian Interior Drain		Rake Vegetation		Indian Interior Drain		Rake Vegetation	
Construction	Various Ditches		ISO work orders		Various Ditches		ISO work orders		Various Ditches		ISO work orders		Various Ditches		ISO work orders		Various Ditches		ISO work orders	
	ABQ Yard		Build Headwalls		ABQ Yard		Build Headwalls		ABQ Yard		Build Headwalls		ABQ Yard		Build Headwalls		ABQ Yard		Build Headwalls	
Veg. Maintenance	Various Ditches		ISO work orders		Various Ditches		ISO work orders		Various Ditches		ISO work orders		Various Ditches		ISO work orders		Various Ditches		ISO work orders	
	Various Ditches		Run water		Various Ditches		veg maintenance		Various Ditches		veg maintenance		Various Ditches		veg maintenance		Various Ditches		veg maintenance	
Mowers	Bernalillo Interior Drain		Mowing		Atrisco Feeder		Mowing		Atrisco Feeder		Mowing		Atrisco Feeder		Mowing		Atrisco Feeder		Mowing	
	Los Padillas Interior Drain		Mowing		Los Padillas Interior Drain		Mowing		Los Padillas Interior Drain		Mowing		Los Padillas Interior Drain		Mowing		Los Padillas Interior Drain		Mowing	
ARBORICULTURE	Various Ditches		ISO work orders		Various Ditches		ISO work orders		Various Ditches		ISO work orders		Various Ditches		ISO work orders		Various Ditches		ISO work orders	



MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Kelly, Board of Directors

Through: Jason M. Casuga, CEO/Chief Engineer

From: Human Resources

Date: April 14, 2025

Re: Introduction of New Hires and Job/Title Changes

Belen Division

CUTTER	HOUSTON	FIELD MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	03/17/2025
WARREN	FINLEY	HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR	03/31/2025
JOSE	GURULE	FIELD MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	04/14/2025

Albuquerque Division

ERIN	MOREL	FIELD MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	04/28/2025
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General Office

MATTHEW	HARRIS	IRRIGATION SYSTEMS OPERATOR II	03/31/2025 PROMOTION
JIMMIE LEE	ROGERS	ACCOUNTANT	04/14/2025
ANTOINETTE	RAMOS	ENGINEER I	05/12/2025



MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Kelly, Board of Directors

Through: Jason M. Casuga, CEO/Chief Engineer

From: Pamela Fanelli, CFO

Date: April 14, 2025

Re: Consideration/Approval of Investment Policy/Disposal Resolution/ 3Q FY2025 Financial Report

Summary:

Item 13a. Consideration/Approval of the Investment Policy

The Investment Policy is reviewed every two years. Updates were made to align the weighted average maturity with the three-year term shown in the policy table. Language clarifying the treatment of fluctuating balances was also added for improved clarity.

Item 13b. Consideration/Approval of Resolution M-04-14-25-221 Disposal of Obsolete Items

This resolution authorizes the disposal of obsolete copier cartridges associated with printers no longer in use. A total of 34 items, with an original cost of \$5,414.30, are proposed for disposal.

Item 13c. Consideration/Approval of the 3Q FY2025 Financial Report

The Third Quarter FY2025 Financial Report provides year-to-date revenue and expenditure data for major funds. It includes a projected revenue surplus and a budget reallocation to cover union salaries. This reallocation is intended to offset the fund balance impact related to the budget adjustment for the Belen Highline Canal Project. Please review the brief memo to the Board attached to the statements.

Staff Recommendation: The CFO recommends the approval of the Investment Policy, Resolution M-04-14-25-221, and the Third Quarter FY2025 Financial Report. Quarterly reports will be submitted to DFA in April.



MEMO

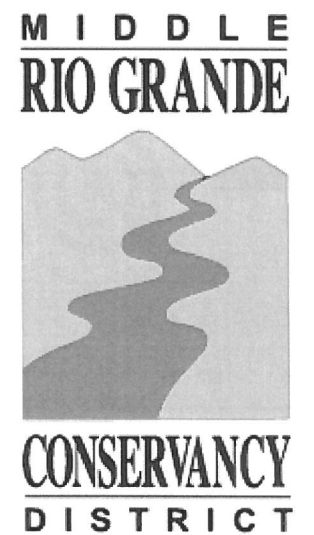
To: Pamela Fanelli, *Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District*
From: Deanne Woodring, *Government Portfolio Advisors*
Date: February 14, 2025
Re: Investment Policy Review/Update 2025

NMSA 6.10.10 requires local governments to review their policies every two years. The District last adopted the policy on June 13, 2022, and the policy is being presented for re-adoption to the Finance Committee with the following recommended changes:

- Weighted Average Maturity – update language to match table. WAM is currently 3.0 years.
- Update language regarding fluctuating balances for additional clarity.

Guideline Portfolio Strategy

2025 - 2026 FISCAL YEAR PLAN

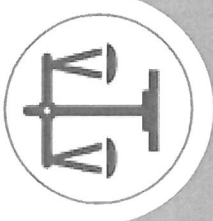


PRIMARY GOALS



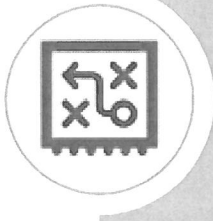
CHANGES

Discuss any upcoming changes in the organization or portfolio



PORTFOLIO COMPONENTS

Review balances to determine core and liquidity account size



STRATEGY

Identify and approve appropriate strategy by portfolio component.



POLICY REVIEW

Discuss and affirm any investment policy modification.

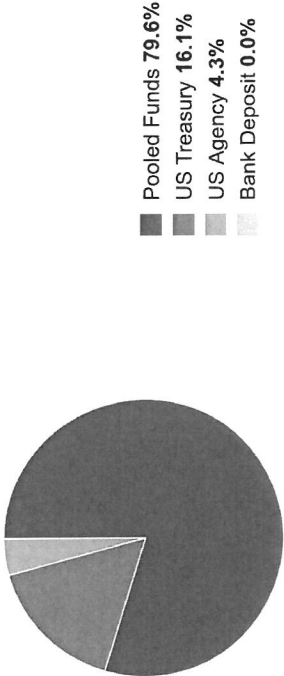
OBSERVATIONS & FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- 1) Expecting to have uncertainty in spending and increasing liquidity requirements.
- 2) Affirmed that coupon interest amounts would be transferred annually in cash from both investment accounts core and endowment portfolios in December.
- 3) SIC balances are being reviewed and reallocated with the inclusion of the new Core Bond Funds at SIC.

PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

Metric	Value
Cash and Cash Equivalents	12,943,747.85
Investments	3,329,429.19
Book Yield	4.36%
Market Yield	4.30%
Effective Duration	0.32
Years to Maturity	0.34
Avg Credit Rating	AAA

ALLOCATION BY ASSET CLASS



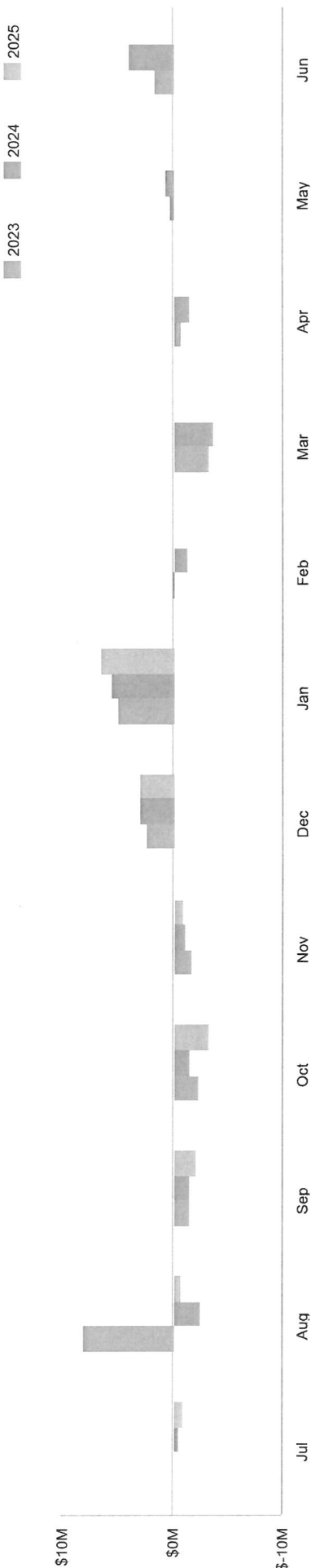
STRATEGIC STRUCTURE

Account	Par Amount	Book Value	Original Cost	Market Value	Net Unrealized Gain (Loss)	Accrued	Yield at Cost	Effective Duration	Benchmark Duration	Benchmark
MRGCD-Core Investment	3,325,668.93	3,282,407.51	3,259,258.04	3,296,733.98	14,326.47	33,364.44	4.39%	1.51	1.41	ICE BofA 0-3 Year US Treasury Index
MRGCD-Liquidity	12,943,078.62	12,943,078.62	12,943,078.62	12,943,078.62	0.00	0.00	4.34%	0.01	0.08	ICE BofA US 1-Month Treasury Bill Index

Historical Cash Flow Analysis – Investment Portfolio



MONTHLY BALANCE VARIANCES



MONTHLY VARIANCES IN TOTAL PORTFOLIO BALANCE

Fiscal Year	2023	2024	2025
Jul	\$3,018,881	\$12,053,408	\$12,846,756
Aug	\$11,214,336	\$9,697,774	\$12,262,420
Sep	\$9,773,867	\$8,370,694	\$10,290,439
Oct	\$7,579,165	\$6,943,458	\$7,240,940
Nov	\$6,100,082	\$6,031,517	\$6,422,686
Dec	\$8,714,463	\$9,196,854	\$9,509,347
Jan	\$13,765,007	\$14,966,574	\$16,251,639
Feb	\$14,031,892	\$13,763,537	
Mar	\$10,859,830	\$10,204,504	
Apr	\$10,210,029	\$8,791,918	
May	\$10,569,537	\$9,593,278	
Jun	\$12,424,135	\$13,704,097	

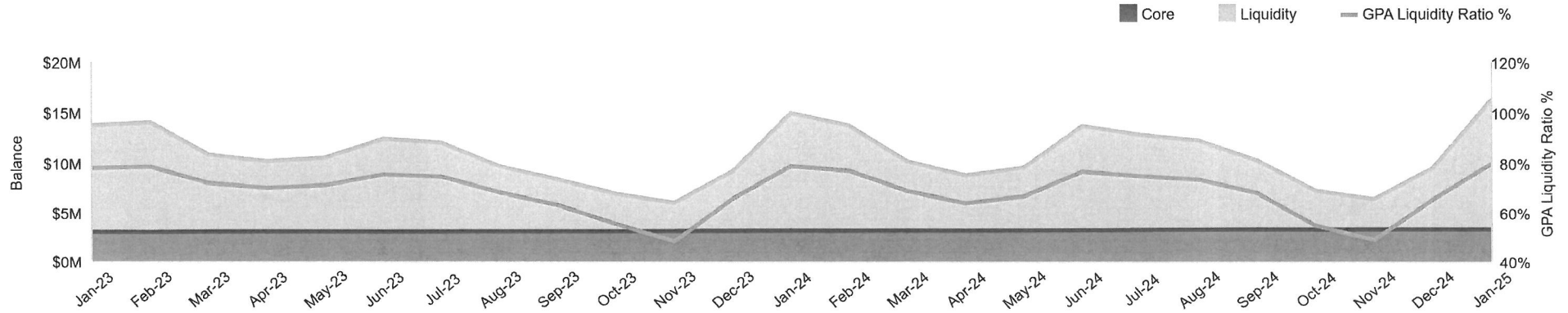
Annual Historical Summary

	2023	2024	2025
Average Balance	\$9,855,102	\$10,276,468	\$10,689,175
Maximum Balance	\$14,031,892	\$14,966,574	\$16,251,639
Minimum Balance	\$3,018,881	\$6,031,517	\$6,422,686
Variance in Period Max/Min	\$11,013,011	\$8,935,057	\$9,828,953

Historical Cash Flow Analysis – Investment Portfolio



PORTFOLIO COMPONENT BALANCE TRENDS



BALANCE TRENDS OVER TIME

Year	Month	Core	Liquidity	Total	GPA Liquidity Ratio %
2022	Jan				
	Feb				
	Mar				
	Apr				
	May				
	Jun				
	Jul	\$3,018,881		\$3,018,881	
	Aug	\$3,002,540	\$8,211,795	\$11,214,336	73.23%
	Sep	\$2,981,189	\$6,792,677	\$9,773,867	69.50%
	Oct	\$2,981,503	\$4,597,661	\$7,579,165	60.66%
	Nov	\$3,000,375	\$3,099,707	\$6,100,082	50.81%
	Dec	\$3,005,936	\$5,708,527	\$8,714,463	65.51%
2023	Jan	\$3,027,797	\$10,737,210	\$13,765,007	78.00%
	Feb	\$3,012,739	\$11,019,153	\$14,031,892	78.53%
	Mar	\$3,052,894	\$7,806,935	\$10,859,830	71.89%
	Apr	\$3,061,498	\$7,148,531	\$10,210,029	70.01%
	May	\$3,057,641	\$7,511,896	\$10,569,537	71.07%
	Jun	\$3,053,169	\$9,370,966	\$12,424,135	75.43%
	Jul	\$3,065,502	\$8,987,906	\$12,053,408	74.57%
	Aug	\$3,078,636	\$6,619,138	\$9,697,774	68.25%
	Sep	\$3,083,449	\$5,287,245	\$8,370,694	63.16%
	Oct	\$3,095,251	\$3,848,207	\$6,943,458	55.42%
	Nov	\$3,124,817	\$2,906,700	\$6,031,517	48.19%
	Dec	\$3,154,506	\$6,042,348	\$9,196,854	65.70%

Year	Month	Core	Liquidity	Total	GPA Liquidity Ratio %
2024	Jan	\$3,166,849	\$11,799,725	\$14,966,574	78.84%
	Feb	\$3,163,148	\$10,600,389	\$13,763,537	77.02%
	Mar	\$3,174,960	\$7,029,543	\$10,204,504	68.89%
	Apr	\$3,169,278	\$5,622,640	\$8,791,918	63.95%
	May	\$3,189,733	\$6,403,545	\$9,593,278	66.75%
	Jun	\$3,205,760	\$10,498,337	\$13,704,097	76.61%
	Jul	\$3,239,299	\$9,607,456	\$12,846,756	74.79%
	Aug	\$3,264,723	\$8,997,697	\$12,262,420	73.38%
	Sep	\$3,287,616	\$7,002,823	\$10,290,439	68.05%
	Oct	\$3,277,138	\$3,963,802	\$7,240,940	54.74%
	Nov	\$3,288,284	\$3,134,402	\$6,422,686	48.80%
	Dec	\$3,294,979	\$6,214,368	\$9,509,347	65.35%
2025	Jan	\$3,308,560	\$12,943,079	\$16,251,639	79.64%
	Feb				
	Mar				
	Apr				
	May				
	Jun				
	Jul				
	Aug				
	Sep				
	Oct				
	Nov				
	Dec				

Investment Portfolio



RECOMMENDATION

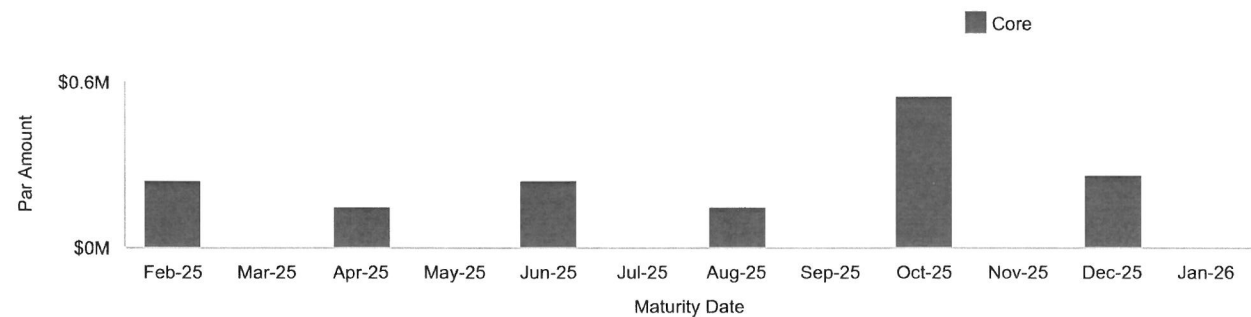
- 1) Maintaining higher balances in liquidity to accommodate uncertainty.
- 2) Shifted the portfolio to the 0-3 year and working towards aligning.

PORTFOLIO COMPONENT SIZE:

Tag	Current Par	Recommendation	Min	Max
Core	\$3,325,669	\$3,500,000	\$3,000,000	\$5,000,000
Liquidity	\$12,943,079	\$10,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$15,000,000
	Current	Recommendation	Min	Max
GPA Liquidity Ratio %	80%	75%	40%	80%

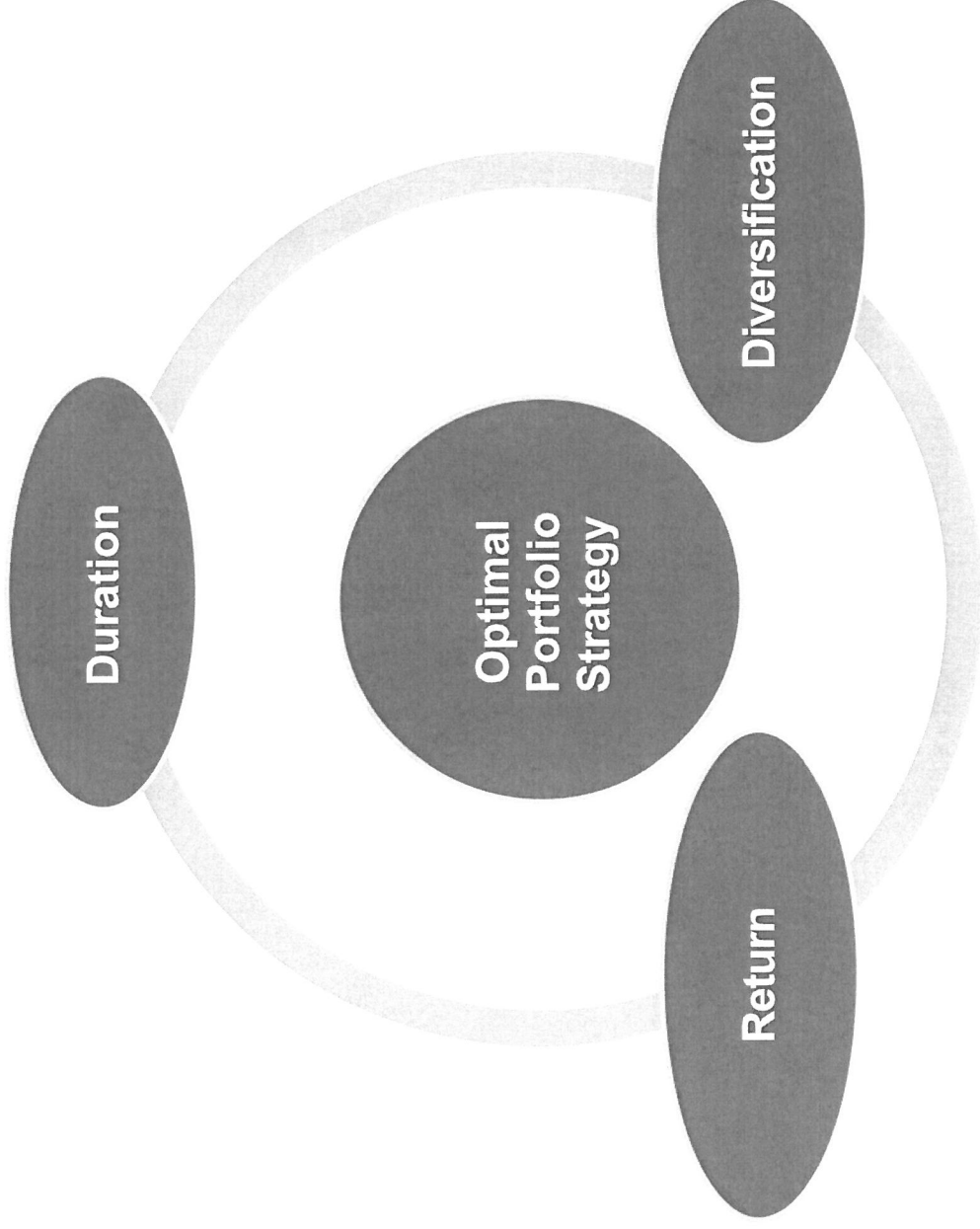
*GPA Liquidity Ratio is calculated utilizing core investments and liquidity balance only.

CORE MATURITIES UNDER 1 YEAR



Investment Core Maturities Under 1 Year provide an additional tier of liquidity. MRGCD Investment Core has ~\$1.6 million maturing in the upcoming 12 months.

Optimal Portfolio Strategy & Risk Management Framework



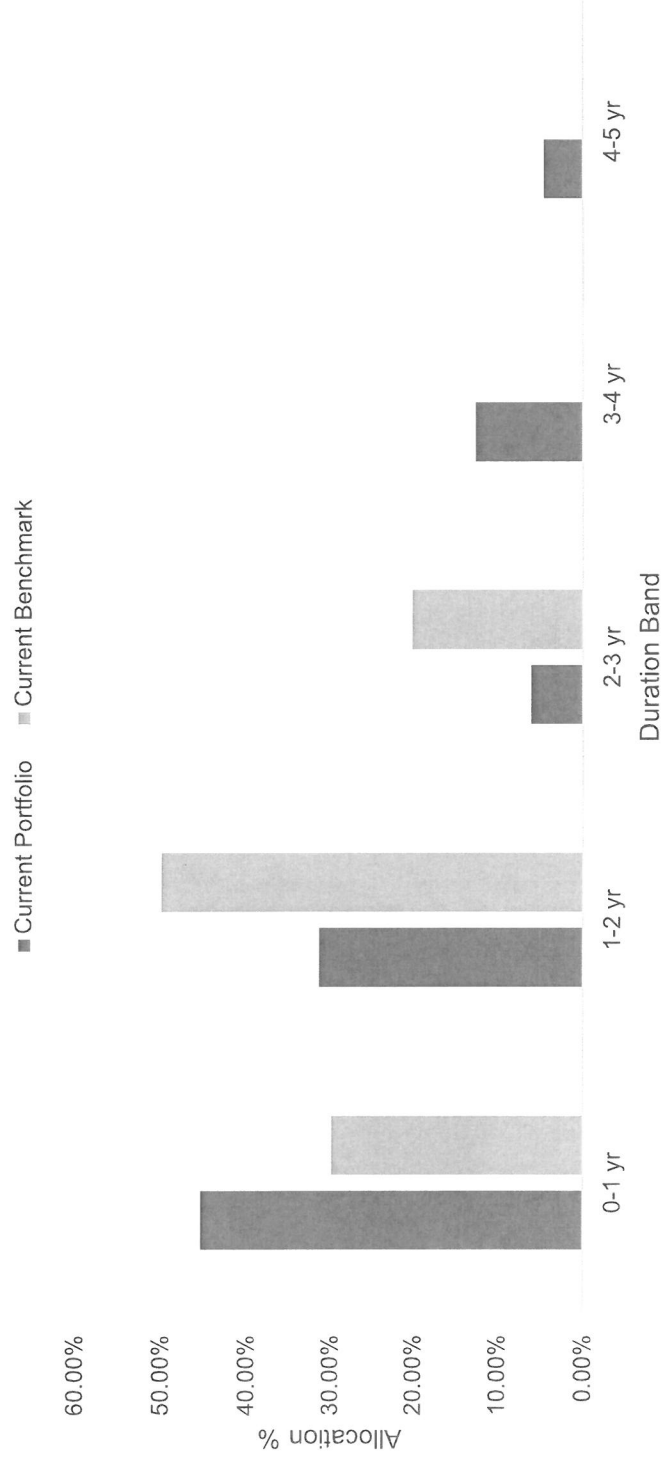
GPA creates a bespoke optimal portfolio strategy and risk management framework that seeks to:

- Earn a return aligned with a set benchmark over long investment horizons.
- Create consistent interest earning over market and business cycles.
- Integrate with the liquidity portfolio to meet fluctuating and uncertain cash flow needs.

DURATION ALLOCATION VS TARGET ALLOCATION

GPA recommends maintaining the current 0-3 year all treasury benchmark.

Portfolio Duration Allocation vs Target Allocation

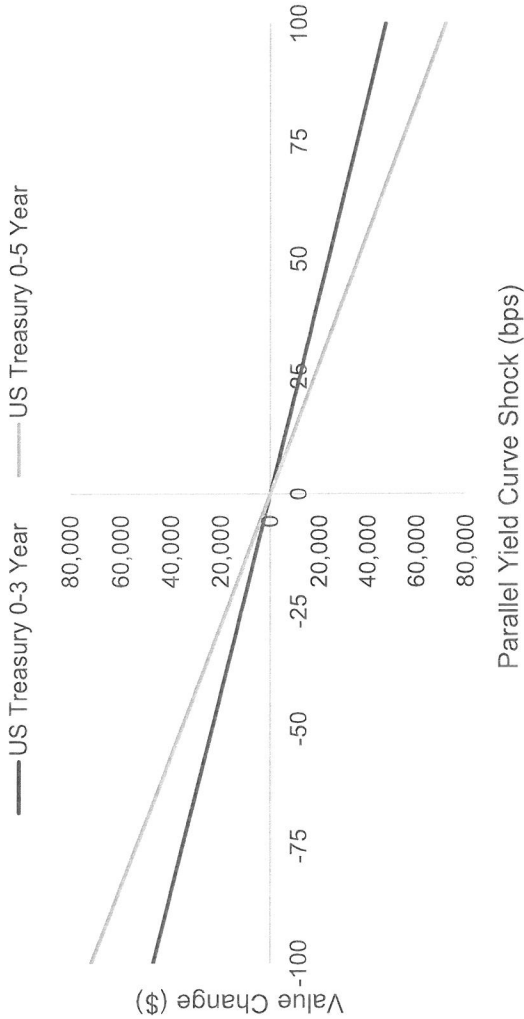


TARGET DURATION

Component	Effective Duration	Minimum	Maximum
ICE BofA 0-3 Year Treasury Index	1.35		
Current Portfolio	1.51	1.00	1.75

VALUE CHANGE VS. PARALLEL INTEREST RATE SCENARIO

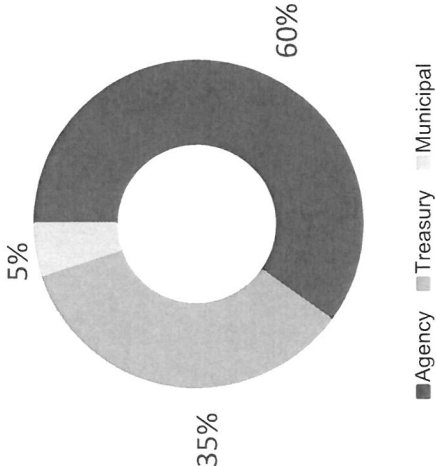
Value Change vs Parallel Interest Rate Scenarios
(\$3.5mil Portfolio)



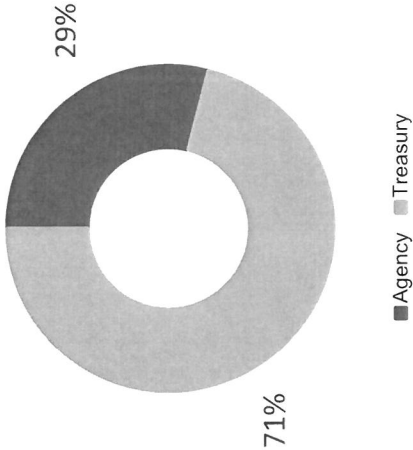
INSTANTANEOUS PARALELL INTEREST RATE SCENARIO (BPS)

\$ Principal Price Change Given Change in Rates		3,500,000	Instantaneous Parallel Interest Rate Scenario (bps)							
Benchmark	Max Duration		-100	-75	-50	-25	25	50	75	100
US Treasury 0-3 Year	1.35		47,250	35,438	23,625	11,813	(11,813)	(23,625)	(35,438)	(47,250)
US Treasury 0-5 Year	2.05		71,750	53,813	35,875	17,938	(17,938)	(35,875)	(53,813)	(71,750)

STRATEGIC ASSET ALLOCATION



CURRENT ASSET ALLOCATION



INVESTMENT CORE ALLOCATION VS TARGET

Market Sector	Current Allocation	Strategic Target	Tactical Bands
Agency	29%	60%	10% - 75%
Treasury	71%	35%	10% - 90%
Municipal (NM only)	0%	5%	0% - 15%

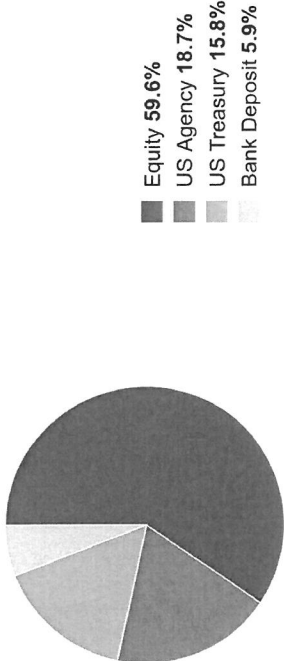
Strategic targets reflect long term average allocation in the portfolio. GPA will operate within tactical bands based on current market conditions and relevant risk factors in the portfolio.



PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

Metric	Value
Cash and SIC	5,257,893.47
Investments	3,050,308.78

ALLOCATION BY ASSET CLASS



STRATEGIC STRUCTURE

Account	Par Amount	Book Value	Original Cost	Market Value	Net Unrealized Gain (Loss)	Accrued	Benchmark
MRGCD-Endowment Invest	3,090,856.46	3,051,260.70	3,026,613.11	3,048,298.51	(2,962.19)	28,014.48	ICE BofA 0-5 Year US Treasury Index
MRGCD-Endowment SIC	4,431,558.43	4,431,558.43	4,431,558.43	5,231,889.26	800,330.83	0.00	25% S&P 500 75% G502 (Treasury 1-10 Year)

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Maintain current core allocation
- Within SIC -
 - 1) Buy Large Cap Index using \$500k in new cash
- 2) Reviewed and recommending to move to Core Bond Portfolio from Credit.
- 3) Maintain the Endowment portfolio to align with a possible self-insured fund.



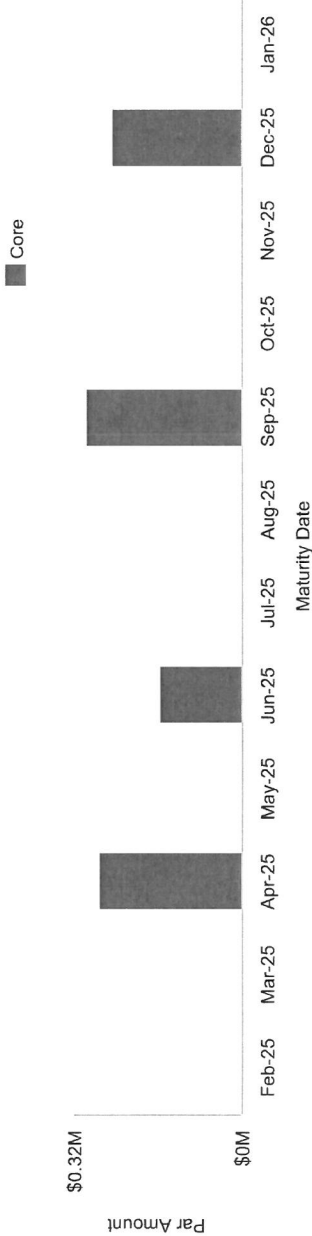
Endowment Portfolio

PORTFOLIO COMPONENT SIZE:

Tag	Current Market Value	Recommendation	Min	Max
Core	\$3,060,673	\$3,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$3,500,000
SIC	\$5,731,889*	\$5,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$6,000,000
SIC Ratio %	Current 55%	Recommendation 60%	Min 50%	Max 70%

*SIC market value is estimated with \$500,000 increase

CORE MATURITIES UNDER 1 YEAR

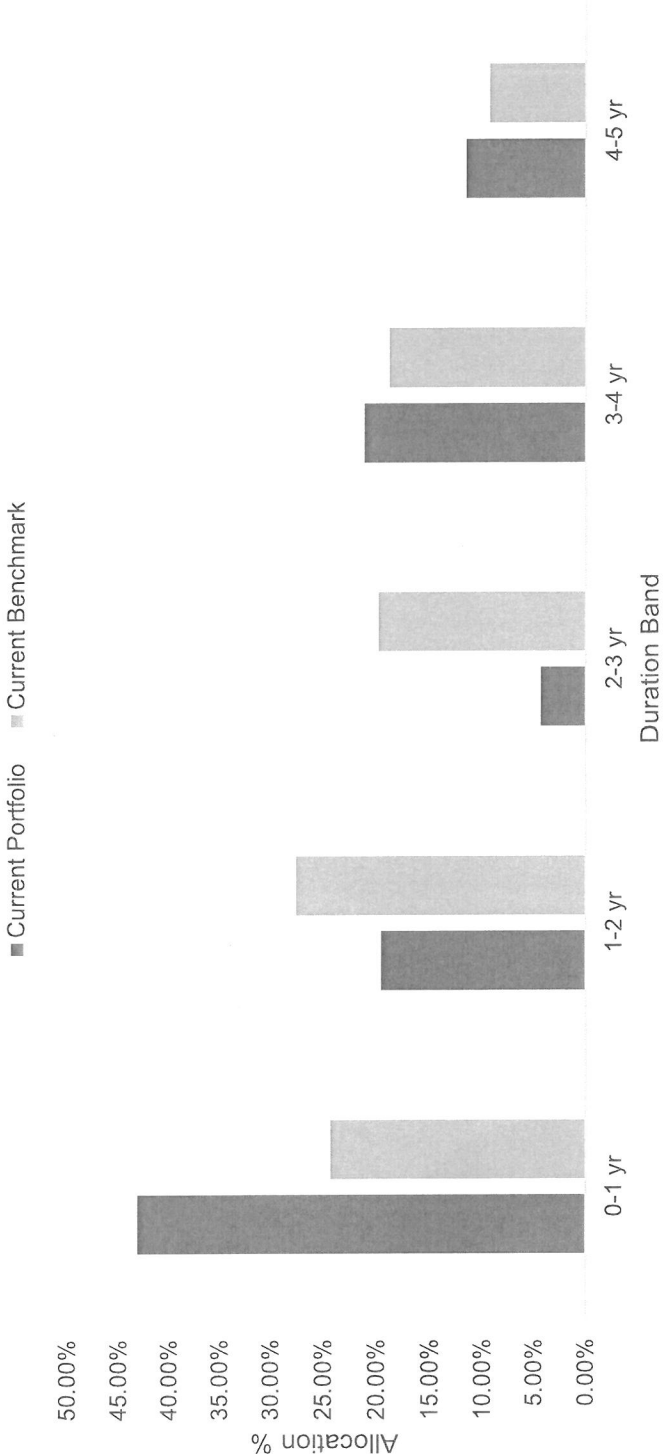


Investment Core Maturities Under 1 Year provide an additional tier of liquidity. MRGCD Endowment Core has ~\$1.0 million maturing in the upcoming 12 months.

DURATION ALLOCATION VS TARGET ALLOCATION

GPA recommends maintaining the current 0-5 year all treasury benchmark.

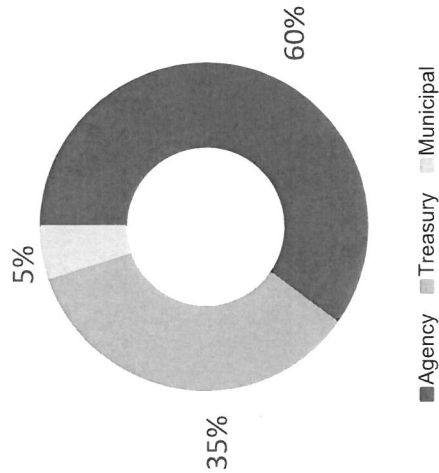
Portfolio Duration Allocation vs Target Allocation



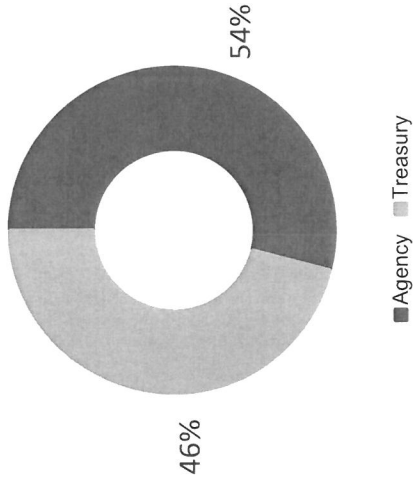
TARGET DURATION

Component	Effective Duration	Min	Max
ICE BofA 0-5 Year Treasury Index	2.05		
Current Portfolio	1.92	1.50	2.50

STRATEGIC ASSET ALLOCATION



CURRENT ASSET ALLOCATION



INVESTMENT CORE ALLOCATION VS TARGET

Market Sector	Current Allocation	Strategic Target	Tactical Bands
Agency	54%	60%	10% - 75%
Treasury	46%	35%	10% - 90%
Municipal Bonds (NM only)	0%	5%	0% - 15%

Strategic targets reflect long term average allocation in the portfolio. GPA will operate within tactical bands based on current market conditions and relevant risk factors in the portfolio.

MRGCD Endowment Fund Investments (CP)
as of Dec 2024

Investment Pools	Market Value Current	Current %	Market Value Recommendation	New %	Estimated Market Value Change	Notes
Credit Plus	3,454,345.08	67.1%	-	0.0%	(3,454,345.08)	Sell
US Core Bonds	500,000.00	9.7%	3,454,345.08	61.2%	2,954,345.08	Buy with Credit Plus proceed
US Large Cap Index	1,690,421.58	32.9%	2,190,421.58	38.8%	500,000.00	Buy with Credit Plus proceed
Total MRGCD-Endowment SIC	5,644,766.66		5,644,766.66		-	

Credit Plus Pool has an effective duration of 4.17 years, a Yield to Maturity of 5.56%, and an Average Quality of Baa3. This pool holds 50.2% Corporates, with 17.4% Investment Grade and 32.8% High Yield.

US Core Bonds Pool has an effective duration of 6.28 years, a Yield to Maturity of 4.51%, and an Average Quality of A1. This pool holds 36% Corporates, with 34.6% Investment Grade and 1.4% High Yield.

Given that the Credit Plus Pool is rated Baa3 and holds 32.8% High Yield Corporates, it will trade more like equities than the US Core Bond Pool at 1.4% High Yield Corporates.

Investment Recommendation:

- Convert Credit Plus to US Core Bonds. The Yield to Maturity difference between these two pools is 1.05%. Given historically low credit spreads versus Treasuries, we believe there is no additional total return potential in continuing to hold these higher-risk assets as spreads cannot compress much further.

- Invest the additional \$500,000 in the US Large Cap Index.

This strategy will maintain corporate exposure by increasing equity exposure while simultaneously reducing the total market value exposure to credit, increasing quality and extending duration with the bond pool swap.

As we expect rates to decline in the future, we believe the duration extension will be advantageous.

Investment Policy Review

INVESTMENT POLICY DIVERSIFICATION

Issue Type	Maximum % Holdings	Maximum % per Issuer	Years to Maturity	Ratings S&P, Moody's or Equivalent NRSRO
US Treasury Obligations	100%	N/A	10 Years	N/A
US Agency Obligations	100%	35%	10 Years	N/A
Municipal Bonds	25%	5%	10 Years	AA-/Aa3
Federally Insured Products	25%	10%	N/A	FDIC Insured
SIC Managed Funds	50%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Repurchase Agreements	10%	5%	N/A	N/A
State LGIP	100%	N/A	N/A	AA/Aa2
Certificates of Deposit	25%	5%	5 Years	NMSA Required collateral
Bank Deposits – Local	20%	N/A	N/A	NMSA Required collateral



DIVERSIFICATION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Document date that the policy was last reviewed by board.
2. Only change is the size of the Endowment from \$7.2 million to \$8 million.

Investment Policy Review

INVESTMENT POLICY MATURITY CONSTRAINTS

Maturity Constraints	Minimum % of Total Portfolio
Under 30 days	10%
Under 1 year	25%
Under 10 years	100%
Maturity Constraints Excluding SIC Funds	Maximum of Total Portfolio in Years
Weighted Average Maturity	3.0 Years
Security Structure Constraint	Maximum % of Total Portfolio
Callable Agency Securities	25%
* Maturity Constraints does not include SIC securities	

MATURITY RECOMMENDATIONS

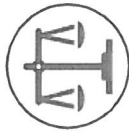
1. Correct Weighted Average Maturity Language to match table
2. Note that the Maturity measures do not include SIC securities

REVIEW & AFFIRMATION



SUMMARY ACTION ITEMS

- Transfer \$500k 3/2025 to SIC - done
- Expecting to have uncertainty in spending and increasing liquidity requirements.
- Affirmed that coupon interest amounts would be transferred annually, in cash from both investment accounts core and endowment portfolios in December.
- SIC balances to be reallocated from Credit Plus to Core Bond and Equity



INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

	Recommendation	Range
Core	\$3,500,000	\$3M - \$5M
Liquidity	\$10,000,000	\$4M - \$15M

ENDOWMENT PORTFOLIO

	Recommendation	Range
Core	\$3,000,000	\$2.5M - \$ 3.5M
SIC	\$5,000,000	\$4.0M - \$6.0M



INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Investment Portfolio	Recommendation	Ranges
Core Target	1.35	1.00 – 1.75
0-3 Year Benchmark	1.35	



ITEMS FOR ACTION

Contract Expiration – 3/31/2026

Policy Date – Memo sent on 2/14/2025

December Transfers of Interest

April – Reallocate investments within SIC

Endowment Portfolio

	Recommendation	Ranges
Investment Target	2.05	1.50 - 2.50
0-5 Year Benchmark	2.05	

Signature

Date



ACCOUNT CONTACTS

Pam Fanelli – CFO, Treasurer & Secretary (authorized signer)
505-273-8897 | pfanelli@mrgcd.us

Joshua Gamboa – Controller (authorized signer)
505-445-6838 | jgamboa@mrgcd.us

CUSTODIAL BANK INFORMATION

Bank Name: US Bank

PRIMARY CONTACT
Marques McNiese
513-632-4147 | marques.mcniese@usbank.com

503-248-9973

WWW.GPAFIXEDINCOME.COM

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**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
ENDOWMENT FUND INVESTMENT POLICY**

BA-06-13-22-86

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (District) established a separate Endowment Fund by resolution on July 27, 1992, for the purpose of separating revenues obtained through the sale of real properties and other sources as the Board may direct from the General Fund, and

WHEREAS, the revenue from the sale of District real property and such other sources as the governing body may direct, will be deposited in the accounts of this fund; and

WHEREAS, the funds may be invested according to the revised Investment Policy adopted by the Board of Directors on June 13, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the withdrawals from this fund will be limited to the direct expenses associated with the sale of property and any earnings from investments; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District hereby authorizes the Chief Engineer/CEO and the Secretary-Treasurer/CFO to manage the inflows and the investments of the Endowment Funds according to the Investment Policy.

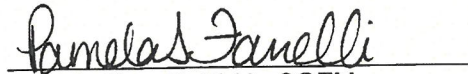
DATED AND RESOLVED: in session this 13th day of June 2022.

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT



Stephanie Russo Baca, Chair of the Board

ATTEST:


Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO



Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Investment Policy



Adopted April 14, 2025

1. Introduction

The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (herein referred to as “District”) was formed in 1925 to operate, maintain and manage irrigation, drainage, and river flood control in the Middle Rio Grande Valley, promote efficient and responsible water management, protect the environment, wildlife, and endangered species in cooperation with other local, state, and federal agencies.

The average monthly balance of funds invested in the district’s general portfolio, project and reserve funds is between \$7,000,000 and \$15,000,000. The Endowment Fund balance is expected to be maintained at approximately \$7,200,000

2. Policy Statement

The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District has unrestricted general reserve funds and endowment funds. It is imperative that the District forecast cash flow needs to ensure that liabilities can be paid in a timely manner. Managing investments requires the District to protect these financial assets from material loss by minimizing market risk, interest rate fluctuations, credit risk and liquidity. Once sufficient liquidity is ensured and risk is minimized, the District can focus on maximizing total return on invested assets.

3. Governing Authority

The District’s investment program shall be operated in conformance with applicable state and federal law. Specifically, this investment policy is written in conformance with NMSA §6-10-10 and §6-8-7 (i) (1978). All funds within the scope of this policy are subject to laws established by the State of New Mexico. Any revisions or extension of these sections of the New Mexico Statutes will be updated to be part of this investment policy upon being enacted into law.

4. Scope

The investment policy applies to all financial assets of the District with regard to investing the financial assets of in both cash and allowable investments.

The following funds, and any new funds created by the district, unless specifically exempted by the Finance Committee and this policy, are defined in the District’s Financial Report and include:

- General Funds
- Endowment Fund
- Levee Project Funds
- Capital Project Funds
- Any Other Funds Dedicated as Cash and Investments

5. Investment Objectives

Funds will be invested in a manner that is in conformance with federal, state, and local laws. Investments will be consistent with the goals of the District. The objectives of the District shall be based upon a risk tolerance analysis adopted annually by the Board of Finance which shall balance the three following objectives:

A. Safety:

Preservation and protection of the principal of the funds to be invested. Risk elements include duration, credit soundness and liquidity.

B. Maintenance of liquidity needs:

Sufficient availability of cash, or the capacity to obtain it without sacrificing principal loss, in order to satisfy the reasonably anticipated, continuing operational requirements of the specific funds invested; and

C. Return on Investments:

To achieve optimal investment return, consistent with the higher priorities accorded to the safety and liquidity of principal. Return may only be considered a priority when safety and liquidity have already been ensured.

6. Identification of Funds

The District's unrestricted general reserve funds are used for ongoing liquidity needs of the District and held at the bank account. Remaining balances are held in the Local Government Investment Pool or Invested. The District maintains a consistent balance in the Endowment fund that holds the revenue from the sale of District real property and such other sources where withdrawals from this fund are limited to direct expenses associated with the sale of property and earnings from investments. The District will invest these funds to achieve optimal returns based while practicing sound investment on investment from the endowment fund practices.

Liquidity Funds: Investments that are needed for ongoing disbursements for the operations and project funds of the district.

Investment Funds: Intermediate to Short Duration Portfolio of allowable investments that is funded by excess liquidity balances of the district.

Endowment Funds: Longer-term Portfolio that is invested to achieve optimal investment returns over longer term investment horizons.

7. Standards of Care

a. Delegation of Authority

i. Finance Committee:

The District's Finance Committee is responsible for creating the policy for investing District assets and to ensure that proper internal controls are established to prohibit unauthorized investment activities. On an annual basis, the Finance Committee reviews, and approves the investment strategy and will make recommendations when appropriate.

ii. Investment Officer:

The Chief Financial Officer, acting on behalf of the Finance Committee, is delegated as the Investment Officer. The CFO will ensure that investment decisions are in alignment with the Investment Policy of the District. When any changes are made to an investment allocation, it will be approved by the Finance Committee. The CFO will work with the Investment Advisor on investments and allocation of investment types allowed by this policy. The CFO will project cashflow needs considering major payments such as insurance, debt payments, and planned capital expenditures. The CFO will work with the Investment Advisor to ensure that investment maturities coincide with projected cash flow needs.

iii. Investment Advisor:

The District may enter into contracts with external investment management firms.

If an investment advisor is hired, the advisor will serve as fiduciary for the District and comply with all requirements of this Investment Policy. Exceptions to the Investment Policy must be disclosed and agreed upon in writing by both parties. The Investment Officer remains the person ultimately responsible for the prudent management of the portfolio.

iv. Staff Designation:

The Investment Officer shall designate a District employee as a liaison/deputy in the event circumstances require timely action and the Investment Officer is not available.

b. Prudence

In accordance with NMSA, 1978 Section 6-8-10, investments shall be made with judgment and care; under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the probable outcome to be desired.

The standard of prudence to be used by investment officials shall be the “prudent person” standard and shall be applied in the context of managing an overall portfolio. Investment Officers acting in accordance with written procedures and the investment policy and exercising due diligence shall be relieved of personal responsibility for an individual security’s credit risk or market price changes, provided deviations from expectations are reported in a timely fashion and appropriate action is taken to control adverse developments.

c. Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

In accordance with NMSA, 1978 Sections 6-10-40 and 6-10-53, the CFO, Finance Committee members, and any and all investment officials shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with the proper execution of the District’s investment and deposit program, or that could impair their ability to make impartial decisions. Employees and investment officials shall disclose any material financial interests in financial institutions that conduct business within their jurisdiction. They shall further disclose any large personal financial/investment positions that could be related to the performance of the investment portfolio. Officers and employees shall at all times adhere to the standards of conduct required by the following statutes:

The Governmental Conduct Act, NMSA 10-16-1 to 18
The New Mexico Gift Act, NMSA 10-16B-1 to 4
The New Mexico Procurement Code

8. Authorized Financial Institutions

A. Broker/Dealers

The Investment Officer shall maintain a list of all authorized brokers/dealers and financial institutions that are approved for investment purposes or investment dealings. Any firm is eligible to make an application to the district and upon due consideration and approval will be added to the list. Additions and deletions to the list will be made at the discretion of the Investment Officer.

- i. Approved broker/dealer employees who execute transactions with the District must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - Be a registered representative with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA).
 - Be licensed by the State of New Mexico.

If the District hires an investment advisor to provide investment management services, the Advisor is authorized to transact with its direct dealer relationships on behalf of the District. A list of approved dealers must be submitted to the investment officer prior to transacting

business. The Investment Officer can assign the responsibility of broker/dealer due diligence process to the advisor, and all licensing information on the counterparties will be maintained by the advisor and available upon request.

The advisor must provide the district with any changes to the list prior to transacting on behalf of the District.

B. Investment Advisors

An Investment Advisor may be selected through a competitive RFP process and must meet the following criteria:

- i. The investment advisor firm must be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or licensed by the State of New Mexico if assets under management are less than \$100 million.
- ii. Factors to be considered when hiring an investment advisory firm may include, but are not limited to:
 - The firm's major business
 - Ownership and organization of the firm
 - The background and experience of key members of the firm, including the portfolio manager expected to be responsible for the district's account
 - The size of the firm's asset base
 - Management fees
 - Performance of the investment advisory firm, net of all fees, versus the Local Government Investment Pool over a given period of time

C. Financial Institutions

In selecting financial institutions for the deposit of the district money or collateral the Finance Committee will consider, among other things, the creditworthiness of the institutions. The Investment Officer will monitor the financial institutions credit characteristics and financial history throughout the period in which the district funds or collateral are deposited and will report results of such monitoring to the Committee, as appropriate. Each depository will be required at all times to collateralize District deposits and investments in compliance with this policy.

D. Competitive Transactions

The Investment Officer will obtain telephone, faxed or emailed quotes before purchasing or selling an investment. The Investment Officer will select the quote which best satisfies the investment objectives of the investment portfolio within the parameters of this policy. The Investment Officer will maintain a written record of each bidding process including the name and prices offered by each participating financial institution.

In the instance of a security which there is no readily available competitive bid or offering on the same specific issue, the Investment Officer shall document quotations for comparable or alternative securities.

The investment advisor must provide documentation of competitive pricing execution on each transaction. The advisor will retain documentation and provide upon request.

9. Safekeeping, Custody and Controls

A. Safekeeping and Custody Securities

All securities will be held in the District's name with its fiscal agent's custody arm. The District's agreement with the fiscal agent shall designate all safekeeping arrangements. The custodian shall be required to provide a monthly statement to the District listing at a minimum each specific security, description, CUSIP, purchase date, maturity date, market value, par value, cost basis and book yield.

All trades of marketable securities will be executed (cleared and settled) on a delivery versus payment (DVP) basis to ensure that securities are deposited in the District's safekeeping institution prior to the release of funds.

B. Accounting Methods

The District shall comply with all required legal provisions and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The accounting principles are those contained in the pronouncements of authoritative bodies including but not necessarily limited to, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB); the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA); and the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB).

C. Internal Controls

The District will maintain a structure of internal controls sufficient to assure the safekeeping and security of all investments. All out of compliance situations under this policy will be corrected and brought into compliance as soon as prudently possible. The Investment Officer shall develop and maintain written administrative procedures for the operation of the investment program that are consistent with this investment policy.

Procedures will include reference to safekeeping, wire transfers, banking services contracts, and other investment-related activities.

The Investment Officer shall be responsible for all transactions undertaken and shall establish a system of controls to regulate the activities of subordinate officials and staff. No officer or designee may engage in an investment transaction except as provided under the terms of this policy and the procedures established by the Investment Officer and approved by the Finance Committee.

10. Authorized Investments

The District's authorized asset classes and investment types are prescribed under Chapter 6, Article 10 of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated, NMSA 6-10-10, 6-10-10-1, 6-10-16, 6-10-36 and 6.8.7 (i). The District with the advice of the Finance Committee, CFO and an Investment Officer are charged with the supervision and control of the respective funds and may invest all sinking funds or unexpended funds from the sale of bonds or other negotiable funds not immediately necessary for public use. All investments and deposits set forth in i. – ix. below must have readily ascertainable market value and be easily marketable.

A. Allowable investments are as follows:

- i. **US Treasury Obligations:** Securities that are issued and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government; and
- ii. **US Agency Obligations:** issued by its agencies or instrumentalities, including securities issued by federal home loan banks, the federal home loan mortgage corporation, the federal national mortgage association, the federal farm credit banks funding corporation, the federal agricultural mortgage corporation or the government national mortgage association and that have a maturity date that does not exceed ten years from the date of purchase; and
- iii. **Municipal Bonds:** Bonds or negotiable securities of the state of New Mexico, or a county, municipality or school district that has a taxable valuation of real property for the last preceding year of at least one million dollars (\$1,000,000) and that has not defaulted in the payment of any interest or sinking fund obligation or failed to meet any bonds at maturity at any time within five years last preceding and that have a maturity date that does not exceed ten years from the date of purchase; and
- iv. **Federally Insured Obligations:** Federally insured obligations, including brokered certificates of deposit, certificate of deposit account placement services, and federally insured cash accounts; and
- v. **State Investment Council Managed Funds:** Shares of pooled investment funds managed by the state investment officer, as provided in Subsection I of Section 6-8-7 NMSA 1978; provided that the board of finance of the county may allow reasonable administrative and investment expenses to be paid directly from the income or assets of these investments; and
- vi. **Repurchase Agreements:** Contracts that involve present purchase and resale at a specified time in the future of specific securities at specified prices at a price differential representing the interest income to be earned by the investor. The contract shall be fully secured by obligations of the United States or the securities of its agencies, instrumentalities or United States government sponsored enterprises having a market value of at least one hundred two percent of the contract. The collateral required for investment in the contracts provided for in this subsection shall be shown

on the books of the financial institution as being the property of the investor and the designation shall be contemporaneous with the investment; and

- vii. State LGIP:** The State of New Mexico Treasurer's investment pool was created under 6.10.10.1. The Local Government Investment Pool provides for the pooled investments of New Mexico governmental bodies that is professionally managed by the State Treasurer's office. The LGIP must maintain a minimum rating of "AA" by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization; and
- viii. Certificate of Deposit:** Term Deposits issues as certificates of any bank or savings and loan association designated as a depository of public money shall deliver securities of the kind specified in Section 6-10-16 NMSA 1978 to a custodial bank described in Section 6-10-21 NMSA 1978 and shall deliver a joint safekeeping receipt issued by the custodial bank. The securities delivered will have an aggregate value equal to one-half (50% collateral) the amount of the funds received; and
- ix. Bank Deposits:** Deposits may be made in noninterest-bearing checking accounts or in interest bearing accounts in one or more banks or savings and loan associations designated as checking depositories located within the geographical boundaries of the governmental unit. In addition, deposits of funds may be in noninterest-bearing accounts in one or more credit unions designated as checking depositories located within the geographical boundaries of the governmental unit to the extent the deposits are insured by an agency of the United States. Collateralization of all deposits must comply with Section 6-10-16 NMSA 1978.

- B.** In the event that state law is changed to allow other securities or deposits as appropriate for investment by the District, this Policy shall be amended to include those securities and deposits as appropriate with the approval of the Finance Committee.

11. Investment Parameters

The maturity schedule of any portfolio must take into account and reflect future cash needs with the goal of maximizing investment and deposit income after providing for safety and liquidity.

a. Diversification

The District will diversify the investment of all funds by adhering to the constraints in the table below. Minimum percentages and credit limits apply at the time of purchase.

Table of Portfolio Constraints

Issue Type	Maximum % Holdings	Maximum % per Issuer	Years to Maturity	Ratings S&P, Moody's or Equivalent NRSRO
US Treasury Obligations	100%	N/A	10 Years	N/A
US Agency Obligations	100%	35%	10 Years	N/A
Municipal Bonds	25%	5%	10 Years	AA- / Aa3
Federally Insured Products	25%	10%	N/A	FDIC Insured
SIC Managed Funds	50%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Repurchase Agreements	10%	5%	N/A	N/A
State LGIP	100%	N/A	N/A	AA / Aa2
Certificates of Deposit	25%	5%	5 Years	NMSA Required collateral
Bank Deposits - Local	20%	N/A	N/A	NMSA Required collateral

b. Investment Maturity

To the extent possible, the District will attempt to match its investments with anticipated cash flow requirements. The District will not directly invest in securities maturing more than 10 years from the date of purchase, defined as trade date.

- The maximum weighted maturity of the total portfolio shall not exceed 3.0 years. This maximum is established to limit the portfolio to excessive price change exposure and excludes SIC balances
- Liquidity funds will be held in the State LGIP, bank deposits/money market funds, and/or cash-matched securities.
- Investments will be defined as the funds in excess of liquidity requirements. The investments in this portion of the portfolio will have maturities between 1 day and 10 years and will only be invested in high quality liquid securities.
- SIC will not be included in maturity constraints.

Total Portfolio Maturity Constraints

Maturity Constraints	Minimum % of Total Portfolio
Under 30 days	10%
Under 1 year	25%
Under 10 years	100%
Maturity Constraints Excluding SIC Funds	Maximum of Total Portfolio in Years
Weighted Average Maturity	3.0 Years
Security Structure Constraint	Maximum % of Total Portfolio
Callable Agency Securities	25%

12. Guideline Measurement

A. Guideline Performance Standards

- i. District yields will be compared to the LGIP rates.
- ii. The portfolio will be invested into a predetermined structure that will be measured against a selected benchmark portfolio. The structure will be based upon a chosen minimum and maximum effective duration and will have the objective to achieve market rates of returns over long investment horizons. The purpose of the benchmark is to appropriately manage the risk in the portfolio given interest rate cycles. The core portfolio is expected to provide similar returns to the benchmark over interest rate cycles but may underperform or outperform in certain periods. The portfolio will be positioned to first protect principal and then achieve market rates of return. The benchmark for the general fund will be a 0-3 year or 0-5-year standard market index and comparisons will be calculated monthly and reported quarterly. The Endowment fund will have a longer-term market benchmark.
- iii. When comparing the performance of the District's investment portfolios, all fees and expenses involved with managing the portfolio shall be included in the computations of the portfolio's rate of return.
- iv. The market-to-market pricing will be calculated monthly and be provided in a monthly report.

B. Guideline Compliance

- i. If the portfolio falls outside of compliance with adopted investment policy guidelines or is being managed inconsistently with this policy, the Investment Officer shall bring the portfolio back into compliance in a prudent manner and as soon as prudently feasible.
- ii. Violations of portfolio guidelines as a result of transactions; actions to bring the portfolio back into compliance and reasoning for actions taken to bring the portfolio back into compliance shall be documented and reported to the Finance Committee.
- iii. Due to fluctuations in the aggregate surplus funds balance, minimum or maximum percentages for a particular issuer, investment type, or minimum maturity constraint may be surpassed at a point in time. Securities need not be liquidated to realign the portfolio; however, consideration should be given to this matter when future purchases are made to ensure that appropriate diversification is maintained.

13. Reporting Requirements

The Investment Officer shall prepare a report at least quarterly that allows the Finance Committee to ascertain whether investment activities during the reporting period have conformed to the investment policy. The report should be provided to the investment oversight body. The report will include, at a minimum, the following:

- i. A listing of all investments held during the reporting period showing par/face value; accounting book value; market value; type of investment; issuer; credit ratings; and yield to maturity (yield to worst if callable).
- ii. Average maturity of the portfolio at period-end
- iii. Maturity distribution of the portfolio at period-end
- iv. Average portfolio credit quality of the portfolio at period-end
- v. Average weighted yield to maturity (yield to worst if callable investments are allowed) of the portfolio
- vi. Distribution by type of investment
- vii. Transactions since last report
- viii. Distribution of transactions among financial counterparties such as broker/dealers
- ix. Violations of portfolio guidelines or non-compliance issues that occurred during the prior period or that are outstanding. This report should also note actions (taken or planned) to bring the portfolio back into compliance.

14. Business Continuity

The CFO shall implement procedures that will maintain continuity of operations related to the investment program while also maintaining proper internal controls. Some examples include:

- Utilize Advisor to access investment data and monitor trades with brokers even when working remotely.
- Centralized investment software that allows back up personnel to access data for conducting daily funding and accounting of investment settlements
- Report of daily transactions to and from safekeeping
- Recording of deposits and withdrawals to and from LGIP
- Journal entry of net investment and cash activity related to investments
- Written procedures and documentation will be maintained that provide guidance and instruction in the absence of investment officer.

15. Approval

This investment policy will be effective upon approval by the Finance Committee and the Chief Financial Officer. The policy will be re-adopted every two years per statute requirements.

This policy is hereby adopted by the Board of Directors on April 14, 2025, and will supersede all previously adopted investment policies.

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

ENDOWMENT FUND INVESTMENT POLICY

BA-06-13-22-86

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (District) established a separate Endowment Fund by resolution on July 27, 1992, for the purpose of separating revenues obtained through the sale of real properties and other sources as the Board may direct from the General Fund, and

WHEREAS, the revenue from the sale of District real property and such other sources as the governing body may direct, will be deposited in the accounts of this fund; and

WHEREAS, the funds may be invested according to the revised Investment Policy adopted by the Board of Directors on June 13, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the withdrawals from this fund will be limited to the direct expenses associated with the sale of property and any earnings from investments; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District hereby authorizes the Chief Engineer/CEO and the Secretary-Treasurer/CFO to manage the inflows and the investments of the Endowment Funds according to the Investment Policy.

DATED AND RESOLVED: in session this 13th day of June 2022.

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT



Stephanie Russo Baca, Chair of the Board

ATTEST:



Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE ITEMS

M-04-14-25-221

WHEREAS, the inventory items listed in the attached spreadsheet totaling \$5,414.30 are obsolete and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) no longer owns the printers for which these inventory items were intended; and

WHEREAS, the MRGCD may dispose of any item of tangible value and delete items from its inventory if such items are:

1. of a current resale value of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or less; or
2. having a current resale value of more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000); that has DFA approval; and

WHEREAS, the MRGCD has complied with State of New Mexico Office of the State Auditor Rule 2.2.2.18, regarding the disposition of fixed assets,

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Board of Directors hereby approves the proper disposal the inventory items in accordance with Sections 13-6-1 and 13-6-2 NMSA 1978.

DATED AND RESOLVED THIS 14th Day of April 2025.

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

John P. Kelly, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

Line Item	Item ID	Qty	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Item Description
1	CC120	2	193.13	386.26	CANON ORIGINAL 120 TONER CARTRIDGE – BLACK FOR CANON IMAGE CLASS D1350
2	CE410A	1	95.62	95.62	P 305A BLACK TONER CARTRIDGE (CE410A) FOR HP LASER JET M451NW
3	CE255A	1	155.52	155.52	HP 55A BLACK TONER CARTRIDGE (CE255A)
4	CE400A	2	169.40	338.80	HP 507A BLACK TONER CARTRIDGE
5	CE401A	4	245.90	983.61	HP 507A CYAN(BLUE) TONER CARTRIDGE
6	CE402A	2	252.34	504.68	HP 507A YELLOW TONER CARTRIDGE
7	CE403A	2	241.61	483.22	HP 507A MAGENTA TONER CARTRIDGE
8	CE411A	1	89.17	89.17	HP 305A CYAN TONER CARTRIDGE (CE411A) FOR HP LASER JET M451NW
9	CE412A	2	131.53	263.05	HP 305A YELLOW TONER CARTRIDGE (CE412A) FOR HP LASER JET M451NW
10	CE413A	2	109.21	218.42	HP 305A MAGENTA TONER CARTRIDGE (CE413A) FOR HP LASER JET M451N
11	CC530A	2	133.95	267.89	HP COLOR LASERJET PRINT CARTRIDGE 304A FOR HP CLJ CP2025
12	CC531A	1	132.03	132.03	HP 304A (CC531A) TONER CARTRIDGE (CYAN) FOR HP CLJ CP2025
13	CC532A	1	132.03	132.03	HP 304A (CC532A) TONER CARTRIDGE (YELLOW) FOR HP CLJ CP2025
14	CC533A	1	119.02	119.02	HP 304A (CC533A) TONER CARTRIDGE (MEGENTA) FOR HP CLJ CP2025
15	CF410A	1	90.36	90.36	BLACK) HP COLOR LASER JET PRO MFP M477 FDW
16	CF411A	1	118.07	118.07	(CYAN) HP COLOR LASER JET PRO MFP M477 FDW
17	CF412A	2	118.07	236.15	(YELLOW) HP COLOR LASER JET PRO MFP M477 FDW
18	Q7553A	2	89.47	178.94	HP LASER JET PRINTER CARTRIDGE BLACK 53A FOR HP LASERJET P2015
19	CF413A	2	118.07	236.14	(MAGENTA) HP COLOR LASER JET PRO MFP M477 FDW
20	CF281A	2	192.66	385.31	HP 81A BLACK ORIGINAL LASERJET TONER CARTRIDGE (CF281A)

\$ 5,414.30

To: Board of Directors
From: Pam Fanelli
Date: April 7, 2025
Subject: YTD 3Q FY2025 Financial Information

3Q FY2025 - Summary of Revenues and expenditures and changes in fund balance (with Comparison to 3Q FY2024):

Revenues: Revenues (excluding other financing sources) total \$19,437,019. Ad Valorem revenues are trending approximately \$400,000 above budget. The projected surplus will replenish the fund balance used for the Belen Highline Canal Project.

Expenditures: Expenditures (excluding transfers) total \$19,867,260. Major expenditure categories trending higher than FY2024 include:

- Salaries and Employee benefits – Increases are due to union negotiations and associated impacts.
- Division Maintenance - Higher costs are primarily due to increased vegetation removal.
- Federal O&M Services - Higher contract charges compared to FY2024.

Budgeted equipment funds of \$800,000 were reallocated to cover salary costs related to the union contract. The remaining unexpended budget funds will offset the fund balance used for the Belen Highline Project.

Grant Fund - 3Q FY2025 Budget to Actual.

Revenues: Year-to-date grant revenues (excluding other financing sources) total \$10,115,157. The current negative cash balance equals the amount billed to granting agencies in April.

The District budgeted \$36,940,005 in grant revenue/expenditures. Of this, \$17,761,121 is expected to remain unspent in FY2025 due to timing delays for several reasons.

Expenditures: Expenditures (excluding other financing sources) total \$11,408,477, including \$84,488 in unbilled expenses. Once all grants have been billed, revenues will align with expenditures.

Capital Investment Fund - 3Q FY2025 Budget to Actual.

Revenues: Revenues (excluding other financing sources) total \$2,808,067, which includes ad valorem revenues through February.

Expenditures: Expenditures (excluding transfers) total \$1,387,680. Most expenditures relate to equipment (\$409,663), Corrales Pumping (\$365,768), Bosque 1 Wasteway project (\$312,776), Rubicon Las Cercas (\$108,921), ER&T Bathroom and remodel (\$100,916).

Transfers include \$523,016 to the debt service fund and \$839,985 to the Grants Fund.

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Budget to Actual - General Fund (1) FY2025
For the Periods Ending March 31, 2025

Line	Original Budget	Encmbr rolled forward	Original Budget + Encmbr RF	Budget Adjustment	Revised Budget	Actual	Encumbrances	(Under)/Over
REVENUES								
1 Ad Valorem Taxes & Interest- Sandoval County	2,364,000		2,364,000		2,364,000	1,516,551	-	(847,449)
2 Ad Valorem Taxes & Interest- Bernalillo County	15,467,000		15,467,000		15,467,000	10,130,712	-	(5,336,288)
3 Ad Valorem Taxes & Interest -Valencia County	4,671,000		4,671,000		4,671,000	3,087,706	-	(1,583,294)
4 Ad Valorem Taxes & Interest-Socorro County	662,500		662,500		662,500	514,257	-	(148,243)
5 Water Service Charges	2,725,449		2,725,449		2,725,449	2,459,185	-	(266,264)
6 Alternative Curtailment Location Fees	30,000		30,000		30,000	21,058	-	(8,942)
7 Licensing Fees	54,000		54,000		54,000	61,190	(200)	6,990
8 Interest on investments	600,000		600,000		600,000	595,406	-	(4,594)
9 Realized gains/(loss) on investments	-		-		-	23,305	-	23,305
10 Unrealized Gain/(loss) on investments	-		-		-	259,423	-	259,423
11 Project Contract Revenue - Federal	850,000		850,000		850,000	637,500	-	(212,500)
12 Project Contract Revenue - Local	350,000		350,000		350,000	50,000	-	(300,000)
13 Operating and Capital Grants	-		-		-	-	-	-
14 Other	138,000		138,000		138,000	80,726	-	(57,274)
15 Total revenues	27,911,949	-	27,911,949	-	27,911,949	19,437,019	(200)	(8,475,130)
EXPENDITURES								
16 Salaries	11,556,046		11,556,046		12,374,045	8,249,017	-	(4,125,028)
17 Employee Benefits	4,744,975		4,744,975		4,744,975	3,419,972	8,819	(1,316,184)
18 Employee & Board Related Costs	499,810	379	500,189		490,626	276,255	80,108	(134,263)
19 General & Administrative Expenses	577,389	116,749	694,138		677,894	293,392	191,132	(193,370)
20 Professional Services	652,363	106,610	758,973		605,104	267,296	212,707	(125,101)
21 Insurance & Legal Services	1,597,369		1,597,369		1,604,449	1,355,602	199,741	(49,106)
22 Technology & Communication	835,912	15,448	851,360		839,906	537,082	130,608	(172,216)
23 Ad Valorem Collection Fees	479,338		479,338		479,338	321,444	-	(157,894)
24 Utilities	147,440		147,440		156,820	124,739	475	(31,606)
25 Facility Maintenance	100,000		100,000		83,326	58,156	16,527	(8,643)
26 Division Maintenance, Const, Rehab	1,388,150	138,382	1,526,532		1,462,361	930,698	130,316	(401,347)
27 Vehicle & Equipment O&M	2,113,825	36,237	2,150,062		2,156,813	1,428,008	44,325	(684,480)
28 Conservation Program	50,000	844	50,844		72,806	2,777	47,944	(22,085)
29 Safety Program	27,090		27,090		25,711	7,618	449	(17,644)
30 Federal O&M Services	1,763,367		1,763,367		1,763,367	917,587	845,780	-
31 Govern/Assoc Agreements, Community Outreach	485,875		485,875		538,750	166,875	17,875	(354,000)
32 Watershed Management	-		-		100,000	-	100,000	-
33 Projects	150,000		150,000		148,000	42,008	9,999	(95,993)
34 Endangered Species Act Projects	150,000		150,000		150,000	-	-	(150,000)
38 District Match for Grant Expenditures	-		-		9,996	9,996	-	-
41 Capital expenditures	880,000	628,000	1,508,000	2,033,522	2,790,833	1,458,738	1,329,535	(2,560)
42 Total expenditures	28,198,949	1,042,649	29,241,598	2,033,522	31,275,120	19,867,260	3,366,340	(8,041,520)
43 Excess (deficiency) of revenues less Expenditures	(287,000)	(1,042,649)	(1,329,649)	(2,033,522)	(3,363,171)	(430,241)	(3,366,540)	(433,610)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)								
44 Loan Proceeds	-		-		-	-	-	-
45 Lease Financing	-		-		-	-	-	-
46 Equipment disposition proceeds	50,000		50,000		50,000	-	-	(50,000)
47 Transfers in	200,000		200,000		200,000	44,737	-	(155,263)
48 Transfers out	-		-		-	-	-	-
49 Transfers in - Indirect overhead Grants Fund	37,000		37,000		37,000	42,847	-	5,847
50 Total other financing sources and (uses)	287,000	-	287,000	-	287,000	87,584	-	(199,416)
51 Net change in fund balance	-	(1,042,649)	(1,042,649)	(2,033,522)	(3,076,171)	(342,657)	(3,366,540)	(633,026)

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
General Fund - Comparison of FY 25 to FY 24 Actual Revenues & Expenditures
For the Periods Ending March 31, 2025

Line	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	Increase (Decrease) FY25 over FY24
REVENUES			
1 Ad Valorem Taxes & Interest- Sandoval County	1,391,687	1,516,551	124,864
2 Ad Valorem Taxes & Interest- Bernalillo County	9,228,693	10,130,712	902,019
3 Ad Valorem Taxes & Interest-Valencia County	2,870,714	3,087,706	216,992
4 Ad Valorem Taxes & Interest-Socorro County	422,015	514,257	92,242
5 Water Service Charges	2,049,639	2,459,185	409,546
6 Alternative Curtailment Location Fees	31,325	21,058	(10,267)
7 Licensing Fees	42,440	61,190	18,750
8 Interest on investments	644,501	595,406	(49,095)
9 Realized gains/(loss) on investments	33,984	23,305	(10,679)
10 Unrealized Gain/(loss) on investments	317,472	259,423	(58,049)
11 Project Contract Revenue - Federal	568,491	637,500	69,009
12 Project Contract Revenue - Local	-	50,000	50,000
13 Operating and Capital Grants	29,688	-	(29,688)
14 Other	88,681	80,726	(7,955)
15 Total revenues	17,719,330	19,437,019	1,717,689
EXPENDITURES			
16 Salaries	7,605,206	8,249,017	643,811
17 Employee Benefits	3,170,293	3,419,972	249,679
18 Employee & Board Related Costs	556,092	276,255	(279,837)
19 General & Administrative Expenses	347,432	293,392	(54,040)
20 Professional Services	348,437	267,296	(81,141)
21 Insurance & Legal Services	1,302,050	1,355,602	53,552
22 Technology & Communication	464,646	537,082	72,436
23 Ad Valorem Collection Fees	201,501	321,444	119,943
24 Utilities	122,064	124,739	2,675
25 Facility Maintenance	58,695	58,156	(539)
26 Division Maintenance, Const, Rehab	797,329	930,698	133,369
27 Vehicle & Equipment O&M	1,509,906	1,428,008	(81,898)
28 Conservation Program	1,164	2,777	1,613
29 Safety Program	10,990	7,618	(3,372)
30 Federal O&M Services	845,329	917,587	72,258
31 Govern/Assoc Agreements, Community Outreach	121,038	166,875	45,837
32 Watershed Management	-	-	-
33 Projects	103,401	42,008	(61,393)
34 Endangered Species Act Projects	50,000	-	(50,000)
36 Grants Other Expenditures	-	-	-
37 District Match for Grant Expenditures	-	9,996	9,996
41 Capital expenditures	1,826,567	1,458,738	(367,829)
42 Total expenditures	19,442,140	19,867,260	425,120
43 Excess (deficiency) of revenues less Expenditures	(1,722,810)	(430,241)	1,292,569
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
44 Loan Proceeds	-	-	-
45 Lease Financing	5,470	-	(5,470)
46 Equipment disposition proceeds	-	-	-
47 Transfers in	-	44,737	44,737
48 Transfers out	(2,832,593)	-	2,832,593
49 Transfers out - Grants	-	-	-
50 Transfers in - indirect overhead grants fund	-	42,847	42,847
51 Total other financing sources and (uses)	(2,827,123)	87,584	2,914,707
52 Net change in fund balance	\$ (4,549,933)	\$ (342,657)	\$ 4,207,276

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Budget to Actual - Grants Fund (8) FY2025
For the Periods Ending March 31, 2025

Line	Original Budget	Encumbrances rolled forward	Original Budget + Encumbr RF	Budget Adjustments	Revised Budget	Actual	Encumbrances	(Under)/Over
REVENUES								
6 Interest on investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Realized gains/(loss) on investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Unrealized Gain/(loss) on investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Project Contract Revenue - Federal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Project Contract Revenue - Local	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operating and Capital Grants								
1 Federal	1,807,794		1,807,794	-	1,807,794	615,785	-	(1,192,009)
2 State & Local	31,209,957		31,209,957	-	31,209,957	9,499,372	-	(21,710,585)
3 Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 Total revenues	33,017,751	-	33,017,751	-	33,017,751	10,115,157	-	(22,902,594)
EXPENDITURES								
5 Grants Other Expenditures	15,671,295	1,513,641	17,184,936	-	8,246,031	1,820,938	(153,208)	(6,578,301)
6 Loan Portion of Grant Expenditures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 District Match for Grant Expenditures	9,052	-	9,052	-	30,252	9,103	(12,098)	(33,247)
8 Project Match for Grant Expenditures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 District Match Capital Expenditures	2,172,014	-	2,172,014	-	2,172,014	834,875	-	(1,337,139)
10 Loan Portion of Capital Expenditures	1,741,188	-	1,741,188	-	1,741,188	456,431	-	(1,284,757)
11 Capital expenditures	17,109,456	-	17,109,456	-	26,048,362	8,287,130	(4,245,440)	(22,006,672)
12 Total expenditures	36,703,005	1,513,641	38,216,646	-	38,237,847	11,408,477	(4,410,746)	(31,240,116)
13 Excess (deficiency) of revenues less Expenditures	(3,685,254)	(1,513,641)	(5,198,895)	-	(5,220,096)	(1,293,320)	4,410,746	8,337,522
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)								
14 Loan Proceeds	1,741,188	-	1,741,188	-	1,741,188	456,431	-	(1,284,757)
15 Lease Financing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 Equipment disposition proceeds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17 Transfers in - Match from Cap Inv Fund	2,181,066	-	2,181,066	-	2,181,066	839,985	-	(1,341,081)
18 Transfers out - Indirect Overhead to Gen Fund	(37,000)	-	(37,000)	-	(37,000)	(42,847)	-	(5,847)
19 Transfers out- Direct Admin Charges to Gen Fund	(200,000)	-	(200,000)	-	(200,000)	(44,737)	-	155,263
20 Total other financing sources and (uses)	3,685,254	-	3,685,254	-	3,685,254	1,208,832	-	(2,476,422)
21 Net change in fund balance	\$ -	\$ (1,513,641)	\$ (1,513,641)	\$ -	\$ (1,534,842)	\$ (84,488)	\$ 4,410,746	\$ 5,861,100

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Budget to Actual - Capital Investment Fund (9) FY2025
For the Periods Ending March 31, 2025

Line	Original Budget	Encumbrances rolled forward	Original Budget + Encmbr RF	Budget Adjustment	Revised Budget	Actual	Encumb rances	(Under)/Over
REVENUES								
1a Ad Valorem Taxes & Interest- Sandoval County	421,480		421,480		421,480	279,667	-	(141,813)
1b Ad Valorem Taxes & Interest- Bernalillo County	2,867,790		2,867,790		2,867,790	1,838,053	-	(1,029,737)
1c Ad Valorem Taxes & Interest-Valencia County	864,220		864,220		864,220	561,561	-	(302,659)
1d Ad Valorem Taxes & Interest-Socorro County	121,304		121,304		121,304	91,270	-	(30,034)
6 Interest on investments	-		-		-	37,516	-	37,516
3 Other	-		-		-	-	-	-
4 Total revenues	4,274,794	-	4,274,794		4,274,794	2,808,067	-	(1,466,727)
EXPENDITURES								
5 Ad Valorem Collection Fees	88,711		88,711		88,711	58,581	-	(30,130)
6 Projects	690,000	5,891	695,891		759,866	371,533	248,157	(140,176)
9 Capital expenditures	3,010,000	1,211,092	4,221,092	(2,055,000)	2,102,117	957,566	794,981	(349,570)
10 Total expenditures	3,788,711	1,216,983	5,005,694	(2,055,000)	2,950,694	1,387,680	1,043,138	(519,876)
11 Excess (deficiency) of revenues less Expenditures	486,083	(1,216,983)	(730,900)	2,055,000	1,324,100	1,420,387	(1,043,138)	(946,851)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)								
12 Loan Proceeds	-		-		-	-	-	-
13 Lease Financing	-		-		-	-	-	-
14 Equipment disposition proceeds	-		-		-	-	-	-
15 Transfers in	2,055,000		2,055,000	(2,055,000)	-	-	-	-
16 Transfers out	(2,987,672)		(2,987,672)		(2,987,672)	(1,363,001)	-	1,624,671
18 Total other financing sources and (uses)	(932,672)		(932,672)	(2,055,000)	(2,987,672)	(1,363,001)	-	1,624,671
19 Net change in fund balance	(446,589)	(1,216,983)	(1,663,572)	-	(1,663,572)	57,386	(1,043,138)	677,820

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors Kelly, Baugh, Dunning, Russo Baca, Sandoval, Jiron, Duggins

FROM: Casey Ish, Conservation Program / Special Projects Manager

DATE: March 26th, 2025

RE: PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AMONG THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT AND THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION CONCERNING THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE WATER RESILIENCY PROGRAM

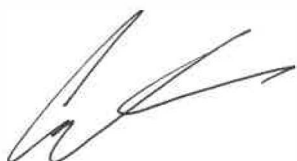
The accompanying MOA / Cooperative Agreement (Agreement) is being presented to the MRGCD Board of Directors for consideration and approval. This agreement is a follow-on to the first Cooperative Agreement between NFWF, MRGCD, and the Bureau of Reclamation which was executed in 2017 and expired December 31st of 2024. The funding sub-award to MRGCD is \$3,500,000 out of a total Agreement value of \$5,000,000. This is a 5-year agreement.

This Agreement has been structured around several Conservation Activities. These Activities are all continuations or expansions of existing Conservation Program activities. However, unlike the first Cooperative Agreement, this new Agreement is no longer a “pilot”. The activities have been refined, and MRGCD staff have a strong understanding and desire to focus the new Agreement on longer-term, durable conservation activities while still creating short-term conservation opportunities for MRG farmers.

A significant distinction from the original agreement and the proposed Agreement is the shift in funding away from short-term water leasing to a prioritization of investment in On-Farm and MRGCD infrastructure projects. This includes turnout upgrades, laser-leveling, custom on-farm infrastructure, and MRGCD system projects. MRGCD and our partners continue to view the leasing program as a critical supplement to water infrastructure investment, and not a silver bullet to sustainable water management. The goal is to grow MRGCD’s Water Conservation portfolio through medium-to-long-term water conservation projects that provide lasting benefits to our farmers while supporting other water management obligations such as ESA.

Lastly, I want to emphasize the value of the partnerships that are maintained by this agreement. NFWF has proven to be a great conduit for putting federal dollars on the ground in the MRG. NFWF’s federal procurement and contracting process gives Reclamation confidence in NFWF administering of funds, while their ability to flexibly shifting funds between program line items to account for real world conditions and opportunities makes them nimble and efficient.

MRGCD Staff recommend the MRGCD Board of Directors approve the Cooperative Agreement between MRGCD, NFWF, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.



Casey Ish
Conservation Program / Special Projects Manager

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**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
AMONG
THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
AND
THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
AND
THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
CONCERNING
THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE WATER RESILIENCY PROGRAM**

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA or Agreement) is made by and between the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, hereinafter referred to as Reclamation; the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, hereinafter referred to as MRGCD; and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, hereinafter referred to as NFWF; all of which are collectively referred to as the Parties.

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, Reclamation and MRGCD work cooperatively on river operations in the Middle Rio Grande (MRG) Valley including storage, release, diversion, conveyance, and delivery of irrigation water; and

WHEREAS, MRGCD is committed to using flexible, voluntary approaches for agricultural water management consistent with conservation of the river, bosque, and native fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, water leasing provides a flexible tool to acquire water and water rights for agricultural use and conservation purposes on a voluntary basis consistent with MRGCD's long term success; and

WHEREAS, NFWF has national leading experience in design and implementation of voluntary, market-based water transactions programs to acquire water and water rights for drought resilience, habitat conservation, instream flow, and other environmental purposes; and

WHEREAS, Reclamation and MRGCD have commitments under the 2016 Final Biological and Conference Opinion for Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Non-Federal Water Management and Maintenance Activities on the Middle Rio Grande, New Mexico (2016 BiOp) to implement specific conservation measures; and

WHEREAS, these 2016 BiOp conservation measures include development of a Native Water Acquisition Program (2016 BiOp Conservation Measure 41) and acquisition of pre-1907 water rights (2016 BiOp Conservation Measure 36); and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Parties established the Middle Rio Grande Native Water Leasing and Habitat Restoration Pilot Program for the purposes of supporting efficient irrigation, upgrading MRGCD infrastructure, enabling Rio Grande Compact water deliveries, and complying with the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. Sections 1531, et al., as amended (ESA) (the program is hereinafter referred to as the MRG Pilot Program);

WHEREAS, the Parties have successfully collaborated from 2018 through 2024 on implementation of the MRG Pilot Program, including through the creation of a pilot water leasing program, development of habitat sites and related infrastructure at strategically-located MRGCD outfalls, delivery of leased water to those habitat sites, investment in irrigation system infrastructure, design of an on-farm water conservation program, and development of a comprehensive water accounting framework to enable measurement and strategic delivery of water to support irrigation, Rio Grande Compact deliveries, and habitat sites; and

WHEREAS, MRGCD has established a district committee composed of MRGCD Board members, constituents, staff, and NFWF staff to provide feedback on matters including MRG Pilot Program design and ensure implementation is consistent with the objectives of the Parties; and

WHEREAS, the MRG Pilot Program has proven successful during its trial implementation and the Parties agreed to establish the Middle Rio Grande Water Resiliency Program (MRG Water Program) to continue and expand the activities of the MRG Pilot Program; and

WHEREAS, in the settlement agreement dated November 19, 2024, among Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MRGCD and WildEarth Guardians resolving Case No. 1:22-cv-914-GJF-JMR (the 2024 Settlement Agreement), Reclamation agreed to reinstitute ESA Section 7(a)(2) consultation, and MRGCD agreed to pursue water savings through water leasing, on-farm upgrades, and infrastructure efficiency improvements during the reinstituted consultation; and

WHEREAS, Reclamation and the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) entered into Cooperative Agreement Number R25AC00209-00, effective January 13, 2025 (Cooperative Agreement) to fund awards, sub-awards, grants and contracts with NFWF for water resiliency purposes including implementation of the MRG Water Program;

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Agreement provides that NMISC will create a subaward to NFWF including \$5,000,000 dollars to continue working with MRGCD to manage and implement the MRG Water Program consistent with the 2016 BiOp and terms of the 2024 Settlement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the activities covered under this MOA have been collaboratively developed by the Parties and will be implemented by NFWF and MRGCD in close coordination with Reclamation; and

91 WHEREAS, implementation of these activities will further the respective missions and
92 commitments of Reclamation, MRGCD, and NFWF; and
93

94 NOW, THEREFORE, Reclamation, MRGCD, and NFWF hereto agree as follows:
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97 ARTICLE I – PURPOSE
98

- 99 A. This MOA among Reclamation, MRGCD, and NFWF is for the purpose of defining the
100 framework for cooperation, coordination, and implementation of the MRG Water Resiliency
101 Program.
102

103 B. ARTICLE II – AUTHORITIES AND FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS
104

- 105 A. Nothing in this Agreement alters the statutory authorities or any other authorities of the
106 Parties. This Agreement is intended to facilitate cooperative efforts for mutual provision of
107 services and support, and technical assistance by each Party where appropriate, in the
108 conduct of meeting the objectives and scope of this Agreement. This Agreement does not
109 supersede or void existing agreements between the Parties.
110
- 111 B. Reclamation enters into this Agreement pursuant to: the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388),
112 as amended or supplemented, the authority granted to the Secretary of the Interior under
113 Section 14 of the Reclamation Project Act of August 4, 1939 (53 Stat. 1187-1197); 43 U.S.C.
114 § 398), and the Act of June 13, 1962 (76 Stat. 96) (all three Acts commonly referred to as
115 Reclamation Law); the Act of December 28, 1973 (87 Stat. 884), particularly Section
116 1526(a)(1) (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531-1543), more commonly known as the Endangered Species
117 Act (ESA); and Section 206(c) of Public Law 111-8, Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009.
118
- 119 C. MRGCD's authority to enter into this Agreement is provided in New Mexico Statutes
120 Annotated 1978 § 73-14-1 et seq.
121
- 122 D. NFWF's authority to enter into this Agreement is based on the National Fish and Wildlife
123 Foundation Establishment Act, 16 U.S.C. § 3701 et seq.
124
- 125 E. Financial Obligations: This Agreement does not authorize or require the obligation or transfer
126 of funds.
127
- 128 F. Anti-Deficiency Act: All activities, responsibilities, and commitments made under or pursuant
129 to this Agreement are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and each Party's budget
130 priorities, as determined by each Party, and none of the Parties are obligated in any way under
131 this Agreement to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract, assistance agreement,
132 contributed funds agreement, or other financial obligation. No provision herein shall be
133 interpreted to require obligation or payment of funds in violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act,
134 31 U.S.C. § 1341.
135

136 ARTICLE III – DEFINITIONS

- 137
- 138 A. Agreement means this Memorandum of Agreement.
- 139
- 140 B. Classes of Water. The following definitions of classes of water are used in this section:
- 141 i. Water Lease means an agreement between a willing lessor and one or more of the
- 142 Parties for forbearance of legal irrigation to meet MRG Water Program objectives.
- 143 ii. District Rights means water rights belonging to the MRGCD that have been used to
- 144 irrigate lands reclaimed through MRGCD activities pursuant to the New Mexico
- 145 Conservancy Act of 1923.
- 146 iii. Pre-1907 Surface Water Right means a right to surface waters of the Rio Grande with
- 147 a priority date prior to 1907 and can include pre-1907 water rights voluntarily made
- 148 available by the City of Rio Rancho or other similar entity for instream use.
- 149 iv. Conserved Water means water made available to the MRG Water Program through
- 150 implementation of an on-farm efficiency project or new or improved MRGCD
- 151 infrastructure intended to support reductions in demand or irrigation deliveries.
- 152 v. Rio Rancho Water Rights means a water right voluntarily made available by the City
- 153 of Rio Rancho to Reclamation for delivery to instream use pursuant to a May 2019
- 154 Settlement and Cooperative Water Agreement (the 2019 Settlement and Cooperative
- 155 Agreement).
- 156 vi. San Juan-Chama Project (SJCP) water means non-native water imported to the Rio
- 157 Grande basin through Reclamation's San Juan-Chama Project voluntarily made
- 158 available by SJCP contractors.
- 159
- 160 C. Cooperative Agreement means Cooperative Agreement Number R25AC00209-00, effective
- 161 January 13, 2025, between Reclamation and the NMISC.
- 162
- 163 D. Funding Agreement means a separate agreement(s) that would transfer funds between Parties
- 164 as needed to support implementation of the MRG Water Program.
- 165
- 166 E. Program Water means any water acquired through the MRG Water Program from willing
- 167 participants, whether through lease, on-farm irrigation efficiency programs, infrastructure
- 168 upgrades, or other voluntary means.
- 169
- 170 F. Implementation Plans means stand-alone documents developed and agreed to by the Parties
- 171 establishing details of program funding, terms, processes, and procedures for discrete MRG
- 172 Water Program activities.
- 173

174 ARTICLE IV – MRG WATER PROGRAM PRINCIPLES

175

176 The Parties agree to the following principles for the design and implementation of the MRG

177 Water Program:

178

- 179 A. Voluntary Participation. Participation in the MRG Water Program shall be voluntary for the
- 180 MRGCD, irrigators, and other water right holders.
- 181

- 182 B. No Transfers Out of MRGCD. The MRG Water Program shall not transfer water rights out
183 of the boundaries of the benefited area of the MRGCD.
184
- 185 C. No Injury. MRG Water Program activities, including water leases or other transactions, shall
186 not cause detriment to perfected private water rights or irrigation water deliveries resulting
187 from said rights.
188
- 189 D. Collaboration. The Parties shall cooperate and collaborate in good faith on implementation of
190 the MRG Water Program.
191
- 192 E. Legal Compliance. The MRG Water Program shall be implemented by the Parties consistent
193 with all applicable laws, policies and regulations.
194
- 195 F. Rio Grande Compact. Operation of the MRG Water Program shall comply with the Rio
196 Grande Compact.
197
- 198 G. Support for Irrigation. The MRG Water Program shall be implemented in a manner that
199 protects the long-term viability of irrigated agriculture where practicable.
200
- 201 H. Impacted Species. MRG Water Program activities shall be implemented in a manner that
202 supports habitat restoration and conservation of threatened and endangered native fish and
203 bird species.
204
205

206 ARTICLE V – PROGRAM SCOPE OF COOPERATION 207

208 The Parties agree to cooperate on the following scope of MRG Water Program activities:
209

- 210 A. Water Transactions. The MRG Water Program may include the following types of voluntary
211 water transactions:
- 212 i. Temporary acquisition of Pre-1907 surface water rights through lease;
 - 213 ii. Temporary acquisition of District Rights through lease;
 - 214 iii. Temporary acquisition of conserved water from system efficiency improvements, on-
215 farm efficiency improvements, or changes in water practices; and
 - 216 iv. Transactions related to water acquisition efforts including Reclamation, Pueblos, or
217 other initiatives to secure water for conservation use, including classes of water
218 described above or operational changes; and
 - 219 v. Transactions creating an opportunity for enrollment of irrigated Pueblo lands served
220 by a valid class of water right.
221
- 222 B. Water Delivery. Program Water may be delivered to the permitted place of use through the
223 river channel and/or through the MRGCD system as described in the Water Accounting and
224 Delivery Procedure accepted by the Parties and updated annually.
225
- 226 C. Infrastructure Investment. The MRG Water Program may include scoping and investment in
227 irrigation system infrastructure needed to support the following activities:

- i. MRG Water Program water transactions;
- ii. Delivery of Program Water to its place of use;
- iii. Water Metering in support of MRG Water Program water transactions and deliveries;
- iv. Monitoring of MRG Water Program activity; and
- v. Acquisition of Conserved Water through improved efficiency as per Article V, A. iii.

D. Farm-to-Farm Water Transactions. The MRG Water Program may also help facilitate farm-to-farm water leasing in order to help producers and MRGCD optimize available water supplies in supporting the long-term viability of agriculture within the MRG valley.

E. Habitat Improvement. The MRG Water Program may support species conservation, including, but not limited to, the development and maintenance of in-channel and riparian fish and wildlife habitat to receive Program Water, and to support Reclamation and MRGCD's commitments under the 2016 BiOp, the 2019 Settlement and Cooperative Agreement, and the 2024 Settlement Agreement.

F. Subgrants and Subawards. NFWF may make subgrants and subawards to MRGCD or other organizations to support MRG Water Program implementation using the \$5,000,000 that NMISC will make available to NFWF via a subaward pursuant to Section II.1 of the Cooperative Agreement. NFWF subgrants and subawards shall be made to support the following MRG Water Program activities consistent with Section II.1 of the Cooperative Agreement:

- i. Water Acquisition Activities, including the Water Leasing Program, Water Conservation Projects, and Planning for Large-Scale Irrigation Efficiency and Infrastructure Projects (initially estimated at 85% of MRGCD subaward);
- ii. Water Delivery Activities, including Water Accounting and Deliveries, Rehabilitation of Outfall Control Structures, and participation in development of Reclamations Structured Decision Making tool (initially estimated at 5% of MRGCD subaward);
- iii. Habitat Enhancement Activities, including Habitat Site Development and Strategic Species and Habitat Monitoring; and (initially estimated at 5% of MRGCD subaward); and
- iv. Administrative activities, including Stakeholder and Partner Coordination and Cooperative Agreement Project Management and Reporting (initially estimated at 5% of MRGCD subaward).

Actual subgrant and subaward activities and amounts will be determined through NFWF's formal process for awarding funds.

ARTICLE VI – IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

A. Implementation Plans. MRG Water Program implementation details shall be defined in various Implementation Plans to be collaboratively developed and agreed to by the Parties.

B. NFWF shall be responsible for coordinating development of Implementation Plans.

- 273 C. Advisory Committee. MRGCD's Advisory Committee shall advise on MRG Water Program
274 design and implementation. MRGCD shall appoint a Board representative to the Advisory
275 Committee.
276
- 277 D. MRGCD Board Oversight. The MRGCD's Advisory Committee Board representative shall
278 inform and review Implementation Plans at regularly scheduled Advisory Committee
279 meetings to ensure MRGCD activities are consistent with this MOA. The full MRGCD
280 Board shall be regularly updated on Implementation Plans through Advisory Committee
281 reports at MRGCD Board meetings.
282
- 283 E. Under no circumstances will implementation of the MRG Water Program deny the use of
284 water from the MRG to any person or entity within MRGCD's boundaries that has a legal
285 right to use such water, without that person or entity's consent.
286

287 288 ARTICLE VII – MRGCD RESPONSIBILITIES 289

290 MRGCD will be responsible for the following activities under this MOA:
291

- 292 A. Cooperate with NFWF and Reclamation to design and implement the MRG Water Program,
293 striving for consensus on all significant MRG Water Program issues.
294
- 295 B. Support MRG Water Program development and implementation with staff and technical
296 resources.
297
- 298 C. Provide estimates of staff and subcontractor resources needed for MRG Water Program
299 implementation to assist NFWF in developing any subgrants and subawards as described in
300 Article V, F. of this Agreement.
301
- 302 D. With Reclamation, assist NFWF in soliciting and evaluating potential MRG Water Program
303 partners and in developing and maintaining Implementation Plans.
304
- 305 E. Adhere to the MRG Water Program terms as described in this MOA and any other
306 agreements entered into as a result of this MOA, including Implementation Plans.
307
- 308 F. Through the Advisory Committee, provide MRGCD Board oversight and reporting of MRG
309 Water Program activities, as related to MRGCD's commitments under this MOA.
310
- 311 G. Participate in the MRG Water Program and ensure that Program activities comply with all
312 applicable laws, policies, and regulations.
313

314 ARTICLE VIII – NFWF RESPONSIBILITIES 315

316 NFWF will be responsible for the following activities under this MOA:
317

- A. Cooperate with MRGCD and Reclamation to design and implement the MRG Water Program, striving for consensus on all significant MRG Water Program issues.
- B. Meet all NFWF responsibilities under the Cooperative Agreement and any subsequent agreements.
- C. Cooperative with MRGCD and Reclamation to solicit and evaluate potential Program partners and develop and manage Implementation Plans for MRG Water Program activities.
- D. Adhere to the MRG Water Program terms as described in this MOA and any other agreements entered into as a result of this MOA, including Implementation Plans.
- E. Subject to the availability of funds and all necessary approvals, develop separate funding agreements for subgrants and subawards to support MRGCD activities described in this MOA.
- F. Subject to the availability of funds, all necessary approvals, and the needs of the MRG Water Program, develop separate funding agreements for subgrants and subawards for additional partners to assist in MRG Water Program development and implementation.

ARTICLE IX – RECLAMATION RESPONSIBILITIES

Reclamation will be responsible for the following activities under this MOA:

- A. Ensure Reclamation’s participation in MRG Water Program activities comply with all applicable laws, policies, and regulations.
- B. Work cooperatively with MRGCD and NFWF to assist in the development of the design and implementation of the MRG Water Program, striving for consensus on all significant MRG Water Program issues.
- C. With MRGCD, assist NFWF in soliciting and evaluating potential MRG Water Program partners and in developing and maintaining Implementation Plans.
- D. Comply with the MRG Water Program terms as described in this MOA and any other agreements entered into as a result of this MOA, including Implementation Plans.

ARTICLE X – ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

- A. Non-Fund Obligation. Nothing in this Agreement may be construed to obligate the Department of the Interior (Department) or the United States to any current or future expenditure of resources in advance of the availability of appropriations from Congress.
- B. Non-Exclusivity. This Agreement does not create any sort of exclusive arrangement between or among the Parties.

- 364
- 365 C. Effective Period, Expiration, and Extension. This Agreement shall become effective on
- 366 the date that the last Party executes the Agreement. This Agreement shall expire on the
- 367 earlier of December 31, 2029, or when NFWF's participation in MRG Water Program
- 368 ceases, whichever is first. The Parties may extend this Agreement for up to an additional
- 369 five (5) years upon written agreement of all Parties.
- 370
- 371 D. Amendment and Modification. This Agreement may be amended or modified by written
- 372 agreement of all Parties. Any Party who proposes an amendment or modification shall
- 373 provide a written proposal to the other Parties. Any amendments or modifications shall be
- 374 effective on the date that the last party executes the amendment or modification.
- 375 Notwithstanding the above provision, any Party may unilaterally terminate its
- 376 participation in the Agreement by providing thirty (30) days written notice to the other
- 377 Parties.
- 378
- 379 E. Review. This Agreement may be reviewed by the Parties to re-evaluate the terms of the
- 380 Agreement to assure the purpose is being met. If it is determined that a modification of
- 381 the Agreement is necessary, Article X(D) shall apply.
- 382
- 383 F. Advance Review of Press Releases Mentioning Any Party. The Parties shall have the
- 384 opportunity to review and approve all press releases, published advertisements, or other
- 385 statements intended for the public that refer to the Agreement, Reclamation, the
- 386 Department, any Party, or the name or title of any employee of the Department or any
- 387 Party, in connection with this Agreement. The Parties are responsible for ensuring that
- 388 any subgrantees or subcontractors comply with this term.
- 389
- 390 G. Resolution of Disagreements. Any dispute arising under this MOA, which is not disposed
- 391 of by agreement of the Parties, shall be submitted jointly to the signatories of this MOA.
- 392 A unanimous decision of the signatories or their designees shall be the disposition of such
- 393 dispute.
- 394
- 395 H. Agency Representative or Contacts:
- 396
- 397 Reclamation
- 398 Jennifer Faler, P.E.
- 399 Albuquerque Area Manager
- 400 Bureau of Reclamation
- 401 555 Broadway Blvd NE, Suite 100
- 402 Albuquerque, NM 87102
- 403
- 404 MRGCD
- 405 Jason Casuga, P.E.
- 406 Chief Engineer and CEO
- 407 Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
- 408 1931 Second St. SW
- 409 Albuquerque, NM 87102

410
411 NFWF
412 Chris West
413 Director, Rocky Mountain Regional Office
414 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
415 1133 15th Street NW, Suite 1000
416 Washington, DC 20005
417
418

419 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Reclamation, MRGCD, and NFWF have caused this Memorandum
420 of Agreement to be effective when signed by all PARTIES.
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FOR BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Date: _____

Jennifer Faler, P.E., Area Manager
Albuquerque Area Office
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

DRAFT

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FOR MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Date: _____

Jason Casuga, Chief Engineer and Chief Executive Officer
Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District

DRAFT

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FOR NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Date: _____

Jeff Trandahl, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

DRAFT

Director Russo Baca Board Reports April 2025

Report on the Urban Waters Meeting, March 11, 2025, 6700 Edith Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113

This was a well-attended meeting from various organizations, also at the Land and Water Summit. Interesting presentations were given by Emily Wolf, Rio Grande Coordinator for American Rivers; Juan Camacho, Ecologist for the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program; and Ricky Reedy, Forest Health Manager for the Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District. More information about the Middle Rio Grande Urban Waters Partnership can be found here: <https://www.ciudadswcd.org/middle-rio-grande-urban-waters-partnership>.

Report on the Valencia County Arroyo Flood Control District Meeting, March 13, 2025, Valencia County Commission Chambers

This was the first meeting for the Valencia County Arroyo Flood Control District. At the meeting, the County attorney suggested contacting the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and Los Lunas and Belen to help identify those areas and work already done for flood mitigation. MRGCD Chief Operating Officer Eric Zamora told board members they also needed to consider whether they wanted to sign an agreement to become an agency sponsor for the Belen Watershed Project. The project is in the final stages of planning. It is in line for a potential \$25 million in federal funding for infrastructure to mitigate flooding south of Belen in the Pueblitos area. MRGCD is the current agency sponsor for the planning stages. Still, because the infrastructure would be built west of the Highline Canal, outside MRGCD jurisdiction, MRGCD hopes to work with VCAFCO to be the agency sponsor for further implementation, as the flood control district has authority through all of Valencia County.

Report on Representative Vasquez's Agriculture Advisory Group, March 18, 2025, Virtual Discussion

on Vasquez announced the introduction of bipartisan and targeted bills designed to support agricultural producers in New Mexico and across the country:

<https://vasquez.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-gabe-vasquez-hosts-agriculture-advisory-board-roundtable-announces-key>

Ranching Without Red Tape Act (co-led by Rep. Celeste Maloy, R-UT) – Allows ranchers to make minor range improvements, such as fence repairs and water line installations, without unnecessary bureaucratic delays. Habitat Connectivity on Working Lands Act (co-led by Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-MT) – Enhances wildlife corridors and promotes conservation efforts on agricultural lands. Farm Workforce Support Act (co-led by Rep. Juan Ciscomani, R-AZ) – Directs a comprehensive study of the H-2A program to assess its impact on farm labor, wages, and housing availability. Wolf and Livestock Fairness (WOLF) Act (co-led by Reps. Stanton, D-AZ, Schweikert, R-AZ, and Pfluger, R-TX) – Compensates ranchers for 100% of the value of cattle killed by gray wolves and for the decreased herd sizes due to predation. Ranchers are currently only compensated for 75% of the value of their cattle. Healthy Foods for Native Seniors Act – Expands Tribal self-governance in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program to ensure Native seniors have access to fresh, culturally relevant foods.

Report on the Interstate Stream Commission Meeting, March 20, 2025

There were some key updates on Rio Grande Basin Key Updates 2025 Rio Grande Compact Status – New Mexico added 2,500 acre-feet to its cumulative debit status in 2024, increasing the debit to approximately 124,000 acre-feet. New Mexico will carry a debit of 124,000 acre-feet for all of 2025. Abiquiu Reservoir and Dam Operations – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Reclamation are considering the best storage options for Prior and Paramount (P&P) water in 2025. Releases from Abiquiu Dam will be monitored during spring runoff. El Vado Reservoir Operations – Reclamation is currently storing approximately 16,300 acre-feet of San Juan Chama Project and P&P water. Reclamation's reassessment regarding construction to rehabilitate the dam is ongoing. Meeting information can be found at: https://www.ose.nm.gov/ISC/isc_meetings.php

Report on the ISO Meet & Greet Meeting, March 25, 2025

This was an opportunity for irrigators and ISO's in the Belen Division to meet face to face. Now that the irrigation season has started, it is crucial to have a positive working relationship between ISO's and irrigators. This was a good opportunity for the MRGCD Staff to discuss the upcoming irrigation season, ongoing projects, and set clear expectations. Over the summer, additional opportunities for informational meetings will be hosted by MRGCD throughout the district.

Report on the Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting, March 26, 2025

Discussed the 3Q FY25 Financial Statements and review of the investment policy.

Report on the Election Committee Meeting, March 28, 2025

Discuss the passing of HB 308 and MRGCD's Rule 20 regarding elections. There will be a presentation of the proposed changes to Rule 20 at the board meeting for a vote in the May board meeting.

Report on the Backyard Refuge Day, March 29, 2025

Over 700 people in attendance at this event hosted at the Guterrez Hubbel House and in partnership with organizations like the xerces society, bird alliance of central New Mexico, Audubon, Tree New Mexico, Yerba Mansa Project, BernCo, Friends of Valle de Oro, UNM Sustainability studies program, urban waters federal partnership, US EPA, Native plant Society of NM and many more! More information about the Backyard Refuge Program can be found at: <https://friendsofvalledeoro.org/abq-backyard-refuge/>. I am hoping that this will be an event that MRGCD can participate directly in next year by tabling or possibly through partnership or sponsorship.

Report on the Centennial Committee Meeting, April 2, 2025

Discuss the past events to celebrate the MRGCD centennial and the future events that MRGCD will be hosting or attending.

Report on the Law of the Rio Grande Conference, April 3-4, 2025

At this conference, Jason Casuga presented infrastructure projects within the district's benefitted area. This was his first time presenting at this conference, and his presentation was well-received. Additionally, Elizabeth Anderson, the NM State Engineer, explained what is happening in New Mexico. Then there was a presentation regarding the Middle Rio Grande Adjudication and the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos water rights settlement.

Report on the Pueblo of Isleta Farmers & Irrigators Informational Meeting, April 9, 2025

Members of the Pueblo of Isleta, leadership, and Pueblo of Isleta staff attended this meeting. Great questions were asked about the season outlook, and a lot of the discussion focused on P&P operations, maintenance, and the new work ticketing system.

Report on the Mid-Region Council of Governments Executive Board, April 10, 2025

The FY 2024 MRCOG Audit was presented, and the preliminary 2026 budget and financials were discussed. Alice Main, CABQ Office of Sustainability, discussed the Central NM Comprehensive Climate Action Plan.

Report on the Fifth Annual Primera Agua Celebration, April 12, 2025, headwaters of the Atrisco Acequia Madre, located at the intersection of Central Ave. NW and Sunset Blvd. SE.

This event was a welcome the new season and the return of water to our acequia communities, the Center for Social Sustainable Systems (CESOSS), in collaboration with the American Friends Service Committee, the Open Space Division of Bernalillo County, and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, organized the Fifth Annual Primera Agua Celebration. This event took place on April 12, from 11 AM to 1 PM, at the headwaters of the Atrisco Acequia Madre, located at the intersection of Central Ave. NW and Sunset Blvd. SE. This celebration honors both the vital waters flowing into our community and also the enduring legacy and heritage of Atrisco, an iconic region deeply rooted in the history, values, and traditions of New Mexico's Indo-Hispano people. This gathering reaffirmed our commitment to resilience, sustainability, and preserving our cultural traditions in changing times. Colin Baugh's daughter read a beautiful poem.