

**MINUTES OF THE
2,232nd REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Directors having been duly notified; Chairman Kelly called the regular meeting to order at 3:02 pm. The following Directors and Staff were present:

DIRECTORS		STAFF	
John P. Kelly, Chairman	Present	Jason Casuga	Chief Engineer/CEO
Colin T. Baugh, Vice Chairman	Present	Lorna Wiggins	General Counsel
Brian Jiron, Director	Present	Jeff Wechsler	Chief Water Counsel
Stephanie Russo Baca, Director	Present	Pamela Fanelli	Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
J. Chris Lopez, Director	Present	Eric Zamora	Director of Technical Services
Micheal T. Sandoval, Director	Present	Christine Nardi	Director of Human Services
Karen Dunning, Director	Present	Amanda Molina	Director of Communications
		Casey Ish	Director of Lands & Conservation

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

Anne Marken, MRGCD	David Montoya	Doug Strech, MRGCD
Matt Martinez, MRGCD	John Irizarry-Nazario, BOR	Patrick Taber, BIA
Richard DeLoia, MRGCD	Jerry Montano	Cecilia Martinez Howard
Troy Howard	Jerome Cordova	Josh Gamboa, MRGCD
Monique Marquez, BOR	Liz Dicharry	Guy Dicharry
Vincent Sanchez	Jorge Garcia, CESOSS	Luke Smith
Mike A. Lopez, LP	Dan Aguirre	Jimmy Beal

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

David Montoya 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 Directors Sandoval and Jiron attending virtually. Rollcall votes will be necessary for regular motions.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA .

Chairman Kelly added 16(q), Report on American Indian Day at the New Mexico Legislature and from Director Russo Baca.

Mr. Casuga added an update on the Acequia Madre Public Meeting Project under Item 9.

Director Dunning made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA WITH THE ABOVE CHANGES.** Seconded by Director Lopez. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 - CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **Consideration/Approval of Payment Ratification – January 2026**
- b. **Consideration/Approval of January 2026 Invoice for Wiggins, Williams & Wesenberg, PC**
- c. **Consideration/Approval of January 2026 Invoices for Spencer Fane LLP**
- d. **Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Special and Regular Board Meeting – January 12, 2026**
- e. **Memo on MRGCD Approved Licenses for January 2026 (For Informational Purposes Only)**

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

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 - ASSIGNMENT OF BOARD COMMITTEES - Chairman Kelly

Chairman Kelly announced the board committees and their members.

Finance Committee: Chairman Kelly, Director Russo Baca, and Vice Chairman Baugh

Legislative Committee: Director Dunning, Director Russo Baca, and Vice Chairman Baugh

Personnel Committee: Chairman Kelly, Director Dunning, and Director Russo Baca

Urban Issues Committee: Director Dunning, Director Russo Baca, and Vice Chairman Baugh

Irrigation Committee: Director Sandoval, Director Jiron, and Director Lopez

BiOp Consultation Committee: Director Dunning, Director Russo Baca, and Director Lopez

Mid Region Council of Governments Assignments - Executive Committee: Director Russo Baca; Director Dunning as alternate

Chairman Kelly voiced that Mr. Casuga will take care of TPTG and any other staff committees. The Election Committee will reconvene next year, and the Centennial Committee, Water Protection Committee, and BIA Negotiation Committees were vacated. He listed their advisory committees, which include the Conservation Advisory Committee, Urban Issues Advisory Committee, and Irrigators Working Group.

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

- a. **Report on Water Supply Conditions - Anne Marken, River Operations & Telemetry Manager**

Anne Marken reported on water supply conditions. She stated above average temperatures dominated the Basin's weather in the past month and snowpack conditions have not improved. She showed a map from NRCS, illustrating all the basin's snowpack conditions being less than 50% of the 30-year median for the state. The Cumbres Trestle SNOTEL graph showed 56% of median, which is only 34% of the median peak.

She added that location would need to accumulate 17 more inches of snow water equivalent this year to meet peak median. She stated if snowpack conditions do not improve over the next couple of months, the Middle Valley can expect spring runoff to be short and small. She expressed the NRCS forecasts based on February 1st conditions showed the Otowi Gage is expected to see approximately 200,000 acre feet of native Rio Grande flow from March through July, which is only 35% of the 30-year median. The San Marcial Gage is forecasted to see 6% of its 30-year median, which is about 20,000 acre feet. She noted there is a couple of months left to add moisture to the mountains, but the basin is currently in significant deficit, so it would take some sizable storms to change conditions. Ms. Marken reiterated that once spring runoff concludes, MRGCD will have very limited ability to supplement river flows with releases from storage, and farmers should expect a run of the river system for the majority of the year and to be in rotations for most of irrigation season. She said MRGCD will be reliant on summer rain inflows to continue making irrigation deliveries, which can happen suddenly and be challenging to manage. She expects the Middle Valley to experience prior and paramount only operations during periods this summer, where BIA will require curtailment of non-pueblo lands north of Isleta Pueblo. She urged farmers to take that into consideration when making farming decisions. The NWS weekly forecast indicates the basin could receive some moisture this week, but temperatures are expected to be above average until the weekend. She shared that NWS Seasonal Outlook through April, showing above average temperatures and below average precipitation.

See also Appendix I.

Chairman Kelly shared things are dire and asked if they could pull out the orange sticker advertisement from the paper in the 50s discussed in a previous meeting and put that on MRGCD's website to remind people that has happened before and we got through it.

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

Jerry Montañó

Mr. Montañó voiced he was one of the biggest complainers the last two years about water shortage from the Belen Highline to Feeder 3, but wanted to thank Mr. Casuga, Mr. Martinez, and Mr. Zamora now that the project is going on.

Chairman Kelly stated they are putting the transmission pipe in the ground right now and it will be a follow-up project a year from now for the pumps due to the lead time on getting the pumps.

Guy Dicharry

Mr. Dicharry expressed he was there to follow up on the emails and photos he sent about what is happening at the River Mile 163 Project, which is within the Bosque Open Space Preserve, on the west side of the river and north of Main Street in Valencia County. He asked the Board to consider blocking motor vehicle access to that particular area. He explained that since the completion of the bank lowering and bank removal project, BOR put in access roads running from the levee to the river. He said there are a lot of trucks and ATVs using those access roads and not staying on the levee road. He added they are leaving tire tracks everywhere, building blinds in an open space preserve, and ignoring the prohibition on driving through the Bosque. He noted replanting has started and the trees and grasses being planted have no chance of survival under these conditions. He felt the only option to stop this is to close the roads to motor vehicle access and put a lock on the gate.

Mr. Casuga responded he has spoken with BOR on this and will put it on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss. He added he also asked the right-of-way staff to look into it.

See also Appendix II.

Jorge Garcia

Mr. Garcia reiterated the support for the Atrisco Acequia Madre Project. He stated they have a long list of exchanges, information, and communications that took place back in 2019 and 2020, as the communities then put a lot of effort for that area to become an educational site for acequia water rights and culture. He added they will be pushing hard to make sure the project involves education for the community.

Janet Jarrett

Ms. Jarrett discussed documents she gave them on a water rights transfer for Shady Dale Farms. She first tried to find a resolution for this, because she heard MRGCD was protecting raw water rights frequently, but she did not find one. She noted it is difficult to get information about water right transfers without protesting it, so she wanted to provide more information here. She expressed this is land her family has had for a long time that the Village of Los Lunas chose to condemn, and they fought the condemnation for three years. She stated they did not want to sell or convert it, and the best they could do was sever the water rights off the property so they could retain ownership of the water rights. She said the only way the water rights can be put to beneficial use is to transfer them, and she wanted to get the highest and best value for the water rights. She commented that Santa Fe's water bank is currently at zero, so they have a need and would take an expedited transfer. She noted this does not impair the District's operations, as it is not pertinent to irrigated land at this point, and she is just trying to take a one-time asset and do the best she can with it since they could not save the land.

Mr. Casuga expressed he encouraged this to be brought to public comment, but the appropriate place to discuss and answer any of the Board's questions on this is in Executive Session. He noted he has been executing a long practice of protesting water rights, especially transfers, from the benefited area to Santa Fe.

Director Dunning asked if the reason for wanting to transfer it to Santa Fe was because they offered the most money or if there was someone in a more local it could be sold to.

Ms. Jarrett responded that she tried locally first but did not find any takers. She stated that Santa Fe was the most, and it is her responsibility to do the best she can for everybody concerned. She noted it is a unique situation to have a water rights transfer that does not actually dry any land.

See also Appendix III.

Dave Montoya

Mr. Montoya asked if the 80 feet Extension project in Los Ranchos was still going to happen this month, as people have been asking him about it.

Chairman Kelly responded he would get with Mr. Zamora and discuss timing on that, but they still support the project and will be involved with it.

Karen Dunning

Director Dunning commented that she received an email from Senator Stefanics about workshops and money being available for watershed restoration. She asked if that was something they are eligible to apply for.

Mr. Casuga expressed he had not heard anything about that but was interested to find out.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 - REPORT ON HISTORICAL MAPS AND SURVEYS FROM ROSS HOWARD SURVEYING COMPANY - Doug Strech, Systems and Data Integration Program Manager

Mr. Strech gave a report on the historical map surveys from Ross Howard Surveying Company. He voiced that he and Cecilia Martinez Howard, the widow of the late Ross Howard, were the sole investigators and curators on this historical data project. He explained that he met Ross Howard in the early 2000s and cultivated a relationship with him over the years. He stated this project began by a call from Ms. Martinez Howard in July 2025, offering to donate historic survey materials following the closure of the Ross Howard Company. Mr. Strech offered to assist with evaluating the materials, given the District's historical connections with the firm, and the materials were reviewed for preservation, digitization, and appropriate archival placement. He shared they focused on surveying records dating from the 1940s and older and any other records of historical interest, and they made a decision to prioritize uniqueness and evidentiary value over volume. He gave an overview of the unique and rare historical surveys and plats in New Mexico found in those materials, particularly in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. He made a recommendation to the Board to formally recognize the historical significance of the collection that was generously offered by Ms. Martinez Howard and Mr. Ross Howard's role in the preservation of the records and the District's commitment to stewardship. He clarified this is not a transfer of District records nor a legal or policy action.

See also Appendix IV.

Director Dunning was thankful this did not end up in the dump, as it is very invaluable. She also thanked the family.

Chairman Kelly thanked Ms. Howard on behalf of the Board.

Mr. Casuga proposed to the Board that this should be formalized in a formal proclamation by recognizing Ms. Martinez Howard and the whole body of work they have made available at the March meeting. The Board agreed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 - REPORT(S) FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

a. Bureau of Reclamation - John Irizarry-Nazario, Deputy Area Manager

Mr. Irizarry-Nazario was not in attendance at today's meeting.

See also Appendix V.

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

Mr. Taber discussed the process of BIA storing their P&P water, which consists of receiving a request from the pueblos at the beginning of the calendar year, they pass that on to BOR, and then BOR starts that activity. He said once water is stored, they

determine an amount based on the NRCS calculations, in which they do estimates from March, April, and May. He stated they view the Otowi Gage during the course of the irrigation season and once they reach a threshold providing enough water for P&P lands, they do a P&P release. He added they receive a letter at the end of the year requesting the release of storage water back down to the system. He went over the hydrograph from last year on this where there was a large jump of water that was being released. After looking into it, that was dominated by an October 11th and 13th storm, which hit the upper basin in Colorado, and the subsequent days there was a very high intensity rainfall event that occurred. Mr. Taber shared they are currently storing and have 4500 acre feet for prior and paramount water, which was far lower at this time last year, as there was a lot of frozen water and inability to store.

See also Appendix VI.

Director Jiron asked once BIA makes the call for the release, do they work with MRGCD to make sure the prior and paramount waters made it to its destination. He said if not, did he think they should probably start that practice.

Mr. Taber responded when they do releases of P&P water, he is usually in contact with individual pueblos on a daily basis during that timeframe, as well as MRGCD, so there is a lot of communication.

Mr. Casuga added the valley pretty much understands what that means, especially when curtailing north of Isleta Pueblo, as they spend a lot of time making sure the system is off for all non-travel users when that curtailment goes out.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 - REPORT(S) FROM THE CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER - Richard DeLoia

a. Consideration/Approval of the Atrisco Acequia Madre Project Phase I

Mr. DeLoia presented for approval for the Atrisco Acequia Madre Project Phase 1, through the intergovernmental agreement with Bernalillo County. MRGCD recommended award to Lopez Precision for \$207,823.88, with tax, which will be awarded through the MRGCD Contractors On-call Contracts.

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE AWARD TO LOPEZ PRECISION FOR THE ATRISCO MADRE PROJECT**. 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 Dunning	Yes	Director Russo Baca	Yes
Director Lopez	Yes	Director Sandoval	Yes
Director Jiron	Yes		

Chairman Kelly asked what the chances were of needing dewatering when they start digging and the river comes up.

Mr. Casuga answered they expect this work to be done long before they see significant water in the river.

b. Update on the Acequia Madre Public Meeting Project - Jason M. Casuga

Mr. Casuga stated last Thursday, MRGCD staff, Bernalillo County Commissioner Barbara Baca, and the City of Albuquerque staff hosted a public meeting updating on this Atrisco Madre Project, and what mostly came out of the meeting was the desire for acequia education and culture to be foremost in this area. He said they need to ensure those future connection sites are folded into the project area as a whole, because in developing the master plan, it considers the use of the area but the Phase 1 project was designed without those in mind because they do not have access to them yet. He noted the connection areas are owned by Albuquerque, specifically within the purview of the Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency portion, including the areas along Central, where there are properties targeted for these things. He proposed the Board shift to a very specific interaction with the city and talk to the community about making sure the community neighborhood associations and attendees know this is the desire of the public and partner agencies to make the properties available. He suggested to delegate this issue to the Urban Committee to address a letter to Mayor Keller and to City Council, expressing the desire for these properties to be used as the master plan committed. Mr. Casuga expressed they really want to get the box culvert done, but it is hard to go forward with Phase 1 because it has implications if those other properties are not available. He added there are many different ideas about what the two properties should look like, but the universal idea is it be a community space honoring community and bringing them together as acequia culture does, and it is incumbent upon them to get the answer on if the properties are going to be folded into the master plan before spending too much time going further so they spend the dollars the right way.

See also Appendix VII.

Director Dunning voiced that for a couple years, there was something about it because it was acquired with the Metropolitan Redevelopment funds, they had to use it in a way that fits within the Metropolitan Redevelopment, which education does not. She asked if there were any possibilities for a land exchange in this case.

Mr. Casuga responded he was happy to entertain that if they get there. He said that is why they are approaching the mayor's office and city council, because the public body makes those rules and have the ability to look at unique areas and act according to the authority they have, and he did not expect MRA to act that way, as they are bound by those policies. He voiced they have Councilor Baca's backing on this, and the energy at the meeting was not negative, as there was just a desire from the community wanting to control their destiny of this area.

Vice Chairman Baugh commented it seems very fitting that the District would involve itself within this. He asked what the timeline was for this.

Mr. Casuga did not know, but felt they had plenty of time, as there is no imminent construction or plan on those properties yet.

Mr. Casuga asked for authorization to take this to the Urban Committee and develop those letters and if he needed to bring the letter back to the Board.

Chairman Kelly answered yes for the authorization and deferred to the committee to make sure all the right things are said in the letters.

c. Consideration/Approval of the New Belen Invasive Species Material Handling Project

Mr. DeLoia presented for approval of the New Belen Invasive Species Material Processing Project. They are awarding Forester & Associates for Phases 2 and 3, totaling \$100,615.34, including tax, which is funded through the Interstate Stream Commission Grant G3753. He added this will be awarded through the State of New Mexico Price Agreement Contact.

Chairman Kelly asked if Forester & Associates did a good enough job to Phase 1 to be awarded for Phase 2 and 3.

Ms. Strange answered yes, and Mr. Casuga added they would not bring them back for the next phases if they were unsatisfied with Phase 1.

Director Dunning made the **MOTION TO APPROVE AWARD TO FORESTER & ASSOCIATES FOR PHASE 2 AND 3 OF THE NEW BELEN INVASIVE SPECIES MATERIAL HANDLING PROJECT**. 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 Dunning	Yes	Director Russo Baca	Yes
Director Lopez	Yes	Director Sandoval	Yes
Director Jiron	Yes		

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 - REPORT(S) FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT - Christine L. Nardi, MBA

a. Introduction of MRGCD New Hires

Ms. Nardi introduced MRGCD's new hires and promotions, including a promotion to heavy equipment operator and a new service technician in Belen Division.

b. Update on Pending Staff Changes

Ms. Nardi notified the Board of Eric Zamora's retirement, which will be happening in May 2026. She stated given this is a key leadership role, they have begun active recruitment efforts to ensure continuity and a smooth transition.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 - REPORT(S) FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS & CONSERVATION - Casey Ish

a. Update on Request for Proposal for Habitat Conservation Plan - Casey Ish

Mr. Ish gave a quick recap per the settlement MRGCD was a party to with the federal government and Wild Earth Guardians. He stated they are pursuing new consultation and coverage for threatened and endangered species with the Middle Valley, and the District has taken the position that a Habitat Conservation Plan is the path forward for necessary compliance that covers all the different actions on the river, and the federal government gave them the go ahead with that. He said they have an RFP ready to go and their procurement officer has prepared the document packet. He noted they hoped to get that out February 13th, but recognized they have a brand new committee that has just been staffed and has not had a chance to review it, so he asked if they would like the chance to review it before it goes out or if they should stick to the schedule of getting it out on the 13th.

Chairman Kelly asked who they intend to have as the section advisory committee to review and evaluate the proposals.

Mr. Ish answered the subcommittee, himself, and the CEO would be a part of that.

Chairman Kelly inquired if they had somebody from outside of the agency to be a part of the process as well.

Mr. Casuga asked if he could think about that.

Chairman Kelly responded yes, as something this big needed to have member of the selection committee other than District employees or board members.

Mr. Casuga commented it was worthwhile to get the scope of work in the RFP into the committee's hands and answer any questions about what an HCP is and how it is different than the Section 7(a) consultation they did under the federal government. He added it is incumbent upon them to ensure the Board understands the same value staff believe the HCP has going forward.

Chairman Kelly expressed he would move with their existing schedule and get this out the door. He said it is not just about the RFP, but the contract and the scope of services.

Director Dunning agreed the process should not be held up. She voiced it would be nice, as a member of the committee, to get a copy of the RFP, to help them understand as this moves forward.

Mr. Casuga shared the amount of investment they will make on an HCP is a big deal, as well as the benefits, which they will discuss at an upcoming board meeting.

Chairman Kelly asked how many proposals they expect to get on this.

Mr. Ish answered at least four or five, if not more.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12 - REPORT(S) FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES - Eric Zamora, PE

a. Off Season Maintenance and Construction Updates

Angel Madera updated the Board on their construction offseason projects. He presented on the Socorro Main Canal Channel Lining Phase II Project, which they lined 1 mile with concrete canvas and installed all turnout structures. He shared the turnout gates would be installed this week and they will finish shotcreting the channel lining, so all in-channel work should be completed by this week. Looking ahead, they will finish out-of-channel items and will have a walk-through the week of February 16th. In regard to the Belen Highline Canal Overflow Structure #2, Lopez Precision finished pouring the channel section and overflow steps last week, and they are currently working on the concrete landing at the bottom of the overflow structure. He said backfill and clean-up work will commence at the end of this week.

Antoinette Ramos updated the Board on the Low Flow Conveyance Channel Phase 2 Project, stating they have mowed and dredged 7.5 miles and cleared and grubbed 43

acres. She expressed that they will finish the entire 7.87 miles of mowing and dredging and the 47.8 acres of clearing and grubbing by the end of February. She stated that in regard to the Loretta Road Project, they received one bid, which is currently under review and negotiation. The Feeder 3 Transmission Line Phase I Project mobilization started January 19th, pipe delivery was done on January 22nd, and in-channel work was started the third week of January, which should be finished by March 1st. She stated they are planning to start the trenchless water line installation at NM109 this week and then will move to Highway 116. She added they are also currently doing the 6-inch thick concrete lining and the consultation of the concrete dissipation structure wall.

Angelina Jiminez presented on the Atrisco Madre Project. She explained that MRGCD received the 100% plan from Bernalillo County, and the concrete box culvert extension was approved earlier this meeting. They had a public meeting on February 5th, that included attendance from the public, neighborhood associations, and acequia associations. She then discussed division projects that are currently ongoing, which include the culvert replacement in Cochiti East Main, Tribal Road 7 culvert crossing replacements, Riverside Drain maintenance, and New Belen Wasteway rehabilitation.

See also Appendix VIII.

Director Dunning asked if someone sold their water rights and has tumbleweeds growing, does MRGCD have any recourse in that or is there anything they can do.

Mr. Casuga felt they could, as there could be a local ordinance passed by the county to do that. He said if a property is allowed to become overgrown with weeds and cause potential maintenance issues when the winds blow them off, it would be interesting to see if they could have MRGCD policy written to that if the land was still within the benefited area. He felt it was a worthwhile question.

Chairman Kelly said they would follow up in Executive Session on that.

Chairman Kelly asked what the mode for failure was for the concrete canvas and if they are geared up to address that.

Mr. Zamora answered it would likely be through their dredging operations. He added there are mechanisms and techniques the manufacturer recommended to making repairs, but long term, they will have to maintain some of the material in stock as long as they keep it dry and in a secure area.

Mr. Zamora thanked staff and the division managers for taking advantage of the good weather and getting all this work in place. He also thanked the consultants for helping them out. He gave an update on the Corrales Siphon. They have installed the 6 foot steel pipe, which is a pilot hole for drilling operation and installation of the tracks for all green operation. He said they installed a conductor casing and started cleaning out the material from within the casing, and when they were 180 feet in the hole, the auger got stuck and developed a sinkhole, which is where they are at right now with the project. He expressed they had just approved a change order to address what they are going to do with the conductor casing that was installed, which is to fill it with grout, and they are working on options to address the sinkhole. He noted the idea is to now install a new conductor casing and start the drilling operation a little bit upstream of the old conductor casing and maybe go a little deeper with the siphon install. He shared they are evaluating a change order that was submitted and they have sent some information back

to the contractor for additional information and information more in compliance with the contract requirements.

See also Appendix IX.

Mr. Casuga asked if they were working on the east side.

Mr. Zamora answered yes, they are continuing work on the Sandia side. He said they have a bypass pipe being installed to divert water from irrigation operations during the irrigation season, and new turnouts were installed.

Director Dunning suggested having a meeting with Corrales to update them on how this is a very challenging project and we are doing the best we can.

Mr. Casuga responded they will be doing that; he was just hesitant to release any Board updated materials before the Board was updated. He has been in contact with Corrales and has committed to giving them material for an update.

Chairman Kelly commented they need to be careful what they say in public, as they are negotiating a change order and do not want to impact those. He asked if the contractor is asking for additional time for the project.

Mr. Zamora answered no, and right now they are focused on the cost component. He stated if there is a major bid item, 10% of the overall contract, that price can be renegotiated up to 25%.

Chairman Kelly responded Mr. Casuga can sign the change order without coming back to the Board, as time is of the essence for this project. He said they may need to look into the endowment fund to do this without impacting other projects and then schedule to reimburse the endowment fund.

Mr. Casuga shared that depending on the size of the change order, he may reach out to the Finance Committee. He said things like this are why they gave a one year construction timeframe all the way to December, so he was not super concerned yet.

Mr. Zamora emphasized this is a big project and to encounter an issue, especially underground, is not unusual. He stated they do the best planning they can and just work through it when they hit unforeseen circumstances.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13 - REPORT(S) FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER/CFO - Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM

- a. **Consideration/Approval of Resolution BA-02-09-26-111 Adoption of Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 (07-01-25 to 06-30-26)**
Approval combined with items 13b and 13c.
- b. **Consideration/Approval of Resolution M-02-09-26-234 Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Equipment Loan with New Mexico Finance Authority for \$4,407,773**
Approval combined with items 13a and 13c.
- c. **Consideration/Approval of Resolution M-02-09-26-235 Disposal of Obsolete Items**
Approval combined with items 13a and 13b.

Vice Chairman Baugh made the **MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTIONS BA-02-09-26-111, M-02-09-26-234, and M-02-09-26-235**. 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 Dunning	Yes	Director Russo Baca	Yes
Director Lopez	Yes	Director Sandoval	Yes
Director Jiron	Yes		

d. Report on Finance Committee Meeting, February 9, 2026 - Chairman Kelly, Vice Chairman Baugh, and Director Russo Baca

Chairman Kelly stated they were looking at a resolution establishing a debt policy for MRGCD, which is something that come up through a review of their practices and policies as part of the budgeting process, which is a hole in the system and something they should have. He explained that Ms. Fanelli did some research and discovered that in the original plan for the District, their debt was limited to the assessed valuation of the properties within the four counties of the benefited area to around \$20 million. He said they are nowhere near that limit, but how they determine that could be questioned, and they excluded debt owed to the BOR from counting against that number, so they need to continue researching. He stated they will bring this to the Board when the committee is ready. He shared they also have a couple of ancient old safes in the finance area that are obsolete and do not show up on their inventory report, so they have a resolution to unload those. The Finance Committee looked at all the resolutions and concurred with the need to do them.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14 - REPORT(S) FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER/CEO– Jason M. Casuga, PE

a. Consideration/Approval of Resolution BD-02-09-26-61 Repealing Resolution BD-03-25-13-40.5 Regarding the Length of Time for Regular Meetings of the Board of Directors

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION BD-02-09-26-61**. Seconded by Director Lopez. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

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

- b. Report on MRGCD's Bernalillo County Farmers & Irrigators Informational Meeting, January 15, 2026, Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO, Chairman Kelly, Vice Chairman Baugh, and Directors Russo Baca, Sandoval, Dunning, Jiron and Lopez**
- c. Report on MRGCD's Valencia County Farmers & Irrigators Informational Meeting, January 22, 2026, Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO, Chairman Kelly, Directors Russo Baca, Dunning, Jiron and Lopez**

d. Report on MRGCD's Socorro County Farmers & Irrigators Informational Meeting, January 29, 2026, Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO, Chairman Kelly, Directors Russo Baca and Lopez

Mr. Casuga presented on MRGCD's Bernalillo County, Valencia County, and Socorro County Farmers & Irrigators Informational Meetings. He stated he appreciated the unique differences between each of the communities, and the understanding of hydrology is more fundamentally understood across the valley than it was when he started doing these 5 years ago. He thanked staff for their work in preparing the meetings and growing their ability to talk to the public and empathize with them. He voiced that the state and MRGCD are going to have to be modified for relief to come, but they have a diverse and wonderful valley that is worth fighting for and protecting. He wants to keep doing the meetings and will be making modifications and trying to make them better. He welcomed feedback from the Board on that.

Director Russo Baca thanked staff and IT for the portable screen and the heavy lifting it takes to get it there.

Chairman Kelly asked if they wanted to do two meetings a week during the summer or just keep them one per week.

Director Russo Baca commented she would rather get them all done if staff felt that was feasible.

Mr. Casuga felt one a week was all they could do, as they basically take the whole day. He said they are considering renaming the winter meetings to MRGCD community meetings, where all people can attend and cover all topics, and have the summer ones be focused on irrigation.

Director Dunning responded that it is a great idea, as only irrigators show up and other issues do not get addressed.

e. Information on Upcoming Events:

- 1. National Water Resources Association Policy Conference, April 27-29, 2026: Washington, D.C.**
- 2. 2026 Land and Water Summit, March 4-6, 2026: Albuquerque, NM 87104**

Mr. Casuga gave information on upcoming events. He said he would be participating on a panel focused on river drying.

Director Russo Baca announced that on March 2nd, at the UNM School of Law, they would be having a Rio Grande Basin in New Mexico screening, followed by a Q&A with the interviewees, as well as a CLE with AI and water use on February 24th, also at the law school, at 5:30.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15 - REPORT(S) FROM THE MRGCD ATTORNEY(S) - Chief Water Counsel or General Counsel

MRGCD's Attorney's did not have any reports to share during open session.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16 REPORT(S) FROM THE BOARD

a. Report on Meeting with Constituents on Harwood Lateral, January 13, 2026 - Vice Chairman Baugh

Vice Chairman Baugh attended the meeting, along with Director Dunning and Chairman Kelly. He said it was a nice informational meeting with members of the neighborhood to discuss the overall design and receive feedback on the dog park idea. He stated it was well-attended and everyone was excited to see good things happening on the Harwood.

Chairman Kelly added the Board will have a question coming potentially about if they dedicate the right-of-way to the city of Albuquerque, who already has a park on it.

Director Dunning gave a shoutout to Ms. Fanelli and her accounting department, staying on top of those changes and lining up training on it.

b. Report on the NMAC 20.7.10 Proposed Amendment Stakeholder Meeting, January 14, 2026 - Director Russo Baca

See also Appendix X.

c. Report on MRGCD's FY2025 Audit Exit Conference, January 16, 2026 - Vice Chairman Baugh and Directors Russo Baca and Dunning

Director Dunning explained the audits are due December 15th normally, but there was a change in the accounting rules so now they are due February 1st. *See also Appendix X.*

d. Report on Legislative Committee Meeting, January 16, 2026 - Vice Chairman Baugh and Directors Russo Baca and Dunning

See also Appendix X.

e. Report on SVRAA Comisionados Meeting, January 18 and February 2, 2026 - Director Russo Baca

See also Appendix X.

f. Report on Tour of Corrales Siphon Project, January 20, 2026 - Director Lopez

Director Lopez reported there was not much to see, as the operation stopped because of the auger truck getting stuck, but it was impressive. He noted he would like to go back and look at it when they are redrilling.

g. Report on Opening Day Ceremony for NM Legislative Session, January 20, 2026 - Vice Chairman Baugh

Vice Chairman Baugh was an honored guest of the Speaker of the House and got to see how it all worked. He shared they gave a shoutout to the District.

h. Report on Meeting with Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO, January 21, 2026 - Director Sandoval

See also Appendix X.

- i. Report on Site Visit to Socorro Main Canal Channel Lining Project - January 23, 2026 - Director Lopez**

Combined with Item 12a/Appendix VIII.

- j. Report on Meeting with constituent at intersection of Green Valley Road and Rio Grande Blvd., January 23, 2026 - Director Dunning**

Director Dunning reported she had a meeting with Vincent Sanchez and discovered that a lot of the issues are neighbor to neighbor and not MRGCD, so there was not much they could do. However, she made a commitment that she and Chairman Kelly would meet with Mayor Rael, as the Village has a mission of trying to preserve agriculture but some of the things they are doing are not persevering agriculture.

- k. Report on the NMISC Water Planning Meeting, January 23 and 28, 2026 - Director Russo Baca**

See also Appendix X.

- l. Report on the World's Largest Mantanza, January 24, 2026 - Director Russo Baca**

See also Appendix X.

- m. Report on the House Local Government, Land Grants, and Cultural Affairs Committee Hearing, HB21 and SB59, JANUARY 27, 2026 - Director Russo Baca**

Director Russo Baca stated they have a short session in legislature this year and the Legislative Committee met with John Thompson quite often to make sure they are seen and present at the committee hearings.

- n. Report on the Food and Farms Day at the NM Legislature, January 30, 2026 - Director Russo Baca**

She attended the Food and Farms Day, where they had free publications for a little game to play on prior appropriation, which she thought would be good to hand out to kids and be guest speakers at the local grade schools again to talk about what they do.

- o. Report on CESOSS Seed Blessing Celebration, February 3, 2026 - Director Dunning**

Director Dunning reported there were kids from the school and community members in attendance and they talked about agriculture with spiritual and historical roots and brought those together in a seed ceremony.

- p. Report on the Rio Grande 6-Pueblo Coalition Meeting, February 5, 2026 - Directors Russo Baca and Jiron**

See also Appendix X.

- q. Report on American Indian Day at the New Mexico Legislature - Director Russo Baca**

See also Appendix X.

Directors Russo Baca, Sandoval and Lopez all submitted written reports labeled as Appendix X.

Director Dunning made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORTS FROM THE BOARD**. Seconded by Director Lopez. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

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

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 5:33pm**. Seconded by Director Lopez. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 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

1. Threatened or Pending Litigation

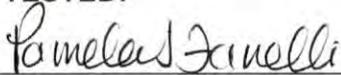
Director Dunning made the **MOTION TO GO INTO REGULAR SESSION at 6:10 pm**. Seconded by Director Lopez. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

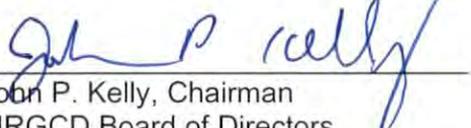
Chairman Kelly	Yes	Director Lopez	Yes
Director Dunning	Yes	Director Russo Baca	Yes

With no further comments, questions, or concerns, Chairman Kelly adjourned the meeting at 6:10 pm.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of February 9, 2026.

ATTESTED:


 Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM
 Secretary-Treasurer/CFO


 John P. Kelly, Chairman
 MRGCD Board of Directors

Water Supply Update

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Board of Directors Meeting

Prepared and Presented by: Anne Marken

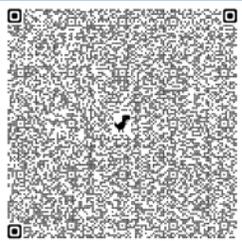
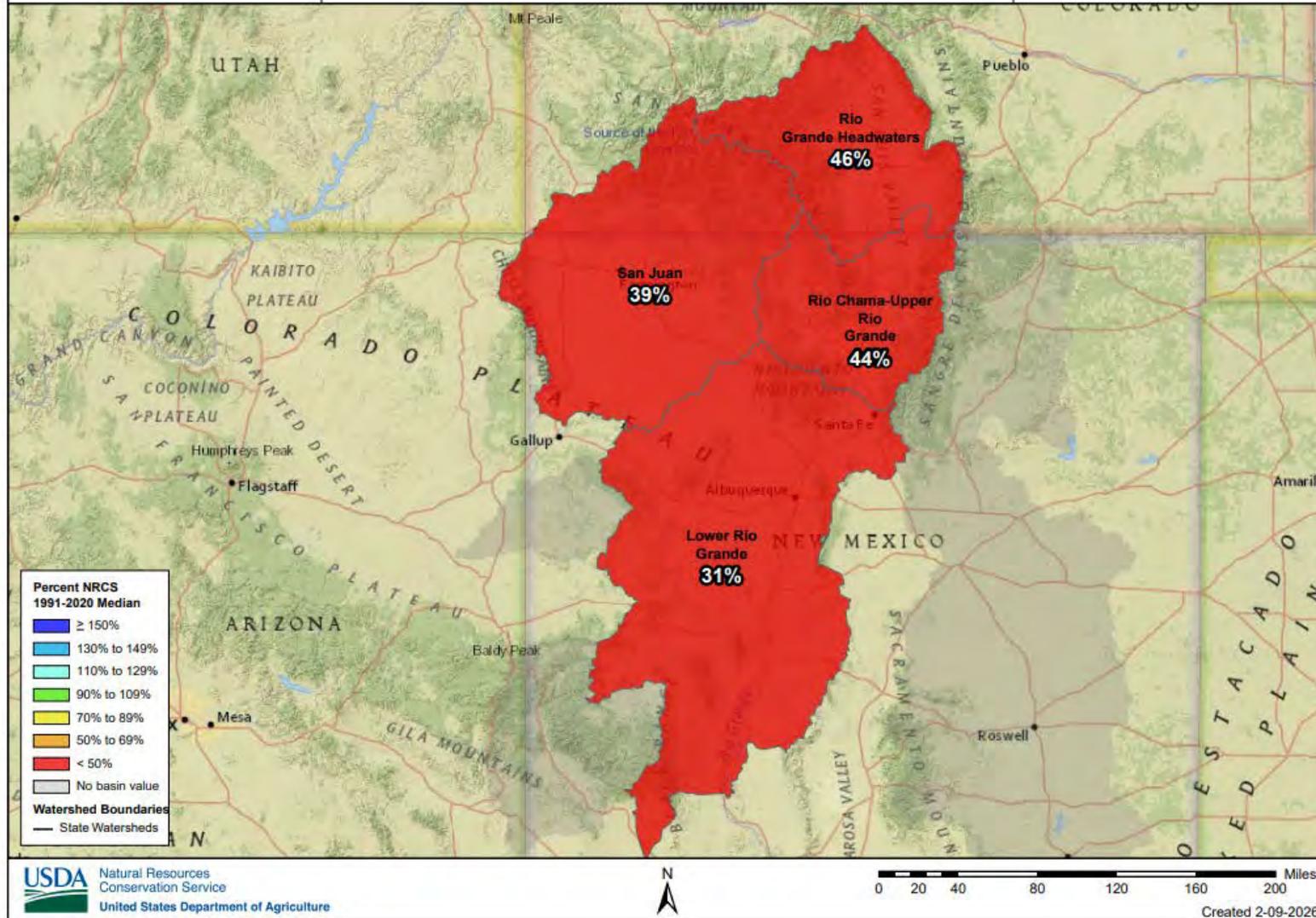
Date: 2/9/2026



Snow Water Equivalent

Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median

February 8, 2026, end of day

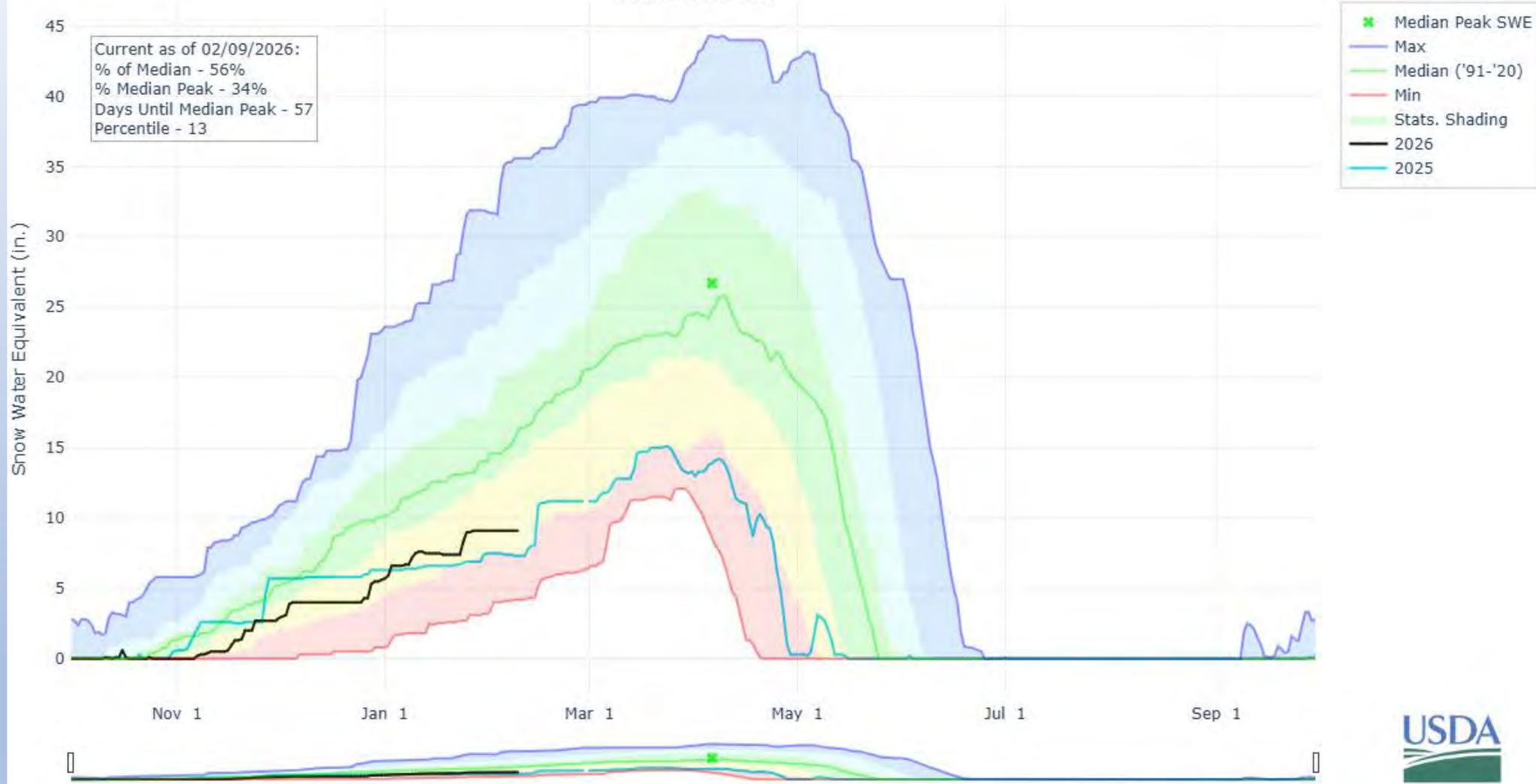


<https://nwcc-apps.sc.egov.usda.gov/imap/#version=2&elements=&networks=!&states=!&counties=!&hucs=&minElevation=&maxElevation=&elementSelectType=any&activeOnly=true&activeForecastPointsOnly=true&hucLabels=false&hucdLabels=false&hucParameterLabels=true&stationLabels=&overlays=&hucOverlays=&basinOpacity=75&basinNoDataOpacity=25&basemapOpacity=100&maskOpacity=0&mode=data&openSections=dataElement,parameter,dat e,basin,options,elements,location,networks&controlsOpen=true&popup=&popupMulti=&popupBasin=&base=esriNgwm&displayType=station&basinType=6&dataElement=WTEQ&depth=- 8¶meter=PCTMED&frequency=DAILY&duration=1&customDuration=&dayPart=E&monthPart=E&forecastPubDay=1&forecastExceedance=50&useMixedPast=true&seqColor=1&divColor=7&scaleType=D&scaleMin=&scaleM ax=&referencePeriodType=POR&referenceBegin=1991&referenceEnd=2020&minimumYears=20&hucAssociations=true&relativeDate=-1&lat=42.300&lon=-114.300&zoom=4.5>

CUMBRES TRESTLE, CO (431) SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

Reset Range

Link to data: CSV / JSON



Weekly Forecast

Location	Maximum Temperature							Probability of Precipitation						
	Mon 02/09	Tue 02/10	Wed 02/11	Thu 02/12	Fri 02/13	Sat 02/14	Sun 02/15	Mon 02/09	Tue 02/10	Wed 02/11	Thu 02/12	Fri 02/13	Sat 02/14	Sun 02/15
Albuquerque	66	64	63	65	57	59	63	0	10	20	40	60	10	0
Santa Fe	62	59	60	60	52	54	57	0	10	30	40	60	20	0
Farmington	62	64	60	59	52	53	57	0	20	40	40	50	0	10
Gallup	63	62	59	57	49	53	56	0	10	20	40	50	0	10
Grants	66	63	61	60	52	55	60	0	0	10	40	50	0	0
Clayton	73	53	63	67	49	52	62	0	0	0	30	50	30	0
Raton	69	55	62	60	47	51	58	0	0	0	40	50	20	0
Las Vegas	68	56	61	61	48	52	59	0	0	0	30	50	10	0
Moriarty	65	61	62	62	54	54	59	0	10	20	40	60	10	0
Tucumcari	78	60	68	74	57	60	70	0	10	0	30	50	20	0
Clovis	75	62	65	73	59	60	67	0	30	0	30	50	20	0
Roswell	73	63	66	74	63	64	67	0	30	0	20	40	20	0
Socorro	71	67	69	70	63	64	67	0	10	10	30	50	10	0
Chama	53	54	48	48	44	44	47	0	20	50	40	70	20	20
Taos	61	59	57	57	49	50	54	0	0	20	40	60	20	0
Angel Fire	56	52	51	50	43	44	48	0	10	20	50	70	30	10
Los Alamos	60	56	56	54	46	49	51	0	10	40	40	70	30	10
Ruidoso	62	56	58	61	52	51	58	0	30	10	30	50	20	0
Quemado	65	62	60	59	50	51	58	0	10	10	30	60	10	0

<https://www.weather.gov/abq/TempPop>



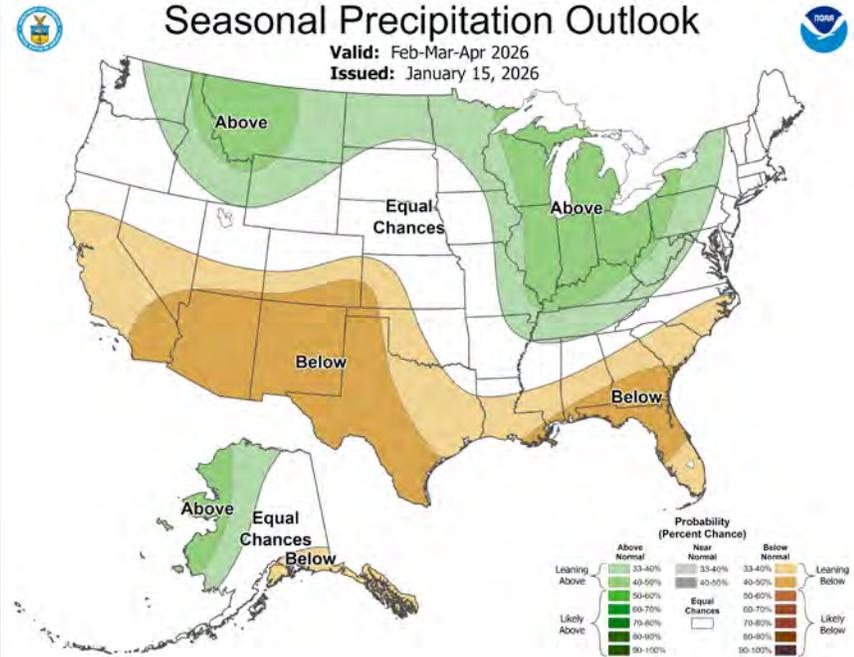
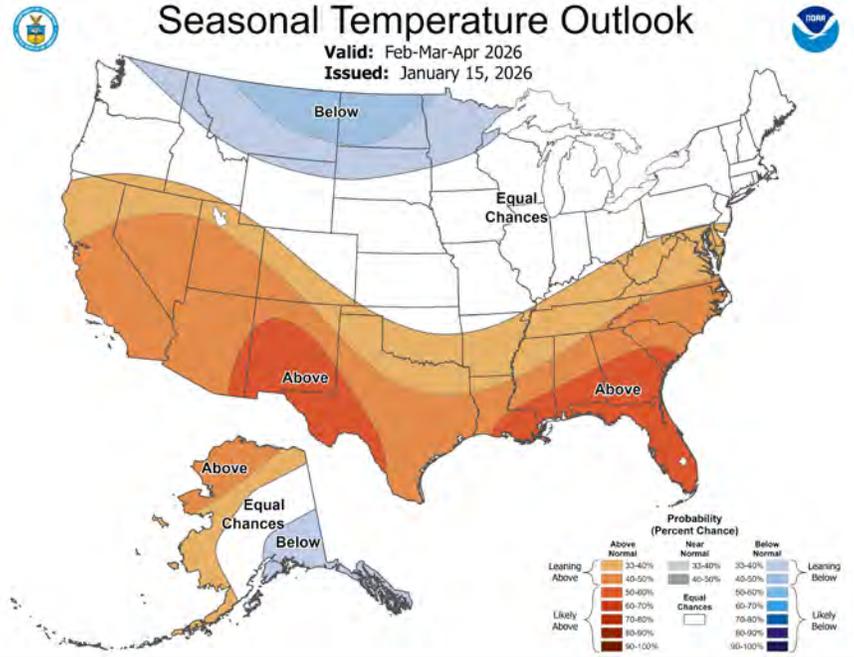
Maximum Temperatures

Location	Maximum Temperature							Maximum Temperature Difference from Normal						
	Mon 02/09	Tue 02/10	Wed 02/11	Thu 02/12	Fri 02/13	Sat 02/14	Sun 02/15	Mon 02/09	Tue 02/10	Wed 02/11	Thu 02/12	Fri 02/13	Sat 02/14	Sun 02/15
Albuquerque	66	64	63	65	57	59	63	13	11	10	12	4	5	9
Santa Fe	62	59	60	60	52	54	57	13	10	11	11	2	4	7
Farmington	62	64	60	59	52	53	57	12	13	9	8	0	1	5
Gallup	63	62	59	57	49	53	56	14	13	10	8	0	3	6
Grants	66	63	61	60	52	55	60	12	9	6	5	-3	0	4
Clayton	73	53	63	67	49	52	62	22	2	12	16	-2	0	10
Raton	69	55	62	60	47	51	58	21	7	14	12	-1	2	9
Las Vegas	68	56	61	61	48	52	59	19	7	12	12	-1	3	10
Moriarty	65	61	62	62	54	54	59	15	10	11	11	3	2	7
Tucumcari	78	60	68	74	57	60	70	21	3	11	16	-1	2	12
Clovis	75	62	65	73	59	60	67	18	5	8	15	1	2	9
Roswell	73	63	66	74	63	64	67	11	1	3	11	0	1	4
Socorro	71	67	69	70	63	64	67	14	9	11	12	5	5	8
Chama	53	54	48	48	44	44	47	13	14	8	8	4	3	6
Taos	61	59	57	57	49	50	54	17	15	13	13	4	5	9
Angel Fire	56	52	51	50	43	44	48	16	12	11	10	2	3	7
Los Alamos	60	56	56	54	46	49	51	15	11	11	9	1	3	5
Ruidoso	62	56	58	61	52	51	58	13	7	8	11	2	1	8
Quemado	65	62	60	59	50	51	58	16	13	11	10	1	1	8

<https://www.weather.gov/abq/TempPop>



NWS Seasonal Outlook



https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal.php?lead=1



Questions?



Appendix II

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [Tarah Jaramillo](#)
Subject: Fw: RM 163 Project -- Replanting -- Update and Photos
Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 3:23:37 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2026-02-02 at 11.44.18 AM.png](#)
[Screenshot 2026-02-02 at 11.48.07 AM.png](#)
[Screenshot 2026-02-02 at 11.50.03 AM.png](#)

FYI for public comment

From: Guy Dicharry <gdicharry@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 4:59 PM
To: John P. Kelly <jpkelly@mrgcd.us>; Stephanie Russo Baca <russobaca@mrgcd.us>; Brian Jiron <bjiron@mrgcd.us>; Colin Baugh <cbaugh@mrgcd.us>; Jason Casuga <jason@mrgcd.us>; Karen Dunning <kdunning@mrgcd.us>; Michael Sandoval <msandoval@mrgcd.us>; Chris Lopez <jchris.lopez@mrgcd.us>
Cc: Elisabeth Dicharry <lgdicharry@gmail.com>
Subject: RM 163 Project -- Replanting -- Update and Photos

Good afternoon,

I have attached some photos of the replanting currently in progress. I have also attached a couple of photos of duck blinds that were put up after the construction phase of the project. These blinds are within the Bosque Open Space Preserve, an area in which shooting and hunting are prohibited. There is also evidence that motor vehicles have been driving in areas well off the levee road, including areas where replanting is underway. The continued motor vehicle usage through the bosque all the way up to the river will reduce the chances of success for the replanting effort. Few, if any, motor vehicle operators are limiting their use to the levee road. Tire tracks in every direction through the bosque make that very clear.

What we are seeing even this soon after the construction phase of the RM 163 Project supports closure of this part of the bosque to motor vehicle traffic.

Guy Dicharry
P.O. Box 2578
Los Lunas, NM 87031
cell: 505-269-3757





ESTOANG

















Appendix III

Discussion of Water Rights Transfer

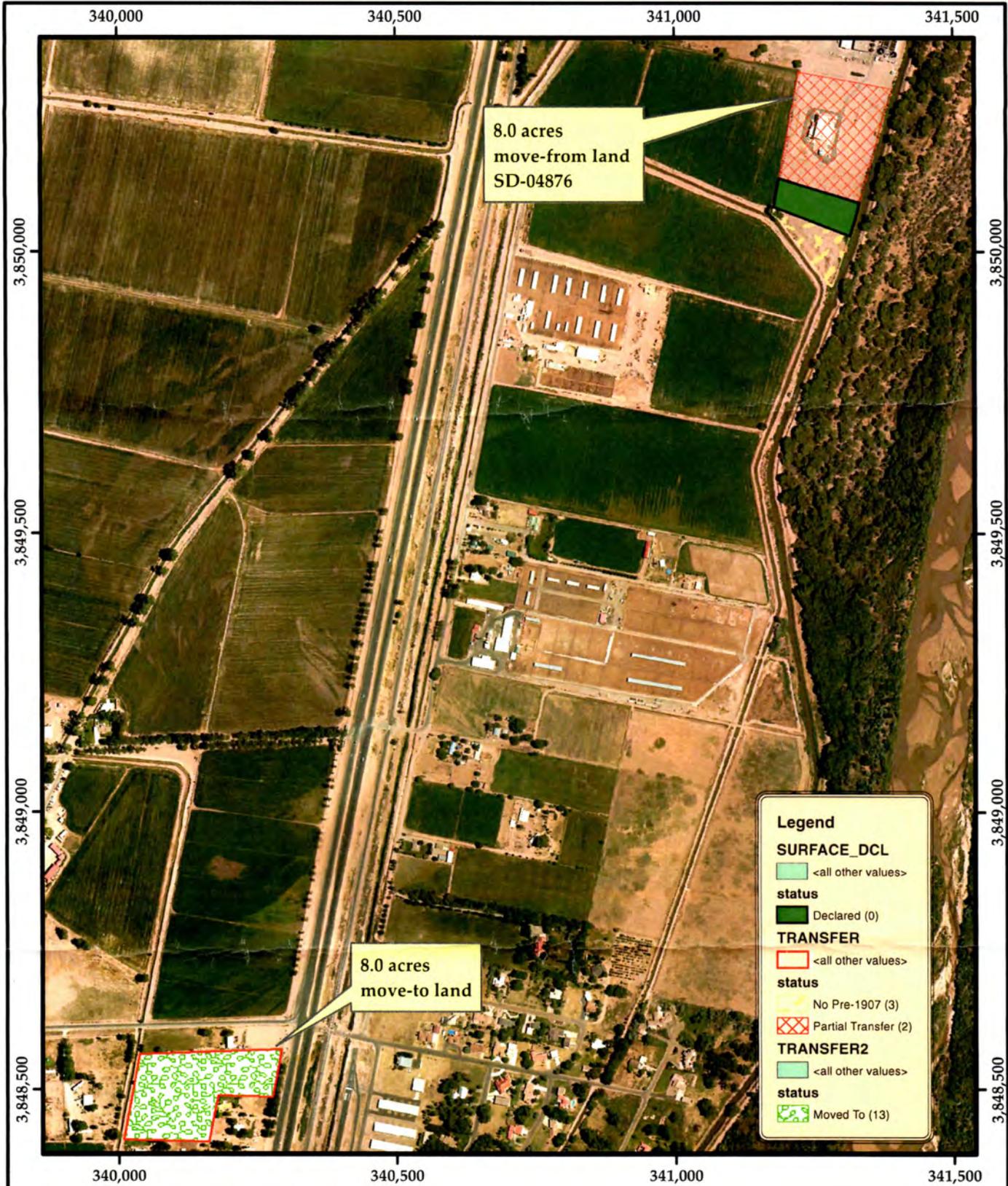
Shady Dale Farms, LLC SD-04876-A into RG-20516 et al.

Because pertinent information regarding water rights transfers is frequently difficult to obtain without filing a protest, we are offering the following information to help inform decisions of potential protestants regarding this transfer.

The property the water rights originated from was condemned by the Village of Los Lunas, with the applicants retaining ownership of the water rights which were transferred in 2003. This was a completely involuntary transaction, which we contested, and we would have farmed that land forever. For a few years, the rights were used on the original land until Los Lunas notified us that they were ready to take full possession of the land, and we had to cease farming. In 2014 we temporarily transferred the place of use to some 8 acres of leased land that had water rights sold and was on the MRGD Water Bank. Subsequently that lease was terminated. In 2020 the State Engineer again approved a permit to temporarily use these water rights on different irrigated land, also leased by applicant and on the MRGCD Water Bank. That irrigation has since ceased.

Attached are two maps, one from the OSE which identifies the lands the water rights were appurtenant to and from which they originated, and the other the most recent Google Earth image of that same property.

Transferring these water rights will dry zero land, and will not reduce flows in ditches. These rights are not currently appurtenant to any irrigable land, and must be transferred to a new place of use in order to be put to beneficial use. My brother and sister are older than I, and we're all getting older. I'm quite concerned about long term care without the ability to monetize the only assets we have that don't endanger the farm operation.



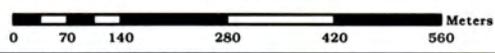
Legend

SURFACE_DCL
 <all other values>
status
 Declared (0)

TRANSFER
 <all other values>
status
 No Pre-1907 (3)
 Partial Transfer (2)

TRANSFER2
 <all other values>
status
 Moved To (13)

KRJ, Inc. and Flora VanTol
 Tract A, MRGCD Map No. 80 and
 Tract 1B2B-1A, MRGCD Map No. 81
 1 inch = 785 feet



Attachment A
 2011 Aerial Photograph
 RGB_MRC_Mosaic
COORDINATE SYSTEM
 UTM NAD 1983
 Zone 13N, meters

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Office of the State Engineer
 Scott A. Verhines, P.E.,
 State Engineer
 Middle Rio Grande Basin
 Priority Determination
 J. Peterson

SD-04876
 5/27/2014

WR transfer land

6/24 view of land owned by Village of Los Lunas, WR owned by Shady Dale Farms



Google Earth

Image © 2025 Airbus

300 m



Purpose of This Presentation

This presentation is intended to:

- Provide a high-level archival overview of historic survey records associated with the Ross Engineering lineage
- Summarize ongoing preservation and digitization efforts undertaken for historical stewardship
- Establish historical context relevant to land, water, and infrastructure development in the Middle Rio Grande Valley
- Inform the Board and professional community of parallel archival coordination efforts



Project Beginnings

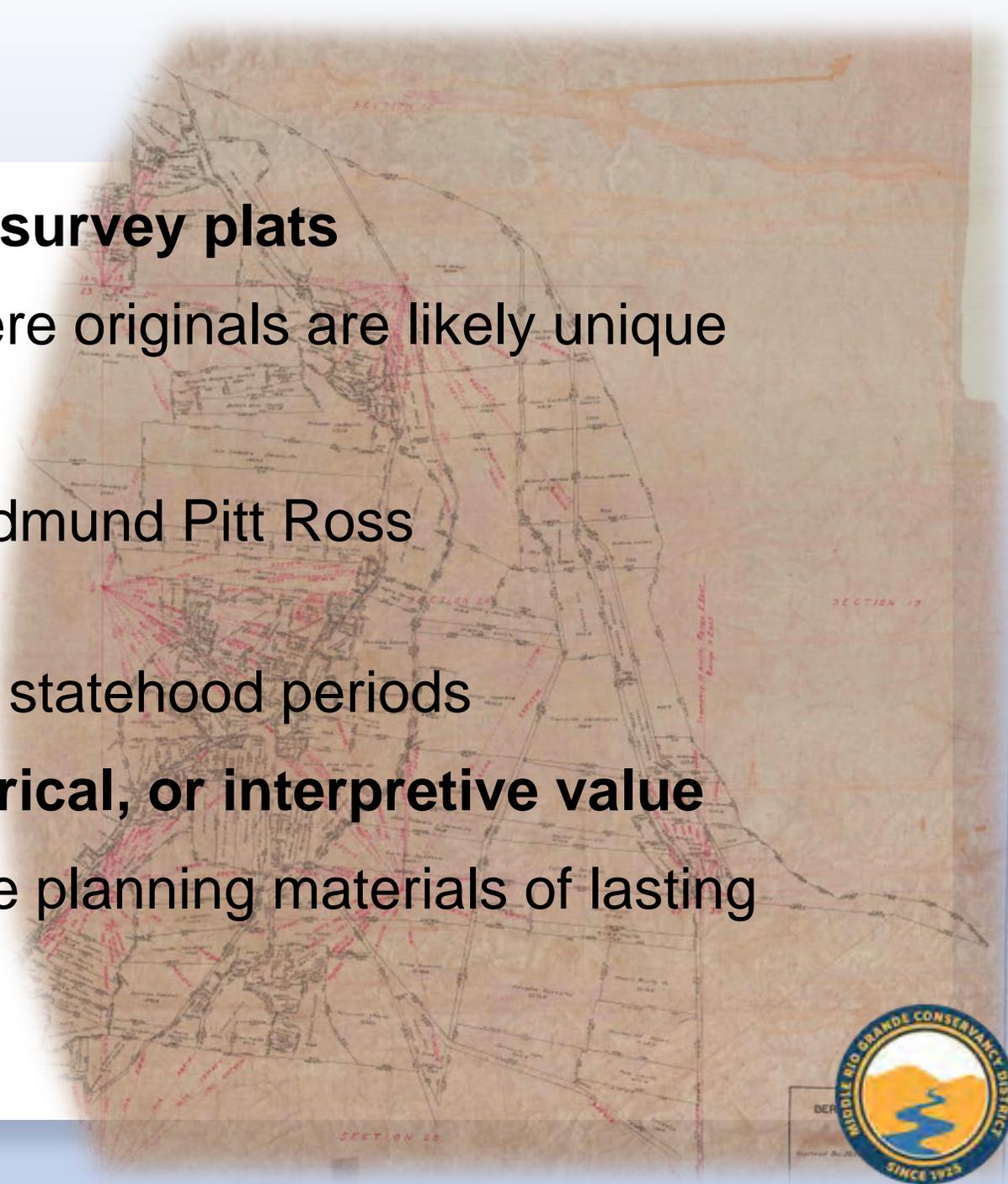
Initiated in July 2025

- In collaboration with Ms. Cecilia Martinez Howard on the closing of Ross Howard Company
- Review, appraisal, and digitization of historic survey materials
- Focus on preservation, access, and context



What Was Preserved

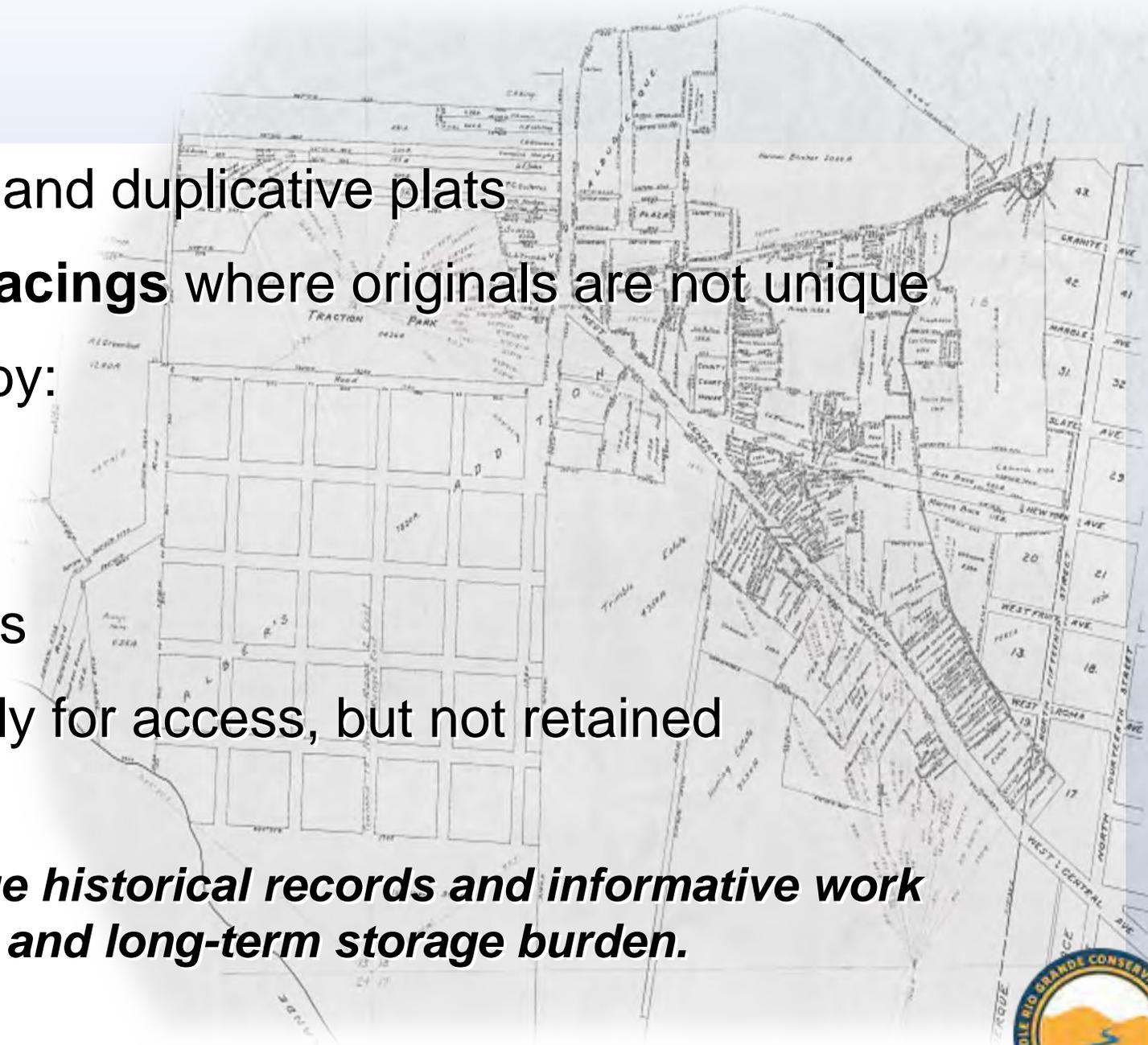
- Original **linen and paper-on-linen survey plats**
- Early **blueprints and tracings** where originals are likely unique
- Surveys and plats associated with:
 - Pitt Ross, Edmund Ross, and Edmund Pitt Ross
 - Dated 1940's or older
- Territorial, pre-statehood, and early statehood periods
- Documents with **evidentiary, historical, or interpretive value**
- Select community and infrastructure planning materials of lasting relevance



What Was Not

- Most routine paper copies and duplicative plats
- Routine **blueprints and tracings** where originals are not unique
- Records already retained by:
 - County Clerks
 - Municipalities
 - Other public repositories
- Materials preserved digitally for access, but not retained physically

The goal was to preserve unique historical records and informative work product while reducing volume and long-term storage burden.



Context for Preserved Planning Materials

- Select neighborhood and urban development plan sets were retained for historical context
- Materials reflect 1970s-era urban renewal, infrastructure, and right-of-way planning
- Retained examples are representative, not comprehensive
- These materials provide context rather than serving as active engineering records



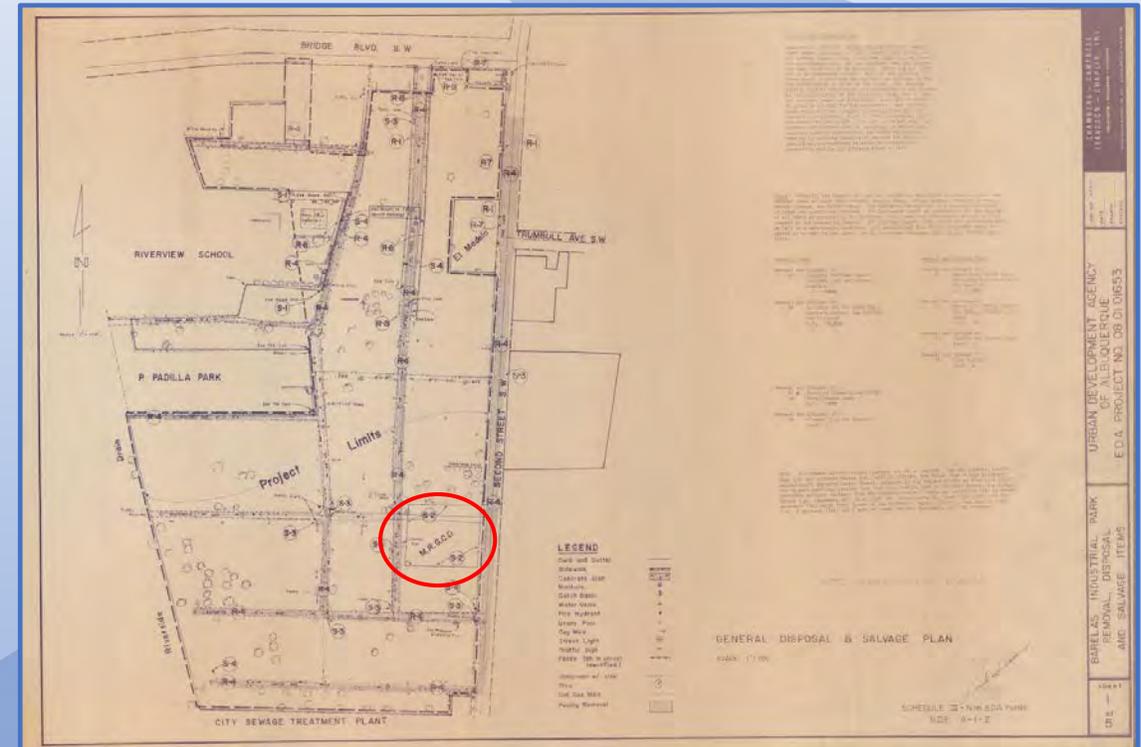
Neighborhood Development Programs

Select community and urban development plan sets considered historically significant have been preserved



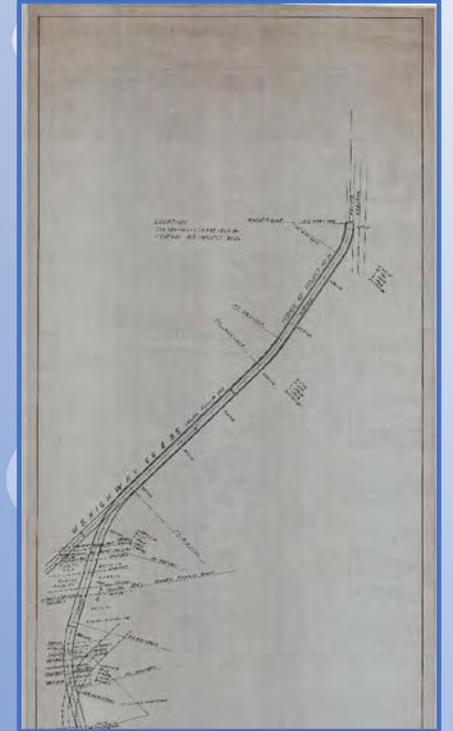
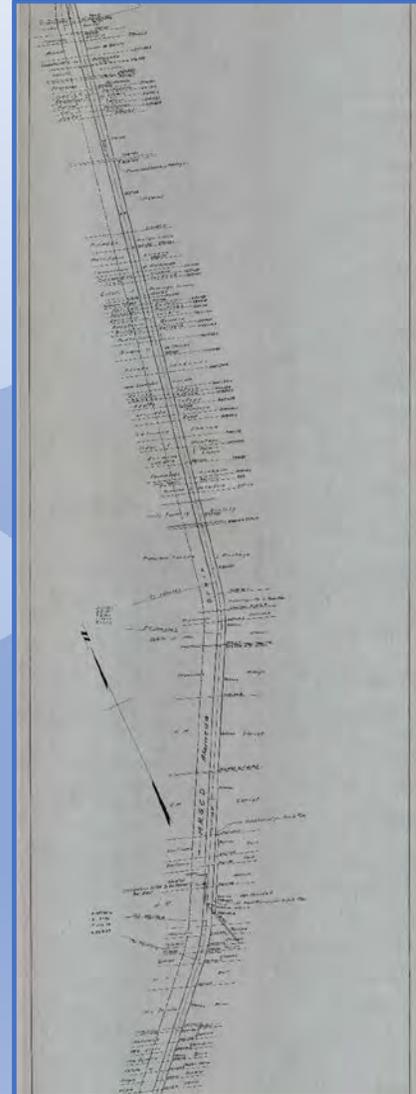
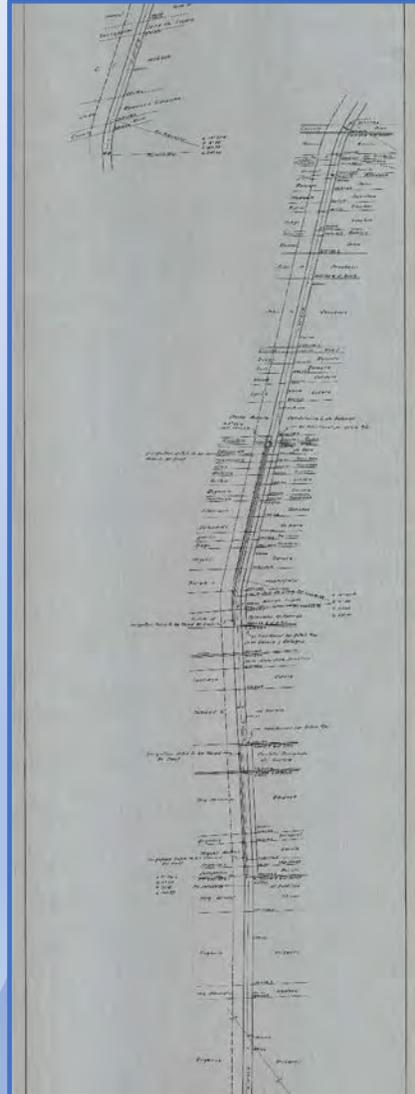
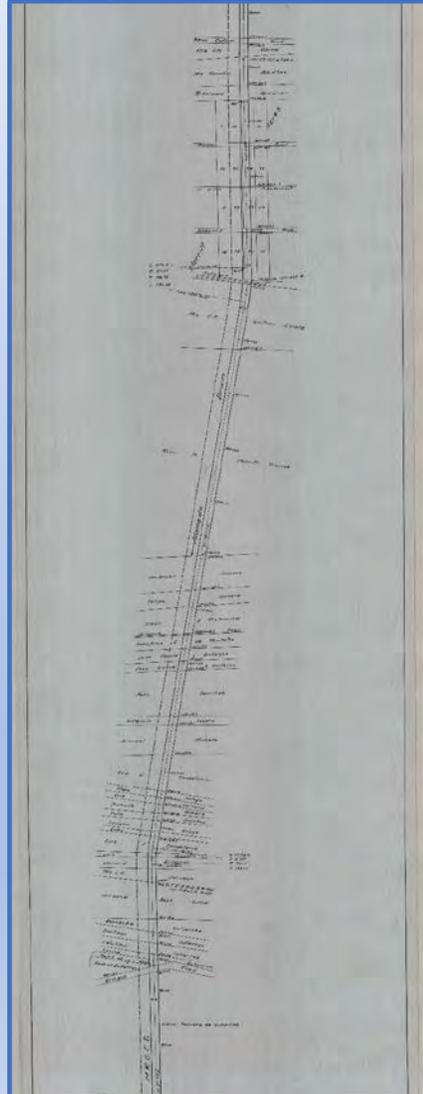
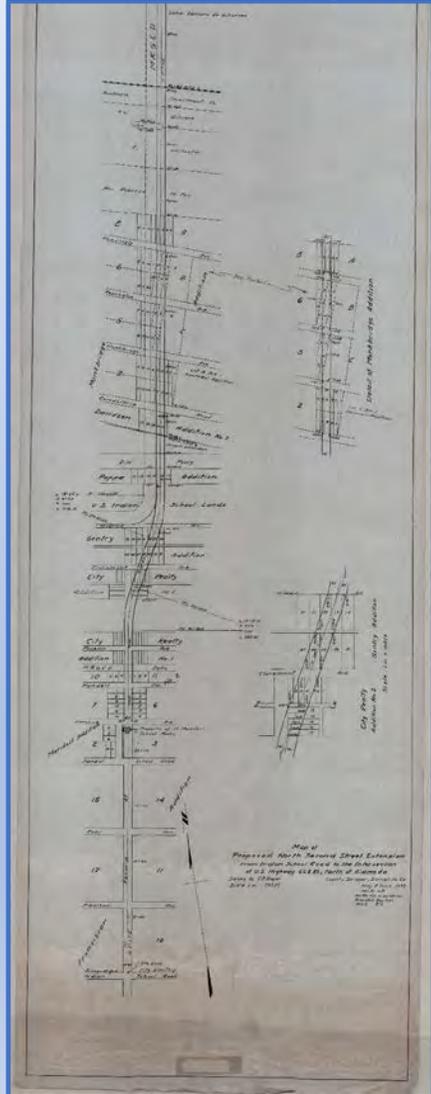
Barelas Industrial Park

Redevelopments



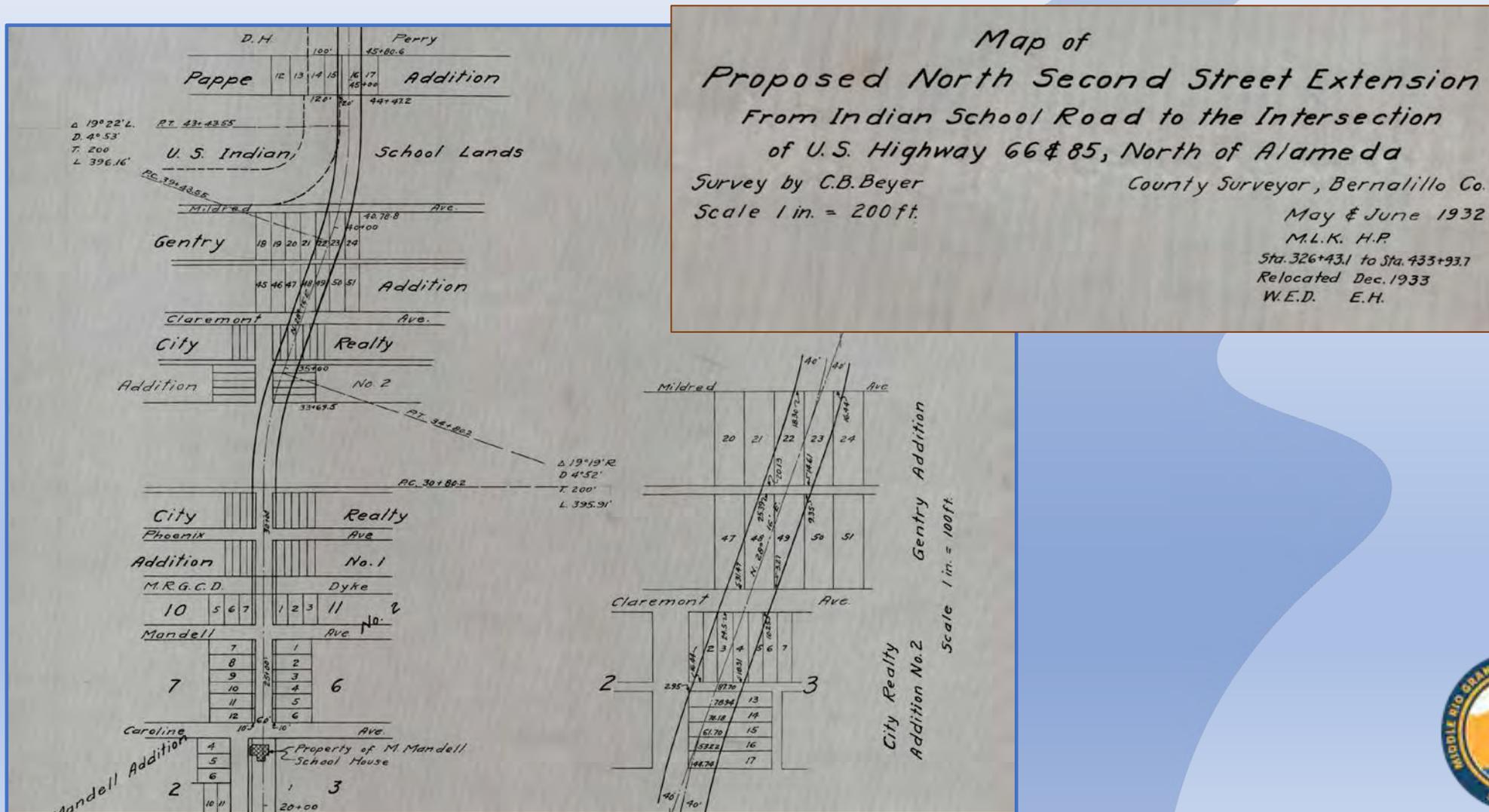
Additional Planning & Survey Context

Map of Proposed North Second Street Extension (1932)



Additional Planning & Survey Context

Map of Proposed North Second Street Extension (1932)

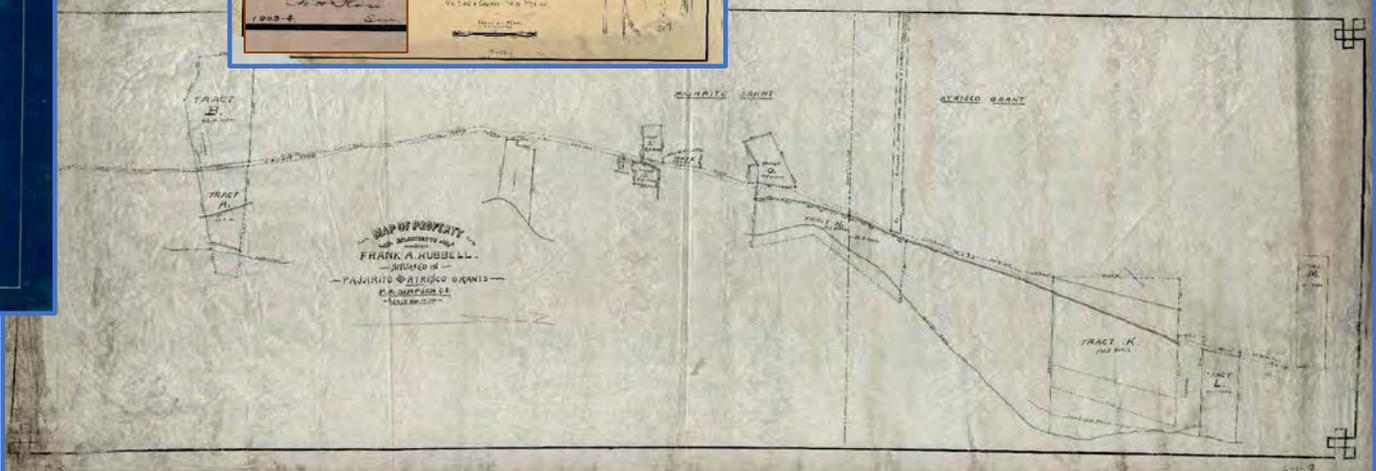
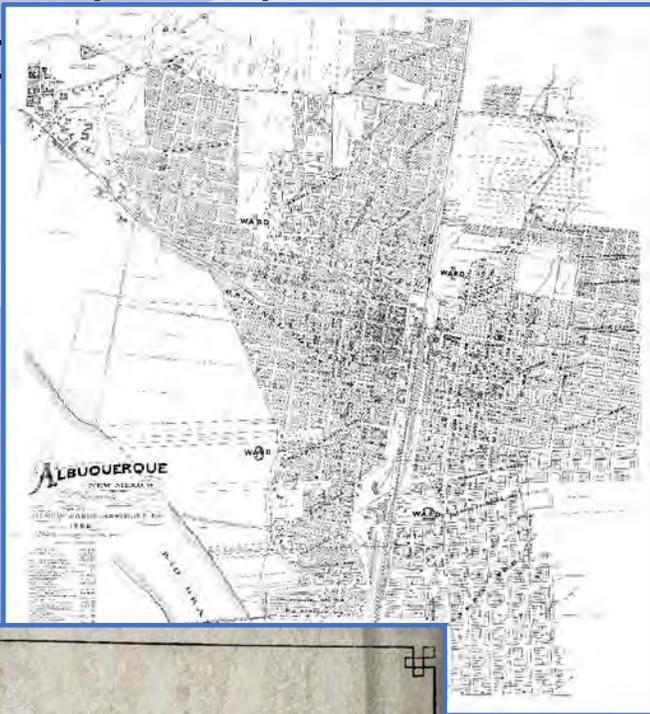


Other Historic Maps

Belen Townsite(1903/04), and Map of Albuquerque (1898)
and Property of Frank A. Hubbell (undated)

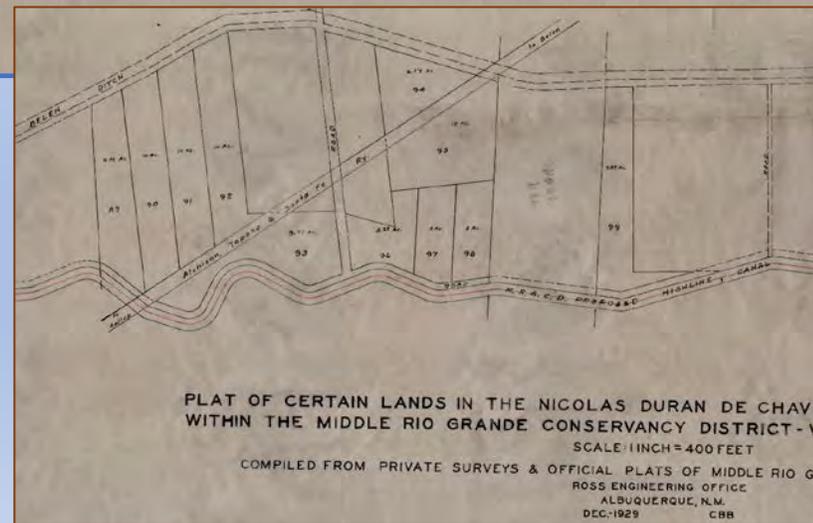


Pin Row
July, 1904.



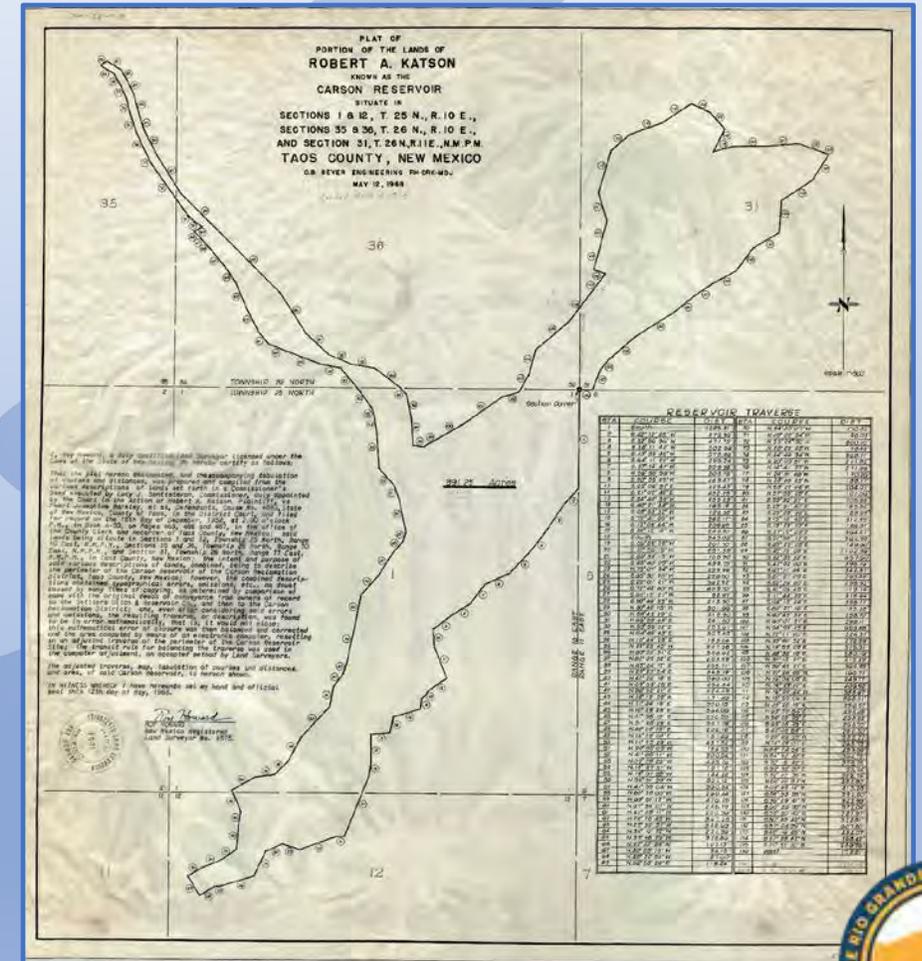
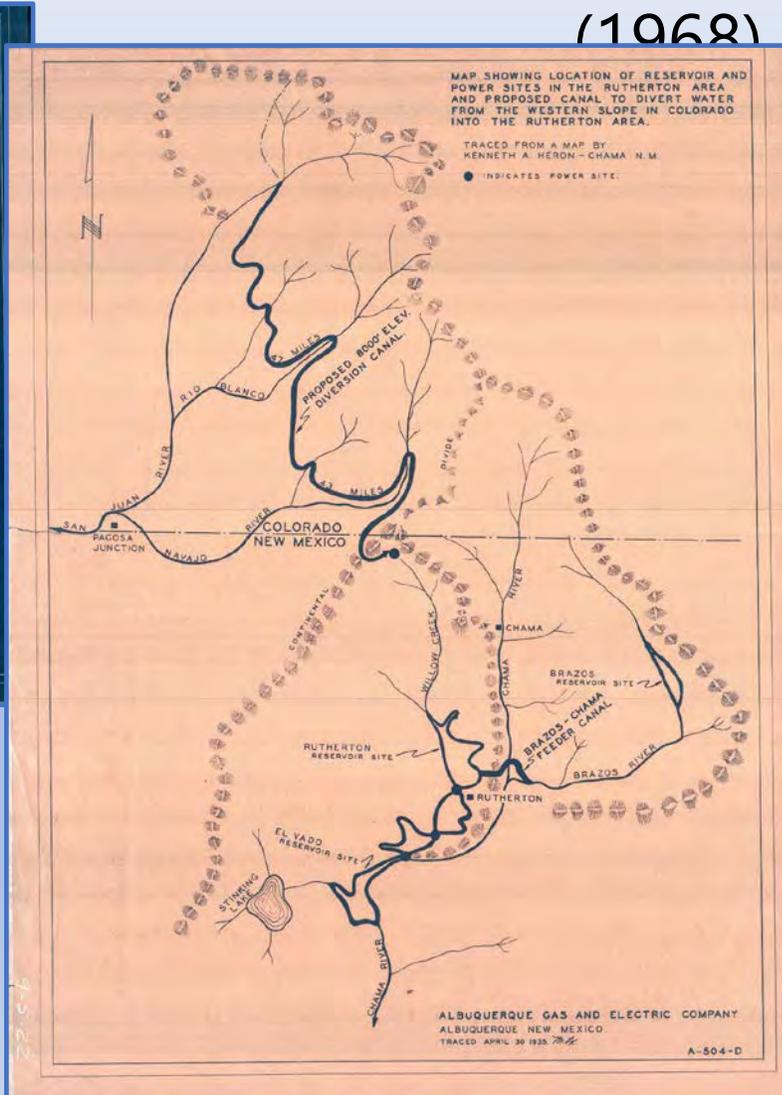
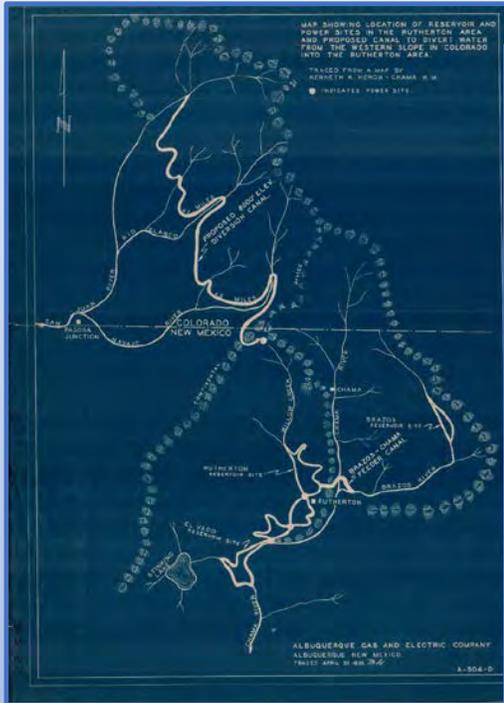
Additional Planning & Survey Context

Map of Proposed Belen Highline Canal Alignment within the Nicolas Duran de Chavez and San Clemente Land Grants - MRGCD (1929)



Additional Planning & Survey Context

Maps of the Proposed Rutherton Reservoir Site (1935) & Carson Reservoir (1968)



Historical Significance of the Ross Engineering Line

The Ross Howard Company and its professional predecessors document the early professionalization of land surveying in New Mexico.

These records :

1. Provide primary evidence for historic land, acequia and boundary decisions;
2. Establish context for early irrigation, drainage, and urban development;
3. Preserve survey work that informed public infrastructure and planning.
4. Connect private professional practice to public works in the Middle Rio Grande Valley.



The Ross Engineering Line

A Continuous Professional Practice

- Ross Engineering Office
- Ross-Beyer Engineering Office
- Ross Howard Company

Multi-generational practice of surveying and engineering services

Spanning territorial, statehood, and modern eras



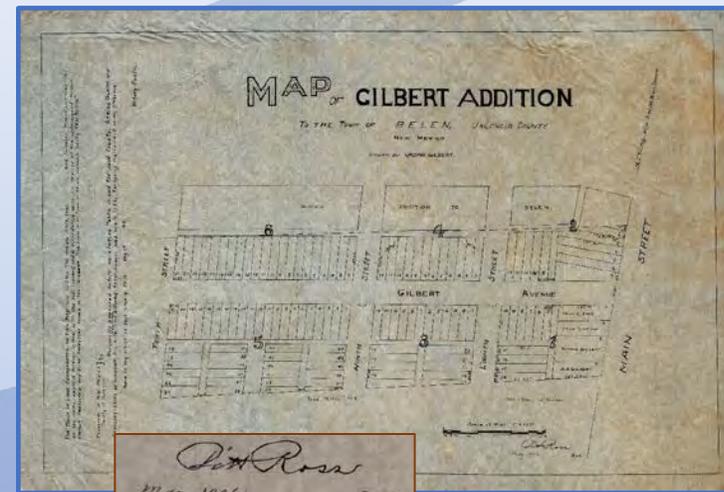
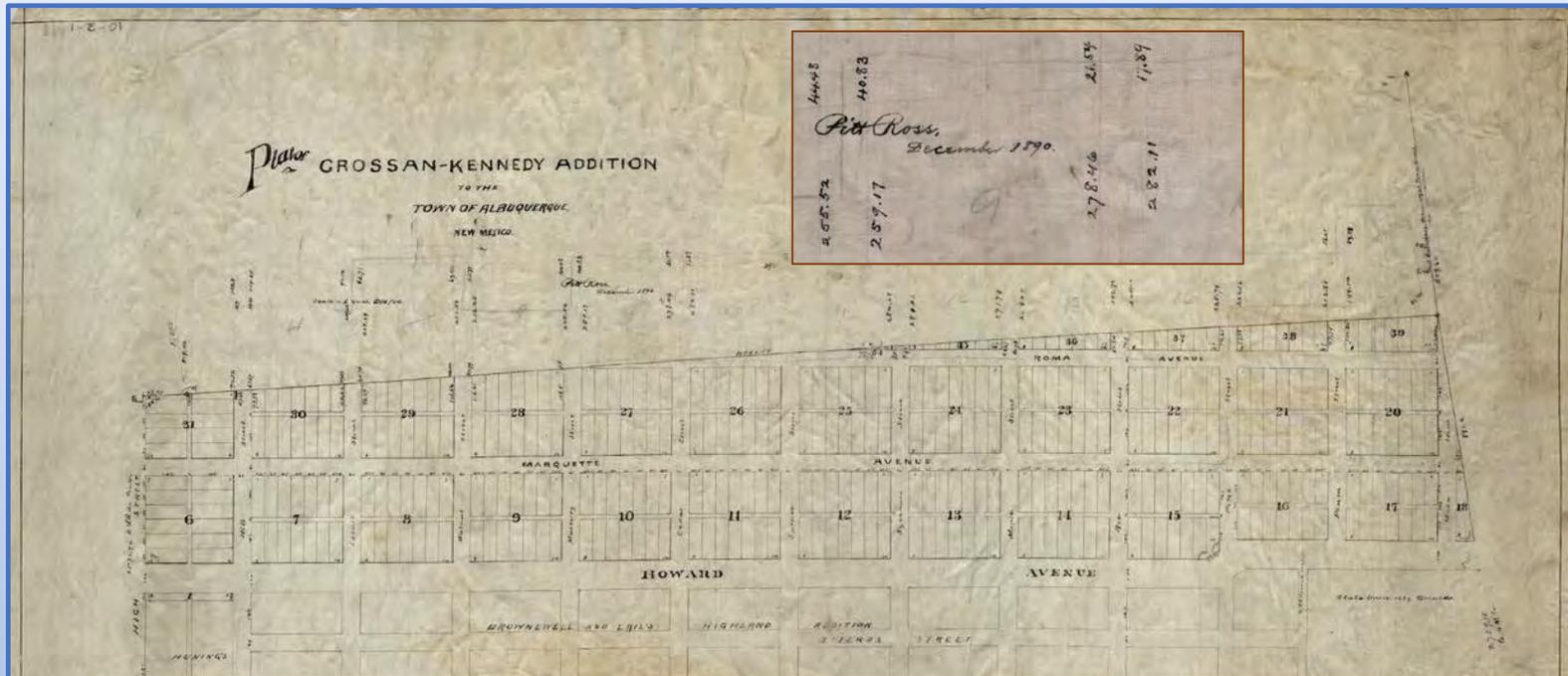
Mr. Pitt Ross, PE

Early Surveying in New Mexico

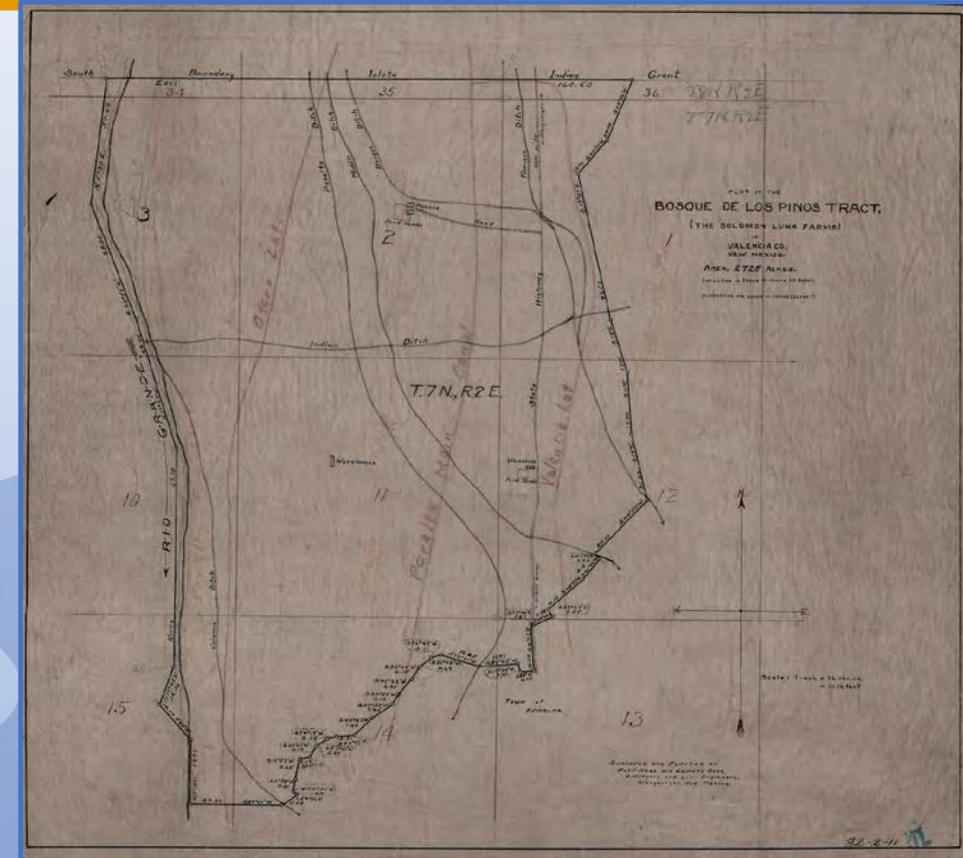
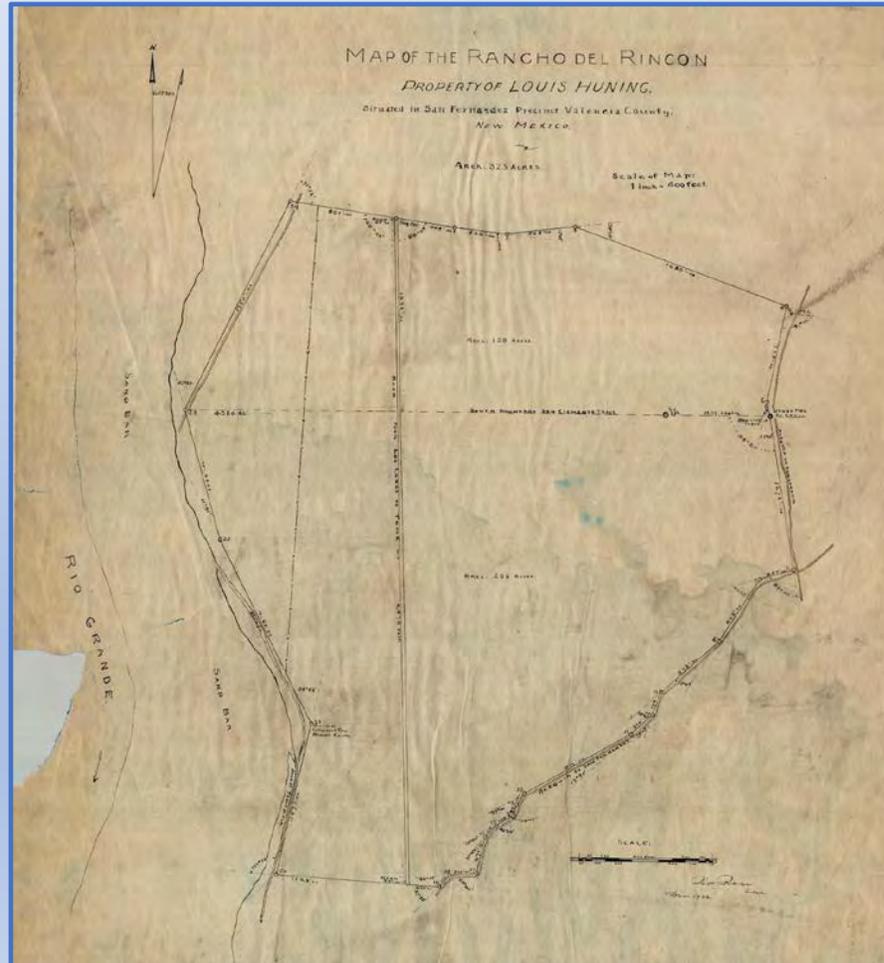
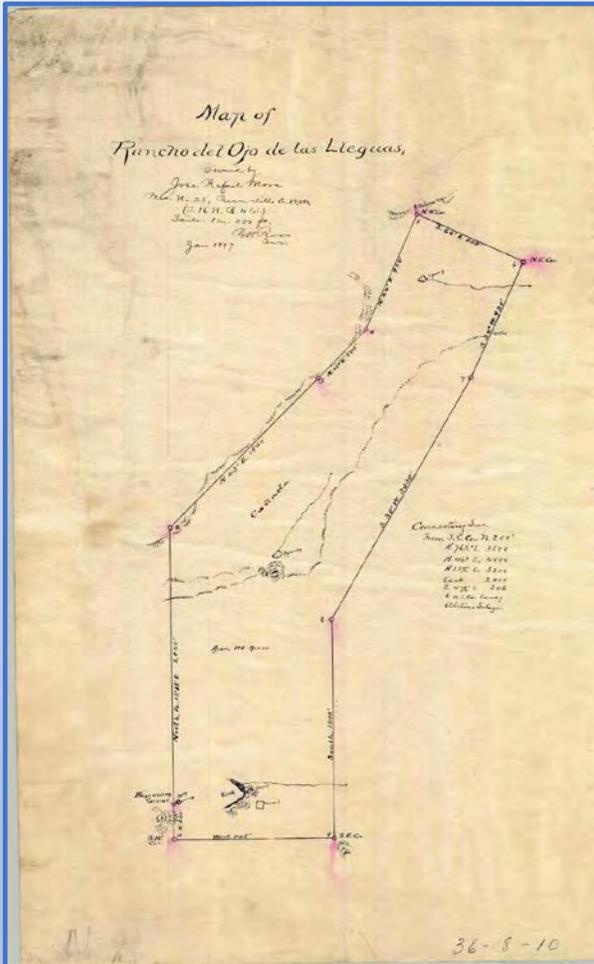
- Civil Engineer
- Established Ross Engineering Office in 1886.
- Bernalillo County Surveyor (multiple terms)
- Notary Public
- Authority on Rio Grande Conditions and professional practice
- Member, first Board of Examining Surveyors
- Surveyor License No. 1 (NM)



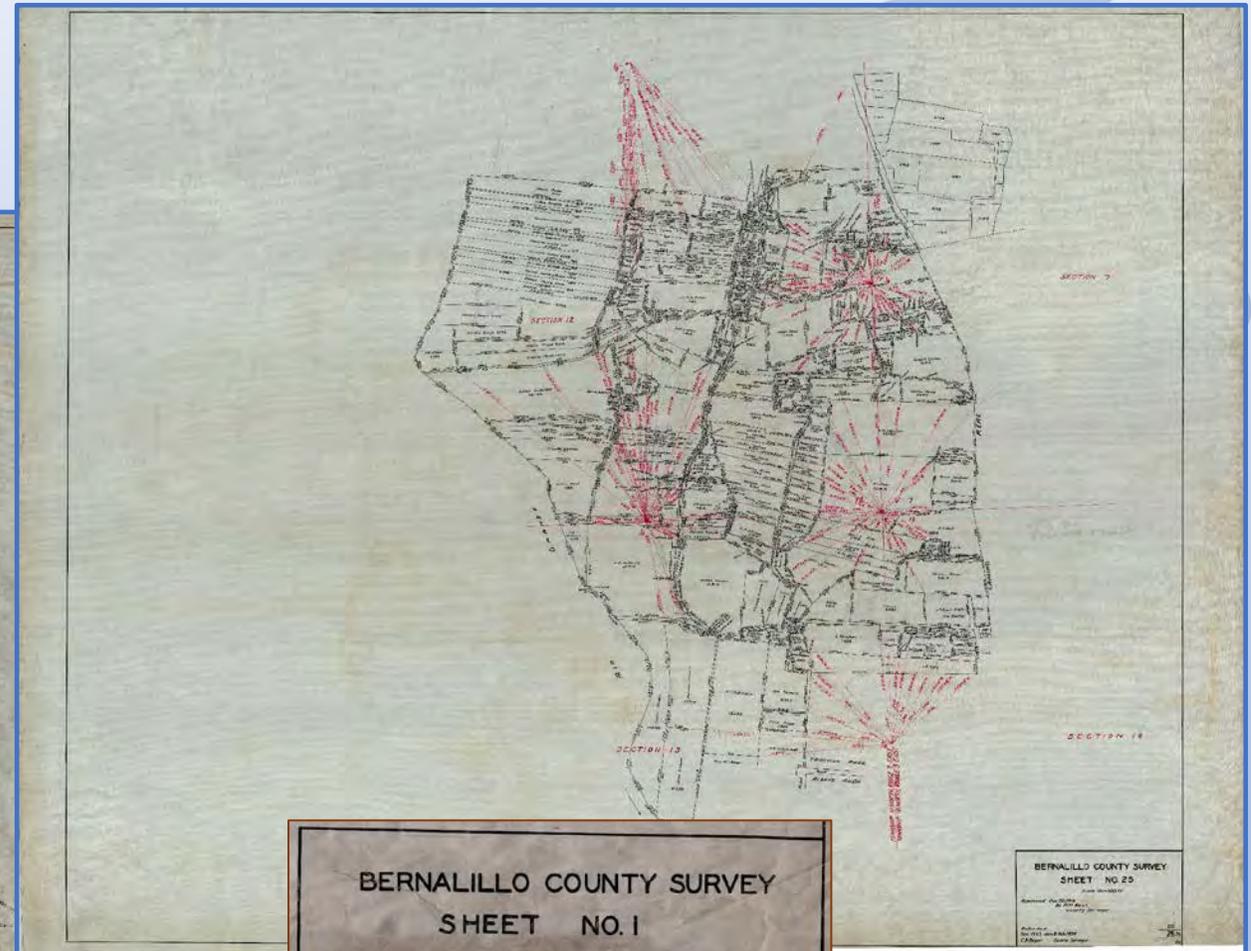
Examples of Pitt Ross Work



Examples of Pitt Ross Work



Examples of Pitt Ross Work

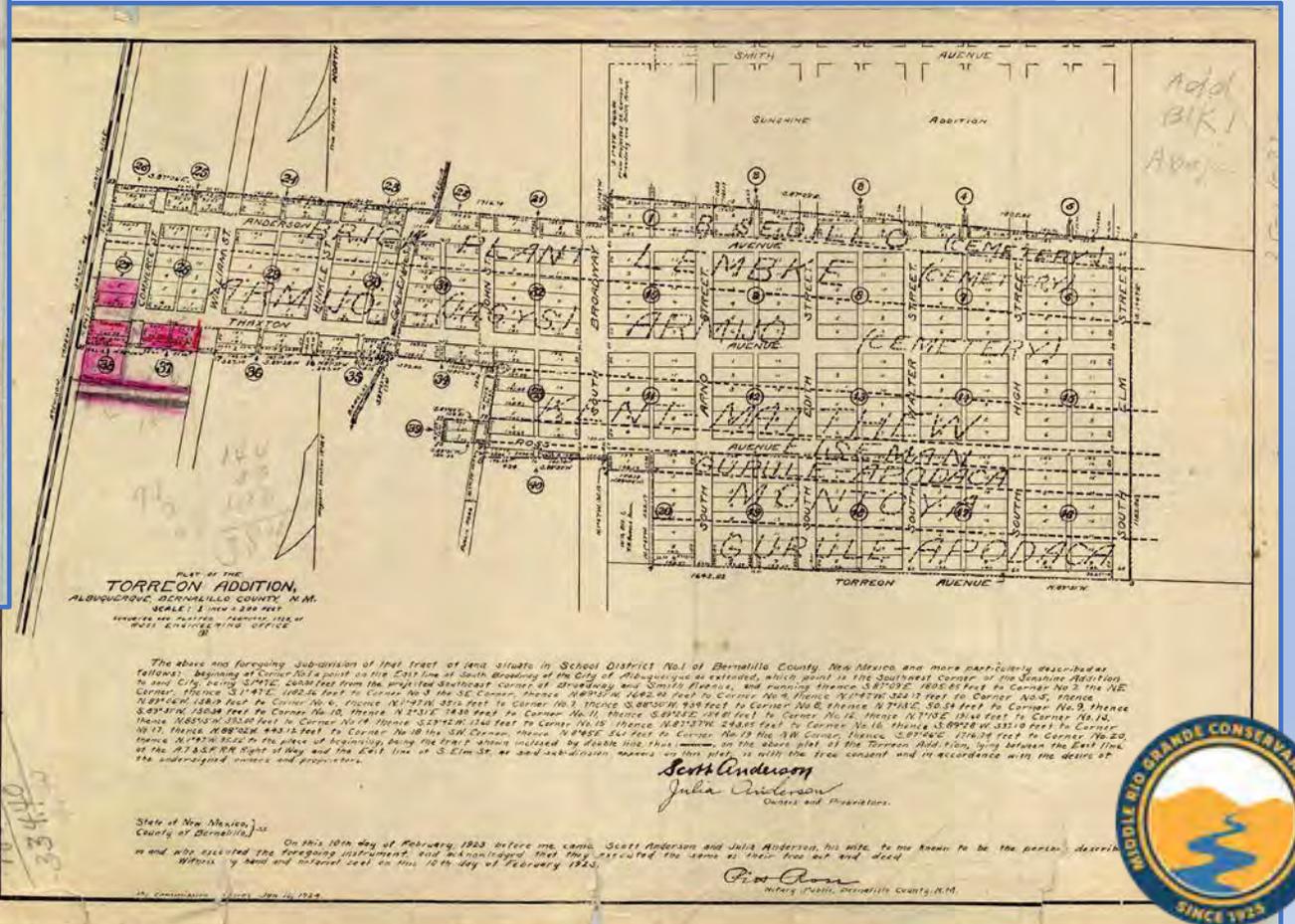
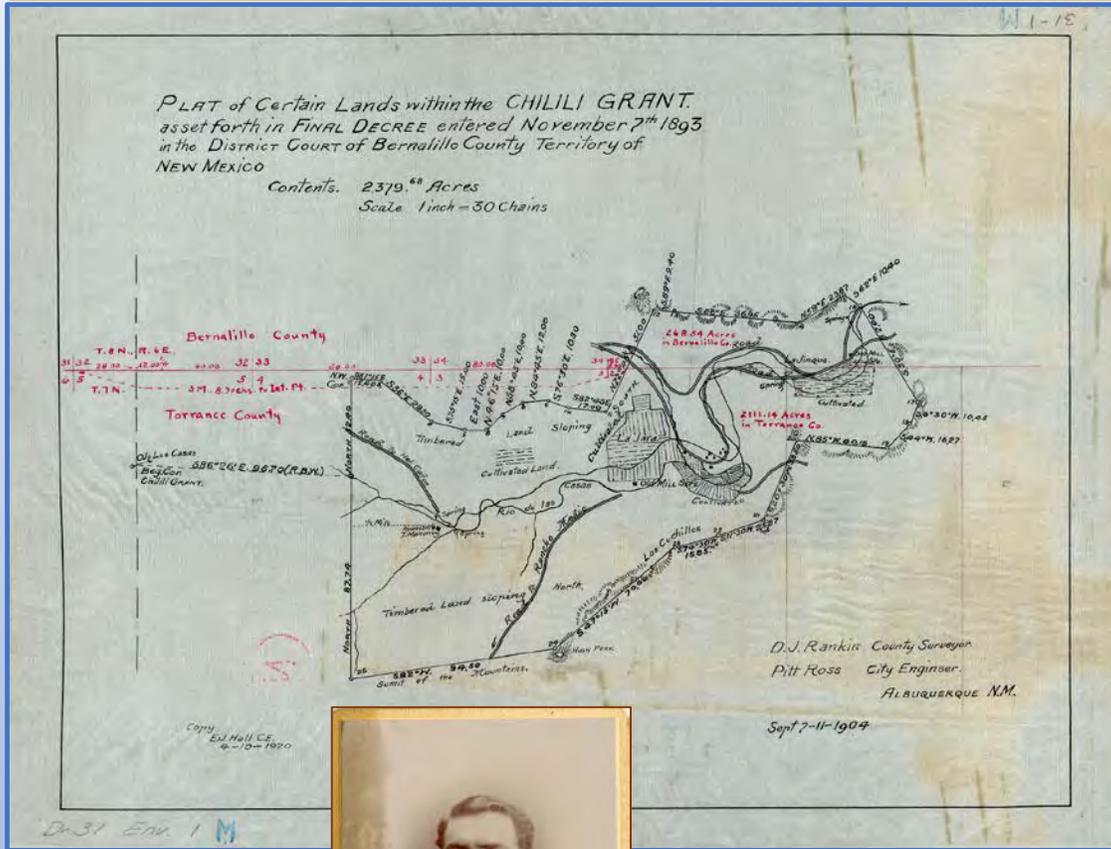


BERNALILLO COUNTY SURVEY
SHEET NO. 1
Scale 1 in = 300 ft.
Approved Dec. 30, 1916
by Pitt Ross
County Surveyor
Retraced
Dec. 1933, Jan & Feb. 1934
C.B. Beyer County Surveyor

1
2 3



Examples of Pitt Ross Work



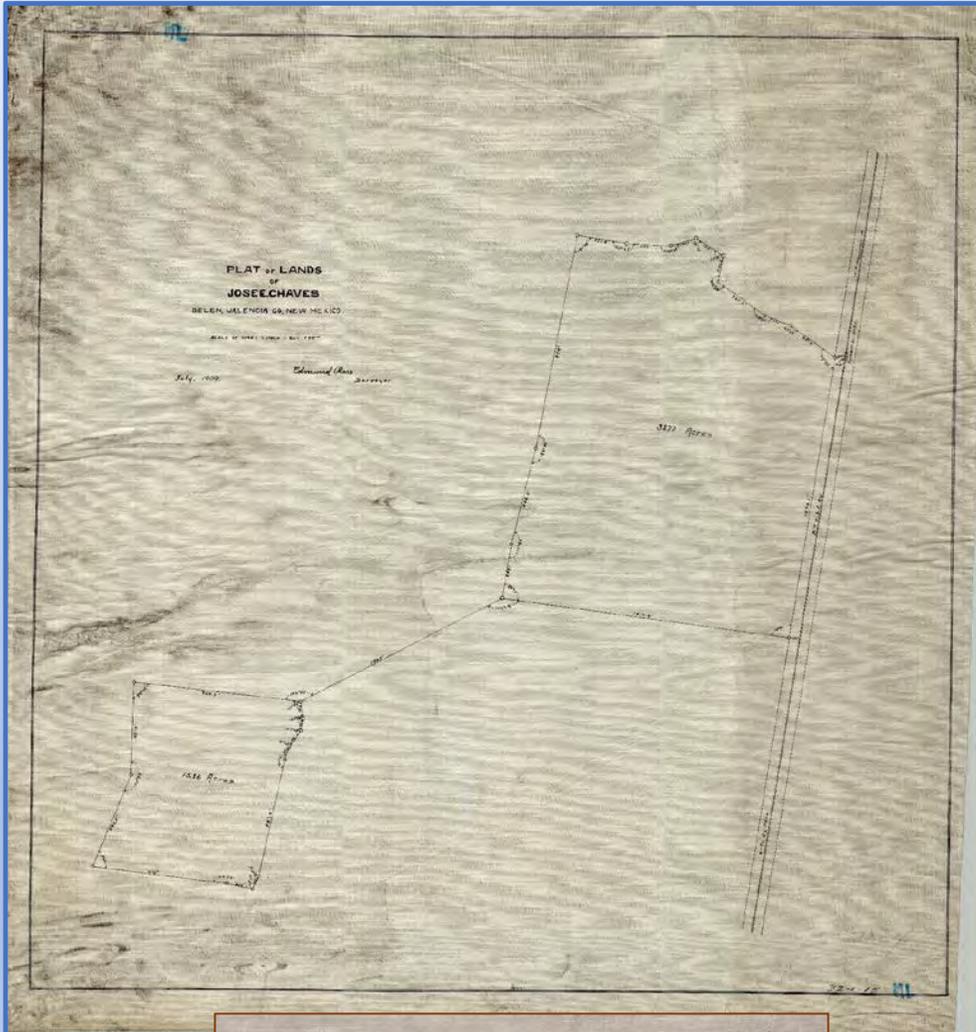
Mr. Edmund Ross, PE

Engineering During MRGCD Formation

- Mining engineer, surveyor, and Notary Public
- Continued Ross Engineering Service practice
- Served as engineer during early MRGCD era
- Responsible for property surveys of the Middle Rio Grande Valley
- In charge of the preparation of Volume III on "*Property Affected by the Plan*"
- Surveyor License Nos. 34 and 81 (NM)



Examples of Edmund Ross Work



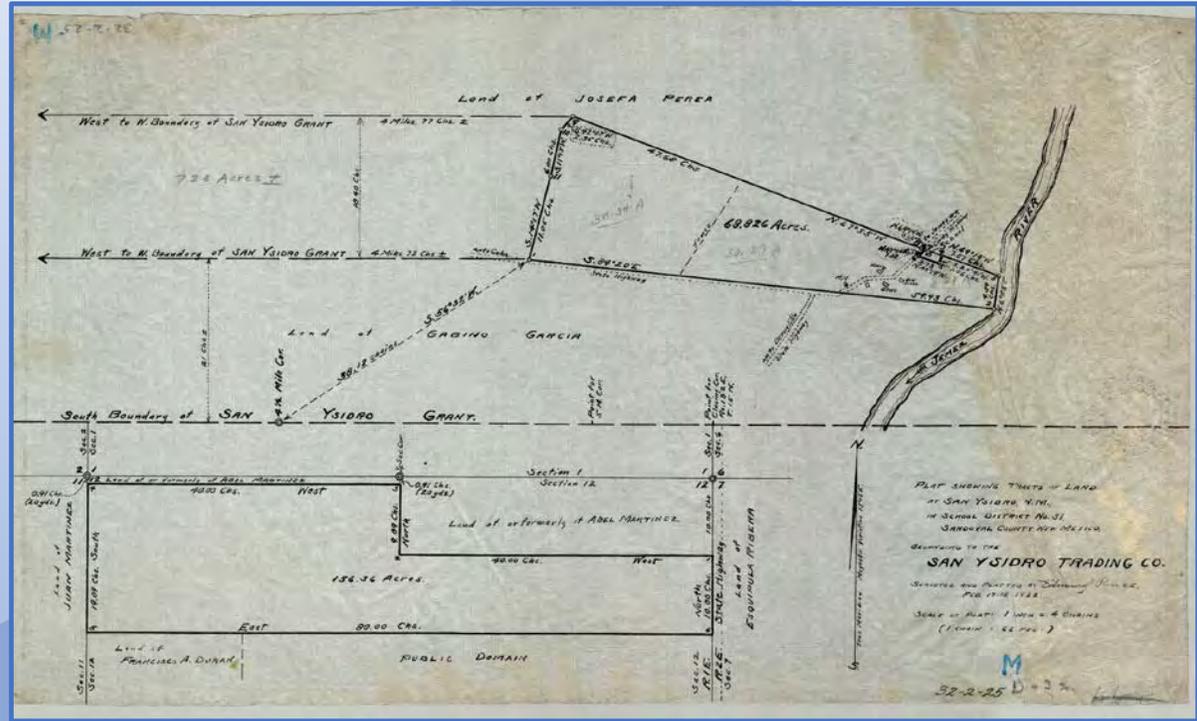
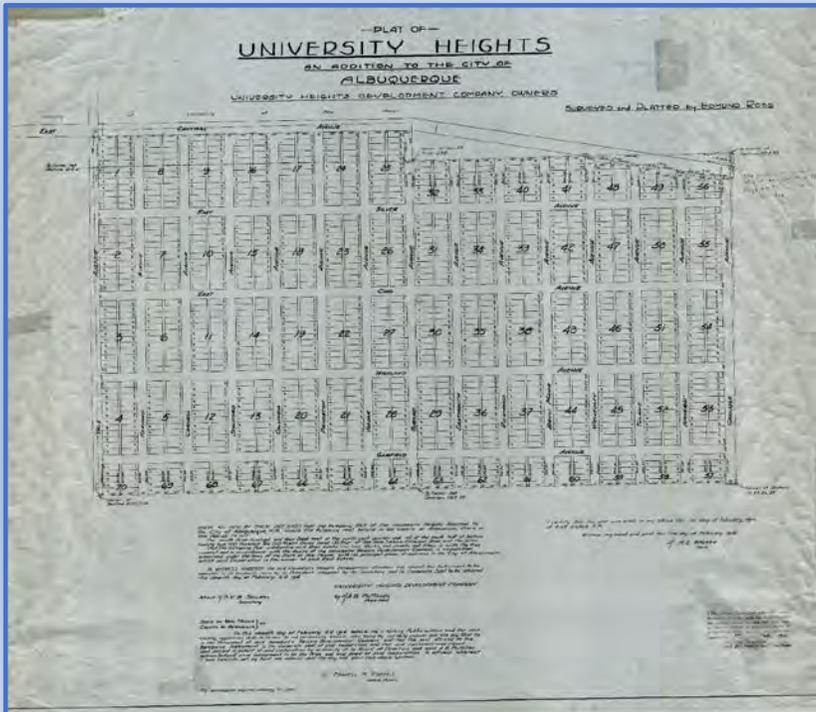
July, 1909.
Edmund Ross
Surveyor



LOCATION OF STATE ROAD NO. 31
Edmund Ross
New Mexico Licensed Surveyor No. 34



Examples of Edmund Ross Work



Examples of Edmund Ross Work – Mining Claims

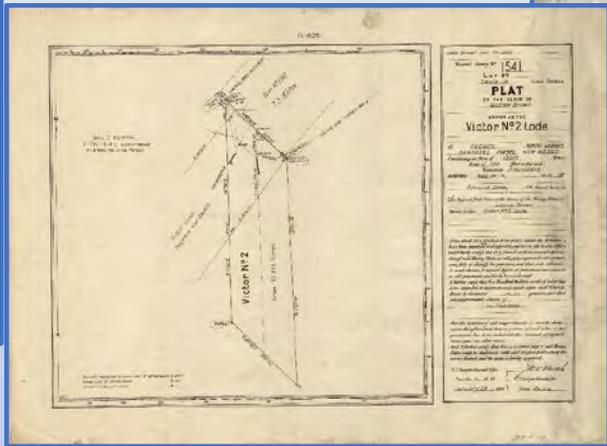
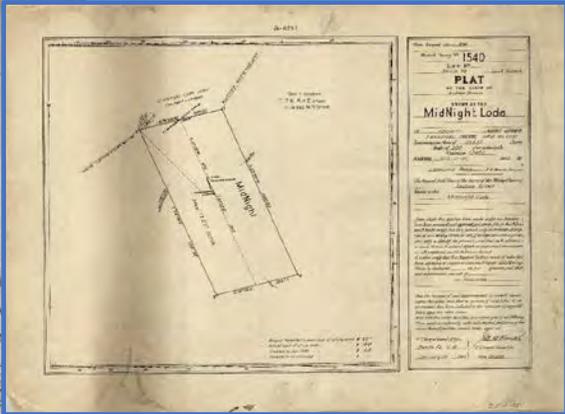
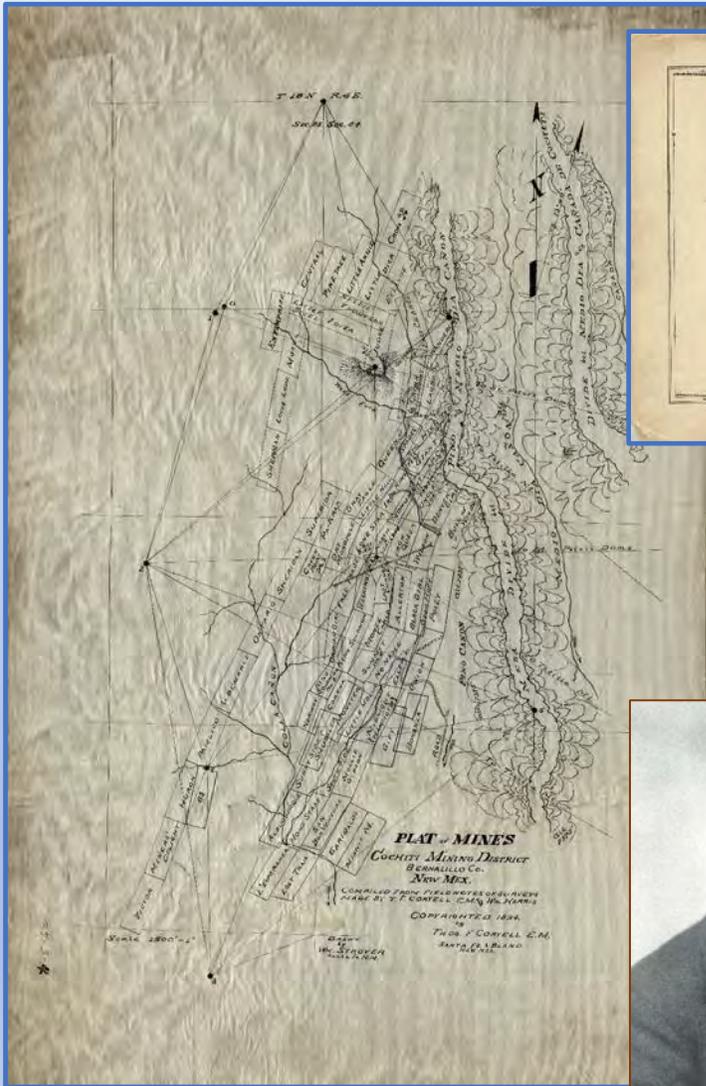
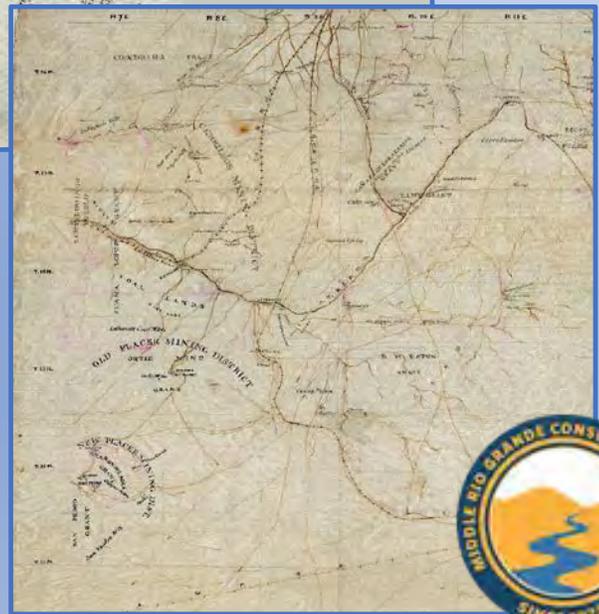
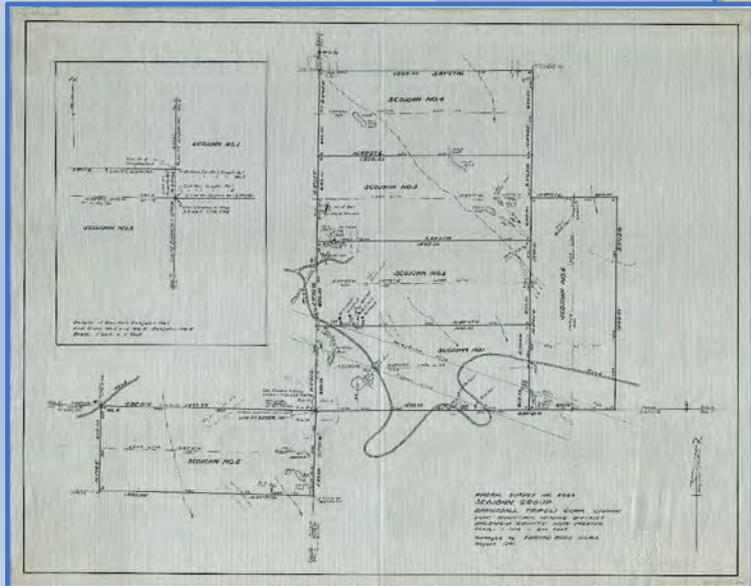
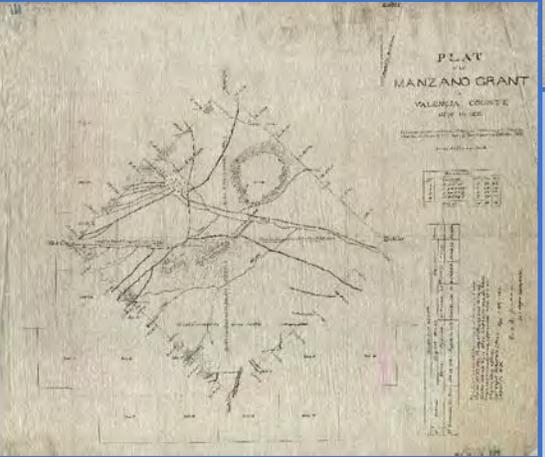
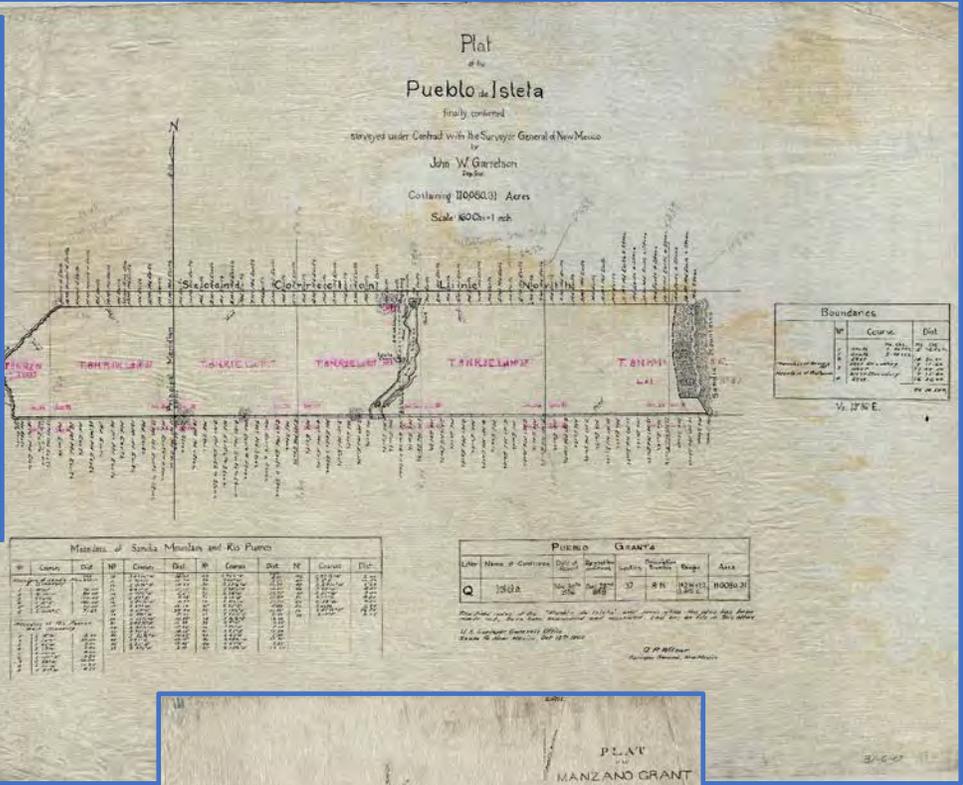
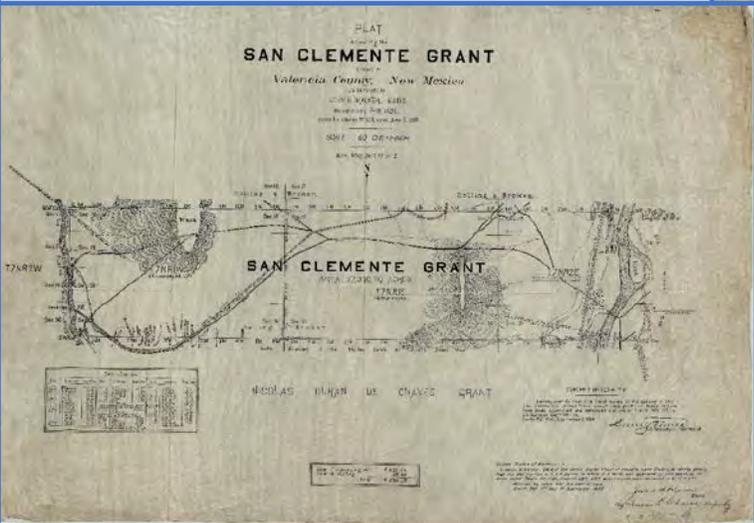
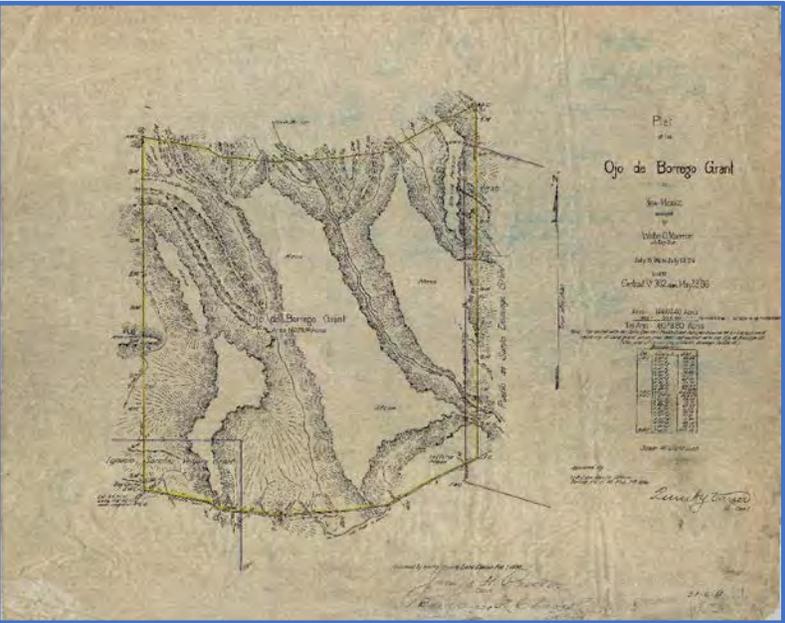


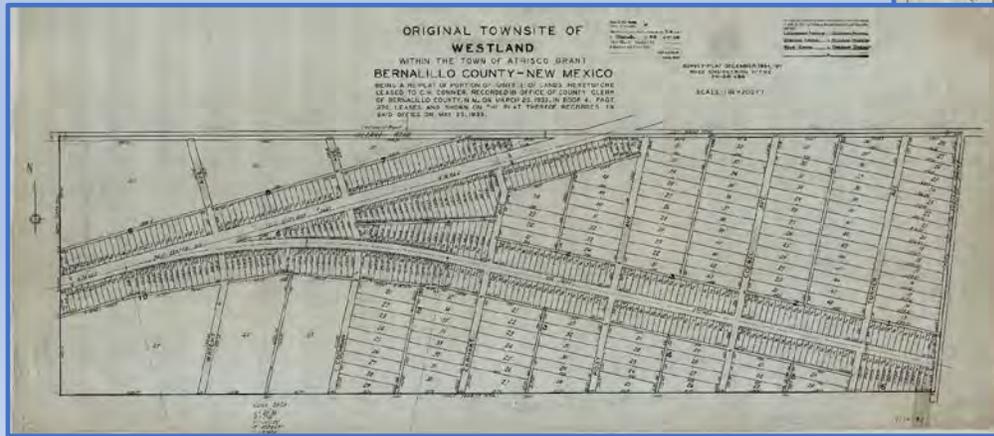
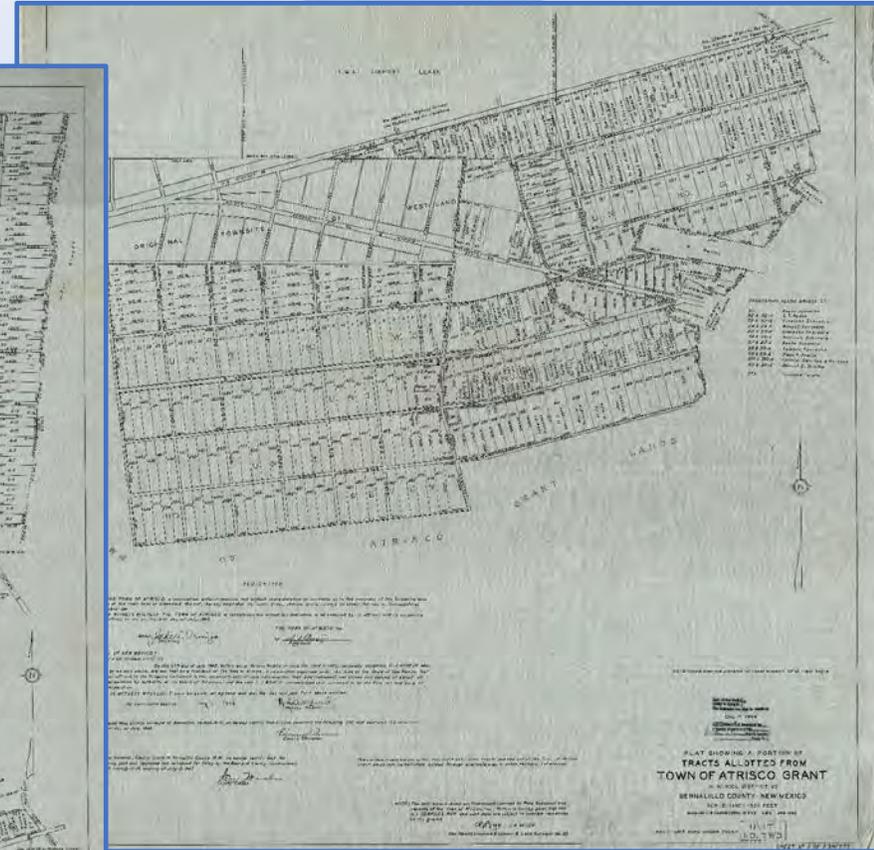
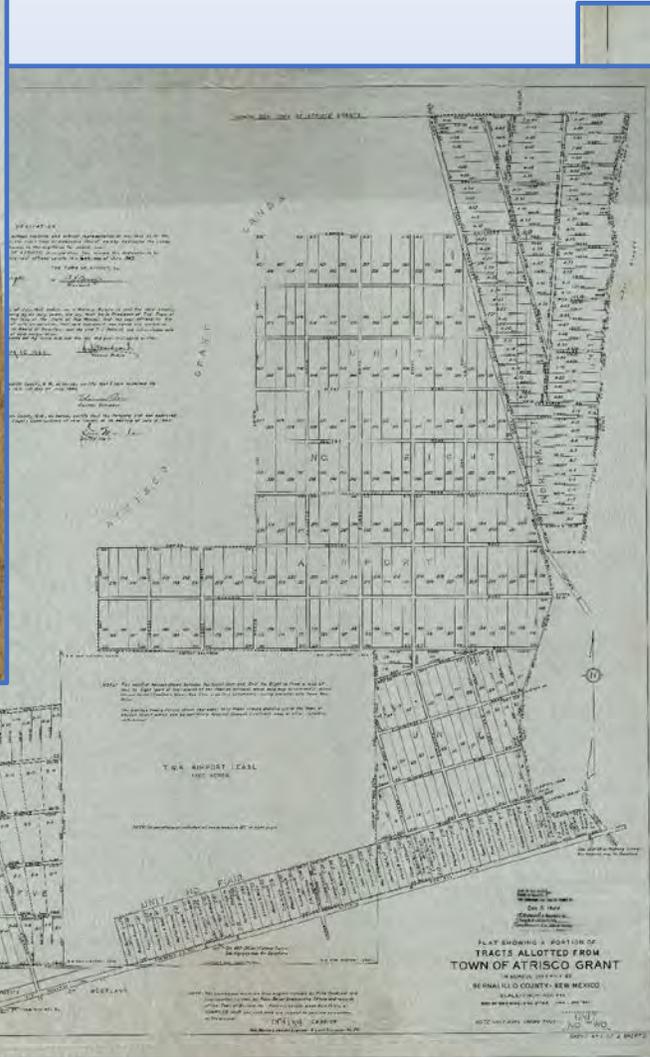
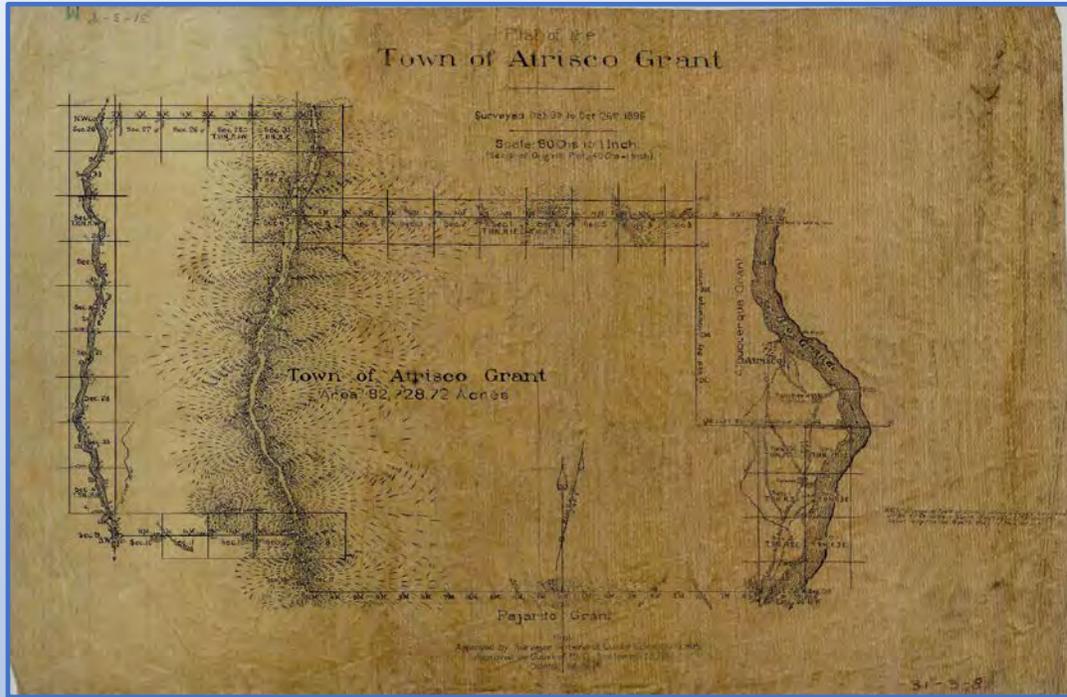
Photo Courtesy Wikitree.com



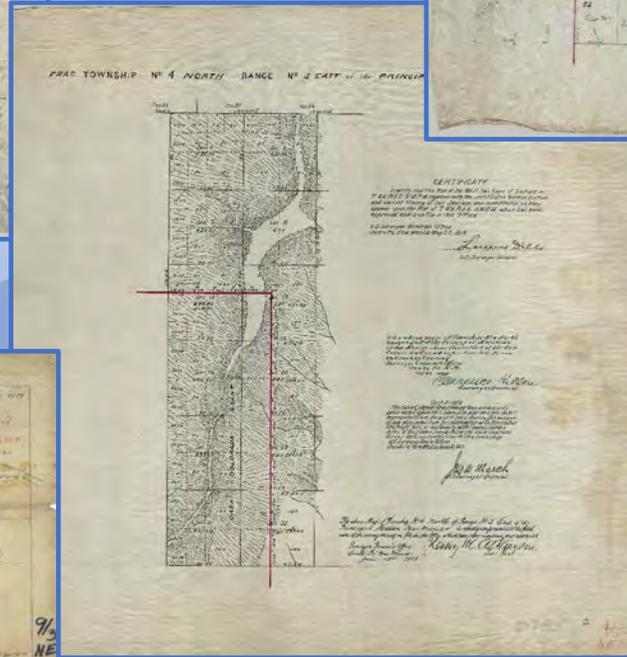
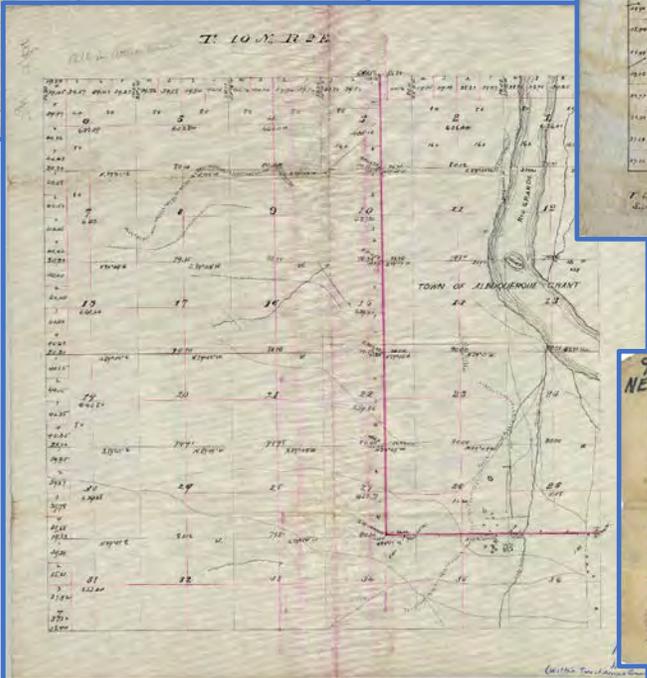
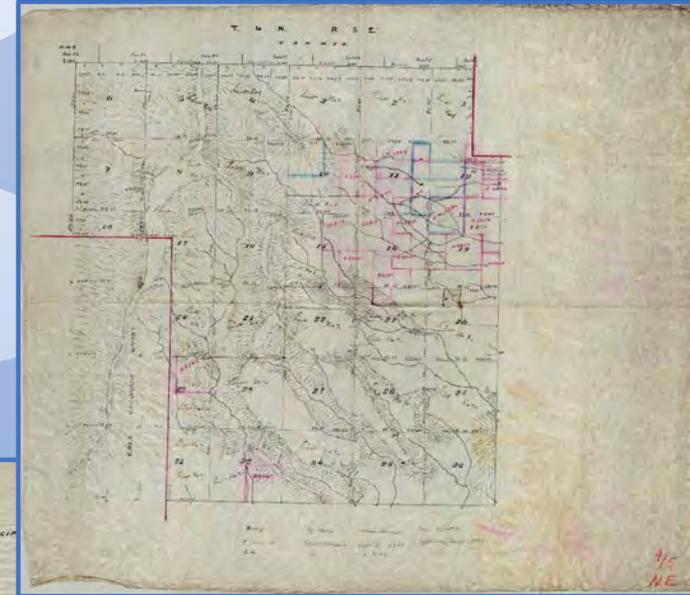
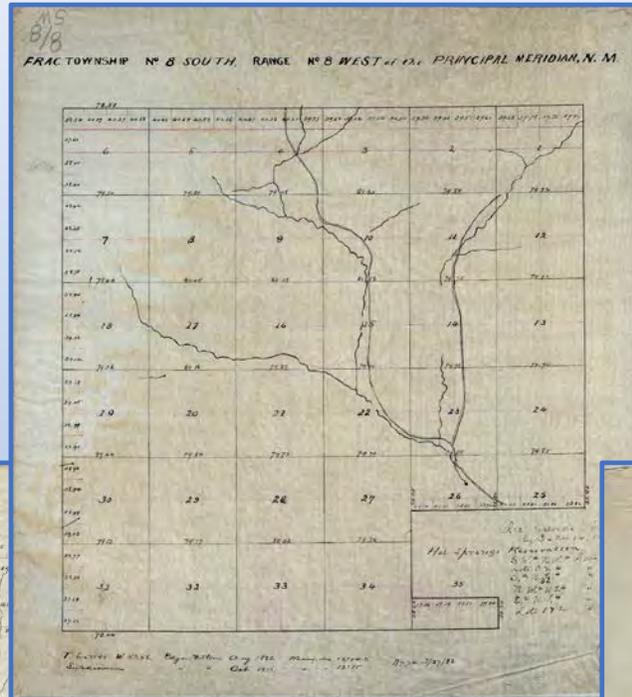
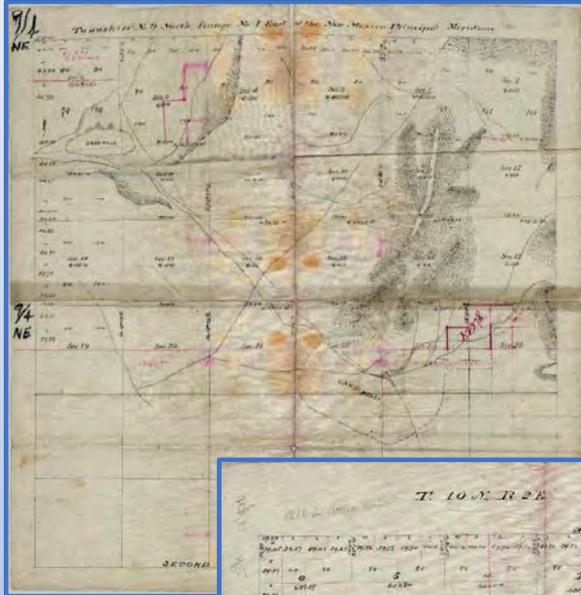
Other holdings of note – Land Grant Maps



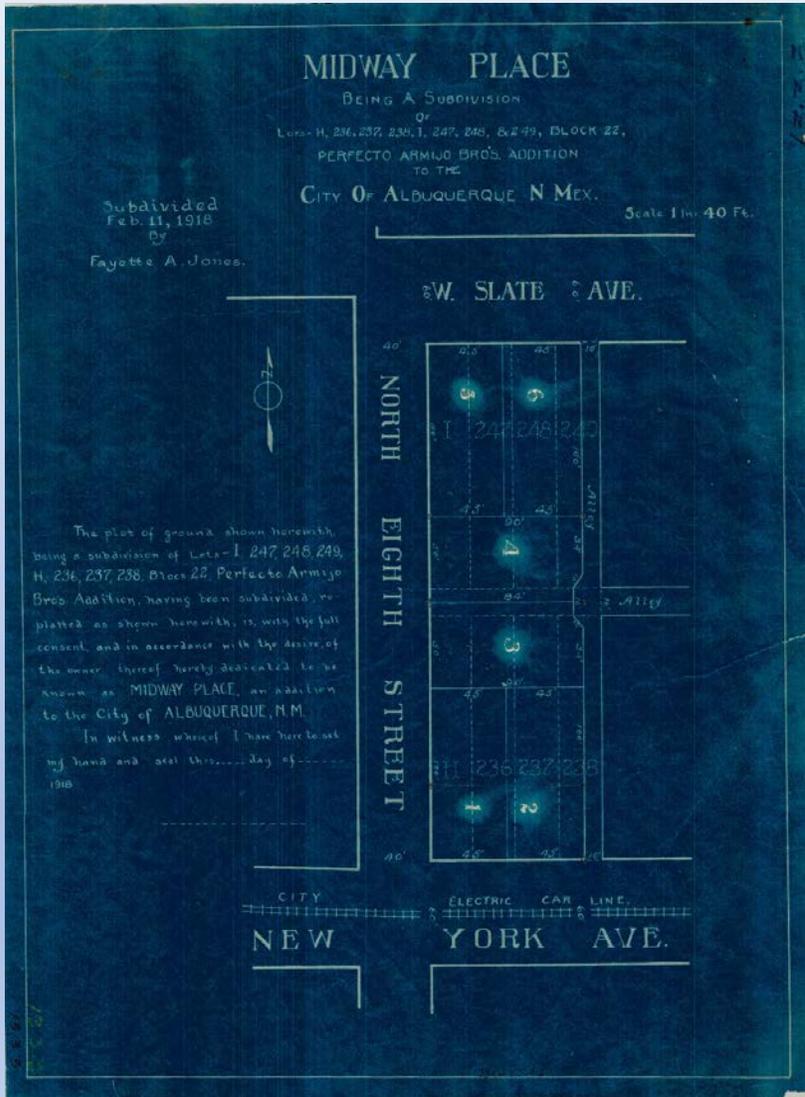
Land Grant Allotments



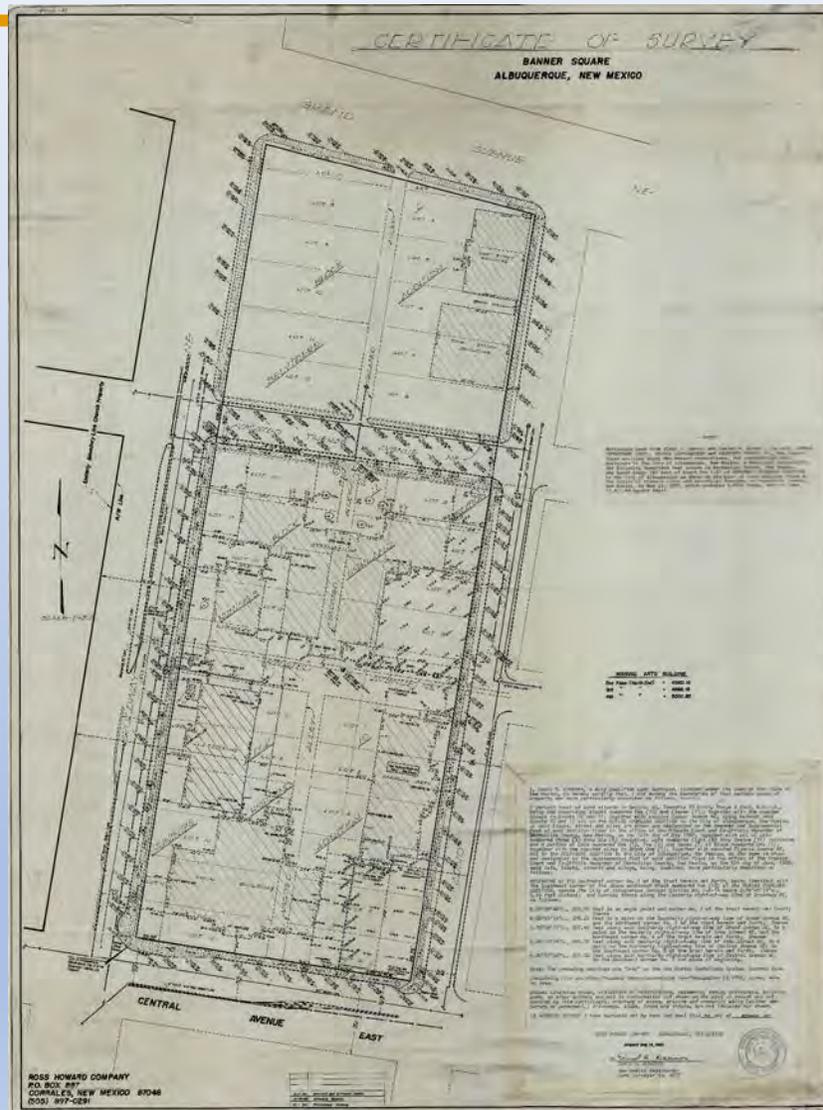
Other holdings of note – USGLO Reconnaissance



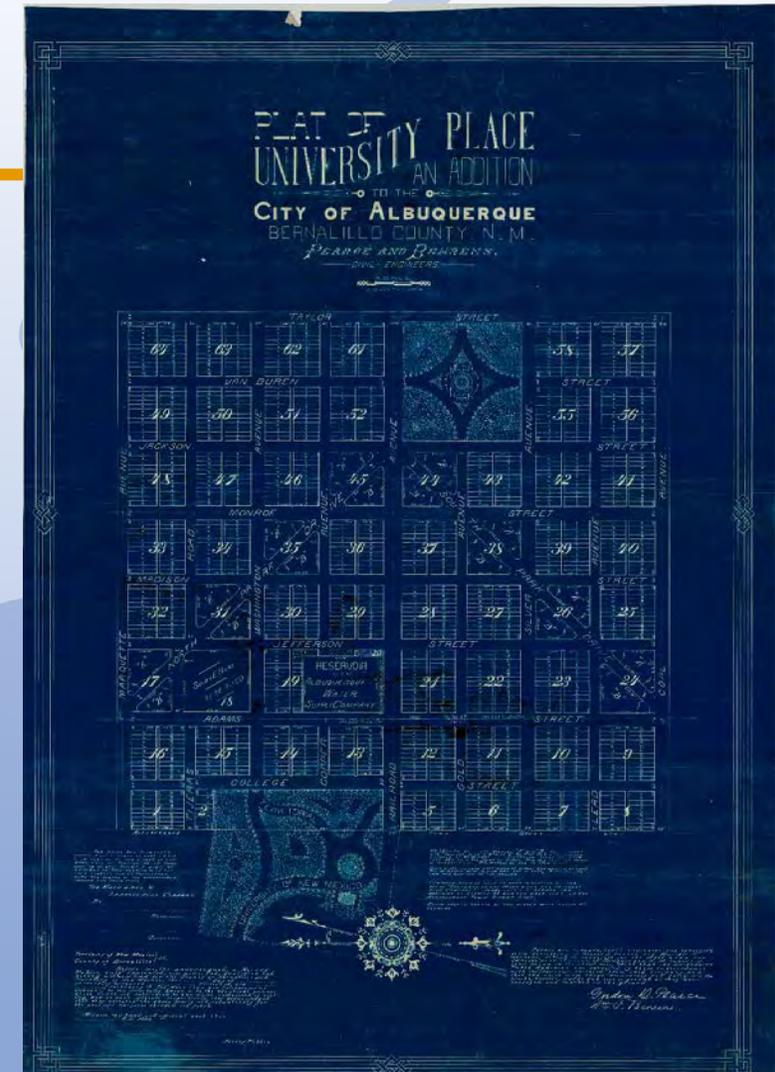
Other Selected Works



Midway Place (1918)
Fayette A. Jones



Banner Square – Old Albuquerque High School
(1980 Cert. of Survey)
David R. Kraemer



University Place (1892)
Gordon D. Pearce & William J. Behrens



Database of Scanned Records

Indexed inventory of digitized survey records

ID	Folder	Hyperlink	Surveyor	Date (filing)	Title	Land	County	SourceMedium	Scale	School Di.	Notes
2897	20260128	d:\scans\Indexed\20260128\RRH_20260128_092945.jpg	Unk	1/18/1905	Map of the Cebolleta Grant (In Case No. 6113 Dist. Court Bernalillo County)	Y	McKinley / Sandoval / Val	Blueprint			
2905	20260128	d:\scans\Indexed\20260128\RRH_20260128_094047.jpg	Unk	1/18/1905	Map of the Cebolleta Grant (showing area of apparent conflict)	Y	McKinley / Sandoval / Val	Blueprint on Linen			
2601	20260106	ard\scans\Indexed\20260106\RRH_20260106_0051.jpg	PR	3/1/1905	Plt of Ground Belonging to Mrs. E. Speight						
2600	20260106	ard\scans\Indexed\20260106\RRH_20260106_0050.jpg	PR	3/1/1905	Plt of Ground Belonging to Mrs. E. Speight -blue line						
2756	20260115	d:\scans\Indexed\20260115\RRH_20260115_160139.jpg		1/1/1906	A.T.&S.F. Railroad Spur Alignment - Belen (1903 to 1906 locations)		Valencia	blue line			
2762	20260115	d:\scans\Indexed\20260115\RRH_20260115_160534.jpg		1/1/1906	Map of the Didier Addition		Valencia	Linen	1"=100'		
2761	20260115	d:\scans\Indexed\20260115\RRH_20260115_160519.jpg		1/1/1906	Map of the South Side Addition		Valencia	Linen			
2118	20251230	ard\scans\Indexed\20251230\RRH_20251230_0007.jpg		5/1/1906	Didier Addn Map of the		Valencia	Linen	1"=100'		
2120	20251230	ard\scans\Indexed\20251230\RRH_20251230_0009.jpg	PR	5/1/1906	Gilbert Addn Map of		Valencia	linen	1"=100'		
2874	20260123	d:\scans\Indexed\20260123\RRH_20260123_150033.jpg	PR	5/1/1906	Map of Land belonging to Adolphe Didier		Valencia	Linen		2	
2694	20260115	d:\scans\Indexed\20260115\RRH_20260115_152220.jpg	PR	5/1/1906	Map of Land belonging to Adolphe Didier		Valencia	linen	1"=200'	2	
2777	20260115	d:\scans\Indexed\20260115\RRH_20260115_161325.jpg	PR	7/1/1906	Map of the Residence Property of Felipe Chaves belonging to Jose E. Chaves		Valencia	linen	1"=100'		
2757	20260115	d:\scans\Indexed\20260115\RRH_20260115_160156.jpg	PR	7/31/1906	Map of East Side Addition		Valencia	blue line	1"=100'		
2767	20260115	d:\scans\Indexed\20260115\RRH_20260115_160720.jpg	PR	9/1/1906	Map Showing Fractional Lots Belonging to John Becker and Jose E Chaves		Valencia	paper	1"=100'		
2860	20260123	d:\scans\Indexed\20260123\RRH_20260123_130016.jpg	PR	10/1/1906	Map of the South Side Addition		Valencia	Blueprint			
2798	20260110	d:\scans\Indexed\20260110\RRH_20260110_133443.jpg	PR	12/1/1906	Map of the Rancho del Rincon		Valencia	Blue line	1"=400'		
2700	20260115	d:\scans\Indexed\20260115\RRH_20260115_152604.jpg	PR	12/1/1906	Map of the Rancho del Rincon - Property of Louis Huning		Valencia	paper	1"=400'		323 Ac.
2887	20260123	d:\scans\Indexed\20260123\RRH_20260123_153625.jpg	PR	8/1/1907	Map of Augustin Spring Ranch - Chilili Grant	Y	Bernalillo	Blueprint			
2917	20260128	d:\scans\Indexed\20260128\RRH_20260128_095202.jpg	Unk	6/1/1908	B.M. Montano Grant	Y	Bernalillo / Sandoval	Blueprint on Linen			
2919	20260128	d:\scans\Indexed\20260128\RRH_20260128_095808.jpg	Unk	6/1/1908	Map of the Antonio Sedillo Grant	Y	Bernalillo / Valencia	Paper			
2884	20260123	d:\scans\Indexed\20260123\RRH_20260123_153529.jpg	PR	10/1/1908	Map Showing Change in the Alinement of East Iron Avenue and Addition to the South Side of I		Bernalillo	Paper			
2711	20260115	d:\scans\Indexed\20260115\RRH_20260115_153124.jpg	ER	7/1/1909	Plat of Lands of Jose E. Chaves		Valencia	linen	1"=200'		
28	20260110	d:\scans\Indexed\20260110\RRH_20260110_132024.jpg	ER	8/13/1910	Plat of a Tract of Land belonging to A. Didier and F.R. Coe		Valencia	Trace Paper	1"=200'		
2117	20251230	ard\scans\Indexed\20251230\RRH_20251230_0006.jpg	PR	3/1/1911	Didier Addn Map of the Re-survey of		Valencia	Linen	1"=100'		Pitt
13	20260110	d:\scans\Indexed\20260110\RRH_20260110_131352.jpg	ER-CBB / Original J.R. Fa	4/30/1912	Copy of Original Plat of Property of Mrs. Louis Huning		Valencia	Blue line	1"=200'	1	
10	20260110	d:\scans\Indexed\20260110\RRH_20260110_131153.jpg	ER-CBB / Original J.R. Fa	4/30/1912	Copy of Original Plat of Property of Mrs. Louis Huning		Valencia	Linen	1"=200'		
25	20260110	d:\scans\Indexed\20260110\RRH_20260110_131901.jpg	-	10/22/1912	Map of the Land of Jose L.Castillo		Sandoval	Blue line	1"=400'		Angostura area
2619	20260106	ard\scans\Indexed\20260106\RRH_20260106_0069.jpg	ER	4/29/1913	Plt of the Estate of Abel Sedillo						
2828	20260110	d:\scans\Indexed\20260110\RRH_20260110_124959.jpg	ER	7/1/1913	Plat of a Lot Belonging to T.A. Anderson		Bernalillo	paper	1"=20'		
2886	20260123	d:\scans\Indexed\20260123\RRH_20260123_153612.jpg	PR	7/1/1913	Plat of Land belonging to T.G. Apodaca		Bernalillo	Linen		10	
2622	20260106	ard\scans\Indexed\20260106\RRH_20260106_0072.jpg	PR	7/1/1913	Plt Shwg Property Line in Center of Section 34		Bernalillo				
683	20250905	ard\scans\Indexed\20250905\RRH_20250905_0080.jpg	ER	1/1/1914	Map of Lands Belonging to J.M. Pedroncelli		Bernalillo	linen	1"=100'	8	
2785	20260110	d:\scans\Indexed\20260110\RRH_20260110_132844.jpg	PR ER	1/1/1914	Plat of the Bosque de Los Pinos Tract		Valencia	Linen	1"=16chs		
2598	20260106	ard\scans\Indexed\20260106\RRH_20260106_0048.jpg	ER	3/6/1914	Plt of a Tr of Ld belonging to Salvador Sabedra						
2754	20260115	d:\scans\Indexed\20260115\RRH_20260115_160110.jpg	PR	5/27/1914	Plat of Goebels Subd		Valencia	paper	1"=50'		
2456	20260103	ard\scans\Indexed\20260103\RRH_20260103_0037.jpg	ER	12/26/1914	Netherwood Park Addition Second Filing		Bernalillo	linen	1"=200'		
2599	20260106	ard\scans\Indexed\20260106\RRH_20260106_0049.jpg	ER	2/1/1915	Plt of a Tr of Ld in Los Ranchos De Atresco Belonging to Manuel S. Pino						
2677	20260108	ard\scans\Indexed\20260108\RRH_20260108_0040.jpg	ER	3/18/1915	Plt of Ld belonging to Pablo Sedillo						



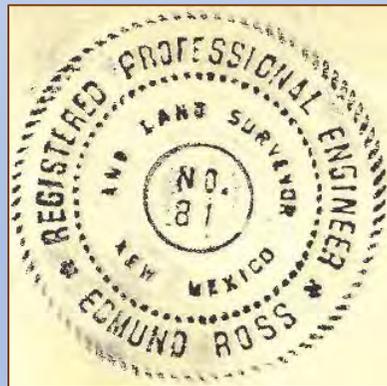
Acknowledgement of Others



Lic. No. 1 Pitt Ross



Lic. No. 34 Edmund Ross



Lic. No. 81 Edmund Ross



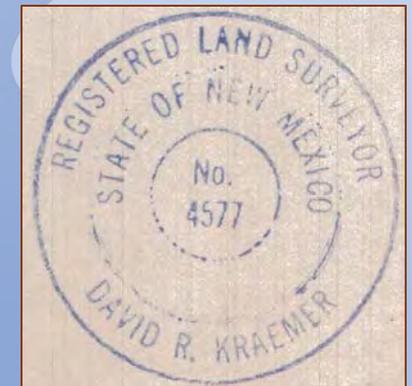
Lic. No. 20 Clarence B. Beyer



Lic. No. 1274 Edmund Pitt Ross



Lic. No. 4575 Roy Howard



Lic. No. 4577 David R. Kraemer



Edmund Ross & MRGCD

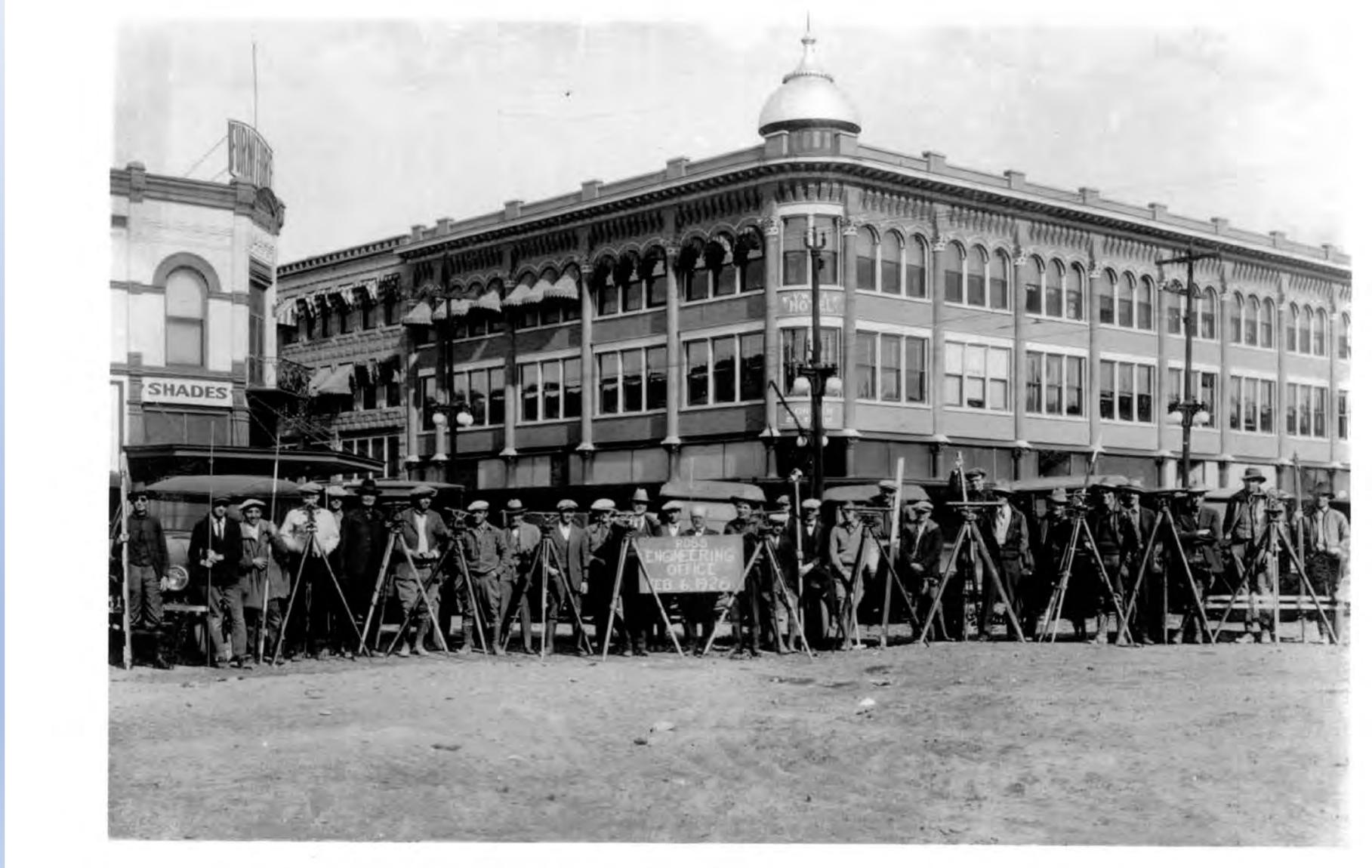
- Documented work in the Official Plan
- Acknowledged in the Official Plan
- Direct institutional connection

406. Under the leadership of this association and with the assistance of Messrs. R. P. Barnes and Pearce C. Rodey as attorneys, the organization of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District was carried through to a successful completion. In this organization work many individuals and civic organizations gave material assistance. General H. F. Robinson, Messrs. George M. Neel, **Edmund Ross**, Jay Turley and Ira N. Sprecher all gave technical guidance and assistance to the various petitions and court hearings.

418. The able and active assistance rendered by the division chiefs, Mr. C. H. Howell, former designing engineer, Mr. R. G. Hosea, present designing engineer, **Mr. Edmund Ross**, engineer in charge of property surveys, Mr. George M. Post, engineer in charge of reservoir investigations, and Mr. C. A. Anderson, engineer in charge of appraisals, has been of especial value.



February 6, 1926, and Ross Engineering Office



February 6, 1926, and MRGCD connection



*Beginning work on
Conservancy District*

Feb 6, 1926 – “Beginning
work, 1926 – “Beginning work
on Conservancy District”



Ms. Cecilia Martinez Howard

Acknowledging the Donation

- Stewardship of Ross Howard Company records
- Cooperation in preservation efforts
- Enabling public benefit through access



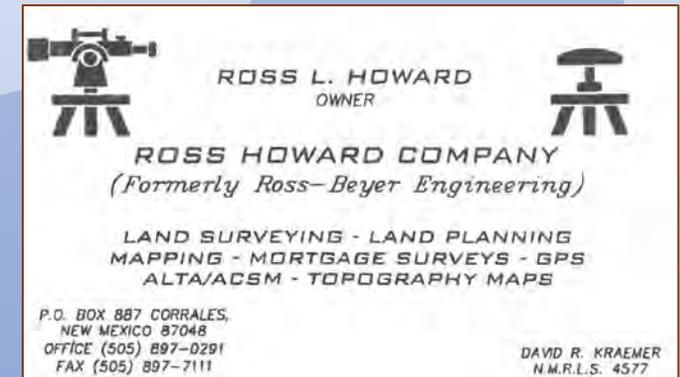
Ross Howard



Recommendation - MRGCD Board Proclamation

Formal Recognition

- Historical significance of the collection
- Contributions of Pitt Ross and Edmund Ross
- Ross Howard's role in professional continuity for over 100 years
- District commitment to stewardship



What this is not

Clarifying Scope of Project

- Not a transfer of District records
- Not a legal or policy action
- Not a valuation or appraisal of records retained
- Informational and historical only for the public benefit



Ross Howard



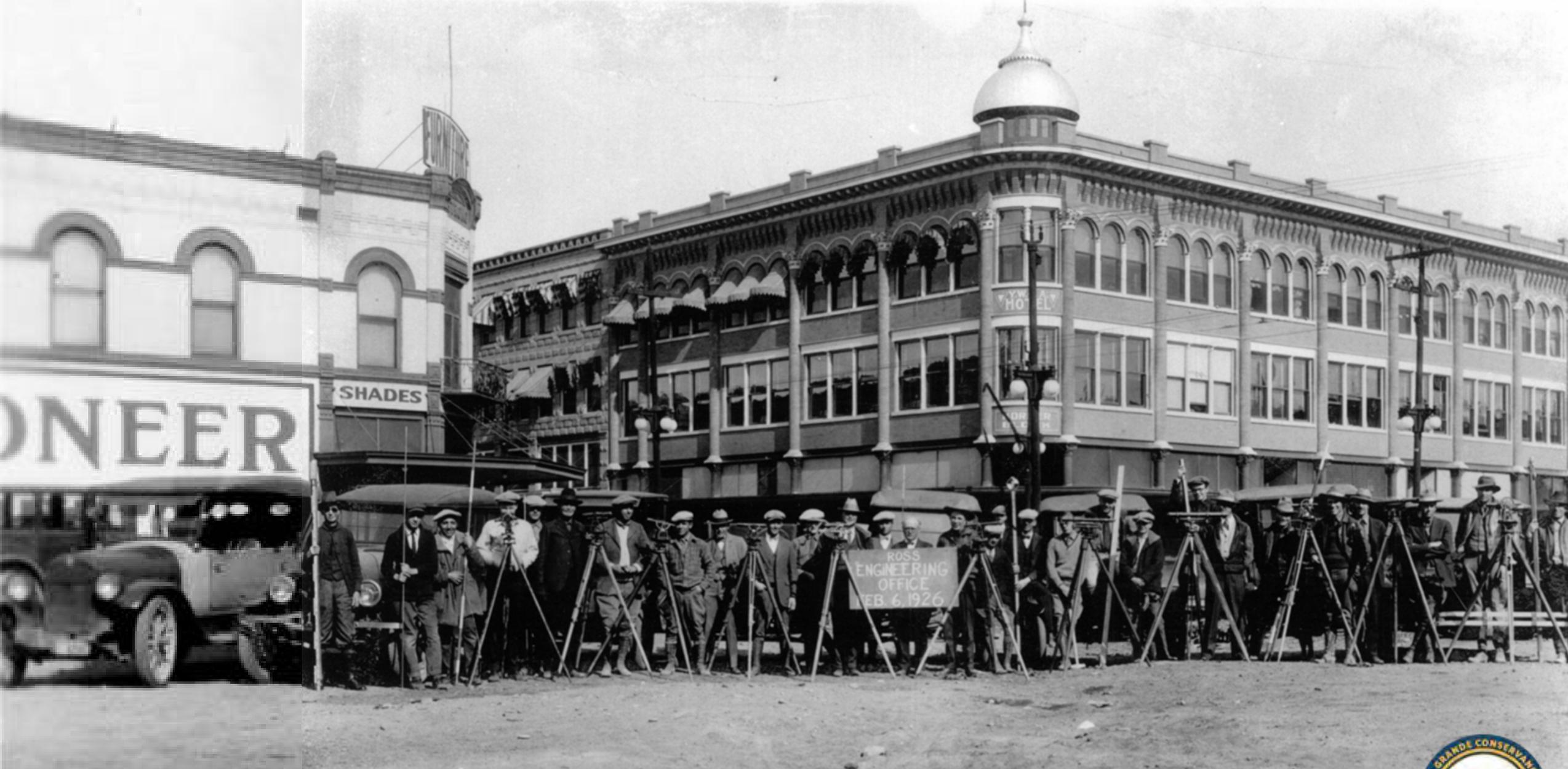
Closing

The Importance of these Works

- The District's story is written in surveys
- Preservation protects history and trust
- These records connect past decisions to present understanding of the landscape in New Mexico



Ross Howard



QUESTIONS?

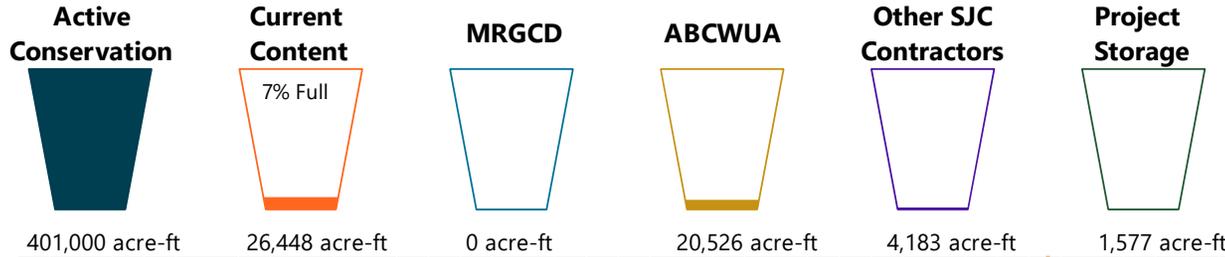
Reservoir Storage Status



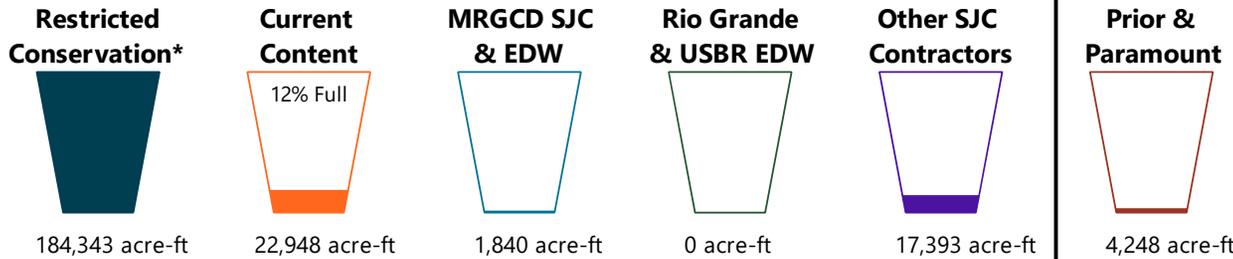
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Feb 3, 2026 data

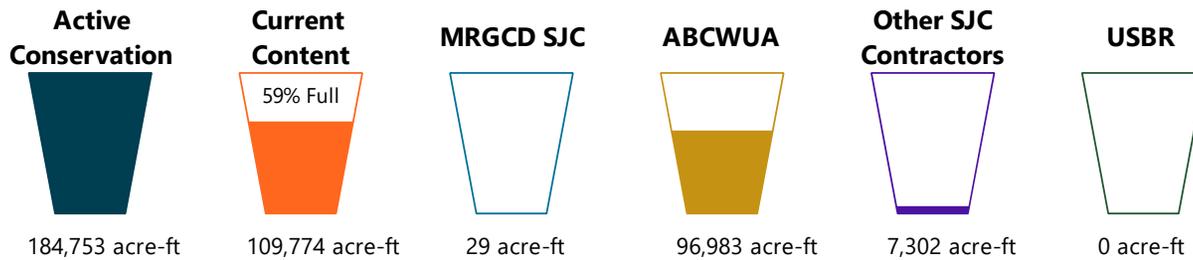
Heron



El Vado



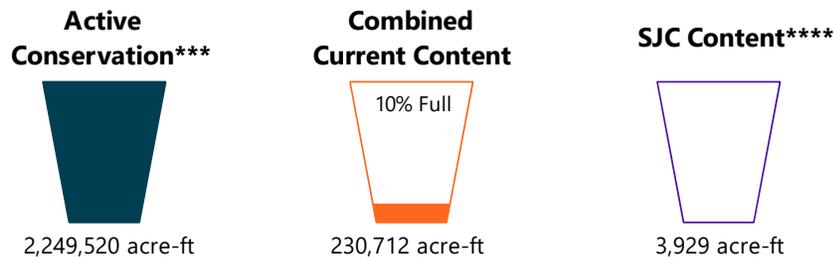
Abiquiu



Cochiti



Elephant Butte and Caballo



* Currently restricted to 25,678 acre-ft.
 ** 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 acre-ft.
 Total reservoir content may include incidental storage of water in transit.

MRGCD BOARD MEETING (2-4-2026)

1. Heron Summary

Content:	26,448	ac-ft	(2/4/2026)
Azotea Tunnel:	0	cfs	
Total SJ-C Inflow (2026):	0	ac-ft	
Currently Releasing:	0	cfs	
Current MRGCD Storage:	0	ac-ft	

2. El Vado Summary

Content:	22,948	ac-ft	(2/4/2026)
Rio Grande Storage:	3,715	ac-ft	
MRGCD SJ-C Storage:	1,840	ac-ft	
P&P:	3,715	ac-ft	
Other SJ-C Contractors:	17,393	ac-ft	
Current Release:	93	cfs	RG Inflow: 40 - 75 cfs

3. Abiquiu Summary

Content:	109,774	ac-ft	(2/4/2026)
MRGCD SJ-C Storage:	30	ac-ft	
P&P:	534	ac-ft	

Total Supplemental Water Released (2026): 0 ac-ft

Current Snow Water Equivalent for Water Year 2026 to 2/4 (% Median; NRCS SNOTEL)

Rio Chama Basin.....	59%
Upper Rio Grande Basin.....	50%
Sangre de Cristo Basin.....	44%
Jemez Basin.....	31%
San Juan River Basin.....	43%

- Storage of native inflow into both El Vado and Abiquiu Reservoirs for the prior and paramount lands of the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos began on January 1, 2026. Total storage is now about 4,249 ac-ft.

2/9/2026

Patrick Taber



- using custom time span -
August 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

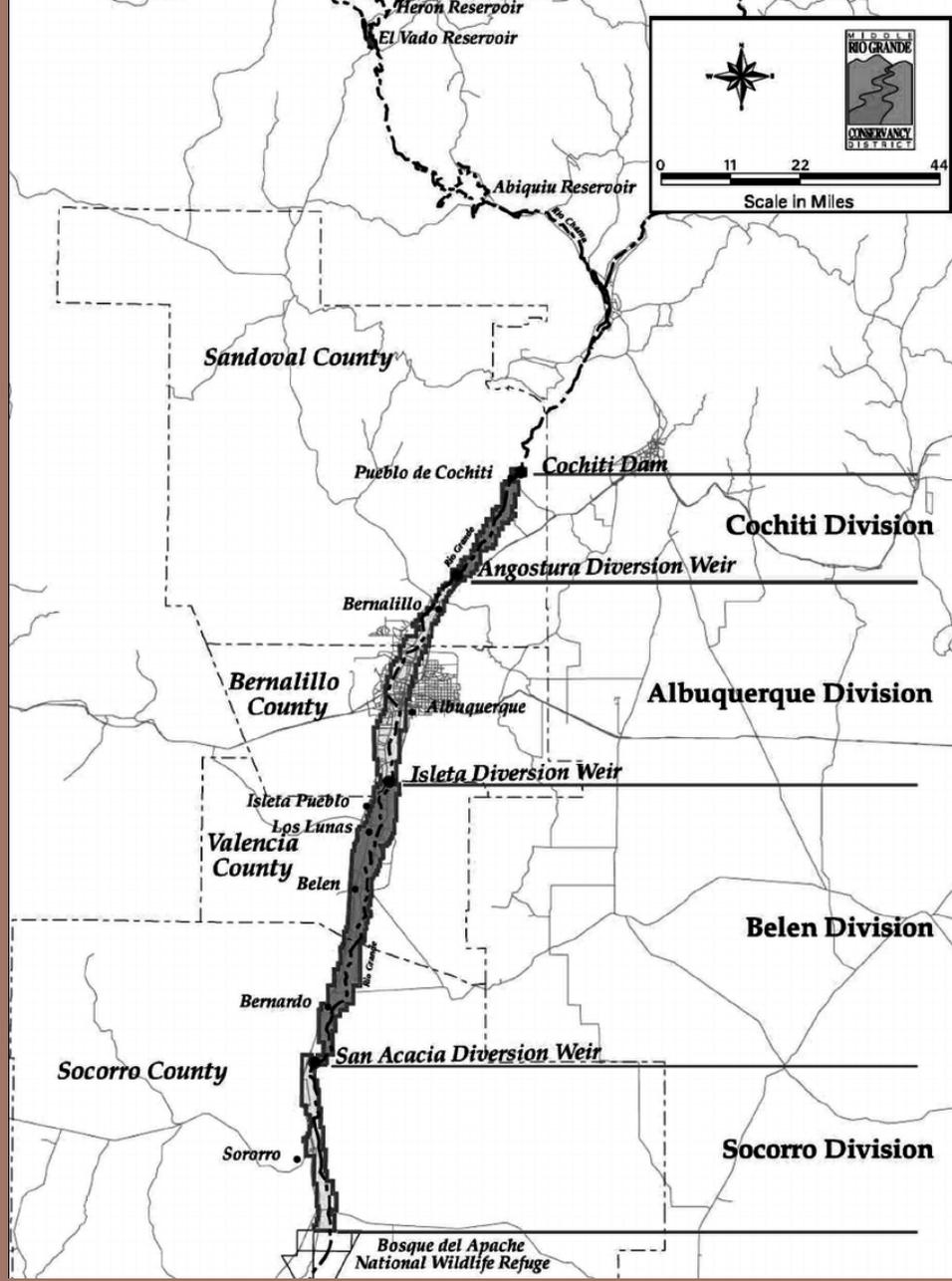
Gage height, feet

2.50 ft - Aug 03, 2025 11:30:00 PM MDT

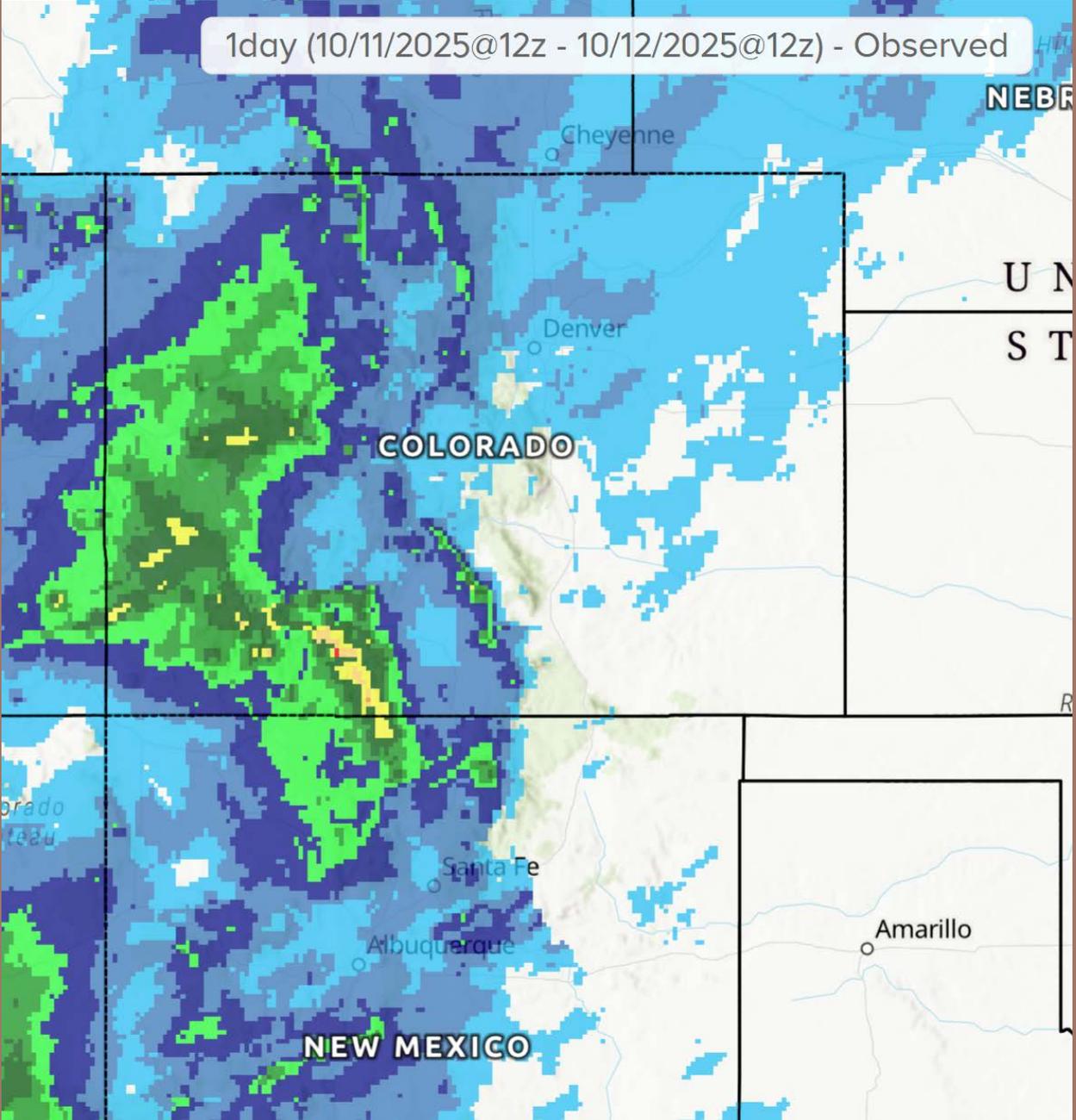
2.44 ft - Aug 13, 2025 11:13:00 AM MDT



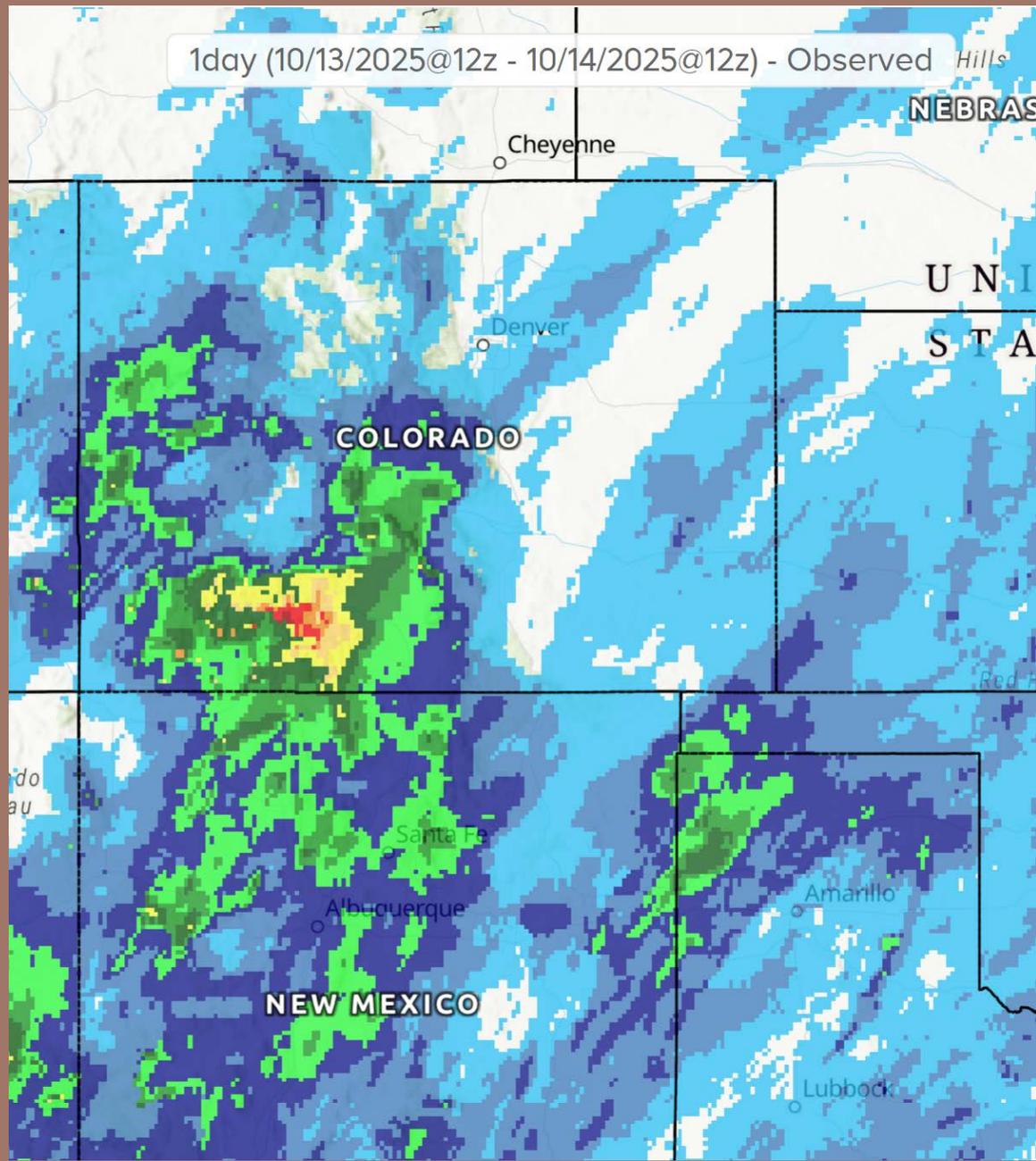
Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District



1day (10/11/2025@12z - 10/12/2025@12z) - Observed



1day (10/13/2025@12z - 10/14/2025@12z) - Observed Hills



Continuous data

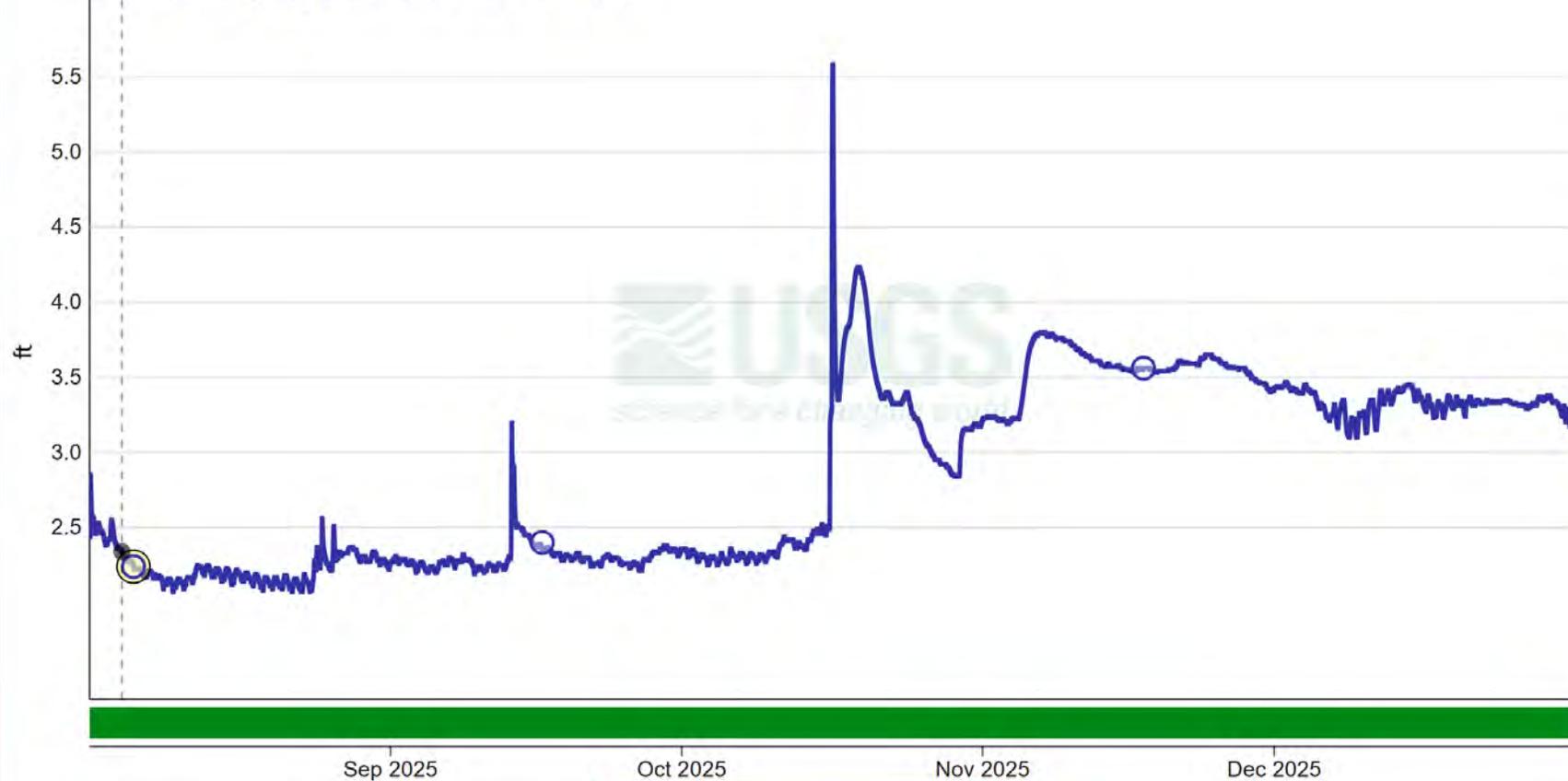
Rio Grande at Embudo, NM - USGS-08279500

[Subscribe to WaterAlert](#)

- using custom time span -
August 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025
Gage height, feet

2.34 ft - Aug 04, 2025 07:45:00 AM MDT

2.24 ft - Aug 05, 2025 12:29:15 PM MDT

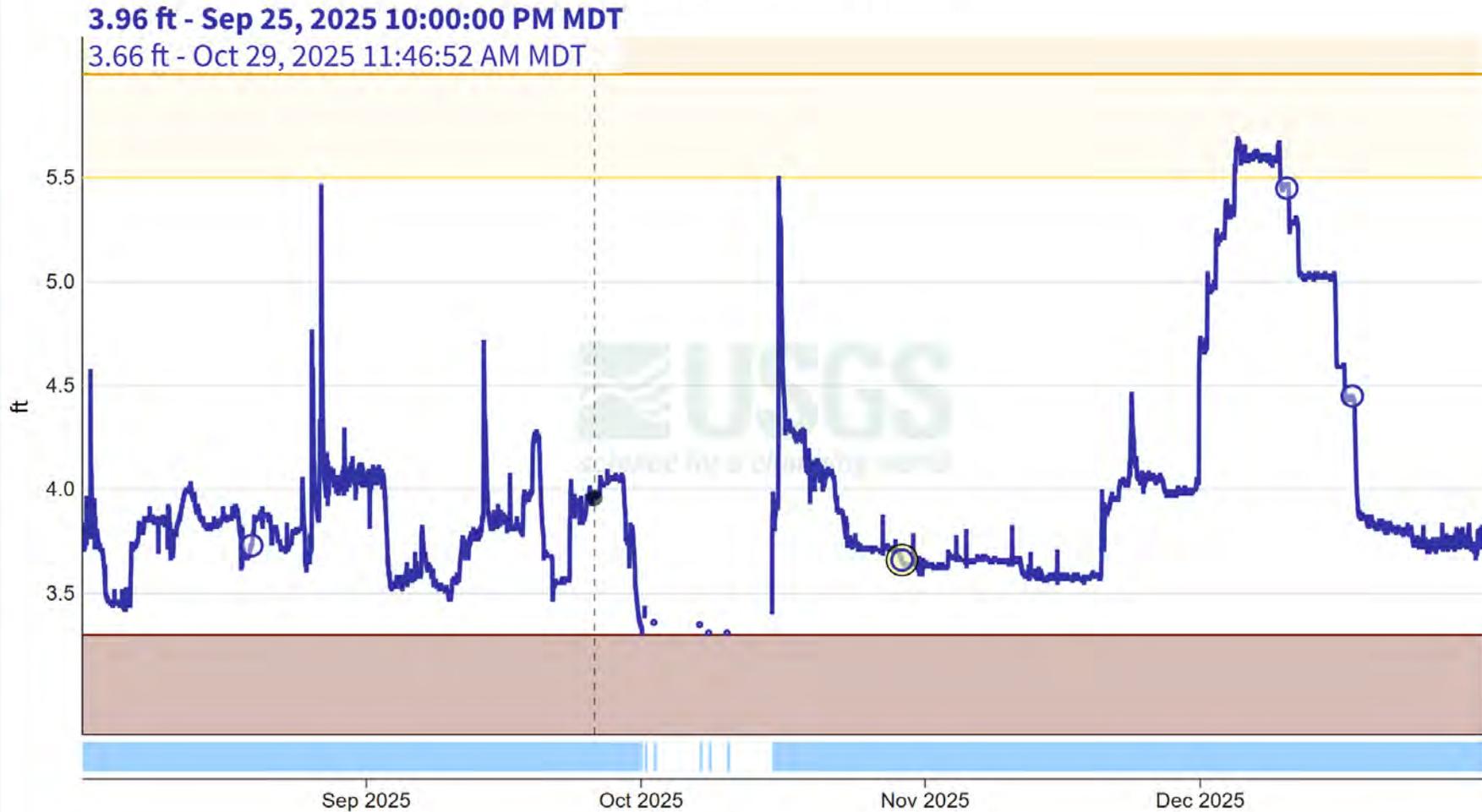


Continuous data

Rio Chama Near Chamita, NM - USGS-08290000

[Subscribe to WaterAlert](#)

- using custom time span -
August 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025
Gage height, feet



Atrisco Acequia Madre Master Plan



'25/'26 Off-Season Construction Update

February 9, 2025

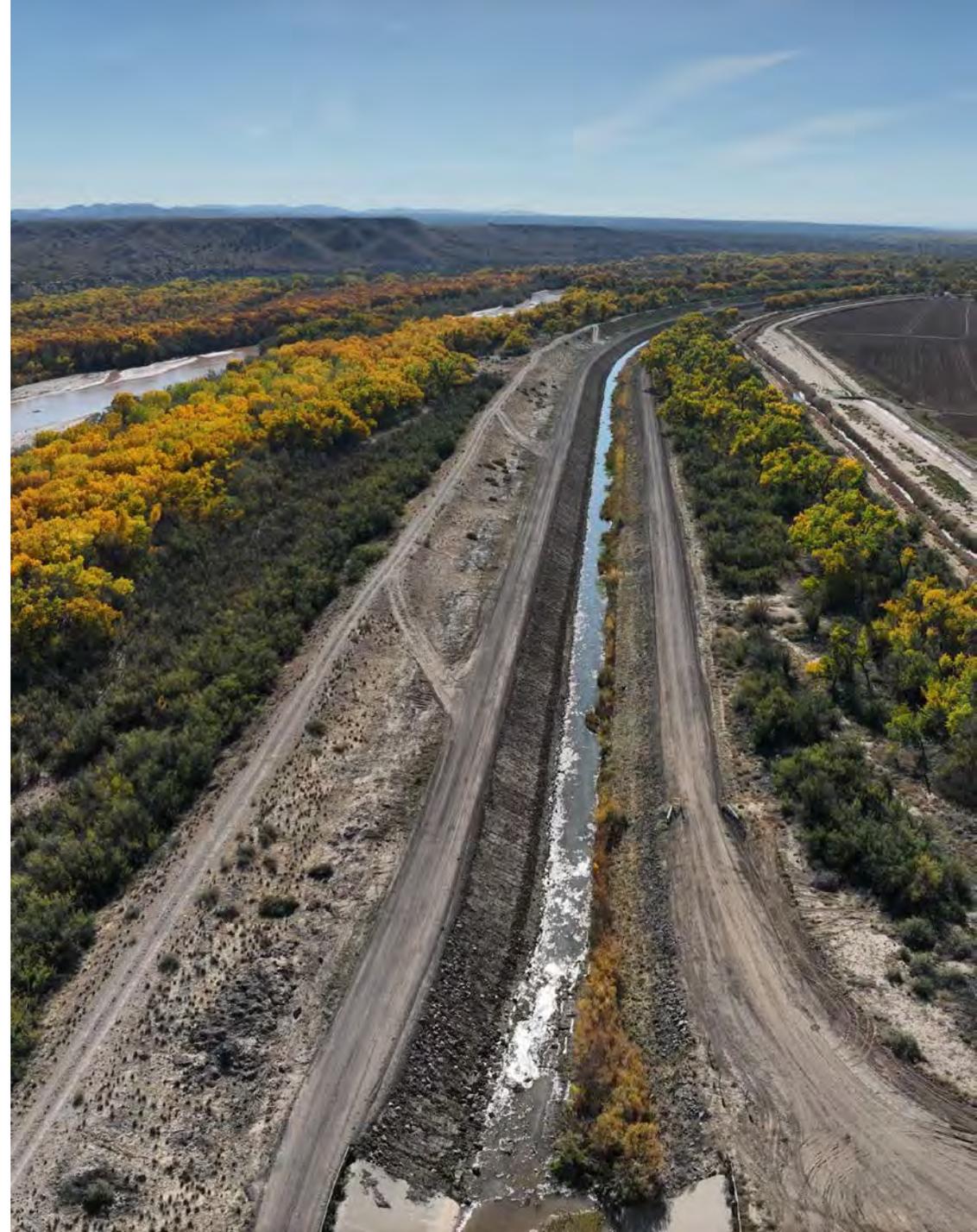
Presented by:
Engineering Department



Overview

Off-Season Construction Projects:

- A. Socorro Main Canal Channel Lining Phase IIB
- B. Belen Highline Canal Overflow Structure #2
- C. Low-Flow Conveyance Channel Phase 2
- D. Loretta Road
- E. Acequia Madre Grant Project
- F. Feeder 3 Transmission Line Phase 1
- G. Division Projects



Socorro Main Canal Channel Lining Phase IIB

Funding Source: WTB

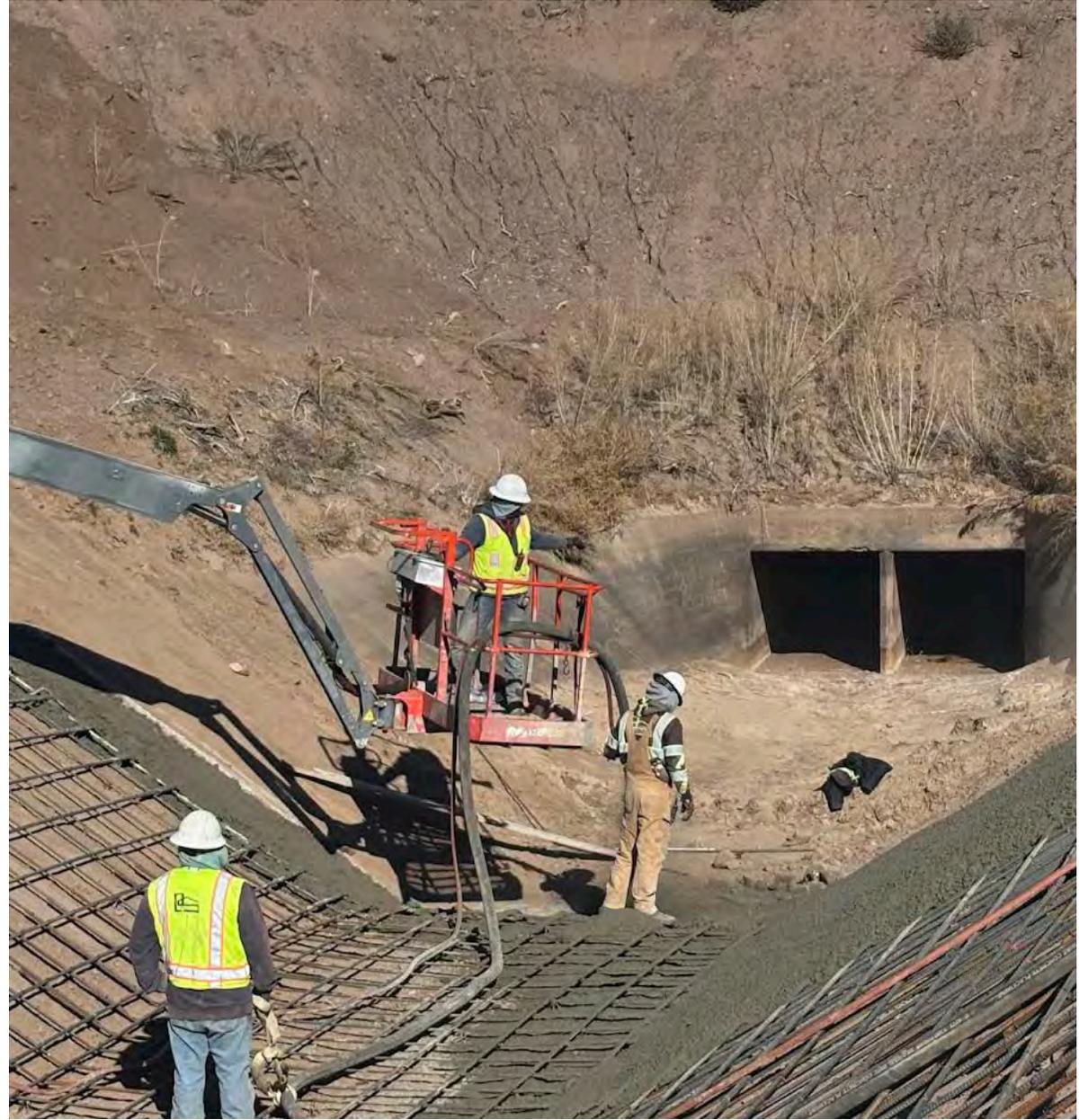
Consultant Services: Wilson & Co. - \$287,495.50

Construction: Sanchez Demolition - \$6,878,359.05
(Including NMGRT)

Contract time: 150 Calendar Days

- Progress
 - Currently have lined 1 mile with concrete canvas
 - All turnout structures have been installed.
 - Working on installing shotcrete lining
 - All in-channel work should be completed by this week.
- Look Ahead
 - Finishing miscellaneous out-of-channel items
 - In channel work, walk through on February 16th





Belen Highline Canal Overflow Structure #2

Funding Source: Fund Reserves
Consultant Services: BHI - \$85,102
Construction: Lopez Precision LLC. -
\$1,074,065.61 (Including NMGRT)

- Progress
 - Lopez Precision finished pouring the channel section and overflow steps.
 - Currently working on the concrete landing at the bottom of the overflow structure.
- Look Ahead
 - Backfill and clean-up work will commence at the end of this week.





Low-Flow Conveyance Channel Phase 2

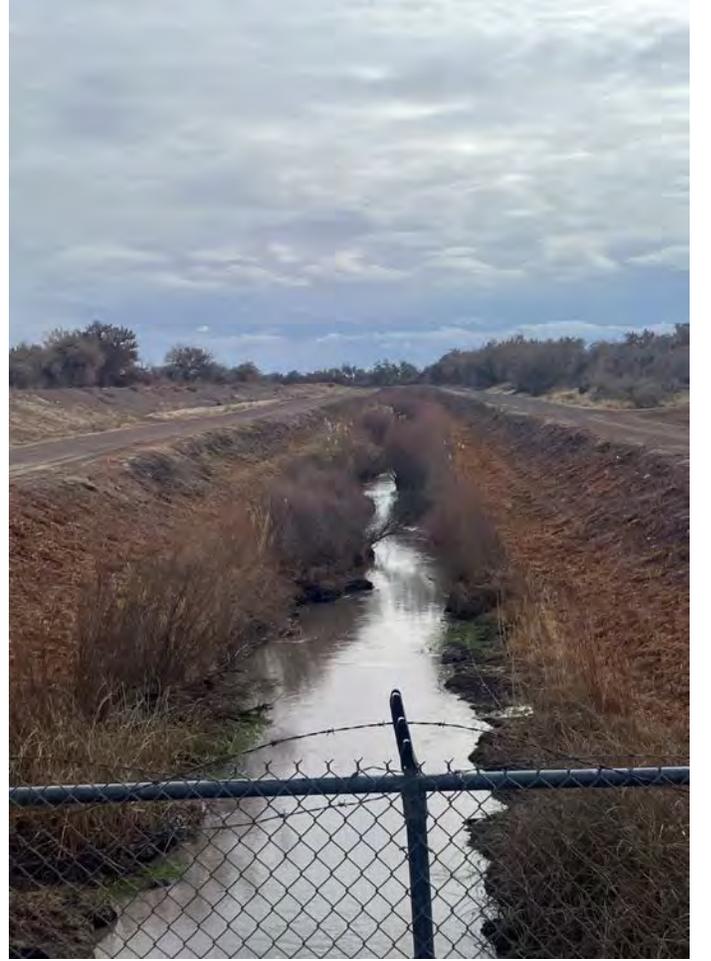
Funding Source: ARPA

Consultant Services: Wilson & Co.

Construction: CF Padilla LLC- \$6,490,217.50
(Including NMGRT)

- Progress
 - Mowing 7.5 miles
 - Dredging 7.5 miles
 - Clearing and Grubbing 43 acres
- Lookahead
 - Mowing 7.87 miles
 - Dredging 7.87 miles
 - Clearing and Grubbing 47.8 acres





Loretta Road Project

Funding Source: Capital Outlay, Capital Development Program

Consultant Services: BHI

Partner Agencies: Bernalillo County, NMDOT

- Contract Times: 160 Calendar Days, tentative signal lead time
- Bid Opening Date: February 2, 2026
- Number of Bids Received: One (under review and negotiation)



Feeder 3 Transmission Line Phase 1

Funding Source: WTB

Consultant Services: BHI - \$286,732.37

Construction: AUI. Inc. - \$3,932,831.60 (w/NMGRT)

- Progress Schedule
 - Mobilization - January 19, 2026
 - Pipe delivery – January 22, 2026
- Lookahead
 - Jack and Bore 36” Pipe – NM109
 - 6” thick Concrete lining
 - Installation of 36” PVC pipe
 - Construct a concrete dissipation structure wall, cip.





Atrisco Acequia Madre Project

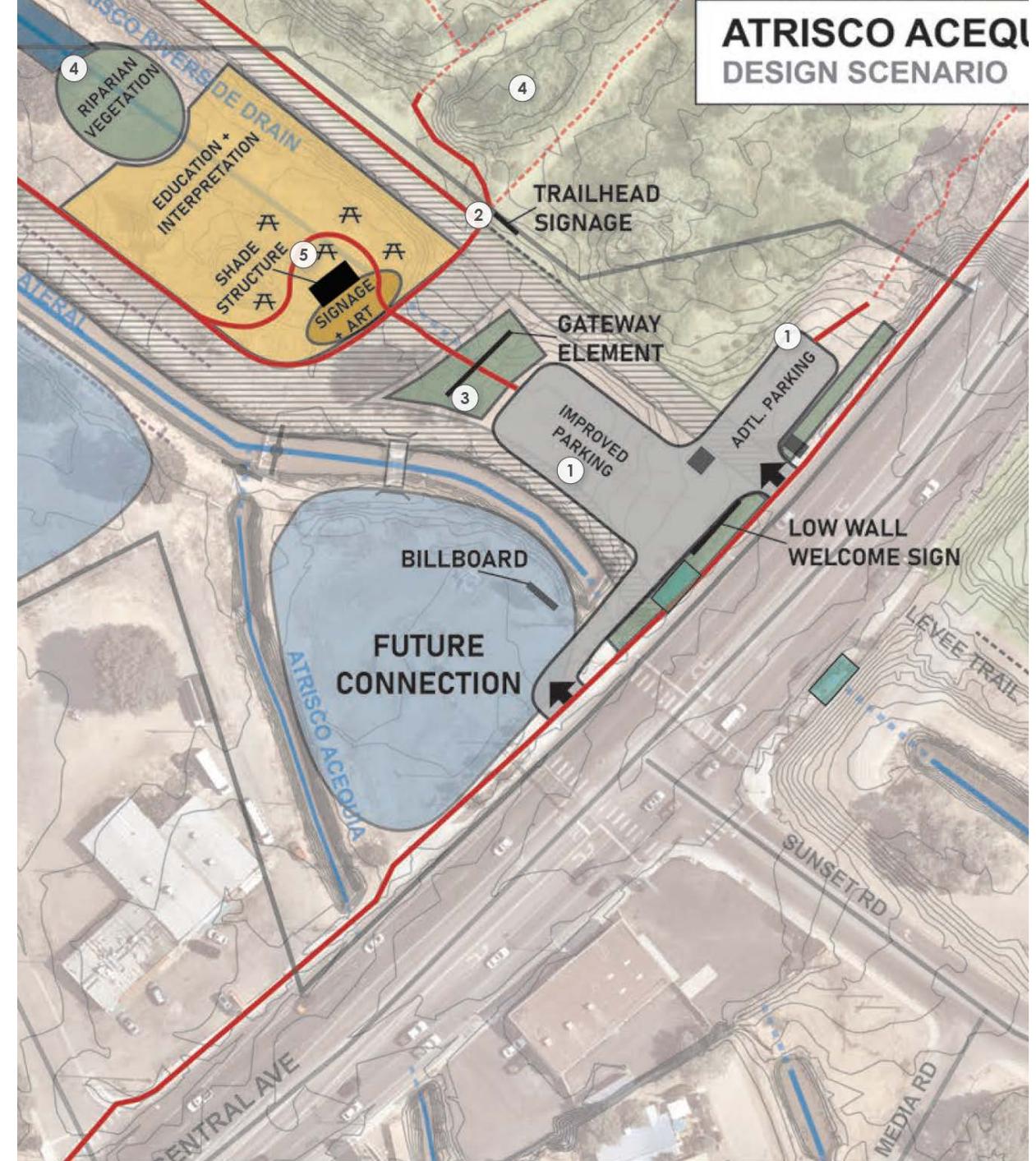
Funding Source: Capital Outlay

Consultant Services: Sites Southwest & BHI

Partner Agencies: Bernalillo County, City of Albuquerque Open Space, ABCWUA

Updates:

- MRGCD has received the 100% plans from Bernalillo County.
- February board approval for the construction of the concrete box culvert extension.
- A focus group meeting was held on 2/5/26, with attendance from community groups.



Division Projects

- Cochiti
 - Culvert replacement in Cochiti East Main
- Albuquerque
 - Tribal Road 7 Culvert Crossing Replacement
 - Riverside Drain Maintenance
- Belen
 - New Belen Wasteway Rehabilitation











QUESTIONS?



Corrales Siphon; Construction Update

February 9, 2026













QUESTIONS



Appendix X

Director Russo Baca Board Reports February 2026

Report on the NMAC 20.7.10 Proposed Amendment Stakeholder Meeting, January 14, 2026

This stakeholder meeting addressed proposed amendments to NMAC 20.7.10. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is petitioning the Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) to amend the New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) to address known concerns regarding system operations, emergency response, and inconsistent compliance. These updates are also intended to modernize the rules, clarify expectations, and make the requirements easier to enforce. Discussion focused on balancing regulatory objectives with practical operational needs. Feedback gathered will inform continued participation in the rulemaking process.

Report on MRGCD's Bernalillo County Farmers & Irrigators Informational Meeting, January 15, 2026, Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO, Chair Kelly, Vice Chair Baugh, and Directors Russo Baca, Sandoval, Dunning, Jiron, and Lopez

MRGCD staff provided updates on the upcoming irrigation season, water supply outlook, construction and maintenance projects, and conservation initiatives. The meeting followed a presentation and question-and-answer format, allowing constituents to address specific concerns. Topics included delivery scheduling, ditch conditions, and infrastructure improvements. Attendance and engagement from producers remained strong.

Report on MRGCD's FY2025 Audit Exit Conference, January 16, 2026 – Directors Russo Baca, and Dunning

Directors met with the finance team and external auditors to review preliminary audit findings and discuss internal controls and compliance procedures. The auditors provided an overview of the process and noted continued improvements in financial oversight. Final results will be presented once the report is complete.

Report on SVRAA Comisionados Meeting, January 18 and February 2, 2026

Commissioners and partners discussed acequia coordination, shared infrastructure needs, and water management priorities. Updates were provided on ongoing projects and funding opportunities to improve system reliability. Continued collaboration among local entities remains important to addressing long-term water challenges. There was also discussion about how the MRGCD Board can continue to assist the SVRAA and coordinate public meetings. Further, there was discussion about MRGCD's water rights transfer protest policies.

Report on MRGCD's Valencia County Farmers & Irrigators Informational Meeting, January 22, 2026, Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO, Chair Kelly, Directors Russo Baca, Dunning, Jiron, and Lopez

Staff provided operational updates similar to those presented in Bernalillo County, including irrigation season preparation, conservation programs, and maintenance activities. Constituents asked questions regarding water allocations and ditch upkeep. The meeting provided productive dialogue and direct communication between the Board and community members.

Report on the NMISC Water Planning Meeting, January 23 and 28, 2026

The Interstate Stream Commission meeting focused on statewide water planning efforts, funding priorities, and drought resiliency strategies. Presentations addressed regional water supply forecasts and infrastructure investments. Information shared will help guide future District planning and coordination with state partners.

UPPER AND MIDDLE RIO GRANDE BASIN KEY UPDATES Upper Rio Grande End-of-Year Operations – Approximately 28,500 acre-feet of Prior & Paramount and San Juan-Chama offset water was evacuated from El Vado and Abiquiu Reservoirs between November 30 and December 16. The NMISC coordinated with the Bureau of Reclamation and the US Army Corps of Engineers to schedule releases and test the channel capacity of the Rio Chama below Abiquiu Dam. Releases from Abiquiu started at 500 cfs and ramped up to 1,400 cfs, which was successfully sustained for five days before ramping down again. The 28,500 acre-feet were released without any reported flooding or overbanking. The water was delivered to Elephant Butte Reservoir before December 31.

WORK AREA OVERVIEWS WATER OPERATIONS AND RESERVOIR UPDATES Rio Grande Compact Status – Provisional Rio Grande Compact accounting indicates that New Mexico under-delivered water to Elephant Butte Reservoir by approximately 8,000 acre-feet. Thus, New Mexico's accrued debit status for 2026 will be approximately 132,000 acre-feet. Final accounting for calendar year 2025 will be completed in March 2026. Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs and Usable Water – According to provisional data through December 31, Usable Water in project storage (native Rio Grande water in Elephant Butte and Caballo, excluding San Juan-Chama Project and credit water) was approximately 181,000 acre-feet. Compact Article VII restrictions remain in place (no upstream storage in post-1929 reservoirs when Usable Water in Elephant Butte and Caballo is less than 400,000 acre-feet). Provisional data indicate that storage of all water in Elephant Butte Reservoir was 179,000 acre-feet as of December 31.

RIVER CHANNEL CONVEYANCE AND BOSQUE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS NMISC, Reclamation, and MRGCD staff continue to collaborate on river maintenance and habitat projects along the Middle Rio Grande, designed to improve conveyance of water and sediment and to improve deliveries to Elephant Butte. Major projects include: River Mile (RM) 163 and RM 161 channel widening projects (in the Isleta Reach), Lower San Acacia Reach Improvements

(LSARI) river channel realignment (between Bosque del Apache Refuge and the Elephant Butte Delta), and Elephant Butte Delta channel realignment. NMISC continues to partner with MRGCD on intensive vegetation management in the Isleta Reach, including: removal of dense, monotypic salt cedar stands; management of the Big Hole Fire to remove dead and downed vegetation and reduce regrowth of noxious weeds and nonnative vegetation; and evaluation of vegetation encroachment into the active channel. NMISC is providing MRGCD with funding and technical support.

Report on the World's Largest Matanza, January 24, 2025

The MRGCD continues to sponsor this great community event that celebrates the valley's agricultural heritage and supports local students in their academic careers.

Report on the House Local Government, Land Grants, and Cultural Affairs Committee Hearing, HB21 and SB 59, January 27, 2026

HB 21 – Land Grant-Merced Acequia Infrastructure Act. HB 21 proposes establishing the Land Grant-Merced and Acequia Infrastructure Act, a legislative framework to fund infrastructure projects related to land-grant merced and acequia systems. It would require reporting on expenditures from associated infrastructure project funds and annual progress reports to interim committees. SB 59 – Land Grant-Merced & Acequia Trust. SB 59 would create a *Land Grant-Merced & Acequia Trust* mechanism. It is conceptually linked to HB 21 and appears intended to support or complement the infrastructure funding framework proposed in HB 21. The committee heard testimony on legislation affecting local governance, land grants, and cultural resource matters with potential implications for special districts and rural communities. Stakeholders discussed operational and funding considerations. Continued monitoring of these bills is recommended as they move through the legislative process. For More info, visit <https://www.nmlegis.gov/>.

Report on MRGCD's Socorro County Farmers & Irrigators Informational Meeting, January 29, 2026, Jason M. Casuga, CE/CEO, Chair Kelly, Directors Russo Baca, and Lopez

Staff presented updates on irrigation season planning, construction, and conservation efforts. Constituents shared concerns related to delivery timing and infrastructure conditions. The meeting provided valuable feedback from irrigators, local soil and water conservation district representatives, and community partners in the area.

Report on the Food and Farms Day at the NM Legislature, January 30, 2026

Food and Farms Day highlighted the importance of agriculture to New Mexico's economy, including farms, ranches, local food producers, and food system workers who contribute to economic activity, employment, and cultural heritage. Agriculture in the state supports tens of thousands of jobs and generates substantial economic value, with crops such as chile peppers and pecans among the key products. The event emphasized policy engagement on local food systems, food access, and nutrition initiatives — highlighting how state policies and programs can support healthy food availability and economic opportunities for producers.

Report on the Rio Grande 6-Pueblo Coalition Meeting, February 5, 2026

Representatives discussed water management, ongoing regional projects, and shared priorities. Emphasis was placed on maintaining open communication and cooperative approaches to resource stewardship. Director Sandoval, Jiron, and Russo Baca were present. Jason Casuga presented to the coalition about the upcoming MRGCD season start-up and ongoing O&M.

Report on the American Indian Day at the Legislature, February 6, 2026

Director Jiron and Russo Baca attended American Indian Day at the Roundhouse, an annual legislative observance that brings together Tribal leaders, legislators, state agencies, and community members to engage on priorities affecting Native nations and pueblos, including water management, land stewardship, and protection of cultural resources. The event provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships, discuss shared policy goals, and coordinate around issues impacting Tribal and rural communities. Water remained a central focus throughout the day, and related legislative activity occurred concurrently, including the House Government, Elections, and Indian Affairs Committee's consideration of HB 109 (Water Project Fund Changes) and House floor action on HB 111 (Water Law Violation Maximum Penalty), underscoring continued legislative attention to water infrastructure funding and enforcement.

From: [Chris Lopez](#)
To: [Tarah Jaramillo](#)
Subject: MRGCD Farmers & Irrigators Informational Meetings
Date: Sunday, February 8, 2026 6:04:27 PM

To whom it may concern,

I personally traveled to and attended the following meetings in person:

Sandoval County: January 8, 2026
Bernalillo County: January 15, 2026
Valencia County: January 22, 2026
Socorro County: January 29, 2026

Recap: Farmers and irrigators were given updates and information regarding the current status of our water debt and storage capabilities. They were also provided information regarding the 2026 season and forecast given the current weather conditions.

A Q&A was provided at the end of the presentation given. MRGCD staff was present and available to speak with them one on one upon their request. Most farmers/irrigators were satisfied with the information provided as well as the MRGCD's ability to answer their questions and/or concerns.

Recommendation: For future meetings the ISO(s) should be required to attend the meetings. This will allow them to answer questions and have the ability to communicate with the farmers/irrigators within their area and build relationships.

Thank you,
J. Chris Lopez
District 6 - Socorro County Board of Directors
P: 575.835.8481

From: [Michael T. Sandoval](#)
To: [Tarah Jaramillo](#)
Subject: Meeting attendance
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 1:14:44 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Ms. Jaramillo;

FYI – I was in attendance for the Bernalillo county irrigators meeting, which was very informative for the farmers and overall was a good meeting.

The other meeting I went to was a breakfast meeting with the CEO, Mr. Casus to discuss internal info of the call for water of when shortages occur in the system of the middle Rio Grande.

Don't know whether this helpful or not and I don't remember the dates I was hoping you might have the dates.

Michael T. Sandoval



Department of Natural Resources
Water Resources Specialists
Work No. (505) 867-5234
Cell No. (505) 331-2067
E-mail: MichaelT@sfpueblo.com