

**MINUTES OF THE  
2,234th REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

**APRIL 13, 2026**

Directors having been duly notified; Chairman Kelly called the regular meeting to order at 3:11 pm. The following Directors and Staff were present:

<b>DIRECTORS</b>		<b>STAFF</b>	
John P. Kelly, Chair	Present	Jason Casuga	Chief Engineer/CEO
Colin T. Baugh, Vice Chair	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	Santiago Candelaria	Gwen Baldwin, Trustee LR
Matt Martinez, MRGCD	Paul Torres, Tome	Vincent Sanchez, LR
Richard DeLoia, MRGCD	Cecilia Rosacker	Rosa Chavez
Angel Madera, MRGCD	Barbara Baca, Bernalillo Co.	Chuck Thomas, PC
Antoinette Ramos, MRGCD	Luke Smith, Wilson & Co.	Rosa Chavez
Kim Ward, MRGCD	Patrick Taber, BIA	Katrina Gallegos
Jo Strange, MRGCD	Santiago Maestas, SVRAA	Martin Haynes

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

Gwen Baldwin, Village of Los Ranchos Trustee, 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 Director Jiron attending virtually. Rollcall votes will be necessary for regular motions.

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

Chairman Kelly asked to remove Item 3(c) and remove his name from 15(m), as he was not able to attend the Primera Agua Celebration.

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

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

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 - CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Consideration/Approval of Payment Ratification – March 2026
- b. Consideration/Approval of March 2026 Invoice for Wiggins, Williams & Wesenberg, PC
- ~~c. Consideration/Approval of March 2026 Invoices for Spencer Fane LLP~~
- d. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting – February 9, 2026
- e. Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Special Board Meetings - March 16, 2025
- f. Memo on MRGCD Approved Licenses for March 2026 (For Informational Purposes Only)

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

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

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 - REPORT(S) FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES -**

Christine Nardi, MBA

- a. **Employee Recognition to Kim Ward - Casey Ish, Director of Lands & Conservation**

Mr. Ish recognized Kim Ward, Right-of-Way Specialist, with an Excellence Performance Award.



Chairman Kelly thanked Ms. Ward on behalf of the Board for all her hard work.

**b. Introduction of MRGCD New Hires - Steven Kinberger, Human Resources Generalist II**

Mr. Kinberger introduced MRGCD new hires and staffing changes, including two ISO II promotions, a new On-farm Water Resources Specialist, and two new ISOs at the General Office, a transition from Heavy Equipment Operator to ISO in the Cochiti Division, and a new mechanic and Field Maintenance Technician in the Belen Division.

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

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

Ms. Marken reported on water supply conditions. She stated the irrigation season has started with below average snowpack and they have sustained above average temperatures that have rapidly accelerated the snowmelt. She noted this March was the warmest on record and snowpack relevant to the Middle Valley supply is mostly gone. She displayed a hydrograph from the NRCS Cumbres Trestle SNOTEL site, showing .5 inches of snow water equivalent compared to a median of 24 inches for the state, which is the lowest they have ever seen at that particular site for this date. She added those numbers are pretty consistent across most of the SNOTEL sites within the basin. She stated flows at the Otowi Gage are below 600 CFS and falling, and average flows there at this time are usually closer to 1300 CFS. Today's release from the Cochiti was about 480 CFS and 50 of that is the Water Authority San Juan Chama Water. She said agricultural and conveyance demand is about 600 CFS, leaving 170 CFS supply deficit today. Ms. Marken voiced initial channel drying occurred on March 25th, which usually occurs in late May or June. She added 31 miles of the Santa Acacia Reach is dry and drying in the Isleta Reach is imminent, which will make river conditions are highly unstable, causing fluctuations that complicate the Army Corps of Engineers operation of Cochiti Reservoir and the ability to accurately forecast their operations at the dam. She noted instability in the river from the Water Authority operations as well. The District will not be able to store any native Rio Grande Water for Middle Valley use this year and the only storage water available will be the 2026 San Juan Chama allocation, expected to be about 40% of a full allocation, equivalent to 8,000 acre feet. They are expecting to receive 2,000 of the allocation on April 15th, and the other 6,000 is expected to be received over the next couple of months. Ms. Marken recommended returning to the District's pre-2020 practice of reserving the current year San Juan Chama allocation for use in the following irrigation season, as it would provide greater certainty, available supply, and allow MRGCD to have a meaningful amount of water for release when needed. She expressed that the NWS weekly forecast is showing near average temperatures, with the potential for a mild freeze this weekend, as well as some chances for precipitation tonight and into tomorrow. The seasonal outlook indicates above average temperatures and below average precipitation through June, and the summer seasonal outlook also is showing above average temperatures, but good chances for above average precipitation. She said irrigators need to prepare for a more challenging water supply year than 2025.

*See also Appendix I.*

Mr. Casuga clarified this allocation is the full San Juan Chama Project. He pointed out they are rolling with 1,000 CFS out of Cochiti right now. He said talking about a flow rate of 480 CFS in April means they are experiencing the struggle of managing through the

hottest time of the year, but they are not even to July yet, and it will get worse if it does not rain. However, Ms. Marken is a skilled river operations expert, and their situation would be worse without her influence into their federal partners and decision making.

Director Dunning asked if the Water Authority operates under a rule that determines when they will switch to wells.

Ms. Marken answered yes. She added they have to have a certain flow rate at the Central Gage to continue diverting water from the river but once flows through the Albuquerque Reach start to decline, they have to switch to wells.

Vice Chair Baugh inquired when their spring runoff was with this warm temperature.

Ms. Marken responded they did not really see it translate into the Middle Valley because the peak was kind of scraped off by some storage upstream and Colorado came online, but she felt they probably would have seen the peak flows at the end of March if there was no human influence.

Vice Chair Baugh suggested having more coordination with some of the agencies like the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Utility Water Authority in these harder times.

Mr. Casuga stated ABCWA is trying to serve their constituents too, but these are water scenarios that nobody is prepared for. He said they have raised these questions to them and they have agreed to do some modeling to see if their actions under these lower conditions can be modified to even things out.

Chairman Kelly recommended talking about the San Juan Chama allocation suggestion at the May meeting.

**b. Report on Water Distribution - Matt Martinez, Irrigation Distribution Manager**

Mr. Martinez reported they are six weeks into the 2026 Irrigation Season and already facing significant water supply shortages, which they anticipated and is the reason they started with rotational deliveries. He said startup operations and initial irrigation deliveries progressed steadily until March 20th, when river flows dropped below the amount needed to meet diversion demands and required river bypass flows. He noted they had a brief uptick in flow after a storm on April 1st, which provided a temporary boost to diversions and allowed them to expand deliveries for several days, but some irrigators declined due to it being on Easter weekend, and some laterals were limited by wind events from the storm. He shared they are continuing to operate under a rotational delivery system across all divisions, with Socorro Division completing a second rotation and preparing for a third. In Belen Division, they experienced infrastructure setbacks on both sides of the river which caused uneven progress, but some canals are completing first rotations, while others working through or completing their second round. In the Albuquerque Division, they completed one rotation and starting on a second in the South Valley, and just completed their first rotation in the North Valley. Bernalillo Division just completed a second delivery cycle and Cochiti Division has largely completed an initial delivery cycle and working toward a second. He stated conditions remain constrained by pumping capacity in the Corrales Service Area but they are near completion of a second rotation, and the pumps have been producing enough to run one canal efficiently. He went over the performance of the Corrales Pump Station since the start of the season, reflecting an ongoing challenge of maintaining efficient pumping and limits in their ability

to reliably operation multiple canals at once. Mr. Martinez expressed regardless of what anybody says, there are no fixed intervals between rotations and timing is influenced by supply, demand, and efficiency. He voiced rotation intervals are coming long and less predictable and water deliveries will continue on a rotational basis, with limited flexibility and scheduling unless conditions improve. He said to expect longer wait times between deliveries and that it is critical that irrigators prepare to take water when it becomes available, as future opportunities may be uncertain and without meaningful precipitation, they will continue to struggle to satisfy the needs of water users.

*See also Appendix II.*

Mr. Casuga asked for understanding in constantly having to make adjustments to diversions, and that all of them require diesel engines moving heavy gates up and down. He said a lot of times, they are making predictions about what they think is going to show up and setting up gate positions to be able to the best they can. He hoped people understood the reality of what Mr. Martinez and his team are facing. He expressed that he and his team will be taking calls and will listen to frustrations, but there are some problems they will not be able to fix and it will feel unfair, as fluctuations are going to largely benefit areas closest to the diversions, as it will be harder to get water to those farther downstream. He explained they will have to put water into the canals for those who can actually get it or else it will pass them or evaporate away, which is the position they are put into this year. He noted the equalizer will be rain; however, monsoon season does not typically start until July.

Director Dunning asked how people can turn in people wasting water and abusing their privilege, as they cannot afford to have anyone wasting even a drop of water this year. She also asked how MRGCD can punish them enough to keep them from doing it.

Mr. Casuga responded they would need to contact the ISO for the area, and their contact information is on the website or they can call the emergency line. He said they had 30 reports of potential violations last week that are now under review, and they are determining the appropriate action based on the nature and severity of them. He agreed wasteful water practices should not be tolerated ever, but especially this season.

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

**Barbara Baca**

Ms. Baca expressed appreciation and love for the MRGCD on behalf of the Bernalillo County Commission for their partnership in the Atrisco Acequia Madre Project. She explained they are trying to educate the community and next generation, as well as create the next generation and stewards of land and water. She said they had the Primera Agua event on March 29th. She also passed out tokens of their appreciation for the hard work of MRGCD staff.

Director Dunning gave a shoutout to Mr. Zamora for helping when he was already very busy.



### **Santiago Maestas**

Mr. Maestas introduced Rosa Chavez and Donicio Montoya, who asked the SVRAA and Commissioners of the Arenal of Acequias and Los Padilla Acequia for more assistance in restoring their lands to irrigation. He proposed to the Board to help pay for the reconnection with the irrigation pipeline to each of their properties and their neighbors' properties.

Chairman Kelly thanked them for helping keep the valley green and traditional farming practices going on in Albuquerque.

### **Katrina Gallegos**

Ms. Gallegos shared she was at the Isleta Boulevard Corridor Project Meeting last week, where Leslie Romero from Wilson & Company said she spoke with MRGCD about a couple culverts that are off of some of the acequias in the South Valley that they believe are in disuse and want to cover over. She added she also wanted to talk to Santiago Maestas about that, so she will give her his information. She also asked if they were still looking for people to be on the Urban Advisory Board, as she was interested in doing it.

Staff informed her they are no longer taking applications for the Urban Advisory Board, but will connect with her regarding the Advisory Board. Chairman Kelly added they would track down Ms. Romero and check that out.

### **Vincent Sanchez**

Mr. Sanchez spoke about his irrigation on March 27th. He stated the Pueblo Acequia got a lot of water that day and many of the surrounding irrigators communicated and organized water in a sufficient order; however, there was one cheater who has not paid dues and has been a thorn in the ISO's, Mike Chavez, side. He said Mr. Chavez worked hard to communicate with him and tried his best to deal with his difficult situation. He commended his dedication and encouraged everyone to support him when he brings the delinquent user to the Board's attention.

### **Martin Haynes**

Mr. Haynes stated as of last week, the diversion he brought up at the last meeting that was wasting water and not helping the Compact has ended, as the federal governmental agency agreed to cease that diversion. He thanked the Board for having staff support them. He noted they have a future project coming up at the southern end of the middle stretch, right above Elephant Butte, they need to keep their eyes on to make sure no more illegal or non-compensated diversion occurs.

**Gwen Baldwin**

Ms. Baldwin, new Village of Los Ranchos Trustee, said she appreciated the communication and collaboration between Bernalillo County representatives and MRGCD, as well as spending time with Mr. Casuga at the Land and Water Summit. She stated MRGCD's Bernalillo County Community & Farmers Informational Meeting will be in June, at the Village of Los Ranchos, and she welcomed everyone to join and participate. She expressed interest in getting more information on the leasing program to share at their next Board of Trustees Meeting.

**Cecilia Rosacker**

Ms. Rosacker, irrigator in Polvadera and Director of the Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust, made the Board aware of the data center being proposed in Socorro County, in which they are calling the world's largest data center. She said as a community, they are meeting and working on getting more information about the data center and she will get the Board apprised of what they find out. She also voiced irrigators are having concerns about the lining of the Main Canal, as it has disrupted their irrigation season and she felt it would be worthwhile for the Board to do a presentation on that. She asked where the funding is coming from for that and who paid when the liner failed. She informed the Board that on the website, Chris Lopez's email does not work.

Chairman Kelly responded it would be appropriate to do a briefing on that project and give people background on it at MRGCD's Socorro County Community & Farmers Informational Meeting in June.

**Elaine Hebard**

*See Appendix III.*

**Chairman John P. Kelly**

Chairman Kelly shared that a Bosque native, Danette Clouser Farnsworth, helped run the Artemis Mission from the engineering side, who is also the daughter of MRGCD retiree, Daniel Clouser.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 - REPORT(S) FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR -****a. Bureau of Reclamation - John Irizarry-Nazario, Deputy Area Manager**

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

*See also Appendix IV.*

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

Mr. Taber stated they are still trying to store water for the P&P lands and deliveries have started on some of the pueblos. He noted there are a few operations maintenance issues but they seem to be working through them. He shared he will start following up with the second of the weekly Pueblo calls tomorrow to discuss deliveries and operations issues. He thanked Mr. Casuga for acknowledging the difficulty of the year and the graphs shown in Ms. Marken and Mr. Martinez's presentations.

Mr. Casuga requested BIA to track that the water delivered to the prior and paramount lands is delivered to the lands that are supposed to benefit from it and that no more than the volume that should be delivered was delivered. He said they were going to have to give assurances to people that it is getting bad and the lands receiving that priority benefit are truly the lands contemplated in the 1981 agreement. He expressed it is important the public knows it is the right for the Pueblos and their prior and paramount

lands to get their water and the remaining pueblo lands and newly reclaimed lands do not hold the same priority.

Mr. Taber responded there may have been some previous presentations done by DEs in the past that he may be able to present or bring up again, and that may help alleviate some of that. He stated he would need to coordinate with the Pueblos on relaying that information.

Chairman Kelly asked what the volume of prior and paramount storage was in his last report.

Mr. Taber answered about 26,000 acre feet.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 - REPORT(S) FROM THE CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER - Richard DeLoia**

- a. **Consideration/Approval for Purchase of Mid-Size Excavator**
- b. **Consideration/Approval of Purchase of Fire Ready Dozer**

Vice Chair Baugh made the **MOTION TO PURCHASE A MID-SIZE EXCAVATOR AND FIRE READY DOZER**. Seconded by Director Russo Baca. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Chairman Kelly noted Director Jiron was temporarily unavailable for the meeting.

- c. **Consideration/Approval for Professional Services from ANM for an IT Assessment**

Director Dunning pointed out the mention of no coverage if they need updates to the software, and she felt if they approve this, it would not be the end.

Mr. Casuga expressed one of his strategic goals for IT is to move to a hybrid approach, where a lot of their back-end systems become maintained by a contractor to do a lot of that work out of sight and keep things updated. He explained the hybrid approach would consist of internal employees being customer service focused and keeping the equipment running and the back-end IT services and security keeping the brain functioning offsite. He added ANM is going to come in and do an infrastructure assessment on their whole IT system and are not looking for things like updates to operating systems.

Director Dunning said she was still worried they were going to find things. She was supportive and felt it was time to do this but would be something they need to keep investing in in the future.

Director Dunning made the **MOTION TO APPROVE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FROM ANM FOR AN IT ASSESSMENT**. Seconded by Director Lopez. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 - REPORT(S) FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS & CONSERVATION - Casey Ish**

- a. **Update on 2026 Water Leasing Program and Upcoming Enrollment Window**

Mr. Ish announced MRGCD received sufficient funding to their cooperative agreement with the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, and the Bureau of Reclamation to offer a modified water leasing program to their constituents for the 2026 Irrigation Season. He said they are contemplating rolling out a late season leasing offer this year, where people will be eligible for enrollment. He stated the enrollment window will be April 14th - May 15th, with following terms going into place on June 1st for the late season option. He explained they are offering \$175 per eligible acre enrolled for the late season offering this year, and they also have a second option to combine a late season enrollment in 2026 with a full season enrollment in 2027, at a price of \$550 per eligible acre. He noted the same rules would apply and a portal will be available on the website to enroll online.

Chairman Kelly asked for confirmation that a portion of that funding is for on-farm efficiency projects and no one can dedicate the entire amount of funding for this year's following program, but they have a budget of \$300,000, and it will be first come first serve.

Mr. Ish answered that is correct.

Chairman Kelly inquired if they would be able to increase that funding in coordination with BOR and NFWF should the demand be there.

Mr. Ish responded his indication is that if they have sufficient demand, they can adjust the budget to meet that demand.

Vice Chair Baugh asked if people that have already had one or two waterings would still be able to get into this.

Mr. Ish answered yes.

**b. Consideration/Approval of 5 Year MOA with Explora - Casey Ish, Director of Lands & Conservation and Vice Chair Baugh**

Vice Chair Baugh stated education and the District's role in education is at an all-time high right now. He explained that last year, the District helped Explora when they had federal monies retracted back and had a program in the works that was not funded by giving them a one-time injection to keep it going. He said they started talking about how they could continue to support them and came up with the idea of the 5 Year MOA. He said they can serve upwards of four to six schools per semester or year and they have seen great success with the project. He expressed it is very exciting to see the District trending in the right way when it comes to education and the need to get kids well-versed in the complexity of water.

Mr. Ish added this partnership is an extension of what they are trying to do at Valle Vista Elementary by building interactive experiences for students to better understand our network in the Middle Valley.

Chairman Kelly asked if they see this complementing their efforts with BEMP and CESOSS with different groups of kids but with the same unified message.

Mr. Ish answered yes, but Explora has a little more capacity to reach out beyond the South Valley and metropolitan area of Albuquerque, and they have expressed interest in going to Socorro, Cochiti, and Valencia.

Chairman Kelly inquired if they have a surplus in the budget in order to pay this out of the current year's funding.

Ms. Fanelli responded yes, they are projecting a surplus for FY2026.

Director Dunning made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE 5 YEAR MOA WITH EXPLORA**. Seconded by Director Russo Baca. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**c. Consideration/Approval of State Land Office Fee and Grant of Easement for Bernalillo to Belen (Mountain View Unit) - Right-of-Way Easement No. R-42759**

Chairman Kelly explained the State Land Office wants \$125,000 for 75-year easements through property on their state land parcel in and out of the Bosque near the Valle de Oro Refuge. He said we need that right-of-way for the Corps of Engineers Levee Project and they have an agreement with requirements that are likely to be forgotten when they get into construction about housekeeping, pesticides and dust control. He stated this is a LURD that they are required to provide for the levee project, and there is no way they can proceed with the levee project without signing this agreement with the State Land Office. He questioned if they could delay this for 10 years and get another 10 years out of the easement, as he does not expect the Corps to be down there building soon.

Mr. Casuga responded there is active pending Geotech work that needs to go forward through this section, and they are beginning work in sections not covered by this, so this will clear the way for updated Geotech work on that Phase 1 Mountain View section.

Director Dunning asked if the Corps was responsible for restoring the land back to its pre-construction condition like MRGCD is.

Mr. Casuga shared this went unfound for the first 100 years of the District. In terms of restoring it, history shows it was a levee for the past 100 years, which is what they are going to build, and the construction zone will be part of the project anyway if they have to remove trees for construction. He noted they will need mitigation efforts requiring them to put a certain amount of trees back in, but not within the levee zone area. He believes the whole levee project will be constructed, as the urbanization down there will drive the bus and energy to get that going. He said there is money available right now for funding portions of Mountain View and none of the other project can take place without this.

Vice Chair Baugh inquired if it is common to get a 75-year lease.

Mr. Casuga responded we pushed them to that 75 years, as it was less than that originally.

Vice Chair Baugh made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE STATE LAND OFFICE FEE AND GRANT OF EASEMENT FOR BERNALILLO TO BELEN (MOUNTAIN VIEW UNIT) - RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT NO. R-42759**. Seconded by Director Dunning. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**d. Report on MRGCD Interagency Fire Coordination Meeting, April 2, 2026 - Casey Ish, Director of Lands & Conservation and Vice Chair Baugh**

Mr. Ish reported on the MRGCD Interagency Fire Coordination Meeting, where they could get the initial take from first responders on the fire risk assessment model, especially in the context of the Unified Fire, which happened less than a week prior. He said the fire risk assessment model helps them understand where to allocate limited resources across 30,000 acres of Bosque. He stated some of the feedback they got included of the need to integrate Jetty jack lines as a GIS layer as part of the model. He added they hope to partner with first responders on identifying access points and different types of locks needed to get in and out of the Bosque.

Vice Chair Baugh shared they had cool conversations about trialing the model in real time and seeing the layers. He stated we are lucky to have such a great team looking after such complexities and he felt the meeting was well-received. He thanked Ms. Strange and her team for putting it together.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 - REPORT(S) FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES - Eric Zamora, PE**

**a. Report on Unified Fire**

Mr. Zamora gave an update on the Unified Fire, which was located a little bit south of Rio Communities. He said the fire started on March 24th, at about 9:30 a.m., and they believe it started near the Madrone Heading and worked its way to the north and then jumped to the west side. He shared it took three days to get under control. He thanked all those that helped with that fire. He noted one of their newer dozers in Belen suffered \$1000 worth of damage, which is part of the reason they are ordering a fire ready dozer.

*See also Appendix V.*

Director Dunning asked if all the ash from the fire impacted irrigation.

Mr. Zamora answered not in this area.

Vice Chair Baugh inquired if the dozer line helped contain the fire to a degree.

Mr. Zamora responded yes. He added there were several fire lines cut and he believes that is why it was only 307 acres and did not reach Rio communities.

Vice Chair Baugh asked what the level of burn was.

Ms. Strange responded from the west side, it looked like maybe 15-20% of the canopy was starting to leaf out a little bit, and they will start on the ground surveying and monitoring this week to figure out how deep the burn was in the soil, the effect on the roots, and if they would see any re-spread, but she should have a full report on it by June. She noted they are seeing more survival in some areas than others.

Vice Chair Baugh inquired if the report will have the cause from the investigation.

Ms. Strange answered Valencia County Fire said the ignition site was completely scorched so it would come back undetermined, as there was not enough evidence to support a final outcome.

#### **b. Maintenance and Construction Updates**

Mr. Madera presented on the Socorro Main Canal Channel Lining Phase IIB. He said all construction work was completed on March 18th, and the total amount of the project will be \$6,219,941.01, and underrun amounts of \$253,808.68. He stated the work completed included 1.1 miles of channel lining, turnout replacements, new long-crested weirs, new concrete check structures, and pending Rubicon installments.

Ms. Ramos presented on the Loretta Road Project. She expressed bid opening was done on February 2nd, and they received one bid from Star Paving for \$982,000, including tax. She shared NTP was issued today, with an anticipated completion date of August 6, 2026.

She then discussed the Corrales Siphon Project, stating the Pueblo of Sandia portion was completed and construction is on pause pending delivery of the conductor casing. In April, they are going to have 140 linear feet of new conductor casing, two or three weeks of installation and prep work in May, and hope to start HDD operations by June. She added they are still on track for contract completion by December 31, 2026, and they are at 34% amount expended and 33% of contract time used.

Ms. Ramos presented on the Feeder 3 Phase I Project, funded by the Water Trust Board. She expressed construction was awarded to AUI for almost \$4 million, including tax, and the consultant is BHI. She said they have paid almost \$2 million to the contractor, so about 46% of expended contract funds and 40% of contract time used. They have installed about 35% of the whole pipe installation completed, completed all jack and bore of NM 116 and Jarales Road, and completed open trench pipe off of Armijo Road. Looking ahead, they will resume work installing the 36-inch PVC pipe and are waiting on parts for the 6-inch ARV and vault. She added the completion date for the project is August 1, 2026, with tentative delivery of butterfly valves in December.

Mr. Madera listed all the construction projects they completed in the offseason, which included the Atrisco Acequia Madre Box Culvert, Low Flow Conveyance Channel Phase II, Belen Highline Canal Overflow 2 Structure, ALGAA Phase 2, New Belen Wasteway, Cochiti Main Crossing, McAllister Culvert Crossing, and Tribal Road 7 Crossing.

*See also Appendix VI.*

Chairman Kelly asked if they got order of entry on the property next to the Feeder 3 Pump Station.

Ms. Wiggins answered yes, they are working on it and have the package almost ready.

Mr. Zamora shared now that they are through most of the projects for the offseason, they are going to sit down as an engineering team with Mr. Casuga and discuss lessons learned on projects they did, including assessing and analyzing cost overruns, delays, and anything they may be able to learn from.

Chairman Kelly suggested inviting the contractors rep to that meeting, as they may have a different point of view on things.

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

**a. Report on Finance Committee Meeting, April 13, 2026 - Chairman Kelly, Vice Chair Baugh, and Director Russo Baca**

Chairman Kelly gave a report on the Finance Committee Meeting, where they discussed savings in the budget to allow them to do a few things covered in Item (c), including an early payoff on the Isleta Diversion Dam Settlement. He explained that money was part of the settlement with Isleta Pueblo and BOR, when BOR asked them to park the money for the future fish passage at Isleta Dam, and now they want to index that remaining money by CPI per year, but they can make a lot more money investing that money than paying that rate. He said they are moving that forward at \$700,000. He added they are doing some cleanup of items on grant money coming in and out. He stated they went through the Third Quarter Financial Reports, and they have indications that revenue will exceed the budget so they have a pretty good chance to pay off a few things early. He stated Item (b) is a resolution to pay off the Dam Settlement Liability payment. Chairman Kelly announced their next meeting will be on April 23rd, where they will go through the budget line by line and report out on it to be approved at the May 11th Board Meeting.

**b. Consideration/Approval of the Isleta Diversion Dam Settlement Liability Payment**

Vice Chair Baugh made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE ISLETA DIVERSION DAM SETTLEMENT LIABILITY PAYMENT**. Seconded by Director Lopez. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**c. Consideration/Approval of Resolution BA-04-13-26-113 Adoption of Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 (07-01-25 to 06-30-26)**

Director Dunning made the **MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION BA-04-13-26-113 ADOPTION OF AMENDED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 (07-01-25 TO 06-30-26)**. Seconded by Director Russo Baca. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**d. Consideration/Approval of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Reports**

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORTS**. Seconded by Vice Chair Baugh. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**e. General Discussion on the Development of the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget**

Ms. Fanelli stated they are in the process of creating the FY27 Budget and said they are not recommending an increase in mill rates. She expressed they are going to invest from the Capital Investment Funds, and any funds available in that will go to debt service and match for the grants for the Corrales Siphon and Feeder 3 Projects. She noted because of those capital projects, the FY27 Budget is tight. She asked the Board for input on any additional initiatives they wanted.

Director Dunning requested having money in the budget to help inform people about elections, like sending a postcard to every household in the benefited area with a QR code, so they are more transparent with the public.

Vice Chair Baugh asked the District put some funds aside for transportation, like renting buses for field trips, as that is a common thing he hears with schools and students, is how they can get from site to site. He also requested funding for creating a strategic water bank that could proactively go after water rights and secure they keep them in their system.

Chairman Kelly expressed they have talk to legal counsel about how they would draft that kind of policy and they need to be sure their legal budget is enough to research the issue to get to a resolution that would be workable.

Director Russo Baca shared she would like to see additional funds for outreach for their tabling to have materials to produce or work with some other entity to produce materials, as she goes to a lot of events and they do not have very many materials to hand out. She said it would also be nice to have little pamphlets or something with irrigation information and how to report a flood that would need to have dual languages.

Chairman Kelly expressed he had a lot of items on his wish list, but he realized when they approved the one mill increase for the Capital Improvement Fund, they gave Mr. Casuga the direction to live within that mill levy for the next 5 years. He added they are also increasing the water service charge by CPI. He stated they started doing their own on-farm efficiency program last year and they started with \$150,000, and he feels that is a bigger bang for the buck than an environmental leasing program, so he wanted to consider raising that funding level. He supported the other recommendations from the Board, but said Ms. Fanelli and Mr. Casuga would need to go through the budget and see where they could cut from somewhere else and have the budget ready to approve by May 11th. He asked Mr. Zamora what he felt they needed.

Mr. Zamora voiced from an O&M standpoint, they have taken additional duties with Bosque management, so they may need to consider adding personnel.

Chairman Kelly mentioned the Flood Control Authority had an RFP for right-of-way patrol services, which many be something to look at.

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

- a. **Report on Albuquerque Levee FEMA Study, Jason M. Casuga, Chief Engineer/CEO, Chuck Thomas, P.E., Petroglyph Consulting, LLC, and Luke Smith, P.E., Wilson & Company**

Mr. Casuga explained this effort started under Mayor Lopez, and when the FEMA study was awarded to MRGCD and some of Bernalillo County, they were cost share partners, and this is the resulting work of that.

Chuck Thomas, with Petroglyph Consulting, shared he was hired by the Village of Los Ranchos to oversee the grant. He stated the funding for FEMA is broken up in different categories and they were able to secure funding for the studying evaluation phase. He said the original scope looked at the levee adjacent to Los Ranchos, but when they looked closer into it, they found the levee really does not help anyone, so they came up with the

idea to expand the scope to go from the North Diversion Channel to the South Diversion Channel. He thanked MRGCD and Bernalillo County for helping to support the funding on this for the match so the study was able to be done. He gave some background on the levee. He said the levee itself did not change and is functioning as it should be, but the design standards moved so far from how the levee was originally constructed that they no longer matched up enough to call it a repair. He stated they decided to go out and look at it again to find out what it would take to potential repairs, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and identify costs.

Luke Smith, Wilson & Company P.E., discussed the technical details. He said they started with the initial assessment, where they went to the field with a team of EIT's and others to collect maintenance and any other issues along the levee, and categorized them into unacceptable and marginally acceptable conditions. He stated after they submitted the initial assessment report, they did the evaluation report, which was a surface review of the levee to see if there were any actions that had been taken or that could be taken. He noted there was a 2009 Army Corps report done that consisted of a very detailed geotechnical analysis, but a lot of the geotechnical deficiencies and issues found did not necessarily have fixes, including the toe drain. He voiced they then did a high level review of potential repairs and information the Army Corps mentioned as potential repairs, which they broke down into high priority and medium priority sections and used the Army Corps levee cost estimating tool. He discussed the estimated costs of some of the maintenance repairs, including replacement of the entire toe drain.

*See also Appendix VII.*

Mr. Casuga shared he is pessimistic on the Corps numbers, but he felt they should be more focused on the levee having a problem and starting an investigation on that. He noted they are not likely to use a Corps process on the Albuquerque Levee.

Mr. Smith stated they have talked with Mr. Casuga about starting to work on coordinating a design with the District.

Mr. Casuga said it is not his recommendation to go through a federally led process for the Albuquerque Levee. He said that levee is unique in the importance of what economically it means to the metro area and what happens at MRGCD. He felt the probability in there being a strong hydraulic risk to Bernalillo county residents if the levee fails is very small, as there are a lot of resources that would come together to prevent a levee failure. However, there is a risk there administratively if FEMA comes in and redraws the floodplains, as people could be subject to flood control insurance that is now a value of the property and structures based insurance instead of a flat rate insurance like it used to be. He shared the good news is they are taking proactive steps and this is a FEMA grant, so the report will go into FEMA. At the Levee Task Force Meeting, this information was presented and they talked about needing to make proactive steps to correct and bring the Albuquerque Levee into modern compliance, which may result in reconstructing the whole thing or something more creative. He stated the MRGCD is a non-fed sponsor of this levee and he felt it was their responsibility to lead the efforts on designing or getting a feasibility study of alternatives to rehabilitate, then choosing one with their partners, and then paying a bill to design it. He added a project this size and scope is going to involve expertise across multiple lines to lay the groundwork with the federal delegation and the state on funding, so he recommended the District put out an RFP for a project manager, preferably one that can come alongside and understand FEMA and not come from the firm that would be hired to design the project. He suggested also showing FEMA the incremental process

on this going forward so there is no reason for them to come here. He said MRGCD also needs the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, and the Village of Los Ranchos to come alongside them as they fulfill their responsibility to choose and design a good project, as the really hard work is going to begin laying the groundwork for the funding to start coming in for construction when they are ready to build it.

Director Dunning commented it is important MRGCD take the lead on this, but a real priority is getting the City of Albuquerque involved because they will benefit the most from this according to the study and maps.

Mr. Casuga agreed 100%. He said the City is a tough nut to crack, but they have friends on City Council, and when they start talking about people's flood insurance being impacted he felt that would ramp things up.

Chairman Kelly asked if FEMA came to them today to certify this levee, would it be able to pass the 100-year flood standard.

Mr. Casuga answered no, it would be unethical for him as an engineer to certify the levee.

Chairman Kelly inquired what the 100-year event of concern was.

Mr. Casuga responded, as an engineer, he was less concerned about a 100-year peak event that would come through, and more concerned about events that create saturation zones of failure, which ultimately leads to flooding the community.

Chairman Kelly shared that if FEMA comes to town and they cannot certify the levee, they would map the floodplain as if there was no levee there, which would put 15,000 properties in the floodplain. He agreed they need to look at the bet repair or rehab technique they can find for this, but he still questioned if they needed a toe drain system on the entire reach of the levee where the bed of the river holds a big piece of that 9,000 CFS.

Mr. Thomas added the intent of the study was to be able to provide the material to start a conversation because they knew they would not be able to dig into the real details they needed from a technical perspective to get the answers, but it was enough information to start the conversation. He noted this is \$15.5 billion worth of property, which becomes a real leveraging tool, as FEMA tends to evaluate all grant applications on benefit cost ratio.

**b. Report on Meeting with Pueblo of Isleta, March 11, 2026**

Mr. Casuga gave a report on the Pueblos of Isleta Meeting, which was about irrigation and MRGCD's concern related to prior and paramount storage. He said the meeting went well and resulted in him presenting and providing information to the Coalition at the Meeting of the Coalition last week.

**c. Report on Meeting with Pueblo of San Felipe, March 16, 2026**

Mr. Casuga reported the Pueblo of San Felipe Meeting was mainly operational, as they got to meet the new administration. He explained last year, there was a request within the agreement with BIA, where Pueblos can request items to be added to the Schedule A list of the BIA agreement. He stated that list is submitted to them, which they will ultimately bring to the Board after they finish some walkthroughs with San Felipe.

**d. Report on Meeting with Pueblo of Sandia, March 17 and 23, 2026**

Mr. Casuga reported on his meetings with the Pueblo of Sandia. The meeting on March 17th included an opportunity to talk to the Sandia governor about prior and paramount storage, as well as where they were with the Corrales Siphon. The March 23rd meeting was their first planning level meeting for the investment of the capital on infrastructure related to the acquisition of right-of-way agreement. He said they learned those projects will be guided and managed at the governor level, which will require either himself or the future Director of Technical Services to be available. He felt they aligned with Sandia's priorities they laid out for that.

**e. Report on Valencia County Arroyo Flood Control District Meeting, March 19, 2026 and April 9, 2026**

Mr. Casuga gave a report on the Valencia County Arroyo Flood Control District Meeting. He expressed this organization has a mill levy and a truly elected board, but they have rules like procurement and need a certified procurement officer and are trying to get legal services. He shared MRGCD is coming alongside them because they have a certified procurement officer and have things in place that can help in the short term. He added MRGCD has signed a non-monetary MOU with them to assist with putting their RFP out for legal services that will terminate as soon as they get legal counsel. He noted Ms. Fanelli also will be advising them some on putting together a budget for DFA.

**f. Report on Rio Grande 6-Pueblo Coalition Meeting, April 9, 2026 - Jason M. Casuga, Chief Engineer/CEO and Director Russo Baca**

*See also Appendix VIII.*

**g. Information on Upcoming Events:**

1. **Candelaria Nature Preserve Tree Nursery Grand Opening Event, April 14, 2026, 2 pm: 3301 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM**
2. **Rio Grande Compact Commission Annual Meeting, April 17, 2026: Santa Fe, NM**
3. **The Utton Transboundary Resources Center, Community Conversation on Water, April 18, 2026, 1 am: Sabinal Community Center**
4. **2026 Water Leaders Workshop, April 20-22, 2026: Ruidoso, NM**
5. **Law of the Colorado River Annual Conference, May 18-19, 2026: Santa Fe, NM**
6. **MRGCD's Community and Farmers Informational Meetings, 9 am to 12 pm**
  - a. **May 28, 2026, Sandoval County - Village of Corrales Gym**
  - b. **June 4, 2026, Bernalillo County - Village of Los Rancho Village Hall**
  - c. **June 18, 2026, Valencia County - Village of Los Lunas Train Station Auditorium**
  - d. **June 24, 2026, Socorro County - City of Socorro Convention Center**
7. **2026 Next Generation Water Summit, June 11-12, 2026: Santa Fe, NM**
8. **Present MRGCD's First Quarterly Update on the Atrisco Acequia Madre Project at the Bernalillo County Commission Administrative Meeting, June 23, 2026: Albuquerque, NM**

Mr. Casuga discussed the upcoming events.

Director Russo Baca added there will be a community conversation on water in Socorro County and Sabinal on Saturday, with lunch provided and a presentation by Ms. Marken.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13 - 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. 14 - BOARD COMMUNICATIONS OF MERIT**

- a. Report on Phone Call with APS Board President Ronalda Tome Warito, March 5, 2026 - Vice Chair Baugh
- b. Report on Phone Call with Polk Middle School Garden Teacher Travis Mckenzie, March 6, 2026 - Vice Chair Baugh
- c. Report on Phone Call with Jay Rembe, March 10, 2026 - Vice Chair Baugh
- d. Report on Phone Call with Village of Los Ranchos Trustee Baldwin, March 24, 2016 - Vice Chair Baugh
- e. Report on Turnout Application Completed Polk Middle School Principal, March 27, 2026 - Vice Chair Baugh
- f. Report on Phone Call with Polk Middle School, March 30, 2026 - Vice Chair Baugh
- g. Report on Phone Call with Agri-Nature Center, April 1, 2026 - Vice Chair Baugh

Vice Chair Baugh explained he made public comment to APS's board in early March saying MRGCD would like to be put on the agenda and asked how they could do that, and in pursuit of that, it led him to having to make quite a lot of phone calls that is worth noting. He stated it has highlighted the fact that even between government agencies, it is really hard to communicate. He noted he would be going back to public comment this Wednesday. He voiced they are trying a lot of things at the District that have not been done before and he was excited to keep pushing that needle.

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

*See also Appendix VIII.*

- a. Report on the Middle Rio Grande Urban Waters Spring Quarterly Meeting, March 10, 2026 - Director Russo Baca
- b. Report on Urban Issue Committee Meeting, March 11, 2026 - Vice Chair Baugh, Directors Dunning and Russo Baca
- c. Report on the Personnel Committee Meeting, March 12, 2026 - Chairman Kelly, Directors Dunning and Russo Baca
- d. Report on the Acequia Walk and Talk, March 13, 2026 - Director Russo Baca
- e. Report on the Community Resource Fair at Garfield Middle School, March 14, 2026 - Directors Dunning and Russo Baca
- f. Report on the Los Ranchos Regular Board of Trustees Meeting, March 17, 2026 - Vice Chair Baugh and Director Russo Baca
- g. Report on Village of Los Ranchos Agriculture Sub-Committee, March 18, 2026 - Vice Chair Baugh
- h. Report on the VSWCD Board Meeting, March 19, 2026 - Director Russo Baca
- i. Report on OSE's Plan to Prevent the Pending Middle Rio Grande Compact Violation, March 19, 2026 - Vice Chair Baugh and Director Dunning
- j. Report on the Backyard Refuge Day, March 21, 2026 - Director Russo Baca
- k. Report on Red Shovel and Bosque Clean-Up Ideas for Route 66 Centennial, March 21, 2026 - Vice Chair Baugh

- l. Report on the NM Water Trust Exploratory Committee Meeting, March 27, 2026 - Director Russo Baca**
- m. Report on the Primera Agua Celebration, March 29, 2026 - Chairman Kelly, Vice Chair Baugh, Directors Dunning and Russo Baca**
- n. Report on Irrigation Committee Meeting, March 30, 2026 - Directors Jiron, Lopez, and Sandoval**

Director Lopez reported most of the discussion was about the San Juan Chama River storage and how they were wanting to pursue that, as well as maybe carrying that over until next year. He noted the committee supported carrying over the storage 100%.

- o. Report on the 2026 New Mexico Spring Wetlands Roundtable, April 1, 2026 - Director Russo Baca**
- p. Report on the SVRAA Comisionados Meeting, April 6, 2026 - Director Russo Baca**
- q. Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Acequia and Land Grand Education (ALGE) Project, April 8, 2026 - Vice Chair Baugh and Director Russo Baca**
- r. Report on Speech at Polk Middle School with Senator Martin Heinrich, April 9, 2026 - Vice Chair Baugh and Director Russo Baca**

Vice Chair Baugh shared Polk Middle School's Academy of Agricultural Sciences planted 150 fruit trees and three hoop houses and it got a lot of attention, including causing Senator Heinrich to show up to support and say he would help fund concepts like that.

Director Dunning made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORTS FROM THE BOARD**. Seconded by Director Russo Baca. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Chairman Kelly noted Director Sandoval had to leave the meeting.

Director Dunning made the **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 6:32 pm**. Seconded by Director Russo Baca. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

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

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 16 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 BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION 7:27 pm**. Seconded by Director Lopez. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

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


Director Russo Baca expressed they reviewed Ms. Fanelli, CFO, performance evaluation and Mr. Casuga, CEO/CE, performance evaluation and decided to increase Mr. Casuga's salary by .05% and Ms. Fanelli's by 5%, in Executive Session.

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE INCREASING MS. FANELLI, CFO, SALARY BY 5% AND MR. CASUGA, CEO/CE SALARY BY .05%**. Seconded by Director Dunning. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

With no further comments, questions, or concerns, Chairman Kelly adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of April 13, 2026.

**ATTESTED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM  
Secretary/Treasurer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John P. Kelly, Chairman  
MRGCD Board of Directors

# **Water Supply Update**

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## **Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Board of Directors Meeting**

Prepared and Presented by: Anne Marken

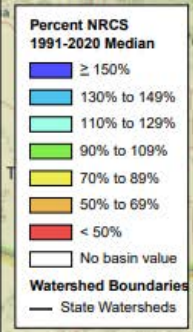
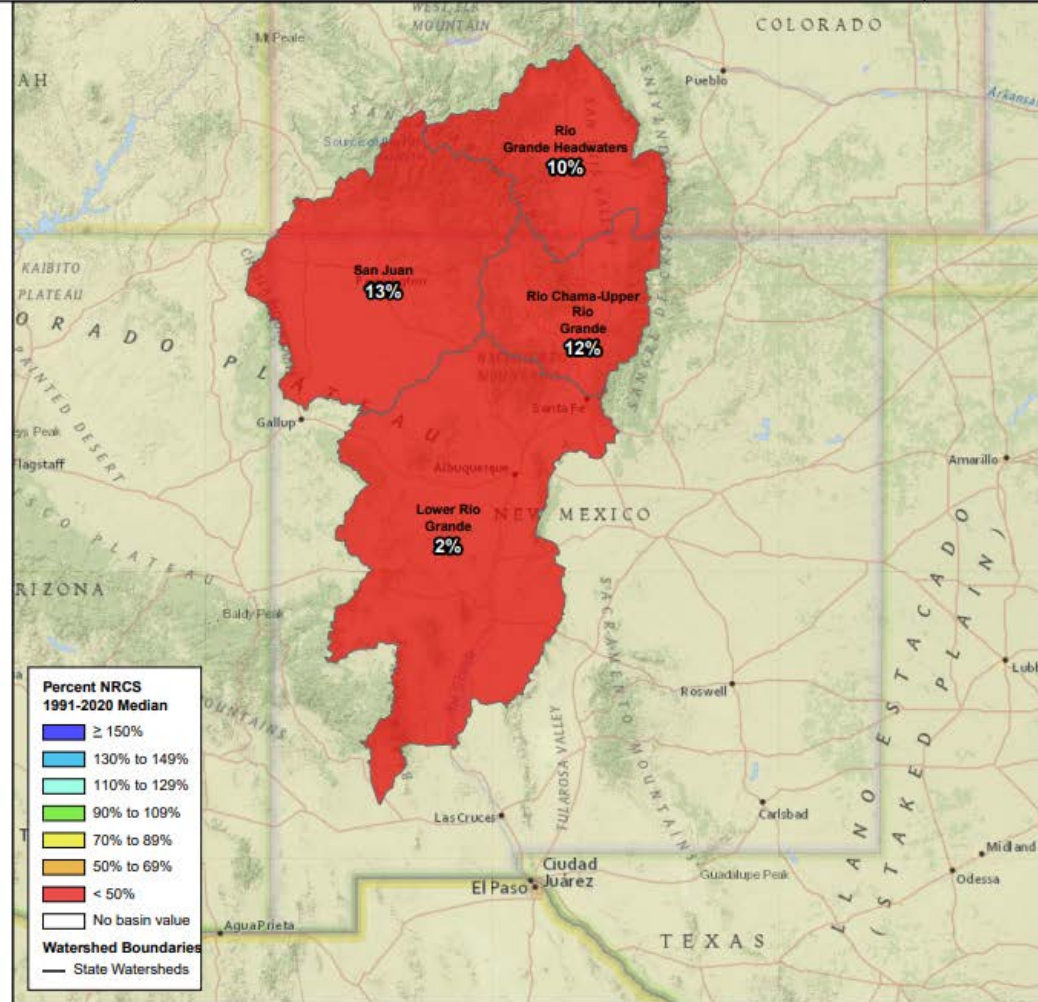
Date: 4/13/2026



Snow Water Equivalent

Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median

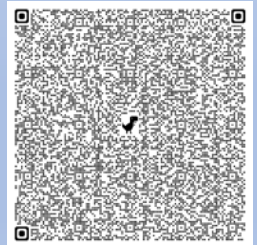
April 12, 2026, end of day



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service United States Department of Agriculture



Created 4-13-2026



<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&hucIdLabels=false&hucParameterLabels=true&stationLabels=&overlays=&hucOverlays=&basinOpacity=75&basinNoDataOpacity=25&basemapOpacity=100&maskOpacity=0&mode=data&openSections=dataElement,parameter,date,basin,options,elements,location,networks&controlsOpen=true&popup=&popupMulti=&popupBasin=&base=esriNgwm&displayType=station&basinType=6&dataElement=WTEQ&depth=-8&parameter=PCTMED&frequency=DAILY&duration=I&customDuration=&dayPart=E&monthPart=E&forecastPubDay=1&forecastExceedance=50&useMixedPast=true&seqColor=1&divColor=7&scaleType=D&scaleMin=&scaleMax=&referencePeriodType=POR&referenceBegin=1991&referenceEnd=2020&minimumYears=20&hucAssociations=true&relativeDate=-1&lat=42.300&lon=-114.300&zoom=4.5>

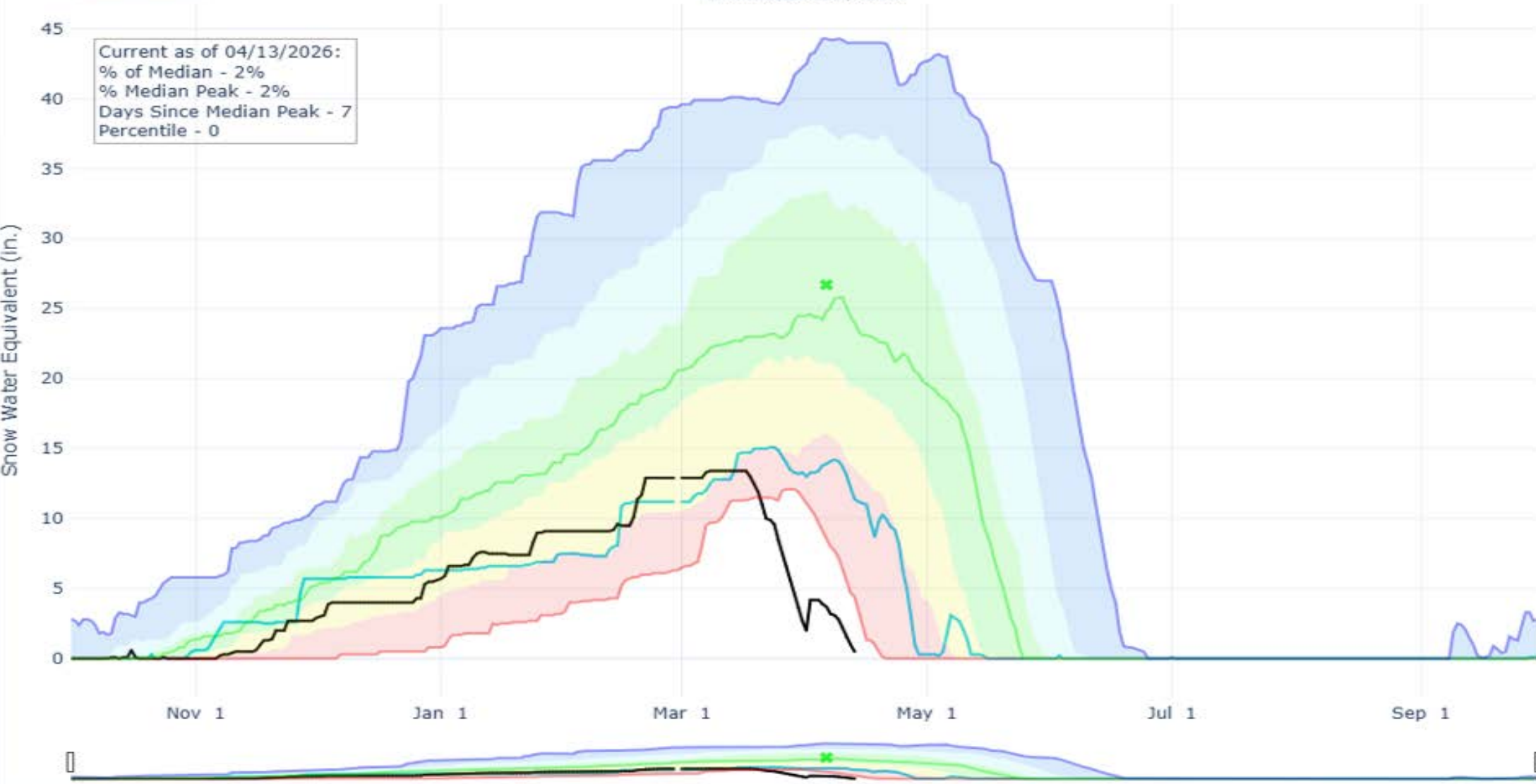
# CUMBRES TRESTLE, CO (431) SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

Reset Range

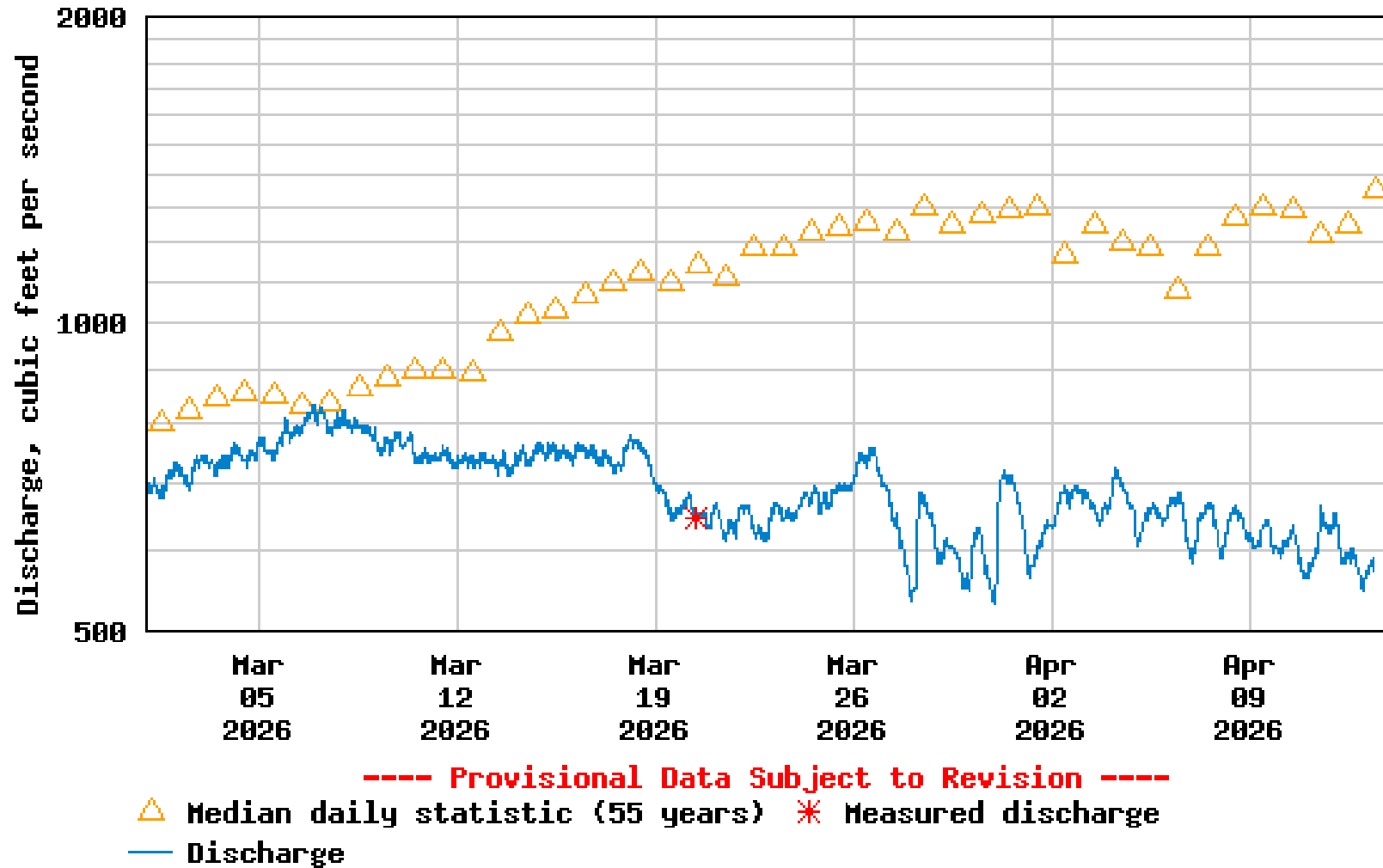
[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Current as of 04/13/2026:  
% of Median - 2%  
% Median Peak - 2%  
Days Since Median Peak - 7  
Percentile - 0

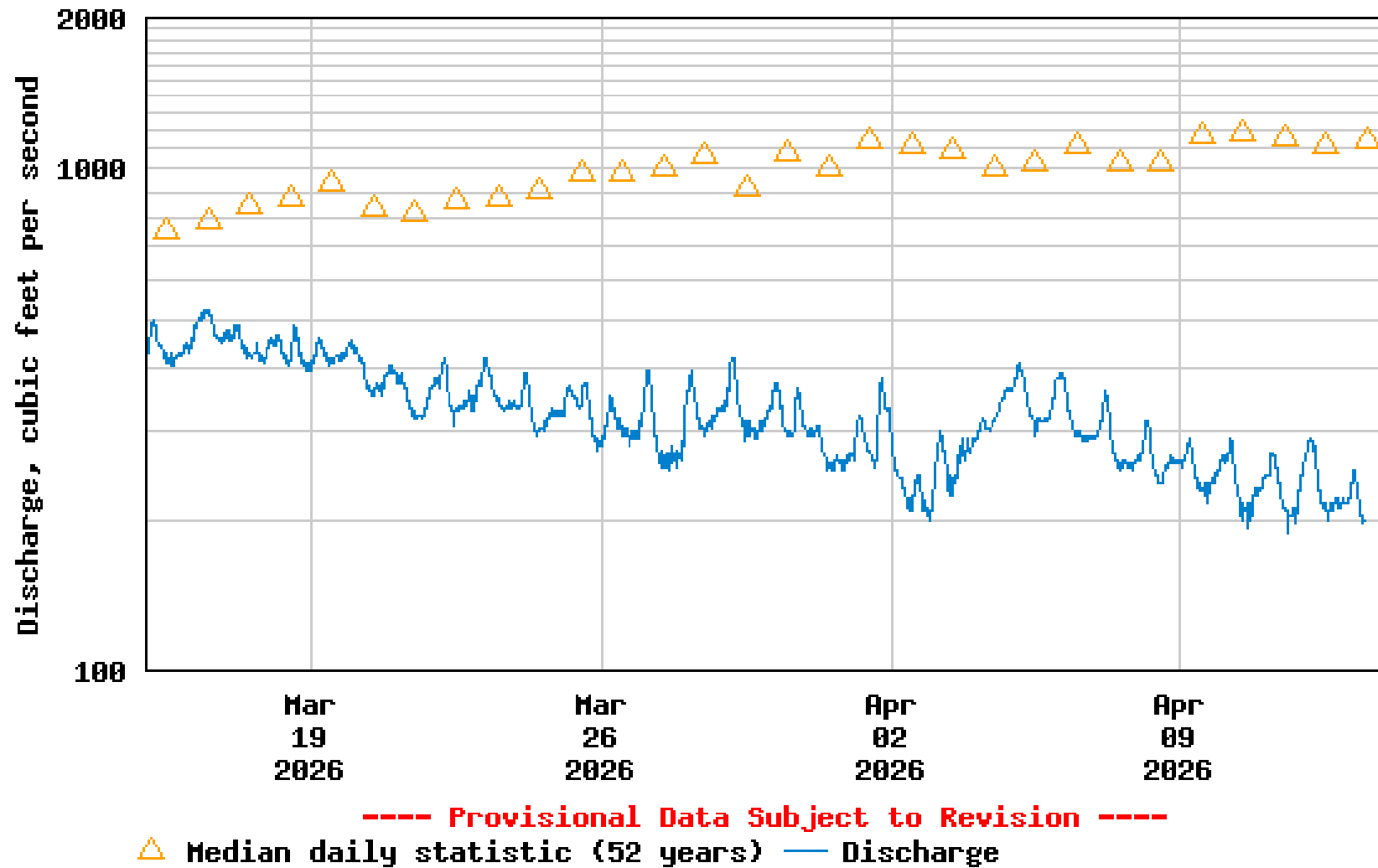
- ✖ Median Peak SWE
- Max
- Median ('91-'20)
- Min
- Stats. Shading
- 2026
- 2025



# USGS 08313000 RIO GRANDE AT OTOWI BRIDGE, NM

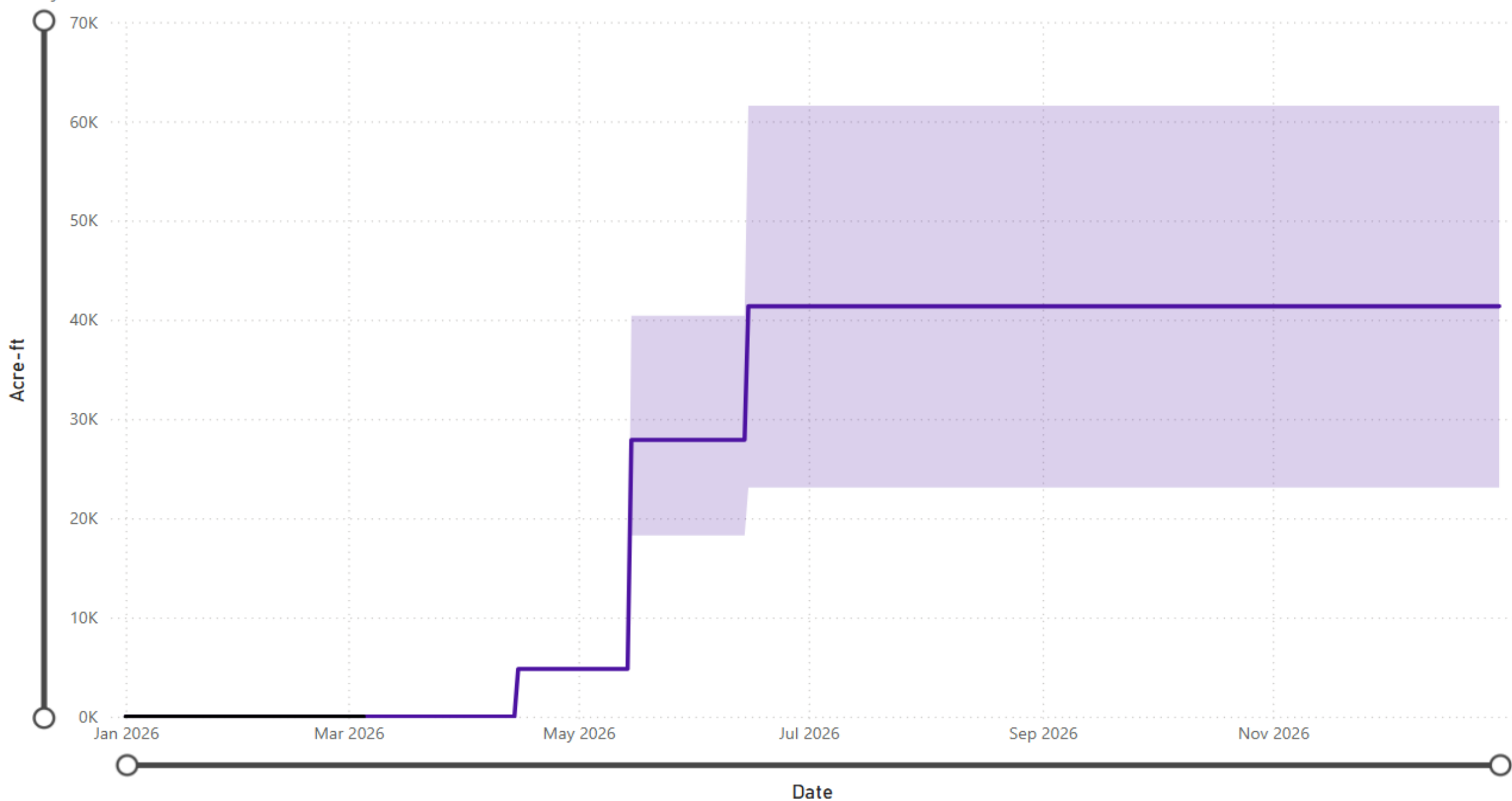


## USGS 08330000 RIO GRANDE AT ALBUQUERQUE, NM



# SJC Allocated

● Projected ● Observed



# Weekly Forecast



## Maximum Temperature

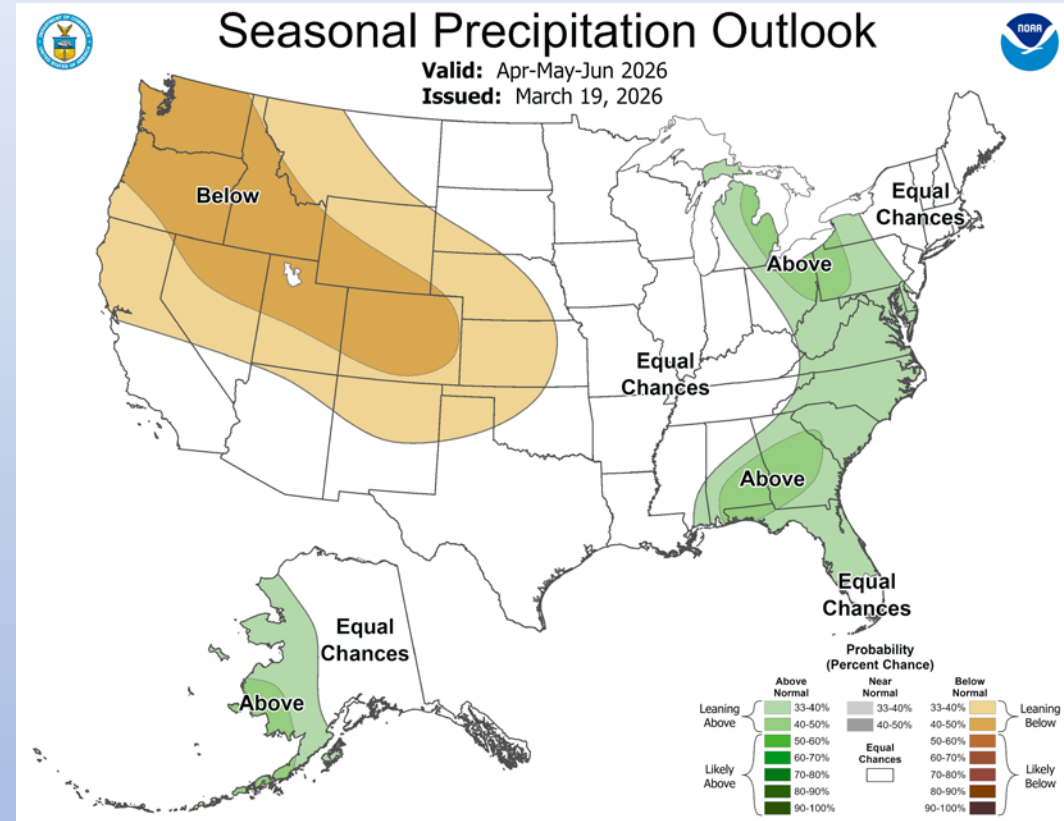
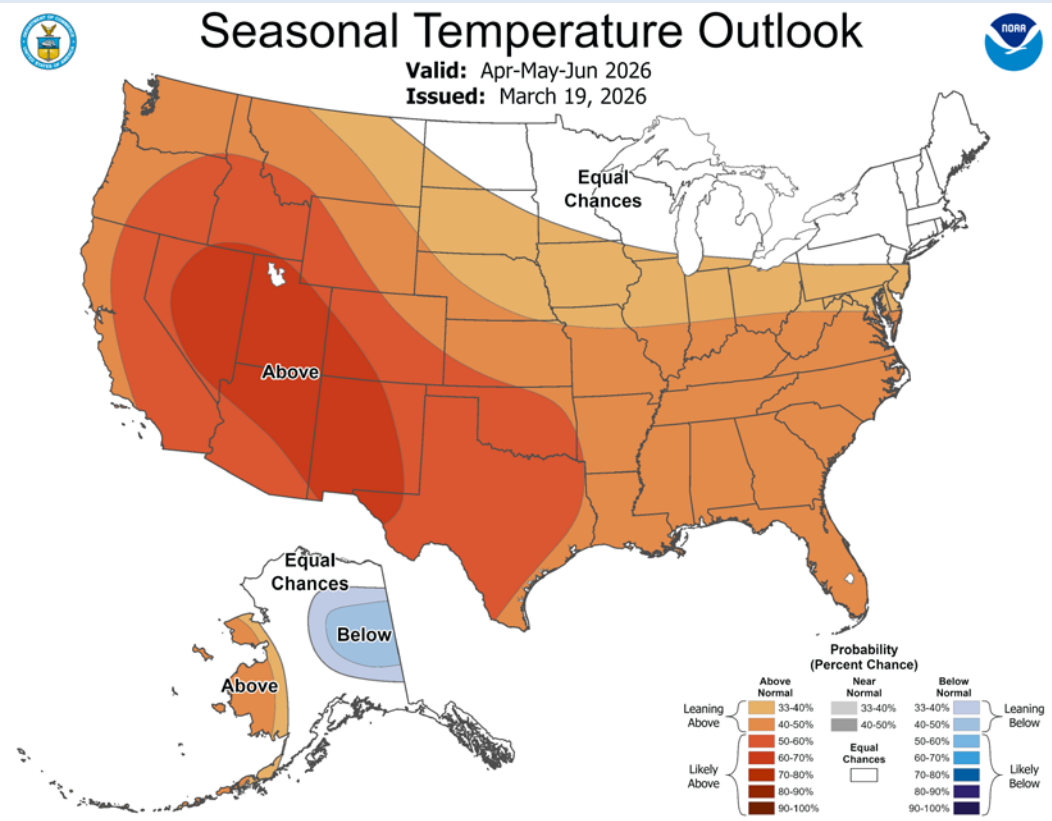
## Probability of Precipitation

Location	Maximum Temperature							Probability of Precipitation						
	Mon 04/13	Tue 04/14	Wed 04/15	Thu 04/16	Fri 04/17	Sat 04/18	Sun 04/19	Mon 04/13	Tue 04/14	Wed 04/15	Thu 04/16	Fri 04/17	Sat 04/18	Sun 04/19
Albuquerque	72	69	71	76	72	65	73	30	10	0	0	0	0	10
Santa Fe	66	63	65	70	66	60	68	40	20	0	0	0	0	20
Farmington	67	58	66	69	59	60	72	50	40	0	0	0	0	0
Gallup	63	56	64	67	60	60	71	40	30	0	0	0	0	0
Grants	65	59	66	70	62	61	70	30	40	0	0	0	0	0
Clayton	77	73	71	78	76	58	68	0	10	0	0	10	0	10
Raton	70	65	67	73	68	56	66	0	0	0	0	10	10	10
Las Vegas	66	63	64	69	64	57	64	10	10	0	0	0	0	10
Moriarty	68	67	67	72	69	62	70	30	10	0	0	0	0	10
Tucumcari	82	81	77	83	82	67	74	0	10	0	0	0	0	20
Clovis	80	81	77	82	83	68	72	0	10	0	0	0	0	20
Roswell	84	83	79	86	85	72	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Socorro	78	76	76	80	80	70	76	20	0	0	0	0	0	10
Chama	55	47	54	58	51	51	61	80	80	0	0	10	10	0
Taos	64	58	62	67	61	57	67	60	30	0	0	10	10	10
Angel Fire	57	51	54	59	54	49	60	50	30	10	0	10	10	20
Los Alamos	61	57	60	65	60	56	64	50	50	0	0	0	0	10
Ruidoso	63	63	61	67	66	60	62	10	10	0	0	0	0	20
Quemado	62	59	63	67	63	62	70	20	10	0	0	0	0	0

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



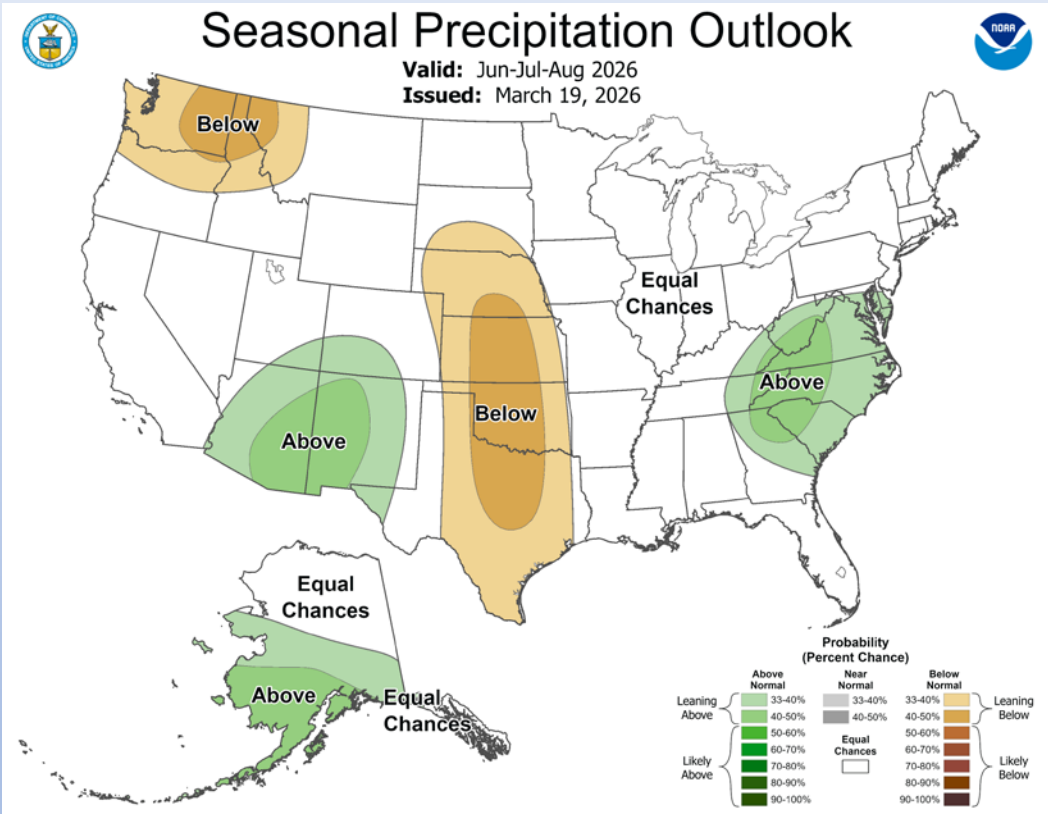
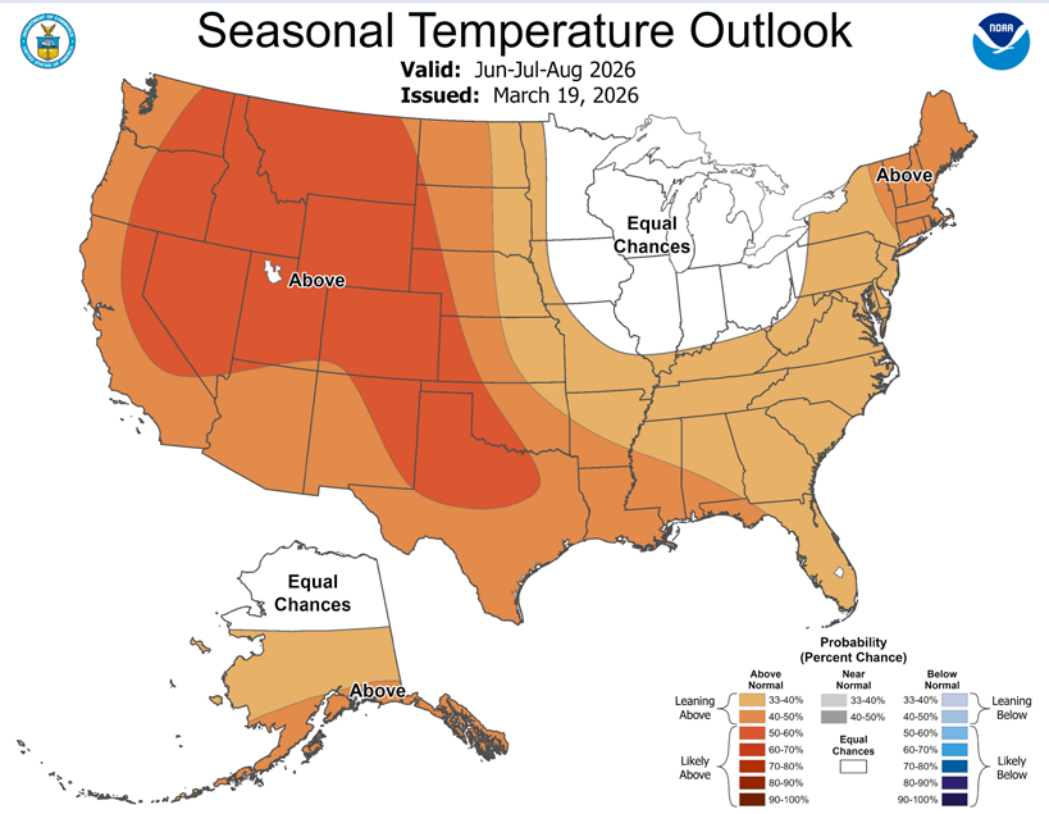
# NWS Seasonal Outlook



[https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long\\_range/seasonal.php?lead=1](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal.php?lead=1)



# NWS Summer Seasonal Outlook



[https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long\\_range/seasonal.php?lead=1](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal.php?lead=1)



Questions?



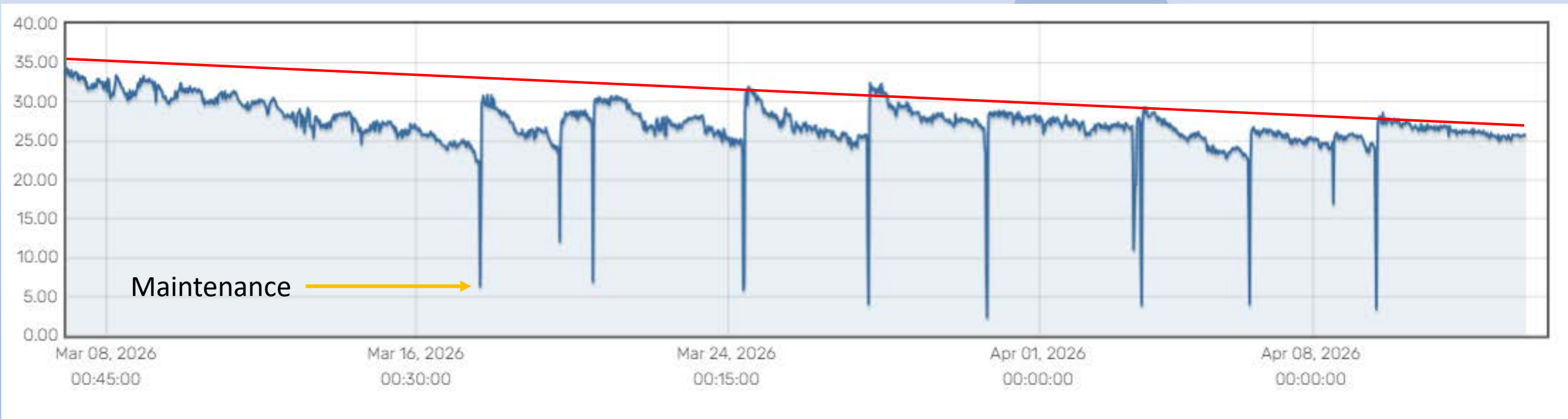
# Irrigation Distribution

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Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District  
Board of Directors  
April 13, 2026



# Corrales Pumping Capacity



 CORRALES MAIN CANAL (113)  $\text{m}^3/\text{s}$  Flow

# Irrigation Distribution

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Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District  
Report to Board of Directors  
April 13, 2026



# Belen Highline Diversion

Early Season Stability

Major Fluctuations

Holiday  
Stability

Renewed  
Fluctuations



■ BELEN HIGHLINE CANAL (141)  $\rightarrow$  Flow

# Questions ?

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Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District  
Report to Board of Directors  
April 13, 2026



# Appendix III

**From:** [Elaine Hebard](#)  
**To:** [Tarah Jaramillo](#)  
**Subject:** Hebard Public Comments  
**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2026 4:29:40 PM

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## **MRGCD Board Meeting of April 13, 2016 Public Comment -- Elaine Hebard**

My name is Elaine Hebard, and I'm a water nerd.

One of my long time concerns is that water providers in the MRG must work together better. A key take away from the group working out the details of the LRG Settlement is that only by working together can trust be developed. And only with trust will real and lasting solutions be found.

Over the last decade, the MRG has been over consuming its allotment under the RG Compact -- increasing the deficit annually. On Friday, at the annual Compact meeting, we will learn just how much more was added in 2025.

This trend must be reversed. Depletions of river flows must be reduced. That will be much more difficult as surface water dwindles, resulting in more groundwater pumping.

Often, the rationale is that a specific provider is fulfilling the requirements of that entity's mission. But no mission says that it's okay to violate the RG Compact.

Two of the largest water providers in the MRG are the ABCWUA and the MRGCD. Are they reducing depletions? Is their message consistent?

The ABCWUA's 26-27 Annual Operating Plan can be found on-line, included in the April 16 agenda packet for the ABCWUA's Technical Customer Advisory Committee. The ABCWUA Plan is prepared for US Fish & Wildlife to satisfy the requirements of its separate Biological Opinion with regards to its operations on the river. The AOP's inputs -- its OSE Permit, the Reclamation forecast model and its Water 2120 demand projection-- do not seem to include the Compact. Planning for only groundwater extraction from early May through October will add to future river flow depletions. That certainty is not an input, at least not mentioned.

The renewed message of 1-2-3-2-1, as announced around town, on billboards is to "water 2 days a week in April and May and 3 days a week in June, July and August for a responsible lawn." That seems inconsistent with the message from the MRGCD.

The MRGCD is messaging its constituents that "given these conditions, MRGCD urges all water users to proceed with caution when making farming decisions, carefully considering one's own water needs and those of others. 'Although hydrologic conditions and upstream activities are outside our control, our collective response is not. This season will require efficient use, strong cooperation, and a shared sense of responsibility from all of us, said Casuga."

At MRGCD Board meetings, compliance with the Compact is routinely discussed, while it is not at the ABCWUA Board meetings. Policies are proposed and adopted with different information, not just one's mission. "A responsible lawn" versus "a shared sense of responsibility"?

My first suggestion is to work on a consistent message! An action for the MRGCD Water Resources Board.

I am delighted to hear that ABCWUA is open to the idea of modeling its impacts on the low river flows. My hope is that all water providers in the MRG develop a water budget model which includes supplies, demands and ways to pay for those demands, as a step in the process of reducing depletions together,

developing trust along the way.

I would also suggest that MRGCD staff look at the ABCWUA draft plan updates and make comments.

Thank you.

~~~~~

Addendum - to Board Question - when does the ABCWUA have to switch to wells? The ABCWUA reads its permit slightly differently than the actual text.

According to the **26-27 Annual Operating Plan**, its SP-4830 Conditions 12 and 13:

- Condition 12 → “native” flow must be available AND streamflows at Albuquerque Central gage must be > 122 cfs
- Condition 13 → diversion of “native” water must be curtailed when native flow is < 195 cfs at Alameda gage

AND

Diversion must be suspended if native flow in the Rio Grande channel is = 130 cfs at Alameda gage OR stream flows in the Rio Grande channel = 122 cfs at the Albuquerque Central gage

- AOP has both conditions set as thresholds that must be met for operation of the DWP diversion

**versus**

**SP 4830 Permit Conditions**

12. The City shall regulate its surface water diversion rate under this permit and Permit No. 4819 to maintain, in so far as ‘native’ flow is available at and above the point of diversion, streamflows of not less than 122 cfs in the channel of the Rio Grande between the point of diversion and the Albuquerque Central Avenue gage.

13. Diversion of ‘native’ water from the Rio Grande under this permit shall be curtailed when ‘native’ flow in the channel of the Rio Grande is less than 195 cfs, measured immediately above the storage pool at the point of diversion, by 1 cfs for each 1 cfs drop in ‘native’ flow below 195 cfs. Diversion of ‘native’ water from the Rio Grande under this permit shall be suspended when any of the following situations exist: the amount of return flow to the Rio Grande at the City’s SWRP outfall is less than the amount of ‘native’ water diverted; ‘native’ flow in the channel of the Rio Grande is equal to or less than 130 cfs, measured immediately above the storage pool at the point of diversion or immediately below the point of diversion; streamflows in the channel of the Rio Grande fall below 122 cfs, measured at the Albuquerque Central Avenue gage; or the State Engineer determines that suspension is necessary to meet compact obligations or to protect existing water rights.

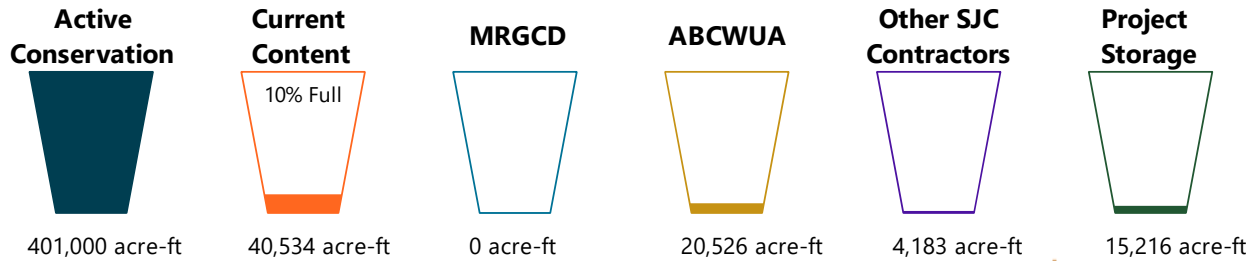
# Reservoir Storage Status



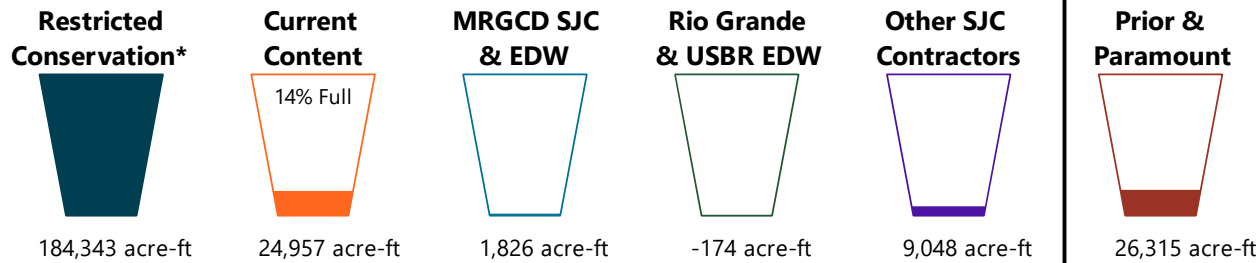
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Apr 7, 2026 data

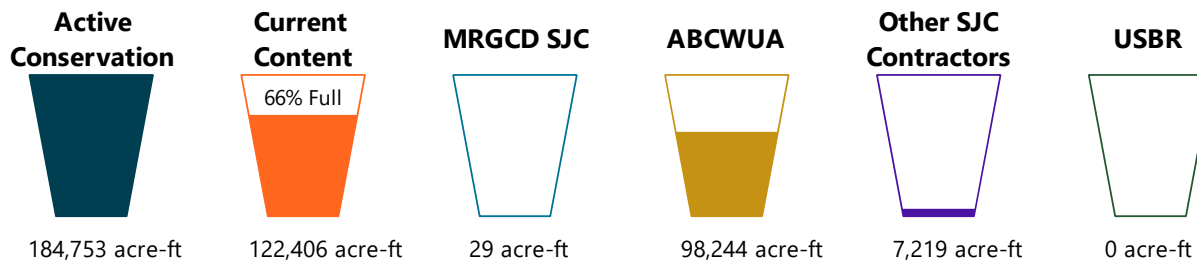
## Heron



## El Vado



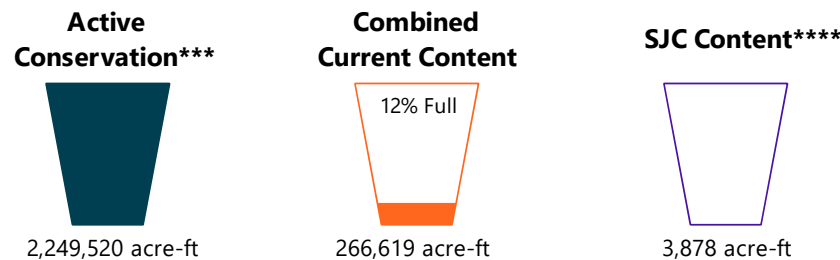
## Abiquiu



## 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 (4-8-2026)**

1. Heron Summary

|                           |        |       |            |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|------------|
| Content:                  | 40,534 | ac-ft | (4/8/2026) |
| Azotea Tunnel:            | 200    | cfs   |            |
| Total SJ-C Inflow (2026): | 14,230 | ac-ft |            |
| Currently Releasing:      | 0      | cfs   |            |
| Current MRGCD Storage:    | 0      | ac-ft |            |

2. El Vado Summary

|                         |        |       |                          |
|-------------------------|--------|-------|--------------------------|
| Content:                | 24,957 | ac-ft | (4/8/2026)               |
| Rio Grande Storage:     | 14,083 | ac-ft |                          |
| MRGCD SJ-C Storage:     | 1,826  | ac-ft |                          |
| P&P:                    | 14,257 | ac-ft |                          |
| Other SJ-C Contractors: | 9,048  | ac-ft |                          |
| Current Release:        | 400    | cfs   | RG Inflow: 120 - 745 cfs |

3. Abiquiu Summary

|                     |         |       |            |
|---------------------|---------|-------|------------|
| Content:            | 122,406 | ac-ft | (4/8/2026) |
| MRGCD SJ-C Storage: | 29      | ac-ft |            |
| P&P:                | 12,058  | ac-ft |            |

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

**Current Snow Water Equivalent for Water Year 2026 to 4/8 (% Median; NRCS SNOTEL)**

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Rio Chama Basin.....        | 9%  |
| Upper Rio Grande Basin..... | 16% |
| Sangre de Cristo Basin..... | 12% |
| Jemez Basin.....            | 0%  |
| San Juan River Basin.....   | 18% |

- 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 26,315 ac-ft.
- MRGCD began deliveries in March. Due to limited supply have requested native bypass at Abiquiu to support irrigation demand.
- Below average snowpack and warm temperatures have led to runoff peaking early and declining through the month. The runoff peak on the Rio Chama was likely on March 26, the earliest date on record.
- The NRCS April forecast projects severely low streamflow across the Rio Grande basin, with most forecast points in the bottom 5th percentile of historical records. El Vado Reservoir inflow is forecasted with a probable inflow volume of 40 kaf.

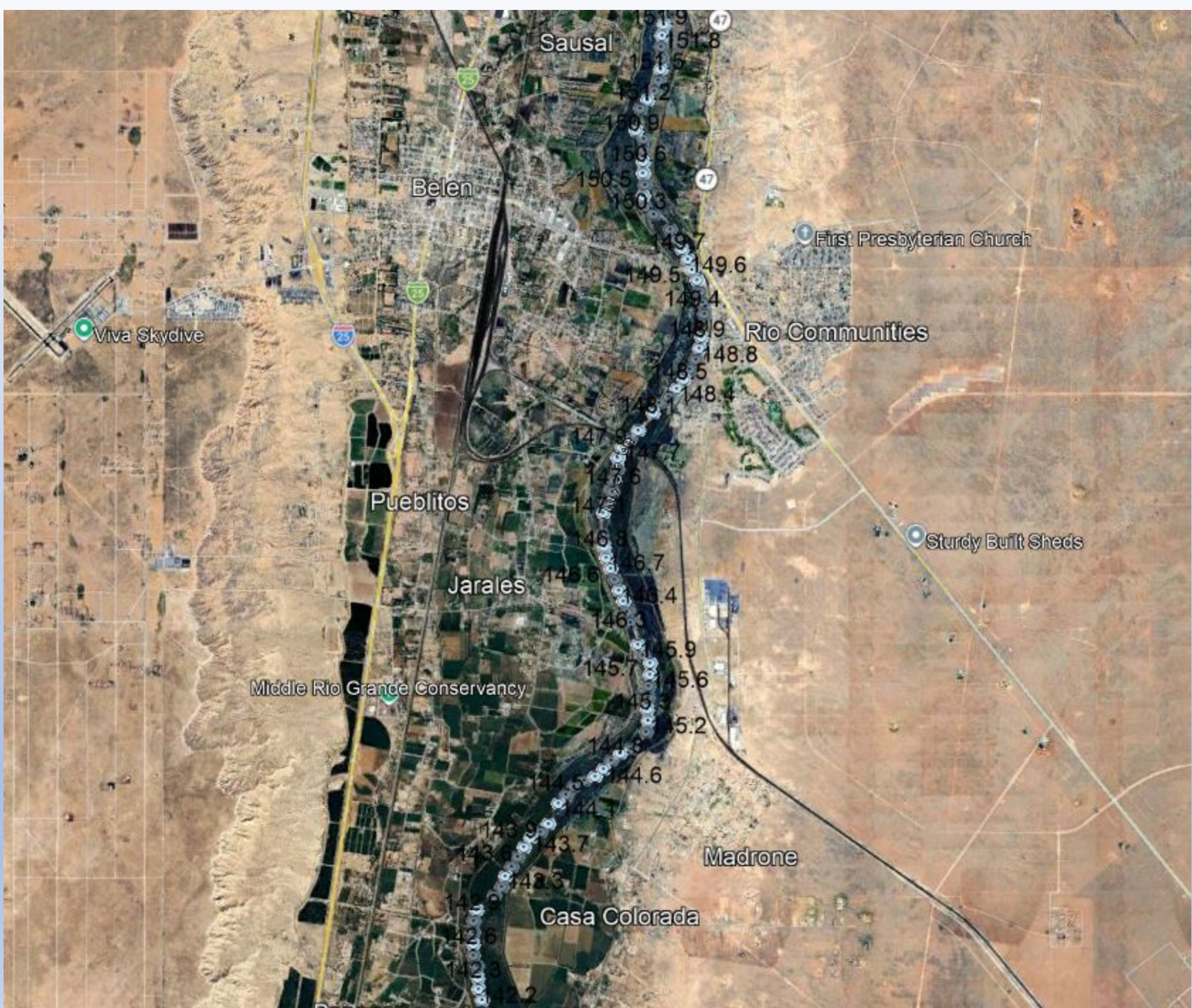
*Appendix V*

# Unified Fire Update

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April 13, 2026







Rio Grande

Lagrimea Rd

San Juan Canal

Lagrimea

Highway 304

Madrone

304

Navarrete Dr

Highway 304

San Juan Canal

San Juan Canal

Rio Grande

Upper San Juan Canal

Old Barrios Ditch

Olguin Rd















# SPECIAL THANKS TO MRGCD EMPLOYEES;

## *Socorro Division;*

Freddie Martinez  
Richard Montano

## *Belen Division;*

Cole Benjamin  
Jonathan Marquez

# QUESTIONS



*Appendix VI*

# '25/'26 Off Season Construction Update

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April 13, 2026

Presented by:  
Engineering Department



# Socorro Main Canal Channel Lining Phase IIB

Funding Source: WTB

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

Construction: Sanchez Demolition - \$6,473,749.69

- Progress
  - All work was completed on March 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Awaiting final pay application
  - After Change orders, the final Project amount is \$6,219,941.01
  - Underrun Amount \$253,808.68
- Work Completed
  - 1.1 miles of channel lining
  - Turnout replacements
  - New long-crested weir and check structure
  - Rubicon gate installations pending





# Loretta Road/Alameda Intersection Improvements Project

Funding Source: Capital Outlay, Capital Development Program

Consultant Services: BHI - \$111,179.42

Construction: Star Paving - \$982,234.38

Partner Agencies: Bernalillo County, NMDOT

- Contract Times: 115 Calendar Days, tentative signal lead time
- Bid Opening Date: February 2, 2026
- NTP: April 13, 2026
- Anticipated completion: August 6, 2026



# Corrales Siphon Project

Funding Source: WTB

Consultant Services: Wilson & Company - \$996,527.19

Construction: Compass Engineering- \$7,727,166.30  
(w/NMGRT)

- **Progress**

- 2,621,108.19 (34%) Amount Expended
- 33% Contract Time Used
- Overflow pipe/turnout – with temporary shotcrete.
- Three turnouts installed.
- Sinkhole on the east side of the river fully filled.
- Borrow/bank raised on the Pueblo of Sandia side per the Plans.
- Contract paused, pending delivery of conductor casing.

- **Lookahead**

- April – Delivery of 140 LF of 68-inch conductor casing.
- May 2026 – Installation of casing, Prep for HDD
- June 2026 – HDD operation



# 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/Work Completed
  - \$1,923,770.63 (46%) Contract Funds Expended
  - 40% Contract Time Used
  - Jack and Bore at NM 116 completed
  - Approximately 35% of pipe installation completed
  - Open trench pipe install and pavement replacement at Jarales Rd completed
- Lookahead
  - Resume installation of 36" PVC pipe
  - Installation of 6" ARV and vault
  - Contract Completion Date: August 1, 2026



Mar 27, 2026 at 11:40:06 AM  
1063-1077 NM-116  
Belen NM 87002  
United States



Mar 27, 2026 at 12:32:14 PM  
1092 NM-116  
Belen NM 87002  
United States



Mar 25, 2026 at 12:33:15 PM  
81 Armijo Rd  
Belen NM 87006  
United States



# Completed/ Substantially Complete Project

Atrisco  
Acequia  
Madre

Low Flow  
Conveyance  
Channel Ph 2

BHLC  
Overflow #2

ALGAA Phase  
2

New Belen  
Wasteway

Cochiti Main  
Crossing

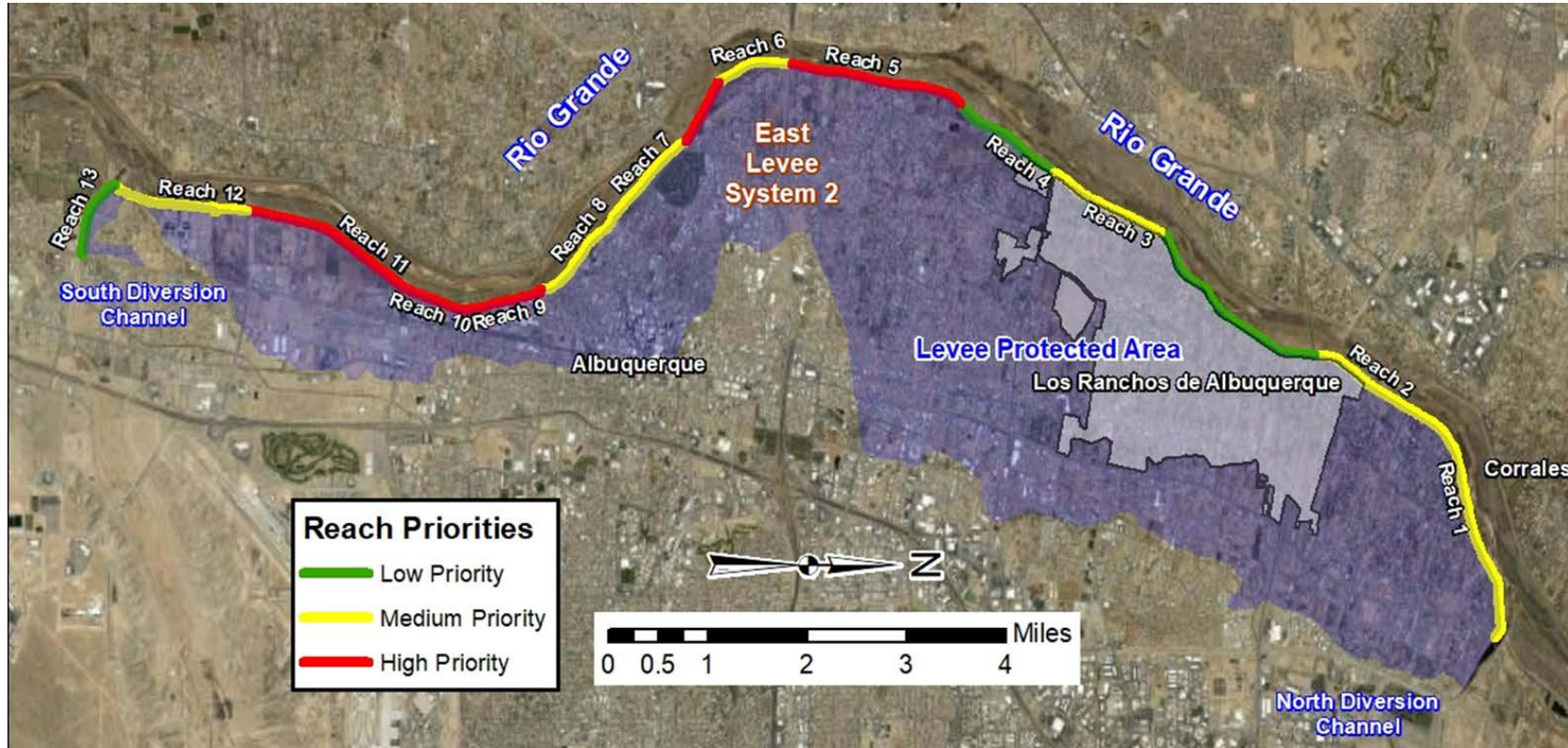
McAllister  
Culvert  
Crossing

Tribal Road 7  
Crossing

QUESTIONS?



# Planning and Engineering Middle Rio Grande Levee Improvements



MRGCD Board Meeting

April 8, 2026

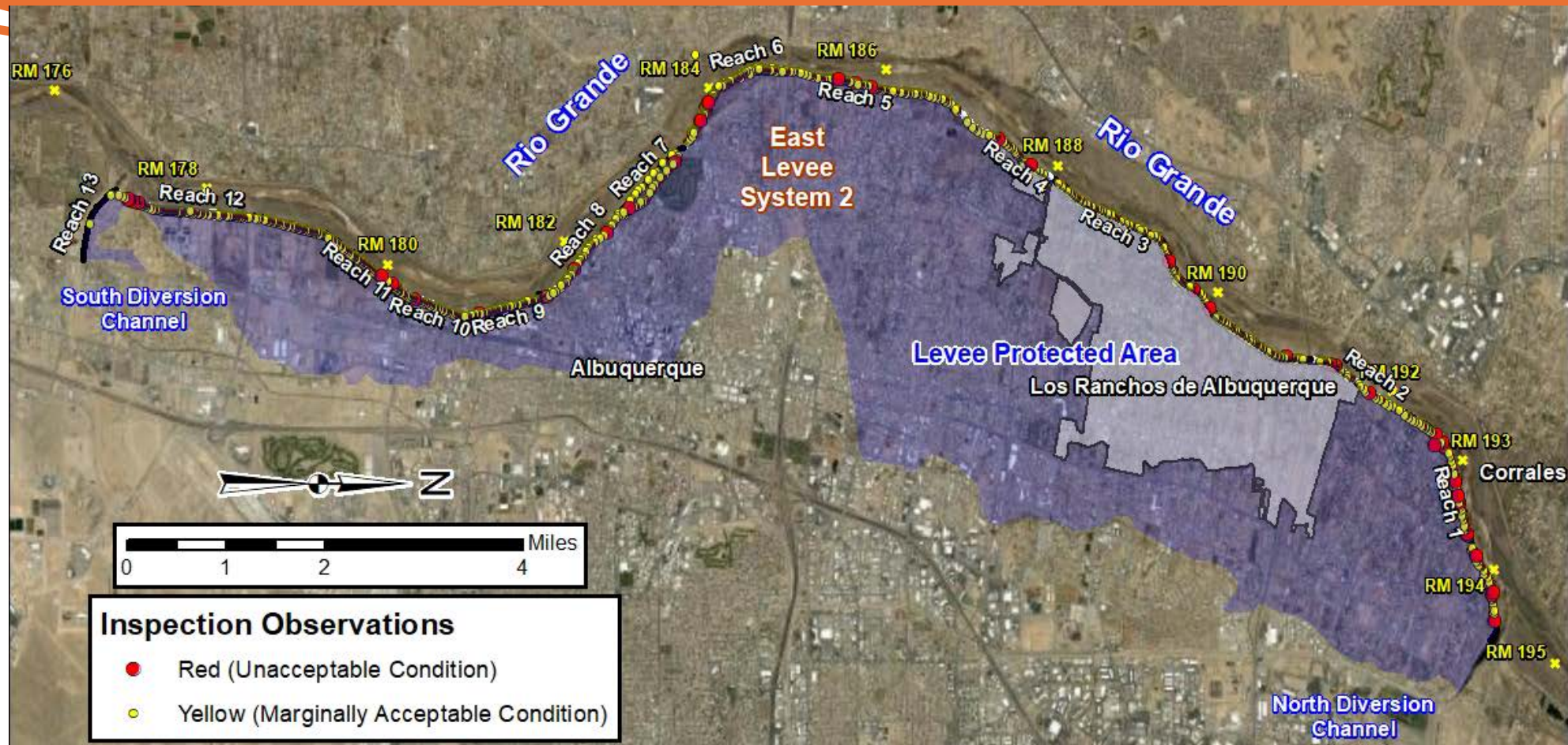


THE VILLAGE OF LOS RANCHOS  
DE ALBUQUERQUE  
SETTLED 1661 ~ INCORPORATED 1958



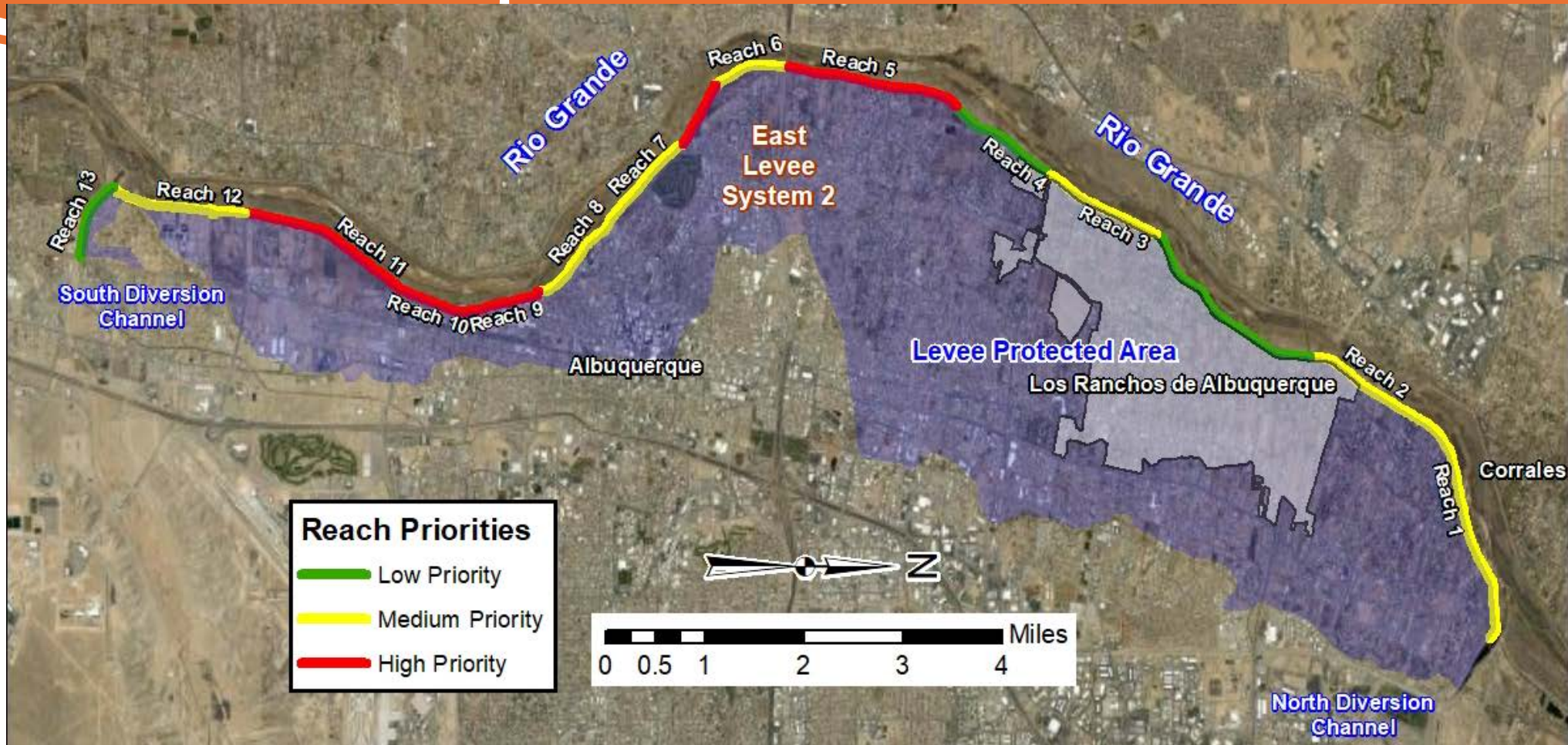
# Initial Assessment Report

Summary of Results: Observation locations along the levee



# Evaluation Report

## Levee Prioritization Exhibit



# Evaluation Report

## Repair & Reconstruction Cost Estimates

### Repair Costs (Based on USACE Levee Cost Estimating & Review

| Summary of Preliminary Cost Estimates                               |                                                       |                                                      |                                                         |                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Description                                                         | Preliminary Total Cost Estimate <sup>1</sup> Based on |                                                      |                                                         | Escalation Date  |
|                                                                     | Low Unit Costs (incl. 35% Contingency) <sup>2</sup>   | High Unit Costs (incl. 45% Contingency) <sup>2</sup> | Example Unit Costs (incl. 45% Contingency) <sup>2</sup> |                  |
| High Priority Rehabilitation (Unacceptable) <sup>3</sup>            | \$157,000                                             | \$1,326,000                                          | \$576,000                                               | 1st Quarter 2028 |
| Medium Priority Rehabilitation (Marginally Acceptable) <sup>3</sup> | \$896,000                                             | \$12,636,000                                         | \$5,365,000                                             | 2nd Quarter 2028 |
| Toe Drain Replacement (Along Entire Levee)                          | \$68,681,000                                          | \$157,712,000                                        | \$110,652,000                                           | 2nd Quarter 2033 |

1. Estimates are escalated to a future Midpoint of Construction and rounded up to Next \$1000.

2. LCET methodology uses a varying contingency cost based upon the range of unit prices

### Reconstruction Costs

| RGFAUER Construction Cost Estimate to 2033 Midpoint of Construction  |              |      |      |                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------|------|---------------------|
| Alternative No. 1 - Tree Buffer Zone, East Levee, Construction Costs |              |      |      |                     |
| 02 Relocations                                                       | \$1,361,820  | 2007 | 2033 | <b>\$3,888,101</b>  |
| 06 Fish & Wildlife Facilities                                        | \$3,856,055  | 2007 | 2033 | <b>\$10,910,620</b> |
| 11 Levees and Floodwalls                                             | \$16,452,376 | 2007 | 2033 | <b>\$46,175,148</b> |
| 14 Recreation Facilities                                             | \$1,295,912  | 2007 | 2033 | <b>\$3,589,975</b>  |
| Total Construction Costs                                             | \$22,966,163 |      |      | <b>\$64,563,844</b> |
| Lands & Damages                                                      | \$2,103,000  | 2007 | 2033 | <b>\$5,907,592</b>  |
| Planning Engineering & Design                                        | \$2,297,000  | 2007 | 2033 | <b>\$6,456,384</b>  |
| Construction Management                                              | \$1,378,000  | 2007 | 2033 | <b>\$4,196,650</b>  |
| Total Project Costs                                                  | \$5,778,000  |      |      | <b>\$16,560,626</b> |
| Total Design & Construction                                          | \$28,744,163 |      |      | <b>\$81,124,470</b> |

# Next Steps

## Legislative Options

### 1) State Capital Investment

- a) Fund design and phased reconstruction to restore FEMA/USACE compliance. Funding from the federal government is typically, a 35% Non-Federal 65% Federal split.
- b) We can investigate USACE 1043(b) (WRDA 2014) authority that would allow for the transfer of federal appropriations to the non-federal sponsor to construct project on their own.

### 2) Multi-Biennium Levee Modernization Program

- a) Could Support levee toe drain replacement, levee erosion repair, vegetation removal, and berm stabilization.
- b) Support Hydrologic & Geotechnical data improvements
- c) Expand LiDAR, geotechnical investigations, and modern flood modeling to support certification.

# Questions?



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# *Appendix VIII*

## **Director Russo Baca Board Reports April 2026**

### **Report on the Middle Rio Grande Urban Waters Spring Quarterly Meeting, March 10, 2026**

Director Russo Baca attended the Middle Rio Grande Urban Waters Spring Quarterly Meeting held at the USGS New Mexico Water Science Center. The meeting convened federal, state, local, and nonprofit partners to coordinate watershed health, community engagement, and restoration efforts in the Middle Rio Grande. The meeting included program updates and presentations on topics such as habitat garden development, green stormwater infrastructure, and community-based conservation initiatives. Presentations were provided by partners including the New Mexico Backyard Refuge Program, the City of Albuquerque Sustainability Office, and the Wildland Seeds Program in collaboration with Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District and Rio Grande Return. Participants also received an update on the Middle Rio Grande Urban Waters Program, followed by roundtable discussions that provided opportunities for networking and collaboration among partners. Discussion emphasized strengthening interagency coordination, advancing community-based environmental stewardship, and identifying opportunities for continued partnership across the watershed.

### **Report on the Urban Issue Committee Meeting, March 11, 2026.**

Director Russo Baca, along with Director Baugh and Director Dunning, participated in the Urban Issue Committee Meeting with MRGCD staff, including Casey Ish and Amanda Molina. This meeting served as one of the initial pilot meetings for the committee, with discussion focused on establishing the direction, purpose, and priorities of the committee moving forward. Participants reviewed the committee's role and discussed opportunities for coordination with staff and stakeholders. The committee also noted that members of the public had begun submitting applications to participate, reflecting community interest and engagement in the process.

### **Report on the Personnel Committee Meeting, March 12, 2026**

Director Russo Baca, Chair Kelly and Director Dunning attended the Personnel Committee Meeting, which focused on Mr. Casuga's performance evaluation as well as strategies to support operational efficiency, employee development, and retention, consistent with ongoing District priorities.

### **Report on the Acequia Walk and Talk, March 13, 2026, Griegos Lateral**

Director Russo Baca participated in an Acequia Walk and Talk along the Griegos Lateral with John Fleck who gave a history lesson to students and community members, about the MRGCD and the historical acequia systems.

### **Report on the Community Resource Fair at Garfield Middle School, March 14, 2026**

Director Russo Baca and Director Dunning attended the North Valley Community Resource Fair held at Garfield Middle School, which brought together local organizations to provide services and information to families and residents. The event focused on connecting the community with resources related to education, health, and public services, while also offering opportunities to share information about water resources and MRGCD programs.

### **Report on the Los Ranchos Regular Board of Trustees Meeting, March 17, 2026**

Director Russo Baca and Vice Chair Baugh attended the Village of Los Ranchos Board of Trustees Meeting to remain informed on local governance matters, including land use, infrastructure, and water-related issues. The meeting included updates on municipal projects and areas of potential coordination with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. Director Baugh gave public comment.

### **Report on the VCSWCD Board Meeting, March 19, 2026**

Director Russo Baca participated in the Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting. Director Russo Baca presented an MRGCD water report update as a partner. The VCSWCD Supervisors discussed conservation programs, funding opportunities, and ongoing initiatives to support soil health and water conservation. Continued collaboration between the District and conservation partners remains important for regional resource management.

### **Report on the Backyard Refuge Day, March 21, 2026**

Director Russo Baca attended Bernalillo County's Backyard Refuge Day, an outreach event promoting habitat restoration and conservation practices. The event provided education on water-wise landscaping, pollinator habitats, and sustainable land management practices, supporting community stewardship and conservation awareness. MRGCD Bosque Management Coordinator Jo Strange tabled the event.

### **Report on the NM Water Trust Exploratory Committee Meeting, March 27, 2026**

Director Russo Baca attended the New Mexico Water Trust Exploratory Committee Meeting, which focused on the development of a potential statewide water trust. The meeting included a presentation on institutional forms and governance structures for a water trust, drawing from findings in a recent scoping report. Committee members participated in breakout discussions to evaluate options for organizational structure, including models such as a network of existing organizations, the creation of a new nonprofit entity, or programs housed within existing organizations. Participants discussed the advantages and challenges of each approach and shared initial perspectives on preferred models. The committee also discussed the potential scale and focus of a New Mexico Water Trust, including whether efforts should be statewide or concentrated within a specific basin or watershed. The meeting provided an opportunity to advance discussion on the structure and scope of a water trust and to identify next steps for continued evaluation.

### **Report on the Primera Agua Event, March 29, 2026**

Director Russo Baca and Director Dunning participated in the Primera Agua celebration, which highlights the cultural, environmental, and agricultural significance of water and marks the beginning of the irrigation season. The event included community engagement, cultural recognition, and education about acequia traditions and water stewardship. Participation supported ongoing collaboration with community partners and reinforced the importance of traditional water management systems. Vice Chair Baugh spoke at the event on behalf of MRGCD.

### **Report on the 2026 New Mexico Spring Wetlands Roundtable, April 1, 2026**

Director Russo Baca attended the 2026 New Mexico Spring Wetlands Roundtable, hosted by the New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau Wetlands Program. The roundtable convenes state, federal, Tribal, and local partners, along with nonprofit organizations and stakeholders, to strengthen collaboration in the restoration and protection of wetlands and riparian resources across New Mexico. The meeting included presentations on topics such as source water protection, integration of Indigenous knowledge with geospatial tools for wetland assessment, statewide risk mapping applications, and updates from the NMED Wetlands Program. Additional discussion highlighted funding opportunities, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and watershed-scale restoration efforts utilizing green stormwater infrastructure. The roundtable also provided an opportunity for participants to engage in collaborative discussion on wetland management priorities, emerging challenges, and best practices.

### **Report on the SVRAA Comisionados Meeting, April 6, 2026**

Commissioners and partners discussed acequia coordination efforts, infrastructure needs, and opportunities for collaboration. Continued dialogue focused on strengthening partnerships and identifying funding opportunities to support acequia operation and maintenance.

### **Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Acequia and Land Grant Education Project, April 8, 2026**

Director Russo Baca and Vice Chair Baugh attended the 5th Annual Acequia and Land Grant Education (ALGE) Project event, which focused on education, leadership development, and community engagement related to acequias and land grant communities. The program emphasized cultural heritage, water governance, and the importance of community-based stewardship. The event provided opportunities for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and continued support for traditional water systems, as well as dual language learning.

### **Report on the Rio Grande 6-Pueblo Coalition Meeting, April 9, 2026**

Director Russo Baca attended the Rio Grande 6-Pueblo Coalition Meeting, where Tribal leadership discussed water management, ongoing projects, and shared priorities. Participants emphasized the importance of continued coordination, communication, and cooperative approaches to resource stewardship among Pueblos and partner agencies.

**From:** [Colin Baugh](#)  
**To:** [Tarah Jaramillo](#)  
**Subject:** Write-ups  
**Date:** Thursday, April 9, 2026 12:49:24 PM

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**March 11 – Urban Issues Meeting (1:00–2:00 PM)**

Attended a meeting focused on key urban challenges, including infrastructure, growth, and community development, contributing to discussions on ongoing priorities and potential solutions.

**March 16 – Special Board Meeting, Main Office (10:00 AM–12:00 PM)**

Participated in a special board meeting to review organizational updates, discuss strategic initiatives, and address time-sensitive matters requiring board input.

**March 17 – Village of Los Ranchos Trustee Meeting (6:00–7:00 PM)**

Observed and engaged in discussions with village trustees regarding local governance issues, community concerns, and municipal decision-making.

**March 18 – Village of Los Ranchos Agriculture Subcommittee Meeting (3:00–4:45 PM)**

Attended a subcommittee meeting focused on agricultural priorities, water use, and sustainability efforts affecting the local farming community.

**March 19 – OSE MRGV Water Update (6:30–7:30 PM, Virtual)**

Joined a virtual update session covering current developments, policies, and challenges related to water management in the Middle Rio Grande Valley.

**March 21 – Red Shovel & Bosque Clean-Up Planning for Route 66 Centennial (10:30 AM–12:00 PM)**

Collaborated with partners to develop ideas and strategies for community clean-up efforts in the Bosque in preparation for the upcoming Route 66 Centennial.

**March 29 – Primera Agua Event (9:00 AM–1:00 PM)**

Attended a community event focused on water education, conservation, and outreach, engaging with stakeholders and the public.

**April 2 – Fire Managers Meeting, Main Office (9:00–11:00 AM)**

Participated in a meeting with fire management professionals to discuss preparedness, response strategies, and coordination efforts.

**April 8 – ALGA Pre-Conference (7:30 AM–3:00 PM)**

Attended pre-conference sessions featuring presentations and discussions on governance, leadership, and relevant policy topics.

**April 9 – Polk Middle School Speech with Martin Heinrich (9:00–10:30 AM)**

Attended and supported a school visit and speech by Senator Heinrich, engaging students on civic involvement and public service.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Karen Dunning](#)  
**To:** [Tarah Jaramillo](#)  
**Subject:** Reports for the Board  
**Date:** Thursday, April 2, 2026 9:01:08 AM

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### Urban Issues Committee Mtg (I attended in person)

The committee discussed a draft letter that was written to the City to address the Acequia Madre Project and there was a discussion about who should receive the letter and when it should be sent. It was decided to wait until after the Primera Agua celebration to send the letter to the mayor, and to invite City Councilors to the Primera Agua celebration.

### March 19, Zoom meeting on State's Plan to Prevent the Pending Middle Rio Grande Compact Violation

The presentations were given by the State Engineer, Interstate Stream Commission Director and legal counsel for the State Engineer's office. Much of it was information that they had previously shared with us at a board meeting. Some of it was "tools in the toolbox" that the State is considering rather than a definitive plan.

### March 29 Primera Agua Celebration

The celebration was well attended with maybe 100 people at the maximum. Speeches were given by Commissioner Barbara Baca, Colin Baugh, Jorge Garcia, Santiago Maestas, a representative from the City's Open Space and there was an indigenous blessing song. Deb Haaland attended and also gave some remarks. There were tables for CESOSS, the Acequia Association, the Open Space and there were burritos, coffee and later a lunch that was provided by the Utton Center. Traditional dances were performed.