

**MINUTES OF THE
2,236th REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

JUNE 8, 2026

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

DIRECTORS

John P. Kelly, Chair	Present
Colin T. Baugh, Vice Chair	Present
Brian Jiron, Director	Present
Stephanie Russo Baca, Director	Present
J. Chris Lopez, Director	Present
Micheal T. Sandoval, Director	Present
Karen Dunning, Director	Present

STAFF

Jason Casuga	Chief Engineer/CEO
Lorna Wiggins	General Counsel
Kaleb Brooks	Chief Water Counsel
Pamela Fanelli	Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Christine Nardi	Director of Human Resources
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	Rebecca Thompson, MRGCD	Joe Sanchez
Matt Martinez, MRGCD	Tony Tafoya, Corrales	Linda Sanchez
Patrick Taber, BIA	Santiago Maestas, SVRAA	Chris Sichler
Gwen Baldwin, LR	Jorge Garcia, CESOSS	Paula Sichler
Jimmy Beal	Martin Haynes	Daniel Aguierre, W&C
Joshua Gamboa, MRGCD	John Thompson, MRGCD Lobbyist	Josh Mann

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tony Tafoya 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 all Directors attending in person. Rollcall votes will not be necessary for regular motions.

AGENDA ITEM NO.2 - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA .

Director Sandoval requested Item 4 be removed since there would be no representation from the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos Water Coalition at the meeting.

Mr. Casuga explained the item was to address any comments regarding the presentation last month, but they did not receive any written ones. He said the Coalition asked not to be on their agenda, but people can still come and provide comment to the Board on it.

Director Jiron suggested rewording it, because it seemed like the Coalition would be present to speak on it.

Director Russo Baca felt it was acceptable to remove Item 4 and receive any comments on it during Items from the Floor.

Chairman Kelly agreed, but said those speaking under Item 4 would not be limited to the 3 minutes as they are under Items from the Floor but asked them not to double or trip that time.

Director Sandoval made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA WITH THE ABOVE CHANGES**. Seconded by Director Jiron. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 - CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **Consideration/Approval of Payment Ratification – May 2026**
- b. **Consideration/Approval of May 2026 Invoices for Wiggins, Williams & Wesenberg, PC**
- c. **Consideration/Approval of May 2026 Invoices for Spencer Fane LLP**
- d. **Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting – May 11, 2026**
- e. **Memo on MRGCD Approved Licenses for May 2026 (For Informational Purposes Only)**

Director Dunning stated there are some really interesting studies going on and they must get a license because they are going into the Bosque to conduct those studies. She asked as part of their licensing if they could tell them what was found in the studies.

Mr. Ish responded they do not always put that as a stipulation of the license, but most of the time they are able to obtain those if it is a research entity or consulting firm.

Director Dunning made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA**. Seconded by Director Lopez. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 - DISCUSSION ON DRAFT RESOLUTION CONCERNING PRIORITY OF EL VADO STORAGE RIGHTS

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

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

Ms. Marken gave a report on water supply conditions. She shared water supply has been limited all irrigation season, largely due to record low snowpack and warm temperatures. She said MRGCD was unable to store any native Rio Grande water this year because of poor hydrology, but they still would not have been able to store any native Rio Grande water due to Compact restrictions. She displayed hydrographs for the La Puente, Abiquiu, and Otowi Gages. She stated irrigation demand at Otowi is about 800 CFS and Otowi Gage is only measuring 300 CFS right now, and they have been in prior and paramount operations only since June 2nd. She noted the P&P demand at Otowi now is 273 CFS, which will incrementally increase into July, and the natural flow of the river is currently not sufficient to meet the needs of the P&P demands. The La Puente Gage is measuring 55 CFS and Abiquiu is measuring 225 CFS, and 20 CFS of the Abiquiu release is San Juan Chama water. She stated the gaps between the red and blue lines on the graph are made up of the rereleases from that P&P storage and the triangles indicate the median for each date of measured flow at the Otowi Gage over the past 55 years, which is typically around 2000 CFS this time of year, but only measuring 300 CFS right now. Ms. Marken expressed that the Middle Valley is experiencing

extensive river channel drying and there was almost 75 miles of dry river between Cochiti and Elephant Butte yesterday, 13 of which are in the Albuquerque Reach of the river. She noted there is still a trickle of flow there but it is on the verge of drying. The National Weather Service's Seasonal Outlook is predicting a hot and wet monsoon season.

See also Appendix I.

Director Jiron commented that at one of the meetings, BOR said farmers south of the reservation were not allowed to use the runoff, as it was going to go back to the Butte, and he told them water would not make it that far south and asked why they were not letting the farmers utilize the overspill. He asked Ms. Marken what was happening out there since she mentioned farmers were being curtailed when they are in P&P operations north of Isleta.

Ms. Marken responded that any water that gets past Isleta Pueblo does get delivered to irrigators because it is downstream of all the Pueblo use, cannot impact that priority water right, and does not get down to the Butte.

Mr. Casuga said another question to ask would be if a lot of water is getting past the Pueblos, is it too much water in the system for them, because the water stored for the Pueblos was stored under Article 6 and 7 restrictions. He stated the Pueblos have a unique status to have their P&P water stored in use of it, but no other farmers should be benefiting from that storage in the nature of the Compact, and it could be viewed in a harmful way for the rest of the valley long term. He said they would ask BIA why it is making it past and if there is too much water in the system if a lot of water is leaving Isleta. He was worried it could be misconstrued that New Mexico is putting a lot more water in the system and violating the rules in which that water is stored.

Director Jiron was glad farmers were using that tail end water since it is not going to make it down the river or just going to evaporate. He inquired what the measuring point was of how much is too much.

Mr. Casuga responded that was a good question. He said they go through a similar analysis when they release San Juan Chama water, as they have set a boundary to not get to Bosque del Apache, and if he sees water spilling or a large volume passing for a sustained period of time, he will ask staff why that is happening, but there is not a standard number of days. He stated under Article 6 and 7 restrictions, the only entities that should be benefitting from release of P&P water are the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos, period.

Chairman Kelly inquired how much of the spill is from diurnal operations of the wastewater treatment plant, as he felt they could make the case that the spill water is actually the peak of the diurnal that is getting passed.

Mr. Casuga answered they would have to take a look at that and he hoped BIA would do that same. However, there are no provisions for in the Compact under Article 6.

Chairman Kelly asked if that provision would be reregulation reservoir at their outfall where it is a consistent flow they can operate under.

Mr. Casuga said if MRGCD asked the question of how to smooth that out, they probably have ideas to help smooth it out because they do it when they are operating the system.

Vice Chairman Baugh shared it is really important to help communicate this is the toughest it has ever been in their lifetime. He appreciated Director Jiron standing by the farmers that could maybe take advantage of extra water. However, he felt the bigger question was how to communicate and work together with BIA and other entities a little better.

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

Mr. Martinez reported on water distribution. He stated irrigation distribution is extremely challenged by historically low spring flows and there are long waits between irrigation opportunities, some exceeding 50 days without water, and those wait times are expected to increase. He said on May 24th, they notified irrigators that declining river flows would likely require a transition to P&P operations, but rain inflow on May 25th and 26th temporarily increased supplies and delayed that transition for another week. However, many areas were still waiting for the return of their rotation and the rain runoff dissipated by the end of that week. He added that river conditions have continued to decline and BIA resumed releasing water to meet P&P demand. He said MRGCD transitioned to P&P only operations on June 2nd, and curtailed areas included Sile, Pena Blanca, Algodones, Bernalillo, and the Greater Albuquerque area, and future deliveries in those areas will depend on rainfall and resulting inflows. He gave a reminder that during P&P operations, many canals and drains serve as primary conveyances to move water downstream to Isleta Pueblo and MRGCD staff are continuing to coordinate with BIA and Pueblo representatives to administer P&P water deliveries. He expressed that ISOs are making canal adjustments and monitoring for unauthorized irrigation activity that interfere with delivery to P&P water. He noted that any reported misuse will be investigated and addressed according to their enforcement procedures. Mr. Martinez said limited irrigation deliveries continue using available drain flows and tailwater downstream of Isleta Pueblo, with fluctuation of around 45 CFS daily. ISOs continue advancing rotations in the Belen Division as water supply allows, but progress remains slow from limited and fluctuating supplies, and irrigation deliveries in the Socorro Division are largely dependent on drain flows and are extremely limited. He added Unit 7 was down to 15 CFS, which is historically bad. He voiced ISOs are doing inspections and maintenance to keep the system ready to deliver whenever supplies come available and they received new chainsaws and weed eaters to support vegetation management. He encouraged water user to take delivery on short notice when offered, as rain inflows can arrive suddenly and leave quickly.

Mr. Casuga informed the Board they will be getting calls, especially in Bernalillo County, as constituents see water in strategic ditches to move water to the Pueblos.

Director Dunning received an email from someone in the Las Padillas area whose last irrigation was March 23rd. She asked Mr. Martinez how she could explain to them why they have not received a second irrigation.

Mr. Martinez responded that he would be happy to look into that, as that is one of the few areas in the Albuquerque Division that has had a third delivery opportunity.

Director Russo Baca also received an email from someone in Peralta that heard from a neighbor they would not be getting any more irrigations in Peralta on the Middle Ditch.

Mr. Martinez answered where they stand on the east side rotations is currently outside of that zone, but if supply allows, they will deliver to that particular ditch. However, the ISO in that area is newer and he may need help communicating that message out.

Director Jiron inquired what the operations look like with rotations in the Valencia County/Belen area, as some constituents reached out about the Las Cercas Ditch, saying when they are in rotations, they are starting at the bottom and working their way up.

Mr. Martinez agreed they should be delivering top to bottom and that is the instruction they give their team. He stated there are some circumstances where there may be a hay down period and they skip it and then come back upstream, but he was not sure if that was the situation there, but he will review those records.

Mr. Casuga encouraged the board members to send any calls they may get to them so they can do some research and give a written answer back on it. He said they have received many calls already and most of the time they find the ISO made the right decision after reviewing the situation.

Director Jiron suggested to those famers to call Mr. Martinez; however, he hears a lot that ISOs and/or Mr. Martinez do not answer the calls. He asked them to please answer those calls.

Mr. Casuga responded that if he would look into that, and if calls are not being answered, they would get to the bottom of it.

Director Russo Baca shared that sometimes voicemails are full, so with the influx of calls, they need to make sure they are cleaning those out often.

Director Lopez asked for an explanation on how a rotation works and when they decide to move water from one canal to another.

Mr. Martinez answered the idea behind a rotation is to give every irrigator on a canal a delivery opportunity, and water will move to another canal when everyone has had an opportunity to irrigate. He stated they generally follow a top to bottom pattern, skipping those with hay down and then trying to come back to them as long as it does not extend the overall duration of the rotation.

Mr. Casuga added that when an ISO goes into that, they have an idea of how long the water will be there, and they will be flexible as much as they can as long as it does not harm other users. He said the last thing he wants to do is send water 9 hours upstream knowing he only has 3 hours of water.

Mr. Martinez expressed they have a tool to project how long a rotation should take based on flow, acreage, and application depth.

Chairman Kelly inquired if they should ask the Bureau to do some temporary low flow channels through the dry reaches of the river that might feed down to the Isleta Diversion Dam.

Mr. Casuga felt there were a number of things they could work on with their federal partners, but he was really focused on continuing their efforts on the San Acacia Reach to move water to Elephant Butte.

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

Joe Sanchez

Mr. Sanchez voiced that he has a property in Valencia County and he was informed by his ISO this year that they are no longer going to maintain the ditch. He noted it used to run on the east side of the tracks but now runs on the west side. He stated that he talked to the people at MRGCD and they said it is not on their map or their responsibility and is a private ditch, but he said it is not and the deed from 1936 calls it the Garcia Ditch. He added it is not a big deal for them to move the choppers through there but they have not done it since last year. He requested they do that, because the overgrown Chinese Elm tree overgrowth causes more waste of water than trying to run water down the old Garcia ditch to the property there. He did not know why it could be done for over 100 years but they cannot do it now.

Chairman Kelly stated he would ask Mr. Casuga to look and see what happened there and report back on it. Mr. Casuga confirmed he would work with Right-of-way and their maintenance team on that and then report back.

Jorge Garcia

Mr. Garcia, Director of CESOSS, thanked the MRGCD for all their collaboration and opportunities to work for the community over the years. He talked about the work they are doing in Valle Vista. He said there is an MRGCD outdoor classroom, but the big question they have is how to get that curriculum into the school without causing extra work for teachers. He expressed they are working to create a pilot project and special program to allow the MRGCD outdoor classroom and the agricultural site in Valle Vista to start testing, measuring, and include all different levels of activities to test how families and parents are being influenced by it, how the teachers are taking it, and the most effective way to take it into the classroom without making another imposition on the teachers. He noted that since Valle Vista is a family resource center, they can work with the parents and extend education for them to be part of the entire educational experience. He added that in 25 years, the projection is that there will be 25% less water, so this type of education will help bring meaningful knowledge of their community into the classroom and give that knowledge, and they have to zoom into the young kids because that is the greatest opportunity to reimpact a knowledge they can actually absorb. He said they want to set up the pilot project to compile all the data to show that investing in the future of acequias is in the elementary schools, and then maybe they can extend it across the valley, because that is where their future is.

See also Appendix II.

Gwen Baldwin

Ms. Baldwin, Los Ranchos Trustee, thanked all of the staff that attended the June 4th MRGCD Farmers and Community Informational Meeting for Bernalillo County. She talked about some of the things she took away from that meeting, including the importance of collaborating and working together to increase efficiency throughout the system, reducing illegal water use throughout the system, and removing evasive and excessive vegetation along the Bosque.

Chairman Kelly thanked them for hosting their meeting.

Santiago Maestas

Mr. Maestas, with the South Valley Regional Association of Acequias, stated they are protesting the water right transfer from Los Padillas, as they do not have water to spare, it takes away the water from Los Padillas in the South Valley, it can harm acequias and domestic wells, and it is poor conservation. He shared that Mesa Verde farms pumped over 1,000-acre feet of water last year and they have been unable to figure out how many water rights they have in order to pump that much water. He said the application lacks proof, it threatens acequia culture, and they are concerned if it meets the Compact requirements. He believes the Middle Rio Grande is causing part of the problem as to why they cannot deliver water to Elephant Butte, Mesilla Valley, and Texas. He voiced they will be proceeding with the protest and hoped other political jurisdictions who are eligible would do that same.

See also Appendix III.

Tony Tafoya

Mr. Tafoya shared he heard the pumps in Corrales would not be put back into service even if the river levels came up. He stated that he knows the MRGCD is doing their best to help Corrales as much as they can, and he was not happy with BOR's idea to rethink the repairs to the El Vado Dam.

Mr. Casuga responded the pumps are on standby and if rain gives them the opportunity to turn those pumps back on, they will do so. However, they would need a rain event that produces a sustained flow for them to be turned back on.

Chris Sichler

Mr. Sichler commented on the Item 4 Draft Resolution Concerning Priority of El Vado Storage Rights. He was in support of the resolution and did not see a reason why they would need to store the entire amount of prior and paramount in the spring, especially in a dry year. He was concerned about the Compact water only being used on prior and paramount lands. He asked if someone is monitoring newly reclaimed lands to make sure they are at the same curtailment as the rest of the irrigators, because if they are using P&P water to water those lands and releasing water, that would be a violation of the Compact.

Mr. Casuga stated they are in receipt of the letter from BIA that they are to assist with the delivery of water to the prior and paramount lands only, and MRGCD is asking that same question. He said they are trying to get answers as to how that is being done so they can verify that per the 81 Agreement between the Pueblos and the federal governments, that only P&P lands of the Pueblos are supposed to benefit from that water, not newly reclaimed land.

Director Jiron stated what a lot of people are not aware of is that they have P&P stored, but when the Pueblos call for it, BOR is always prohibiting them to use it. He said if it was up to them, they would have all that water, but they have to work with the federal government to use that.

Mr. Sichler understood that, as he served on the BIA Committee and did not have a problem with them storing P&P water, and he said it was probably helpful because they can keep that water up north where it does not evaporate. He did not agree with the Pueblos request to store their entire P&P use this year, as it was unnecessary and would be to the detriment of farmers in spring runoff. He wanted to make sure the newly reclaimed lands had the same priority as everybody else in the District, and if they are releasing P&P water that has been stored on newly reclaimed lands, that would be the same as the water getting past Isleta and using it on other lands, which is violation of the Compact.

John Edward

Mr. Edward expressed that reactive spending on drought and money spent on sea level rising, erosion control, and flooding amounts to almost \$100 billion a year annually spent reactively without proactive results. He added they have not done anything in a meaningful way since the 50s, and he felt there needed to be a lot of big picture thinking. He challenged and encouraged the MRGCD and all others in New Mexico leadership to think big, because things that seemed preposterous and a gamble over 100 years ago helped create the San Juan Chama Diversion. He asked them to think about what it would be like today if they did not have that San Juan Chama Diversion water. He wants big picture thinking and hard and honest discussions instead of spending money on a reactive basis. He added they have the know-how and financial resources, but they are spending it all the wrong way on both the state and federal levels. He voiced some solutions that could help, including flooding Death Valley to create an inland sea, erosion control spent in the Great Lakes every year to create a series of aqueducts to the southwest, or every single city within 75 miles of an ocean desalinating so they do not have to send so much water down a river. He noted that it took big picture thinkers of their ancestors to get them where they are today.

Director Russo Baca

Director Russo Baca announced the Corrales Co-op Board meets tomorrow at the Corrales Senior Center from 5:30-6 p.m., and they were asked to bring materials about the conservation programs that MRGCD has.

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

Not present at today's meeting.

See also Appendix IV.

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

Mr. Taber gave an update from the BIA. He expressed that so far with storage, they have released around 1,200-acre feet of P&P waters, and there was 100 CFS of that 300-acre feet coming through Otowi, which also included around 20 CFS of San Juan Chama water. He said their current P&P demand is around 273-acre feet, and they are continuing to work and make sure that water is being distributed. He shared there have been some low areas that have not been getting some of the irrigation water released, so they are tweaking the system to try to coordinate with various tribes that are impacted by that, but he felt that operationally they are progressing as expected.

Mr. Casuga looked forward to working with BIA on how to verify the water should be delivered to only P&P lands in such a way that no Pueblo is shorted, as well as how to bring public verification out on that.

Vice Chairman Baugh asked how they walk people through when they make a call for P&P waters and reporting they are getting pushed back and also on rotation and how the Bureau is addressing the hardest summer they have ever seen with water.

Mr. Taber answered it is a challenge and in some ways predicting stream flows is like predicting the weather and they have to be looking at what is happening on the ground and at the gages. They refer to their demand curve, where they use that threshold as their marker to release water and compensate when there is not enough flow.

Mr. Casuga added their demand curve is similar to the P&P lands and what Ms. Marken showed earlier.

Director Jiron explained they are always barely at the release point and never get to the point where they can ask for the P&P waters. He said when they are in P&P operations, they are rotating from the west side of the Pueblo to the east side, and a lot of non-native farmers do not know that. He said they need to put out meetings to educate those people because they have the mentality the Pueblos are not using their water so they want to use it. He noted the Pueblos never had any discussions or were involved with the Compact, but they have all this water that goes back down and pays the Compact to Texas. He asked Mr. Taber how many times they asked for water and did not get it.

Mr. Taber did not know if he could answer that off the top of his head, but he believed there were about 3,600-acre feet of releases last year, and around 1,200-acre feet so far this year and will likely increase a little more than 200-acre feet a day right now.

Vice Chairman Baugh asked if they are in the worst year ever, is prior and paramount water not used at the end of the season.

Mr. Casuga stated as a District, they are not party to the 81 Agreement but it has been the standard for the last 30 years, and he did not feel they were in any position to change it apart from bringing people back together and having a conversation. He said he did not know if all the water would be used because there are triggers in that 81 Agreement that are mathematical. He expressed that Mr. Taber is bound by that agreement and if the mathematical triggers are hit, they will release water, and if it rains and those triggers are no longer hit, they will stop releasing. He added if there is any year the water will all get used or be close to getting all used, it probably will be this one.

Mr. Taber voiced with what is happening out in the Pacific, they could get airflow and could get a big stream that would change it to a completely different year, but it is unknown at this point and they just have to wait and see.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 - REPORT(S) FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES- **Christine L. Nardi, MBA**

a. Introduction of MRGCD New Hires

Ms. Nardi introduced the new hires and changes in staff. They are welcoming back Alicia Lopez as the new Director of Technical Services and hired a new Information Systems Manager in the General Office, and ISO Supervisor and Field Coordinator promotions in the Socorro Division.

b. Employee Recognition

Mr. Nardi recognized Joshua Gamboa, MRGCD's Controller, for the MRGCD Performance Excellent Award for his leadership and execution in the reimplementation of the work order system.

Mr. Casuga thanked Mr. Gamboa for his herculean effort in this and expressed how difficult it was to deploy technology into an organization that has done something the same way for so long.

Chairman Kelly thanked Mr. Gamboa for all his hard work and dedication to the project.



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

- a. **Report on Urban Issues Committee Meeting review of the Cabezon Channel Easement Appraisal, June 8, 2026 - Casey Ish, Director of Lands & Conservation, Amanda Molina, Director of Communications, Vice Chairman Baugh, Directors Dunning and Russo Baca**

This item was moved to be discussed in Executive Session.

- b. **Discussion on DRAFT Resolution Concerning Water Rights Acquisition Policy - Casey Ish, Director of Lands & Conservation**

Mr. Ish explained they were advised to clarify through a resolution and policy what the District intends to do through Water Rights Acquisition, so they created a draft resolution and draft policy. He noted that Water Council is still reviewing that and they will be back in July with consideration and approval on it to line up with the new fiscal year and availability of those funds.

Chairman Kelly further explained the draft resolution contains a lot of recitals that set the case up for their need, ability, and interest in acquiring Pre-07 water rights, as well as a policy. He added they may want to look through the recitals and be sure they are consistent in the hierarchy of what is listed first, as that is viewed as the most important.

Director Dunning voiced this was an amazing resolution and was well done.

Vice Chairman Baugh asked if there was any more history on the genesis of why the District should look at acquiring water rights and how this helps give a more robust approach to protesting water rights.

Mr. Ish answered hydrology has played a role in the staff decision to make a budgetary request on behalf of the Board, because with less and less water available, the District needs to secure the most valuable asset they administer, as well as wanting to try and provide an off-ramp for private water rights for people who want to capitalize on the monetary value of those rights.

Mr. Casuga believed the historical water bank for the District could be problematic in the aridification future they have and how it was done, so developing a portfolio with a portion of it being pre-1907 water rights would give them more flexibility on how to operate the water bank in the future.

Director Dunning voiced concerns there are farmers who want to buy water rights and may be upset with having to compete with MRGCD over those.

Mr. Ish responded time will tell if that is going to be an issue. He said making those water rights available for Ag was one of the primary drivers behind this resolution and policy. He stated that while they may retain ownership of a water right, they also want some protection of potential elements. He added they could always come into an agreement to lease water out to a willing farmer for a certain amount of time.

Mr. Casuga expressed there is a group of people that want to see their water stay in the Middle Valley. He stated if it becomes a problem, they will address it because they do not want to be in competition with out-bidding farmers, but he did not feel they should be afraid to have a program to purchase water rights. He recommended they do it and then face the problem if it arises. However, their intention is to get this out there, and if they get a lot of public comment they do not anticipate, they could potentially leave it out longer at the will of the Board.

Chairman Kelly mentioned it is an outward facing resolution, so they will take plenty of time on it.

Vice Chairman Baugh asked if a water right is bought in the Middle Valley and has a successful transfer out of the Middle Valley, would any of the Compact requirements stay with that transfer.

Director Russo Baca explained that if water rights are transferred in and around the same basin and the Compact is affecting where it is transferred to, then yes, they still have to abide by the same Compact. But otherwise, that is not a requirement for the Compact to be looked at with any water right transfers.

Mr. Casuga added if they transfer a water right into the ground, the rules are a little bit different, as they are only transferring the consumptive. He believed there was a strategic pot they can get where they can show a higher benefit to constituents by providing water to allow their diversions to keep going. He expressed they are in the business of trying to keep farmers in business, so grabbing as much water as they can and keep it here where they can make decisions on if curtailments needs to happen are important, and maybe one day the District has the pot to say they do not need to curtail their famers because they have water rights they have not used left in the system.

Chairman Kelly asked about allowing their Capital Fund to be used to acquire water rights, as the water rights would be a long-term capital asset.

Mr. Casuga answered that was a relevant question and he and Ms. Fanelli talked about that. He said the question is if there were a certain amount they would allow for a longer period loan to purchase water rights with a payoff overtime, similar to the way they take out loans to buy equipment. He added it is a capital asset in their minds, but they can get an opinion on that. Ms. Fanelli agreed.

Director Russo Baca expressed that would be very interesting, as they are a public entity and if these water rights are brokered, the information on how the water rights are bought and sold will become public, and that is something the State of New Mexico does not have, which could really change how water rights are seen in the Middle Valley.

Chairman Kelly noted the policy stated the Board will approve each of the acquisitions and the entire contract would be public record.

Vice Chairman Baugh shared that is something that has to be amplified and maybe celebrated, as it would give more transparency.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 - REPORT(S) FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER/CFO - Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM

a. Consideration/Approval of Resolution M-06-08-26-227 for the Setting Rate for Water Delivered to the La Joya Acequia for the 2027 Irrigation Season

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION M-06-08-26-227**. Seconded by Director Dunning. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

b. Consideration/Approval of Resolution M-06-08-26-238 Adopting the 2028-2032 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) - Rebecca Thompson, Jr. Accountant

Ms. Thompson presented the resolution to adopt their Fiscal Year 2028-2032 ICIP. She explained that the ICIP is reviewed and updated every year, and it reflects their current priorities and infrastructures they need to fix or maintain, as well as the 5-year forecast. She stated that if passed, they will submit it to the state by July 1st, and priorities do not need to change until November 1st. She noted they must have the ICIP Plan in place before being eligible for any future grants or capital outlay requests.

Mr. Casuga asked Ms. Thompson to re-explain the rules that changed House Bill 247, as there has been some controversy around that.

Ms. Thompson explained House Bill 247 states that each entity must request their own capital outlay money and have their own ICIP. She said she has been going to a couple of acequia association meetings to ensure they are in contact with DFA and getting an entity and ICIP in place. She stated they were also informed MRGCD will be their fiscal agent as long as they request the funding on their behalf.

Director Russo Baca shared she talked to the Acequia Association and they were very thankful, understood, and are working on the ICIP process.

Director Dunning inquired if they ask constituents if they agree with our priorities when they have public meetings to get public comment on their ICIP.

Mr. Casuga answered not really, as they have a system designed for a very specific purpose and have a lot of deficiencies in that system they inherited. He was not against that approach, but the reality is they are always going to shift to the thing that breaks no matter what has been chosen.

Director Dunning asked how they come up with the top priorities, as she saw some things further down on the list they need to be committed to doing.

Mr. Casuga said the list for priorities does not need to be updated until November, so they started by just taking the list and getting things on it that are important. He asked Ms. Thompson to hold off on his meeting with her on that until they hired the new Director of Technical Services, as it would be important to include them on the reprioritization process. He mentioned some things move up or down based on the success of getting funding as well.

Chairman Kelly added they also stuffed the list full of everything in their 5-year plan, as they cannot even talk about it up at Santa Fe unless it is on there.

Ms. Fanelli expressed they typically put 1 through 5 for capital outlay on things they think will be funded through capital outlay.

Vice Chairman Baugh asked if there are any amendments allowed to be changed in the new law if something occurs, they need to do or is hard lock in on the 5-year plan.

Ms. Fanelli added their ICIP Plan is created once a year, so they have the opportunity to reprioritize based on their needs.

Director Dunning asked if MRGCD charges administrative fees as the fiscal agent.

Mr. Casuga stated that as CEO, he would not recommend they do that.

Director Dunning made the **MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION M-06-08-26-238, THE 2028-2032 ICIP PLAN**. Seconded by Director Russo Baca. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 - REPORT(S) FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER/CEO— Jason M. Casuga, PE

a. Report on the Law of the Colorado River Annual Conference, May 18-19, 2026, Jason M. Casuga, Chief Engineer/CEO and Director Russo Baca

Mr. Casuga reported the tone on the Colorado is mixed at this point in time and nobody loves what is going on. He said BOR discussed their preferred alternative they are carrying forward in an EIS, but he felt they should wait until the State Engineer attends their next board meeting to give their opinion on that. He expressed that he does not love it, but does not hate it either, as there are worse things that could happen. He heard a presentation from people in Utah around interesting conservation programs, as a lot of things MRGCD has been creatively doing, they have codified into state law and brought state funding directly. He wants to set up a meeting with that presenter, along with Mr. Ish, to talk about those things. He expects they will have an interesting CRWUA.

b. Report on MRGCD's Sandoval County Community & Farmers Informational Meeting, May 28, 2026 - Jason M. Casuga, Chief Engineer/CEO, Chairman Kelly, Vice Chairman Baugh, Director Dunning, Sandoval, Lopez and Russo Baca

Mr. Casuga stated the meeting was dominated by Corrales discussion since they had the meeting in Corrales, and they answered questions about the siphon and community engagement. He felt they would have more tangible materials at the next round of farmer's meetings, like maybe a letter listing the priorities of the District to pass out ahead of time.

Mr. Casuga wondered if they should deliver a letter to the State Engineer's Office saying they had their farmers' meeting and give the questions that came up, how constituents are feeling, and asking for support directly. He felt that should be signed by the entire Board.

c. Report on MRGCD's Bernalillo County Community & Farmers Informational Meeting, June 4, 2026 - Jason M. Casuga, Chief Engineer/CEO, Chairman Kelly, Vice Chairman Baugh, Directors Dunning, Sandoval, Lopez and Russo Baca

Mr. Casuga gave the report on the Bernalillo County Community & Farmers Informational Meeting. He said he will draft a letter to the representative that attended to thank him for his participation and the task force he is setting up. He felt they need to create some official documentation saying they are not an entity that can choose to not comply with the law. He asked the Board if they were comfortable with him sending that letter or if they would like it to come from someone else.

Chairman Kelly felt it would be appropriate for the Chairman to sign that letter.

Director Lopez voiced there was a lot of concern about the county accessor wanting to change tax rates, on top of a lot of them are choosing not to plant because they are not sure if they are going to get water.

Mr. Casuga stated that is true, and he worked in conjunction with their lobbyists, partner, and Representative Cates to bring about some sort of protections to provide protection during drought, but that has not made it out of committee the last two years. He admitted he was at a loss on what MRGCD could do to affect that. He stated there was not an explicit part saying you can or cannot, so there seems to be some gray area and potential flexibility for an official to make some action, justify it, and not be strictly legal. He asked Mr. John Thompson to remind them why that law did not make it out of committee.

Mr. Thompson explained there were two iterations of the bill introduced in subsequent years, and it is a difficult bill to draft. However, he felt they would be having a larger conversation on it during the interim. He stated it may not directly correlate to what is going on in Corrales, but it is a conversation needed in the Texas v. New Mexico context.

Director Dunning shared that Representative Cates pointed out to Sandoval County that they elect their county assessor and they have the power. She asked if there was any change in the election results.

Ms. Wiggins shared that Lawrence Griego won the primary as a Republican for the Sandoval County Assessors position, and he will face Linda Gallegos.

Chairman Kelly said he would like to have Ms. Strange to show some pictures of what she is doing with the salt cedar and the water yield increase from getting rid of the square mile of salt cedar at one of the meetings.

Mr. Casuga responded she is already on the docket to do something like that.

d. Report on 6-Middle Rio Grande Pueblos Coalition Meeting, June 5, 2026 - Jason M. Casuga, Chief Engineer/CEO and Director Russo Baca

Mr. Casuga attended the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos Coalition Meeting, and they informed him they were taking their name off the agenda of wanting to do a presentation or comment at the MRGCD Board meeting. He presented on their P&P OPS, their commitment to make sure the Pueblos are getting the water and guiding it through at the direction of BIA. He also announced to them that Mr. Zamora retired and that Alicia Lopez would be coming back. He stated they were given the hydrology update that BIA and BOR gave, there were more questions from the Coalition related to BOR and decisions to bypasses going on when water was being stored. The State of New Mexico also announced to the Coalition they are looking to get a water master for the Middle Valley, which prompted an interesting conversation about what the water master will do. He said as for MRGCD, they are the water master for surface water in the Middle Valley, so they would have questions if there was any competition for who the surface water master would be within the Middle Valley.

e. Information on Upcoming Events:

- 1. MRGCD's Community and Farmers Informational Meetings, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**
 - a. June 18, 2026, Valencia County - Village of Los Lunas Train Station Auditorium**
 - b. June 24, 2026, Socorro County - City of Socorro Convention Center**
- 2. CESOSS 2026 Acequia Walk & Talks Series**
 - a. June 13, 2026 - Ranchos de Atrisco: Acequia Madre headwaters**
 - b. July 11, 2026 - Arenal Acequia: Vecinos del Bosque neighborhood**
 - c. August 22, 2026 - Los Padillas Acequia**
 - d. September 5, 2026 - Armijo: Sanchez Farm Open Space**
 - e. October 24, 2026 - Pajarito: Durand Open Space**
- 3. Present MRGCD's First Quarterly Update on the Atrisco Acequia Madre Project at the Bernalillo County Commission Administrative Meeting, June 23, 2026: Albuquerque, NM**
- 4. Coalition of Rio Grande Water Users Annual Conference, September 16-18, 2026: Tamaya Resort, Pueblos of Santa Ana**
- 5. Tribal Water Law Annual Conference, September 28-29, 2026: Santa Fe, NM**
- 6. New Mexico Water Law Annual Conference, October 8-9, 2026: Santa Fe, NM**

Mr. Casuga discussed the upcoming events. He added that Sandia announced an invitation at the Coalition Meeting, which included MRGCD, to their feast day this Saturday.

Chairman Kelly noted there was an invitation from Isleta Pueblo for the Environmental Fair as well.

Ms. Strange added they are requesting that either board members or staff attend. She said it is on Saturday, July 25th, and it is an Environmental Education Fair, that will include a blood drive and door prizes.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12 - REPORT(S) FROM THE MRGCD ATTORNEY(S) - Chief Water Counsel or General Counsel

Mr. Kaleb Brooks, Water Counsel, reported that the Water Quality Control Commission 25-74 proceeding started today, and MRGCD entered their appearance.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13 - REPORT(S) FROM THE BOARD

- a. Report on Farmers for Future Farmers Meeting, May 12, 2026 - Director Russo Baca
- b. Report on the NM Water Dialogue's 31st Annual Meeting, May 14, 2026 - Directors Sandoval and Russo Baca
- c. Report on Valencia County Soil and Water Conservation District Regular Board Meeting, May 21, 2026 - Director Russo Baca
- d. Report on the Rio Grande Basin Study Agriculture Committee Meeting, May 22, 2026 - Director Russo Baca
- e. Report on Congressman Vaquez's Agriculture Advisory Group Meeting, June 2, 2026 - Director Russo Baca

Director Russo Baca announced the New World Screwworm is in New Mexico, which can be a huge issue for livestock and they can expect the price of meat to go up.

There were written reports provided for each report.

See also Appendix V.

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

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 5:47 pm**. Seconded by Director Dunning. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14 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 Sandoval made the **MOTION TO GO BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION at 6:25 pm**. Seconded by Director Russo Baca. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

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

Chairman Kelly noted Director Jiron left during Executive Session.

With no further comments, questions, or concerns, Chairman Kelly adjourned the meeting at 6:26 pm.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of June 8, 2026.

ATTESTED:


 Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM
 Secretary-Treasurer/CFO


 John P. Kelly, Chairman
 MRGCD Board of Directors

Water Supply Update

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Board of Directors Meeting

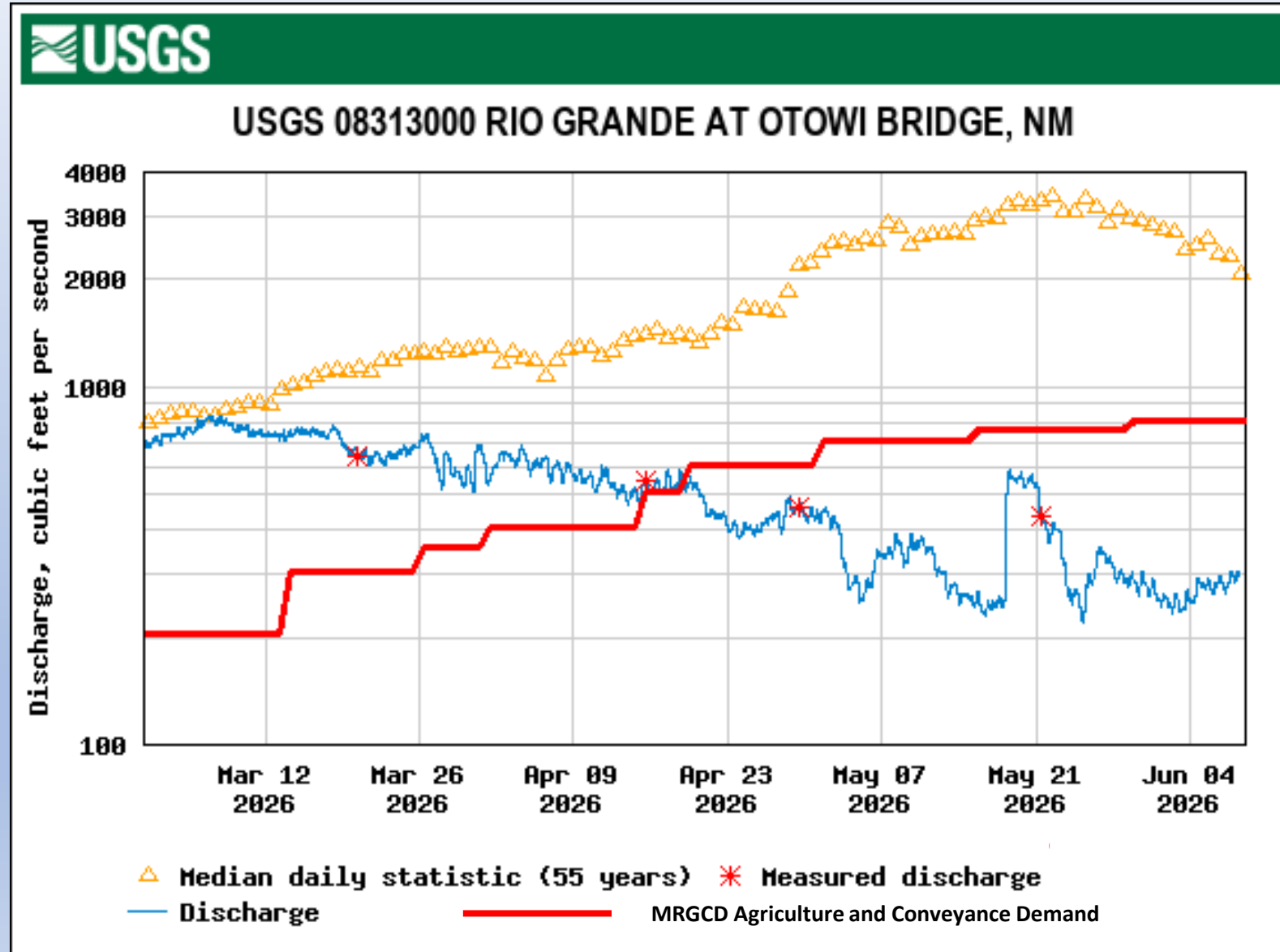
Prepared by Anne Marken

Date: 6/8/2026

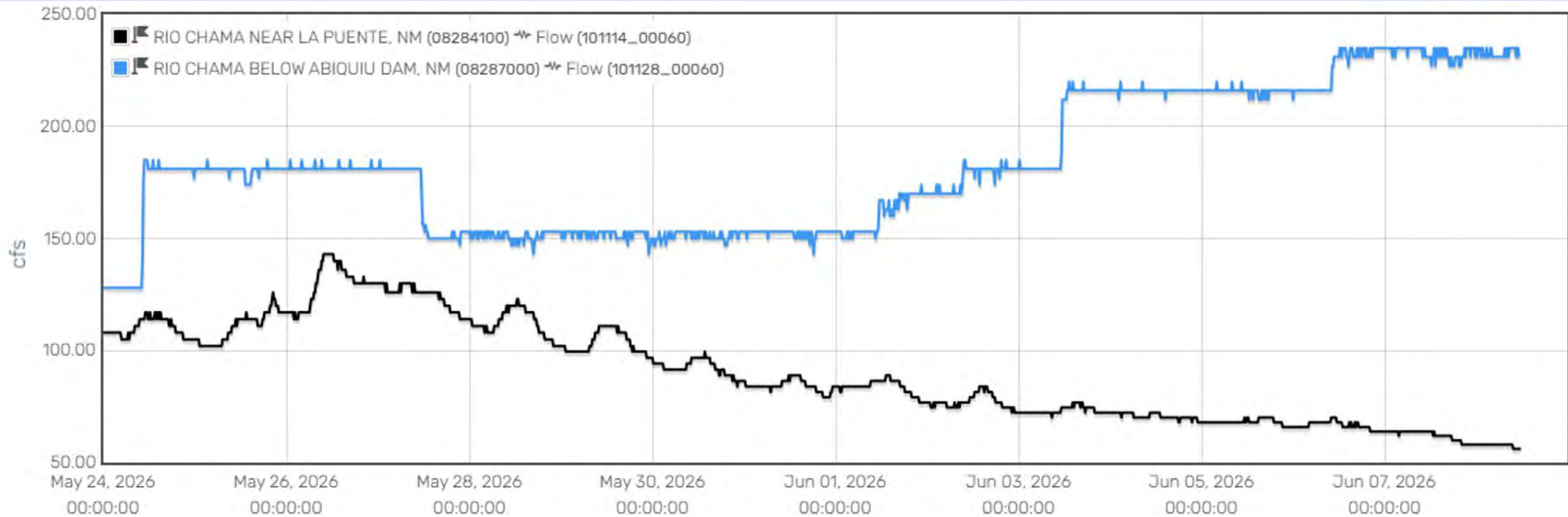




USGS Rio Grande at Otowi Gage



Rio Chama Flows: La Puente and Below Abiquiu



Rio Grande at Alameda Bridge (Looking North)



6/8/2026

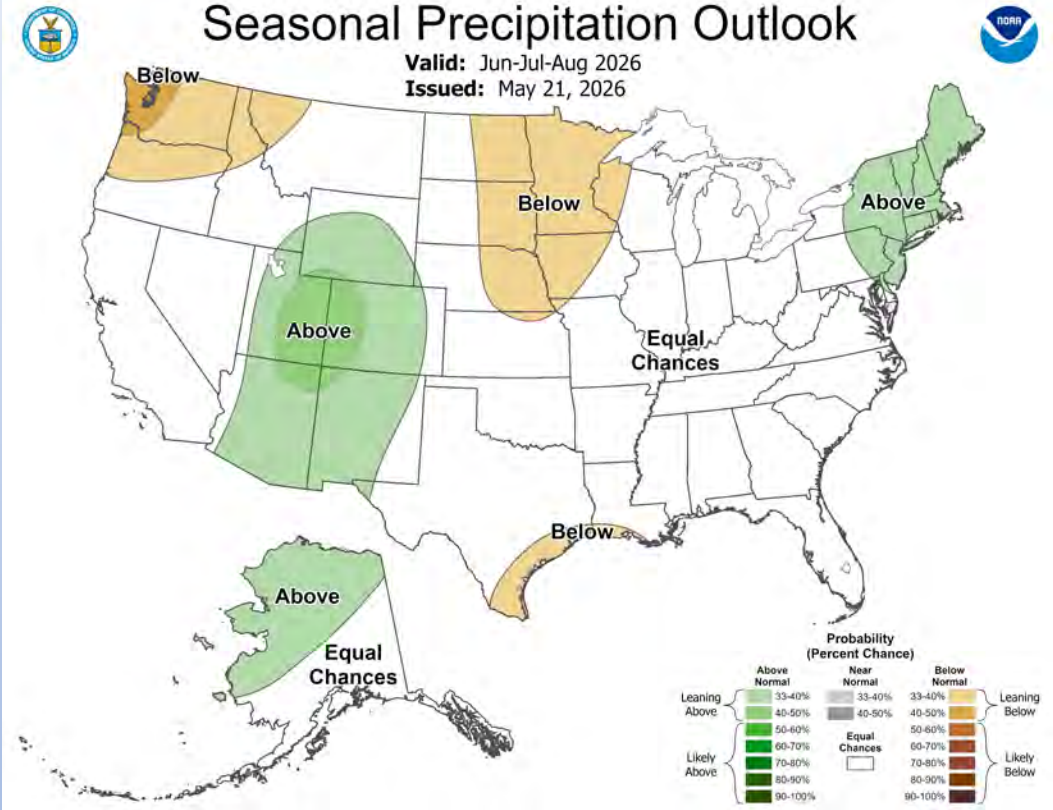
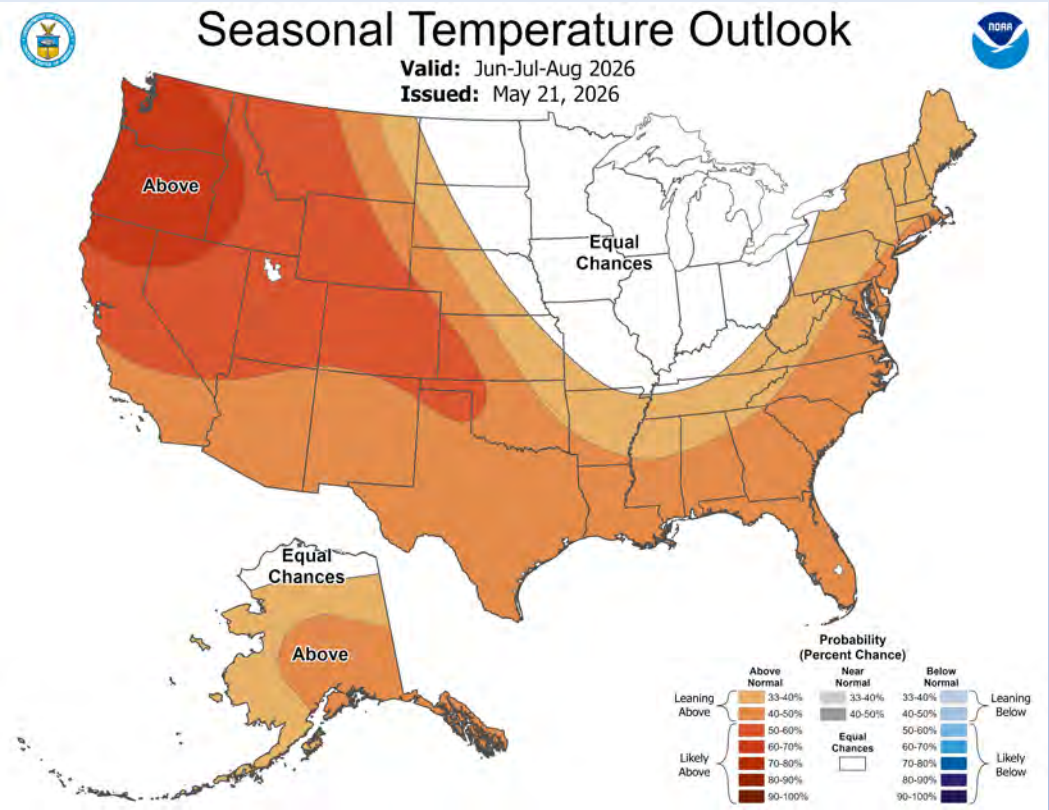


7-Day NWS Forecast

 Location	Maximum Temperature							Probability of Precipitation						
	Mon 06/08	Tue 06/09	Wed 06/10	Thu 06/11	Fri 06/12	Sat 06/13	Sun 06/14	Mon 06/08	Tue 06/09	Wed 06/10	Thu 06/11	Fri 06/12	Sat 06/13	Sun 06/14
Albuquerque	94	94	96	98	96	95	94	10	10	0	0	0	0	10
Santa Fe	90	90	91	93	91	91	88	10	20	0	0	0	0	20
Farmington	93	94	93	93	95	94	93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gallup	87	89	90	91	90	89	88	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grants	88	89	91	92	90	89	89	20	10	0	0	0	0	10
Clayton	95	93	98	91	91	91	80	0	20	0	0	10	20	30
Raton	90	89	94	90	90	89	80	0	30	0	0	0	20	50
Las Vegas	88	87	90	89	88	88	82	0	20	0	0	20	20	40
Moriarty	91	91	93	94	93	92	89	0	10	0	0	0	0	20
Tucumcari	100	98	102	99	96	96	87	0	30	0	20	20	20	30
Clovis	99	95	100	99	95	97	91	0	20	0	0	20	20	40
Roswell	100	98	104	103	99	100	96	0	0	0	0	10	20	40
Socorro	97	98	100	101	98	98	97	0	0	0	0	10	20	10
Chama	81	80	82	85	85	84	82	20	40	0	0	0	10	20
Taos	86	85	88	91	89	88	85	10	20	0	0	0	10	30
Angel Fire	79	78	80	83	82	80	76	0	40	0	0	0	10	50
Los Alamos	85	85	87	89	87	86	84	30	30	0	0	0	10	20
Ruidoso	85	85	88	89	85	87	85	0	20	0	0	30	30	40
Quemado	86	87	89	89	88	87	86	20	10	0	0	0	10	10

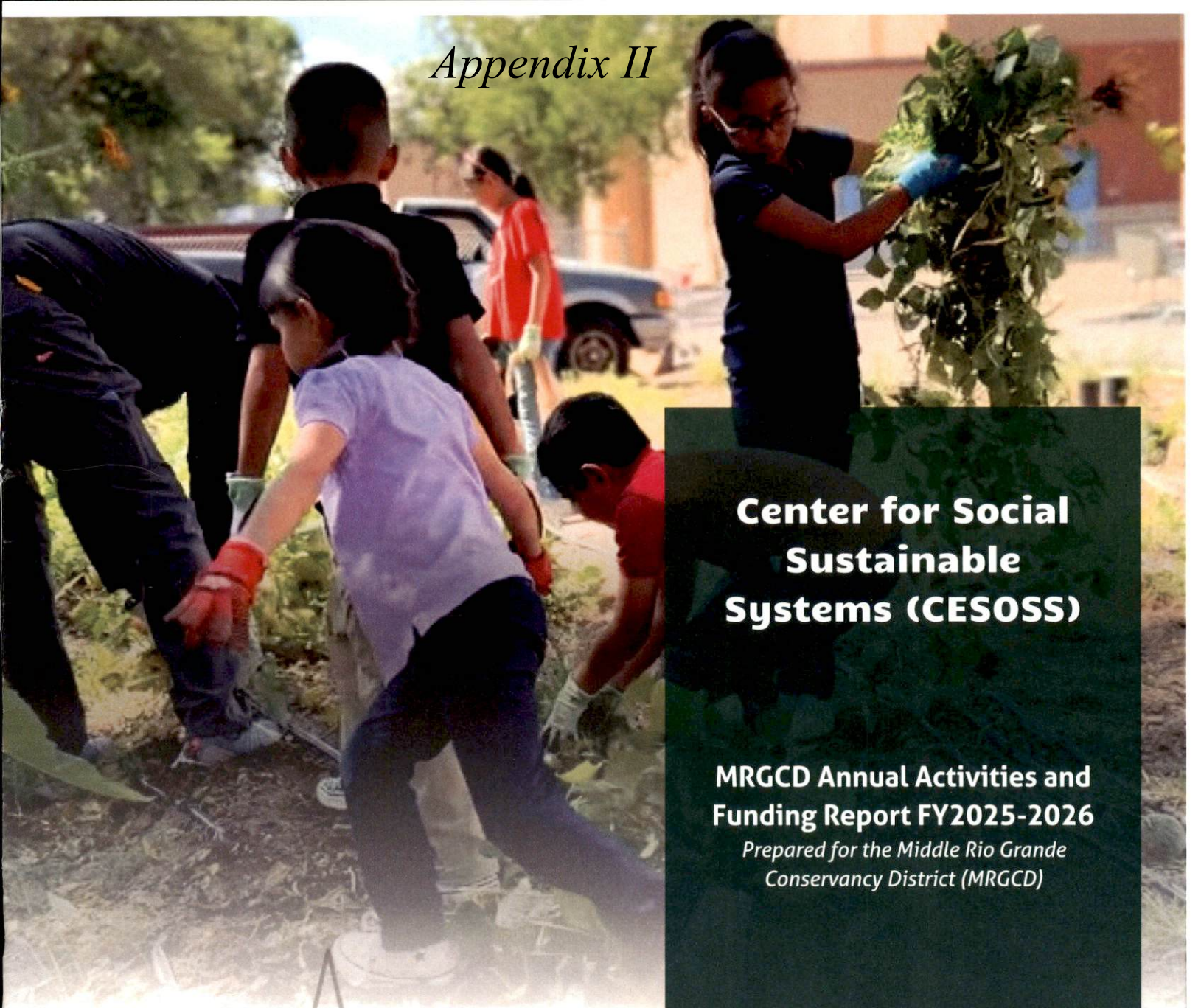


NWS Seasonal Outlook



Questions?





**Center for Social
Sustainable
Systems (CESOSS)**

**MRGCD Annual Activities and
Funding Report FY2025-2026**

*Prepared for the Middle Rio Grande
Conservancy District (MRGCD)*

REPORTING PERIOD:
JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026

Prepared by Jorge Garcia, Director
CESOSS | cesoss.org



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Executive Summary

This report summarizes activities completed by CESOSS under the Memorandum of Agreement with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. During FY2025–2026, CESOSS advanced public education, acequia preservation, agricultural stewardship, youth engagement, and water conservation awareness throughout the Middle Rio Grande Valley. A major accomplishment during the reporting period was the establishment of the Acequia Education and Agricultural Site, a permanent educational asset designed to complement the MRGCD Outdoor Classroom and support long-term acequia education.

MRGCD MOA Accomplishments

CESOSS implemented community outreach, workshops, educational events, youth programs, community celebrations, and partnership activities consistent with the objectives identified in Exhibit A of the Memorandum of Agreement. Activities supported public education, agricultural preservation, water stewardship, youth engagement, and acequia conservation.

Featured Accomplishment: Acequia Education and Agricultural Site

The establishment of the Acequia Education and Agricultural Site represents one of the most significant accomplishments completed during the reporting period. Located in partnership with Valle Vista Elementary School and operating in coordination with the MRGCD Outdoor Classroom, the site functions as a living laboratory where students, families, educators, and community members engage directly with acequia traditions, agriculture, water stewardship, food systems, and environmental education.

During 2025 and 2026, CESOSS completed site preparation, planting activities, harvesting events, irrigation demonstrations, cover crop development, outdoor learning activities, and family engagement programs. The site provides a permanent location for hands-on education and serves as a foundation for long-term acequia education.



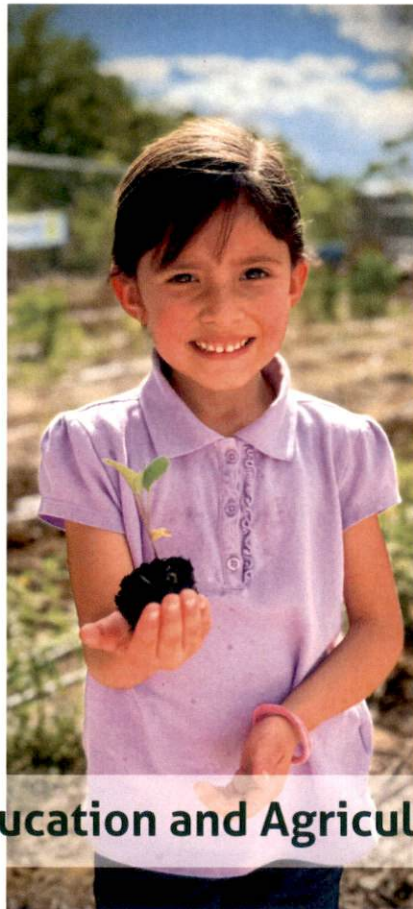


Building a Long-Term Educational Ecosystem

The Acequia Education and Agricultural Site is part of the broader Ciclos de la Tierra initiative. CESOSS envisions the site as a regional educational hub connecting schools, families, acequia associations, community organizations, and public agencies.

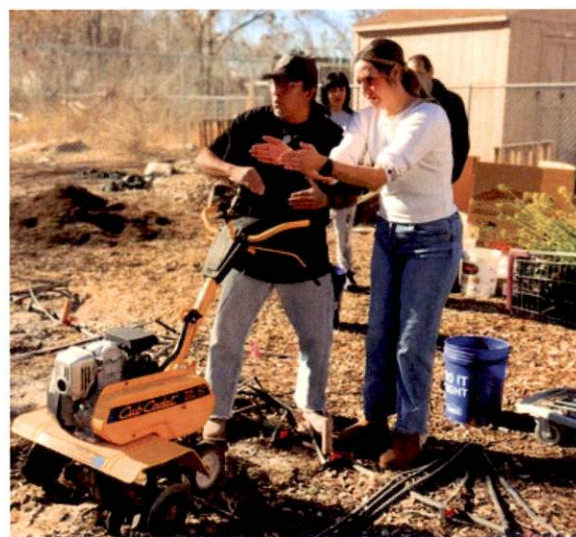
- Future programming will include:
- Curriculum development aligned with New Mexico educational standards.
- Outdoor learning and STEM activities.
- Family engagement and bilingual educational materials.
- Youth leadership development.
- Seasonal agricultural and acequia ceremonies.
- Community stewardship activities.
- Expanded use of the MRGCD Outdoor Classroom.

The long-term goal is to establish an educational ecosystem that preserves and transmits acequia knowledge across generations while strengthening community resilience and environmental stewardship.



Acequia Education and Agricultural Site

Acequia Education and Agricultural Site cont'd



Acequia Walk & Talks

CESOSS coordinated educational Acequia Walk & Talks throughout the Middle Rio Grande Valley. These activities connected community members with local acequias and provided opportunities to learn about water systems, acequia history, agricultural traditions, and stewardship responsibilities.



Primera Agua Cultural Celebration

CESOSS coordinated the 6th annual Primera Agua celebration at the Atrisco Acequia Madre. The event brought together community members, educators, acequia leaders, public agencies, and families to celebrate the beginning of the agricultural season and strengthen connections to land and water traditions. See Primera Agua - Report





Community Impact

During the reporting period, CESOSS:

- Conducted approximately 24 educational and community-based activities.
- Approximately 2,027 participants reached.
- Engaged youth, families, educators, acequia leaders, and community partners.
- Expanded place-based education opportunities.
- Increased awareness of acequia traditions and water stewardship.
- Strengthened partnerships supporting agricultural preservation and community resilience.

Partnerships and Collaboration

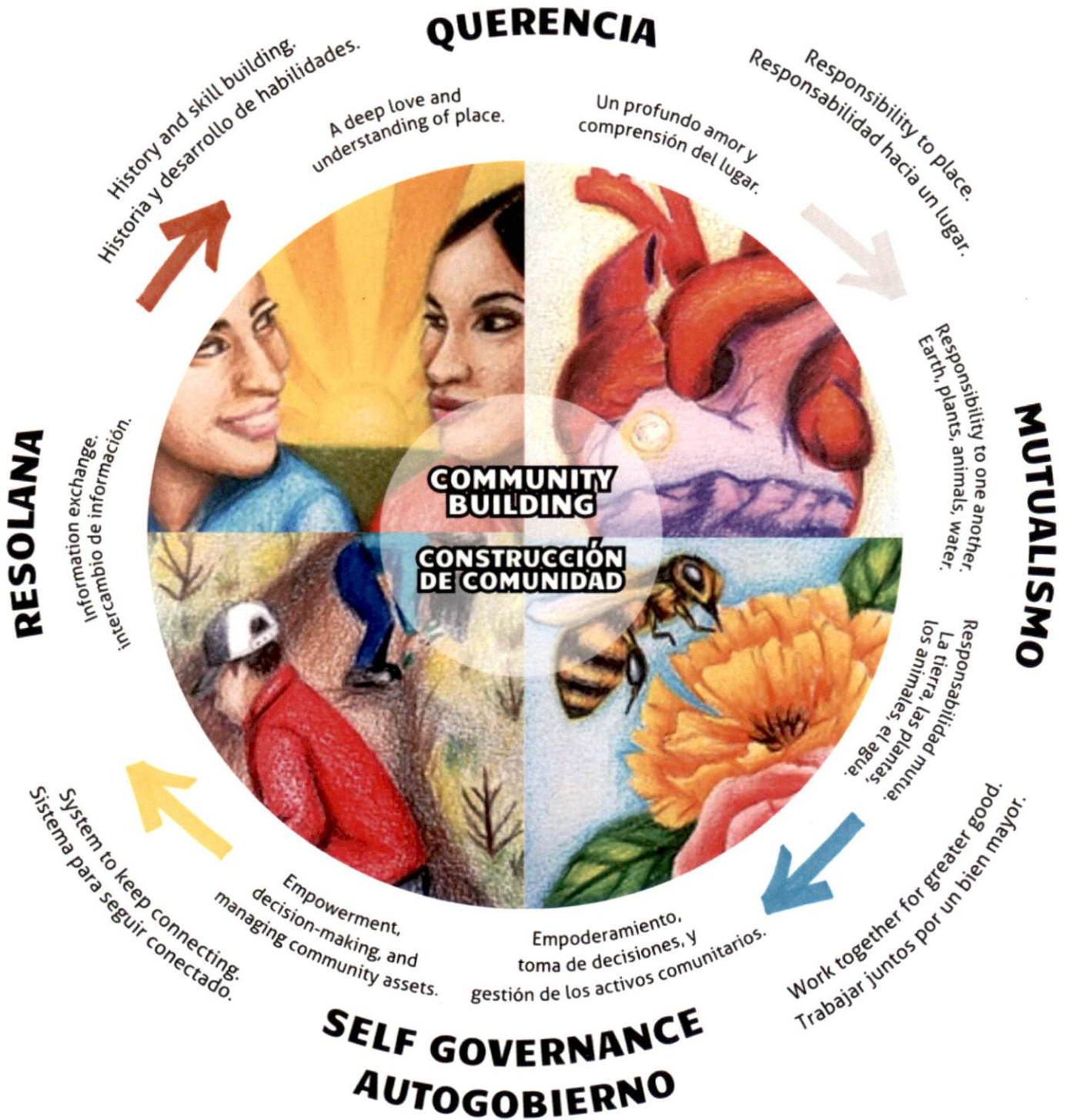
CESOSS collaborated with MRGCD, Bernalillo County, Valle Vista Elementary School, acequia associations, community organizations, educators, and volunteers. These partnerships strengthened community outreach and expanded educational opportunities throughout the region.

Plan of Action FY2026 - 2027

CESOSS will continue to build upon the Acequia Education and Agricultural Site and strengthen its partnership with MRGCD through:

- Expanded outdoor learning opportunities.
- Additional curriculum development.
- Increased use of the MRGCD Outdoor Classroom.
- Youth leadership programming.
- Family engagement activities.
- Acequia stewardship and conservation projects.
- Community workshops and educational events.
- Expansion of the Ciclos de la Tierra educational ecosystem.

These efforts will help establish a sustainable, community-based model for acequia education and long-term stewardship of land and water resources in the Middle Rio Grande Valley.



Appendix III



Protect Los Padillas Water

This handout explains why community members are protesting Application No. SD-03108 into RG-10260 et al.-T, which seeks to move surface water now used at Southern Manor Estates in Bernalillo County to three groundwater wells in Valencia County.

The application proposes to discontinue 134.40 acre-feet per year of surface water, including 94.08 acre-feet of consumptive irrigation requirement, from the Indian Lateral at the Angostura Diversion and use that water through wells RG-10260 POD3, RG-82157, and RG-93792 for irrigation on roughly 837.8 to 893 acres near Belen.

Why neighbors are protesting

- **We do not have water to spare.** This season there is little or no real water available locally, so the transfer would convert dry local surface water into groundwater pumping somewhere else.
- **It takes water away from Los Padillas and the South Valley.** The move-from water comes from Southern Manor Estates on the Indian Lateral in Bernalillo County, while the move-to use is on Mesa Verde land in Valencia County.
- **It can harm acequias and domestic wells.** The protest states that surface water and groundwater are connected in the Middle Rio Grande, so pumping these wells can reduce river and ditch flows over time and lower nearby groundwater levels.
- **It is poor conservation.** The protest argues that the transfer would support a large pecan orchard, a high-water-use crop, instead of protecting local agricultural and community uses.
- **The application lacks proof.** The protest states that no hydrologic modeling, depletion schedule, or clear monitoring plan has been provided to show the change will not impair existing rights.
- **It threatens acequia culture.** The generic protest explains that moving water out of the area weakens local agriculture, acequia traditions, and long-term community stability.

Rio Grande concern

Because the Middle Rio Grande system is hydrologically connected, additional groundwater pumping can eventually reduce connected river flows rather than protect them. Community members are also concerned that shifting local surface water into more pumping adds pressure to a river system already under heavy legal and management strain.

What you can do

Written protests must be filed with the Office of the State Engineer by **Friday, July 10, 2026**. The filing address is **5550 San Antonio Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109**, and protests may be faxed to **505-383-4030** if the hard copy is mailed or delivered within 24 hours.

For questions or help understanding the protest, contact **Commissionado, Los Padillas Acequia** dannyull82@yahoo.com

Reservoir Storage Status

Jun 2, 2026 data



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

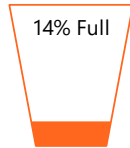
Heron

**Active
Conservation**



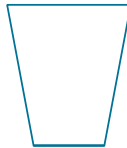
401,000 acre-ft

**Current
Content**



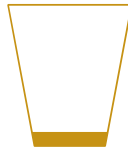
54,213 acre-ft

MRGCD



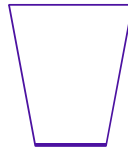
3,611 acre-ft

ABCWUA



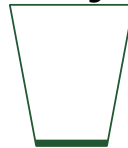
30,286 acre-ft

**Other SJC
Contractors**



6,234 acre-ft

**Project
Storage**



13,367 acre-ft

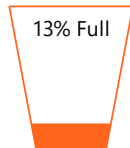
El Vado

**Restricted
Conservation***



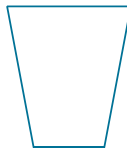
184,343 acre-ft

**Current
Content**



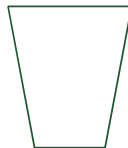
24,393 acre-ft

**MRGCD SJC
& EDW**



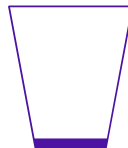
1,585 acre-ft

**Rio Grande
& USBR EDW**



61 acre-ft

**Other SJC
Contractors**



8,884 acre-ft

Combined**

**Prior &
Paramount**



25,948 acre-ft

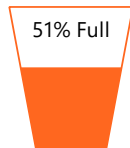
Abiquiu

**Active
Conservation**



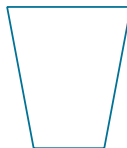
229,199 acre-ft

**Current
Content**



116,071 acre-ft

MRGCD SJC



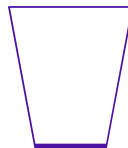
0 acre-ft

ABCWUA



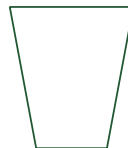
92,898 acre-ft

**Other SJC
Contractors**



5,410 acre-ft

USBR



0 acre-ft

Cochiti

**Current
Content**



42,553 acre-ft

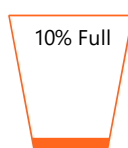
Elephant Butte and Caballo

**Active
Conservation*****



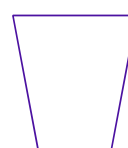
2,249,520 acre-ft

**Combined
Current Content**



230,315 acre-ft

SJC Content****



3,795 acre-ft



* 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 (6-3-2026)

1.	Heron Summary				
	Content:	5,421	ac-ft	(6/3/2026)	
	Azotea Tunnel:	130	cfs		
	Total SJ-C Inflow (2026):	30,763	ac-ft		
	Currently Releasing:	0	cfs		
	Current MRGCD Storage:	3,611	ac-ft		
2.	El Vado Summary				
	Content:	24,393	ac-ft	(6/3/2026)	
	Rio Grande Storage:	13,924	ac-ft		
	MRGCD SJ-C Storage:	1,585	ac-ft		
	P&P:	13,863	ac-ft		
	Other SJ-C Contractors:	8,884	ac-ft		
	Current Release:	100	cfs	RG Inflow:	75-200 cfs
3.	Abiquiu Summary				
	Content:	116,071	ac-ft	(6/3/2026)	
	MRGCD SJ-C Storage:	0	ac-ft		
	P&P:	12,085	ac-ft		
	Total Supplemental Water Released (2026):	2,415	ac-ft		

Precipitation to date for Water Year 2026 to 6/3 (% Median; NRCS SNOTEL)

Rio Chama Basin.....	71%
Upper Rio Grande Basin.....	85%
Sangre de Cristo Basin.....	61%
Jemez Basin.....	64%
San Juan River Basin.....	92%

- The final call for P&P storage is 40,379 ac-ft. Storage peaked at 27,029 ac-ft on May 12. The first release from P&P storage was May 23, though rainfall on May 25–26 temporarily paused the release. By June 1, 322 ac-ft had been released. The second release from P&P storage began June 2, and is currently for up to about 90 cfs.
- The FWS requested Reclamation use remaining supplemental water for a pulse flow through the Albuquerque reach to trigger a minnow spawn for egg collection May 15–22. Roughly 12,000 eggs were collected and transferred to hatcheries. Significant interagency coordination involved ABCWUA, Reclamation, and MRGCD.
- Drying expanded significantly across multiple reaches throughout the month. In the San Acacia reach drying began March 27 and is currently ~41 river miles with 40.2 river miles dry between Socorro and San Marcial with an additional 0.86 miles dry near Ft. Craig. In the Isleta reach there are 11.6 river miles dry near Peralta and 4.1 river miles dry near Abeytas. The Albuquerque reach has 4.2 river miles dry, which first separated May 15, briefly reconnected May 26, then separated again May 29, approximately two months earlier than in 2025.

Appendix V

Director Russo Baca Board Reports June 2026

Report on Farmers for Future Farmers Meeting, May 12, 2026

Attended the Farmers for Future Farmers meeting. Discussions focused on supporting the next generation of agricultural producers and opportunities to strengthen agricultural viability throughout the Middle Rio Grande Valley. Participants discussed irrigation infrastructure issues, as well as other topics such as cloud seeding. The meeting provided valuable insight into the challenges and priorities of agricultural producers and underscored MRGCD's role in sustaining agriculture in the region. Director Russo Baca gave a brief update on the 2026 irrigation season, water supply conditions, infrastructure operations, and ongoing District activities.

Report on the NM Water Dialogue's 31st Annual Meeting, May 14, 2026

Attended the New Mexico Water Dialogue's 31st Annual Meeting. The meeting theme, *Persistent Themes and a Unified Direction*, focused on common water concerns shared across New Mexico and the need for collaborative approaches to regional and statewide water planning. Presentations addressed regional water planning efforts, groundwater management, and long-term water sustainability challenges facing the state. Discussions highlighted the importance of balancing agricultural, municipal, environmental, and tribal water interests while strengthening collaborative decision-making processes.

Report on the Law of the Colorado River, May 18-19, 2026

Attended the 26th Annual Law of the Colorado River Conference, themed *Uncharted Waters: The Next Era of River Management*. The conference brought together attorneys, water managers, policymakers, tribal representatives, and other stakeholders to discuss ongoing Colorado River Basin negotiations, interstate water management, tribal water rights, drought response strategies, and evolving legal and policy frameworks affecting western water resources. Discussions underscored the significance of basin-wide collaboration and the implications of Colorado River management decisions for New Mexico and other basin states.

Report on Valencia County Soil and Water Conservation District Regular Board Meeting, May 21, 2026

Participated in the Valencia County Soil and Water Conservation District Regular Board Meeting. Provided the MRGCD partner report, including an update on the 2026 irrigation season, water supply conditions, infrastructure operations, and ongoing District activities. The report included discussion of current river and reservoir conditions, irrigation deliveries, community outreach efforts, and coordination with agricultural producers and agency partners throughout the Middle Rio Grande Valley.

Report on the Rio Grande Basin Study Agriculture Committee Meeting, May 22, 2026

Attended the Rio Grande Basin Study Agriculture Committee meeting. Anne Marken led the committee, and committee members continued discussions regarding agricultural water use, irrigation efficiency, drought resilience, and long-term planning efforts associated with the Rio Grande Basin Study. The meeting provided an opportunity to share agricultural perspectives and review strategies intended to improve water management while maintaining the economic and cultural importance of agriculture within the basin.

Report on MRGCD's Sandoval County Community & Farmers Informational Meeting, May 28, 2026

Attended MRGCD's Sandoval County Community and Farmers Informational Meeting. District staff provided updates regarding the 2026 irrigation season, infrastructure maintenance and rehabilitation activities, water operations, and ongoing District programs. Community members and agricultural producers discussed water deliveries, ditch maintenance, operational concerns, and opportunities for continued communication between the District and constituents. On-farm efficiency programs and the Corrales Siphon were two highlights.

Report on Congressman Vasquez's Agriculture Advisory Group Meeting, June 2, 2026

Participated in Congressman Gabe Vasquez's Agriculture Advisory Group meeting. Discussion topics included federal agricultural policy, the Farm Bill, water management challenges, conservation programs, infrastructure investments, and issues affecting New Mexico producers. Participants shared concerns regarding drought conditions, agricultural sustainability, and opportunities for collaboration among local, state, and federal partners to support rural communities and working lands. Director Russo Baca voiced MRGCD's concerns about how the USDA and the farm bill could be more supportive of Conservancy Districts.

Report on MRGCD's Bernalillo County Community & Farmers Informational Meeting

Attended MRGCD's Bernalillo County Community and Farmers Informational Meeting. Staff presented updates on District operations, water deliveries, infrastructure projects, and current conditions during the irrigation season. Irrigators and community members provided feedback and raised questions regarding operations, maintenance priorities, and water management. The meeting served as an important forum for constituent engagement and information sharing.

Report on the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos Coalition Meeting, June 5, 2026

Tribal Representatives discussed issues related to P&P operations and the storage of P&P water. The meeting provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships and continue dialogue regarding shared water management challenges and opportunities within the Middle Rio Grande region.