

**MINUTES OF THE
2,238th REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

AUGUST 10, 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, Chairman	Present
Colin T. Baugh, Vice Chairman	Present
Brian Jiron, Director	Present
Stephanie Russo Baca, Director	Present
J. Chris Lopez, Director	Present
Micheal T. Sandoval, Director	Present
Karen Dunning, Director	Absent

STAFF

Jason Casuga	Chief Engineer/CEO
Lorna Wiggins	General Counsel
Jeff Wechsler	Chief Water Counsel
Pamela Fanelli	Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Alicia Lopez	Director of Technical Services
Christine Nardi	Director of Human Services
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 Maestas, SVRAA	Cecilia Rosacker, RGALT
Matt Martinez, MRGCD	Ken Richard, BOR	Richard DeLoia, MRGCD
Laura Paskus	Kim Lopez, LP	Isaac Lopez, LP
Vincent Sanchez	Jimmy Beal	Jorge Garcia, CESOSS
Dan Aguirre, W&C	Elaine Hebbard	John Thompson

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Cecilia Rosacker 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. Rollcall votes will not be necessary for regular motions. Director Dunning was not in attendance at today's meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO.2 - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Chairman Kelly asked to move Item 8(a) up to the front of the Consent Agenda

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

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

a. Consideration/Approval for the Alamos de los Gallegos Acequia Association Project Phase 3, Bernalillo County Grant #G3769

Mr. DeLoia presented for approval of the Alamos de los Gallegos Acequia Association Project Phase 3 funding through Bernalillo County Grant #G3769 and Capital Outlay Grant #G3741. He said MRGCD recommends award to Lopez Precision LLC for

\$121,401, with tax, and will be awarded through the MRGCD Contractors on-call contracts.

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE ALAMOS DE LOS GALLEGOS ACEQUIA ASSOCIATION PROJECT PHASE 3, BERNALILLO COUNTY GRANT #G3769**. Seconded by Director Lopez. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 - CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **Consideration/Approval of Payment Ratification – July 2026**
- b. **Consideration/Approval of July 2026 Invoices for Wiggins, Williams & Wesenberg, PC**
- c. **Consideration/Approval of July 2026 Invoices for Spencer Fane LLP**
- d. **Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting – July 13, 2026**
- e. **Memo on MRGCD Approved Licenses for July 2026 (For Informational Purposes Only)**

Director Sandoval made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA**. Seconded by Vice Chairman Baugh. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 - REPORT(S) FROM THE WATER OPERATIONS

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

Ms. Marken gave an update on water operations. She said water supplies remain extremely limited and the rainfall received provided very little relief, as the rain-generated moisture was absorbed into the landscape instead of reaching the river. She added conditions have also been unseasonably warm, running 10 degrees above average in the past week. She said current flow is 3 CFS at the Lobatos Gage for the first time since 1963, where the historical average is 226 CFS. She stated MRGCD agricultural and conveyance demand is 750 CFS at Otowi Gage, which is measuring 245 CFS after accounting for San Juan Chama water being released by other entities, which was just enough to meet the demand of the 6-Middle Rio Grande Pueblos. She expressed that the Middle Rio Grande Valley is operating under prior and paramount only operations and non-pueblo irrigators upstream of Isleta Pueblo are curtailed. She noted they are also experiencing 90 miles of river drying in the Rio Grande in the Middle Valley. She shared temperatures are expected to return to near normal and there are chances for precipitation all week, but since the basin remains dry, that could limit how much runoff reaches the river. The NWS Seasonal Outlook continues to show above average precipitation across the basin through October, but similar wet outlooks previously issued did not materialize. She added NOAA's Climate Prediction center reports a 97% chance that El Nino will persist through early spring 2027, which can tilt the odds towards wetter winter conditions in the American southwest, but does not guarantee a wet winter in the Rio Grande Basin. She explained that even though the NWS Seasonal Winter Outlook is forecasting high chances for near normal temperatures and above average precipitation for December through February and a robust winter snowpack would meet ample supply for the Middle Valley in the spring and early summer, MRGCD would continue being unable to store native Rio Grande Water due to Compact restrictions for the 2027 Irrigation Season.

See also Appendix I.

Vice Chairman Baugh shared that a constituent asked what they were going to do about the inundation of vegetation that is popping up in the 90 miles of river drying.

Mr. Casuga answered the vegetation encroachment is always a concern, especially during dry years, and it will fold into the conversations they have with state and federal partners on funding for the Bosque and river maintenance. He said there is a recurring river maintenance program that will cover portions of the river, but the longer they stay in extended hot and dry times, that will be well beyond what federal partners can accomplish on their own, and the need for additional funding from a state perspective will be needed. He added if it gets heavily vegetated in the historical pathways of way, it is going to take money and equipment to remove it.

Chairman Kelly asked what amount of San Juan Chama water they were holding.

Ms. Marken answered they have about 5,600 CFS right now.

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

Mr. Martinez gave a report on water distribution. He expressed that since June 2nd, MRGCD has been under prior and paramount operations for 55 of the past 70 days, which means non-pueblo irrigation north of Isleta is restricted and irrigation downstream of Isleta is primarily limited to Pueblo return and drain flows. He said on July 24th, a storm in Albuquerque produce a surge through the North Diversion Channel, but that water entered the river below the points where it could benefit the Albuquerque Division and traveled through many several miles of dry river channel before reaching Isleta, and they were able to intercept that entire pulse at the Isleta Diversion Dam the next day, but it receded quickly. He added on July 28th, active weather put them on high alert, with several arroyo inflows affecting the system, and a couple of noticeable pulses at Angostura Diversion were produced but did not last long enough to lift P&P restrictions for non-pueblo irrigators north of Isleta, and it continued downstream through the drain system toward Isleta Diversion, where it extended delivery opportunities. He noted farther downstream; they also had pulses from the Rio Salado and Rio Puerco Basins that benefited Socorro Division. He stated the storm events illustrated why location and duration matter and where water enters the system and how long it lasts ultimately determines where they can put it to use. Mr. Martinez expressed the Cochiti Dam release is now at a season low of around 145 CFS, conveyance losses are substantial and drains are salvaging very little water. He stated the Pueblos are operating under BIA's tribal rotation schedule and they are continuing to coordinate with BIA to provide real time information to support decisions. He shared most non-Pueblo areas have gone up to three months or more without irrigation delivery now and they may not have the opportunity to rotate back to some of the recently served areas again this season. He expressed they will continue making the best of every opportunity they get, but it is entirely dependent on rainfall runoff and where it falls.

See also Appendix II.

Director Jiron asked where they were at with the repairs in Isleta.

Mr. Martinez answered there were infrastructure issues within Isleta Pueblo, which temporarily limited their ability to reach certain canals, like the Los Lunas Lateral and

the New Belen Acequia. He said those have been fixed, but they do not have enough water right now to simultaneously run all the Pueblo of Isleta canals.

Director Jiron commented he has received phone calls complaining they had so much CFS and then lost it all of the sudden, but they did not understand it was because they have been in prior and paramount operations for so long. He shared he wanted to have a meeting with them to educate them on how the operations work or maybe put some information on the website about it.

Mr. Martinez responded they updated their irrigation and hydrology report last week, which has a section on prior and paramount operations, but they will also make sure to get the word out on that and are open to other suggestions as well.

Mr. Casuga added it is a good thing for people to hear from the Pueblos as a senior water right holder, and if they wanted him or other staff to attend those meetings to provide data, they would be happy to do that.

Vice Chairman Baugh inquired if they have had conversations disseminating the hard and bad data to their entities that would help their constituents through this.

Mr. Martinez commented irrigators and farmers have been pretty patient and understanding, but now that they are suffering losses patience is wearing thin, and they are there as staff to make sure they are very thorough with their documentation on the recommendations they are making based on operational experience as water managers and to make sure they get to the appropriate entities.

Mr. Casuga responded yes, they are having those conversations. He stated all the data they are collecting from gage hydrology is available for public consumption, and they are trying to consult on things like the basin study because there is data from many places on that. He said they are trying to educate people more on where to look and to make it available to other storehouses. He noted they could maybe do a presentation on some of those efforts, as they are working towards a way to make data available for people to see.

Vice Chairman Baugh wanted to know they are not just collecting data to hold it and then disseminate it but actually using it as fuel to motivate others that have the ability to help them in times of need.

Mr. Casuga shared that is why it is important for others outside of the governmental entity, like the Pueblos engaging the public on the reality of having senior water rights and what it means. He added that getting more entities affected by this talking about their experiences is the direction they probably need to go in. He noted they are going to have a pretty critical 60-day session, where a lot of people are going to be asking for money in water spaces, but motivation comes with what people are experiencing.

Chairman Kelly asked when the 10,000-acre feet of P&P storage remaining will be depleted.

Mr. Martinez responded that would be a question to ask BIA, as it depends on the rate at which they release it. However, based on conversations, they have suggested there may be enough to reach the end of the season.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 - ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR (Comments are limited to three (3) minutes)

Elaine Hebbard

Ms. Hebbard spoke about the impacts of transferring surface water to groundwater wells. She stated that was an obvious benefit to the applicant, as the full allotment can be received via pumping when surface water is not available, but she asked about the benefits and harm that would do to everyone else. She asked if the District should have a policy to intervene when other customers and the river are negatively impacted. She mentioned an application currently in front of the state engineer to temporarily move water irrigating a 40-acre parcel of land in southern Bernalillo County next to the river to groundwater wells and said the District should evaluate the impacts to the neighbors, river, and Compact with that. She stated that removing water currently irrigating the lands closest to the river will weaken the vital link between the river and shallow aquifer and they cannot afford to have that with Compact deficits, so that should be evaluated. She added even though it is said to be a temporary transfer, after 5 years, it will revert to the 40-acre lot that has been platted to be a subdivision, where they could end up with a double dip of water being used on the 40 acres and in the wells. She encouraged the District to evaluate temporary lease applications the same as they do permanent transfers while keeping in mind that MRG must reduce depletions.

See also Appendix III.

Santiago Maestas

Mr. Maestas shared that Mr. Martinez's work has been very good recently. He invited everyone to the next Walk & Talk at Los Padillas and thanked Ms. Molina for posting those on the website. He said they will also have an event for children, food, and speakers, and they were happy to invite a speaker from MRGCD and the Pueblo to address members of the community. He noted that Mesa Verde Farms in Belen are pumping 1,000-acre feet without pre-1907 Water Rights, and that is not fair, as they are not giving up any real water to transfer.

See also Appendix IV.

Vincent Sanchez

Mr. Sanchez thanked Mr. Ish for coming to Los Ranchos to their P&Z Meeting last month and appreciated the communications that have been happening.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 - REPORT(S) FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR -

a. Bureau of Reclamation - Ken Richard, Acting Deputy

Mr. Richard first shared Reclamation has a data sharing system called RISE, which they mostly utilize for operations data and some environmental data. He gave an update on the Title Transfer Phase 2. He said they are preparing the notice to Congress to move forward, which is in the review process, and they expect that to go to congress sometime this month or in September. He noted they expect the title transfer to be finalized in January. He thanked Mr. Ish for the monsoonal operations LFCC endeavor. He discussed some of the river maintenance activities they have planned and have going on, including the River Mile 199 site, River Mile 169 conveyance project, as well as 163. He gave an update on the Lower San Acacia Reach Improvement Project and shared they are looking to develop a river maintenance with management plan including sediment and vegetation removal and adjusting the width of the river to meet current and future demand for flows. He also gave an update on their BO reinitiation, stating the

District is moving forward with an HCP and Reclamation is moving forward with covering their river maintenance actions and P&P storage, and they expect a contract to be awarded in September. He noted they are going to use a contractor to do their BA and will make their BA data available to the District through baseline and impacts analysis. He stated they plan to have the new BO for Reclamation in place by October 2028. He shared they have released 15,800-acre feet of P&P storage and have 9,200 left.

See also Appendix V.

Vice Chairman Baugh asked what the depth of the dredging would be with the sediment being deposited and the inundation in the 90 miles of dry riverbed with vegetation that is not stopping. He asked what BOR is aware of, what they are addressing, and how they going to remedy this and start conveying water down the river outside of their facilities.

Mr. Richard answered that each reach has its own kind of issues they have to approach and some have perch channels, which will be part of the discussion when they start developing their width management plan. He added it will be going through their river analysis group for development where they can come up with an approach.

Vice Chairman Baugh inquired about the average amount of CFS the river should be conveying under BOR in the years they have water without overbanking.

Mr. Richard responded the 2-year flow is what their river maintenance is based on, which would be 3,000 to 5,000, depending on the parts of the river. He added that Reclamation has the authority to spend money for what they have the authorities for, and they are looking at if the state would want to expand that 2-year flow footprint to be in the flood area.

Mr. Casuga added that will shift by reach.

Chairman Kelly asked who their contract was for the BO.

Mr. Richard answered they did not have one yet and are utilizing an environmental and cultural IDIQ, which is a host of contractors, and they plan to have that awarded in September.

Chairman Kelly inquired about the design build contract for the Lower San Acacia and if it was part of the EIS to be finalized in November or a separate task.

Mr. Richard answered it is a separate task that is already being worked on by their Technical Services Center.

- b. Bureau of Indian Affairs - Patrick Taber, Acting Designated Engineer**
Not present at today's meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 - 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 personnel changes. She said they had promotions to Hydrologist I and Senior Human Resources Generalist, and new hires for

the Bosque Technician and Engineer II in the General Office, two new medium equipment operators in the Socorro Division, and a new field maintenance technician in the Albuquerque Division.

b. Employee Recognition

Ms. Molina recognized Steve Kinberger, Senior Human Resources Generalist, for the work he did on their new website.

Mr. Casuga presented Mr. Kinberger with the MRGCD Excellence Award and thanked him for his service.



Chairman Kelly mentioned updating the bios they have for the directors on the website.

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

b. Consideration/Approval for the Unified Fire Scar Invasive Resprout Treatment Grant #G3753

Director Russo Baca shared she received a question from a constituent regarding herbicide application for the resprout.

Ms. Strange responded they will be using a foliar spray for the Unified Fire, as everything is below 2 feet. She added they are going in September 16th.

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE UNIFIED FIRE SCAR INVASIVE RESPROUT TREATMENT GRANT \$G3753**. Seconded by Vice Chairman Baugh. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

c. Consideration/Approval for the San Francisco Outfall Chipping and Processing Grant #G3753

Chairman Kelly asked if the entire chipping would be turned to biochar or just a portion of it.

Ms. Strange answered all of it. She said there will be 85% reduction in volume and 15% is the biochar that goes back into the soil and they will keep retreating the salt cedar.

Vice Chairman Baugh inquired if they regraded the area.

Ms. Strange answered they have three floodplains, and the middle one is the one they are going to do the cut stump in, as there is still some really great habitat and they want to protect that. She added the upper level is just solid, flat salt cedar.

Vice Chairman Baugh made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE SAN FRANCISCO OUTFALL CHIPPING AND PROCESSING GRANT #G3753**. Seconded by Director Russo Baca. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

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

- Casey Ish

a. Report on the Campbell-Montano Fuels Reduction Project - Jo Strange, Bosque Management Coordinator and Colleen Langan-McRoberts, City of Albuquerque Open Space Superintendent

Ms. Langan-McRoberts explained they do the management for the general operations of the Bosque and look at the ecological health and restoration activities, including fuel prescriptions and low impact recreation that they do with volunteer and partner support. She talked about some of the issues they have there, including having the most human caused fires in the area. She shared that they did a very in-depth assessment of the Bosque in 2021 and took the information they gathered from that to develop the Bosque Assessment Updated Prioritization Plan, and MRGCD was one of the partners on that. She stated that plan helped them identify where they should be prioritizing their efforts, which came to be addressing the risk of wildfires. She expressed they identified a few ways to deal with that, including removing jetty jacks, fuel prescriptions, extra patrols from conservation officers, and installing smart technologies. She gave a shoutout to all their emergency personnel that help to keep the fires small when they occur.

Ms. Langan-McRoberts discussed the Campbell-Montano Project, which came from neighbor concerns of wildfire. She said they fully assessed where the current fuel loaded are what issues there were, including looking for existing infrastructure like jetty jacks, inundation to identify where water is and where groundwater is available, concentrations of fuel, and make habitat and a healthy ecosystem. She expressed they took all the information and developed a prescription with the New Mexico State Forestry Division and Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District, which MRGCD helped review and support that. She talked about all the work they are going to be doing in the projects, including reducing fuel woods by removing dead and down wood and high concentration of invasives, reestablishing trails and making it available to the public again, hand work under large canopy trees, and buffer zones. She explained their prescription is not finalized, as they want to continue engaging their partners, who they will meet with on Friday to give them a walking tour. She said they had one public meeting and plan on having another one. She talked about the pilot project they did, which was funded by the city, and they got a commitment from the New Mexico State Forestry for \$500,000 to support the implementation of the full project over the next two years. She added that Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District will serve as the project lead on the ground and contribute additional funding for the Rio Grande Valley State Park thanks to the mill levy that passed. Ms. Langan-McRoberts voiced that the city will focus on the removal of

the jetty jacks, which will have a big impact and help their firefighters, and then they will continue the implementation of planting. She expressed they have an amazing Bosque team and have great partners, including MRGCD. She stated they have a mutual intent to create a good and healthy Bosque for future generations for wildlife, so they are very committed to the work.

See Also Appendix VI.

Director Russo Baca asked how they obtained the smoke alarms for the smart tech and when the walking tour is.

Ms. Langan-McRoberts answered the walking tour is this Friday and the smart technology came from their Services and Technology Department. She said they would like to see those deployed throughout the whole Bosque area.

Ms. Molina added that she met with AFR Lieutenant Hernandez and she is compiling the comparison of the torch cameras, panel cameras, and calls from the community so they can figure out which one leads to the most detections.

Vice Chairman Baugh commented he was present at the Nature Center when they rolled this presentation and he appreciated the public engagement on that. He asked which trails they are re-establishing and how it would look.

Ms. Langan-McRoberts answered they want to use the trail corridors to limit their impact from having equipment go off-trail as much as possible, so it will have an impact on the Aldo Leopold crush refine trail and asphalt trail. She stated they are going to start with that pilot project just to re-treat and then they will start by the Montano bridge and working their way north to south going to the Unit 5. She noted they plan on treating the full 100 acres through the two years. She said after the treatment, they could go and re-establish those trails and open them back up to the public fully.

Vice Chairman Baugh inquired if they have some ways to assist the third year to see it through so they invasives do not come back and they get a big return on the investment.

Ms. Strange responded they have asked if there was going to be initial treatment and for proof of support and funding for the initial follow-up treatments for the next two years. She explained the initial treatment is being funded by Forestry and they believe the second year will be funded as well, but they are committed to MRGCD funds covering the third year if other funding is not there to cover the retreatment of that area. She added it should be around \$45,000 for a full year spray re-treat.

Ms. Langan-McRoberts said State Forestry is funding two years, which includes initial treatment and retreatment, and beyond that, they have commitment from Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District, MRGCD support, and an annual budget that can help.

Mr. Casuga asked how much funding goes in the Bosque in any given year through the Albuquerque area.

Ms. Langan-McRoberts responded that was difficult to answer, as they try to use whatever money they get but they never have quite enough to do all the work they have. She said their city's annual budget for the Bosque is \$800,000, which will allow them to get forestry crews, youth crews, and remove jetty jacks, but they could use more.

Mr. Casuga commented it is important as they go to the legislature to talk about not having a billion-dollar municipality with a recurring budget pouring into the Bosque to reduce fuel loads and draw a contrast between having a partner with a recurring funding source to use that money to leverage into more grant dollars and other things. He added it is a long-term desire to create those partnerships up and down the river where people use it, it is not a danger to the public, it is good for the environment, and they are moving water downstream.

Chairman Kelly asked if they should try to create another unit of the Rio Grande Valley State Park in Valencia County with support from their friends down in Valencia County and the same in Socorro County.

Mr. Casuga answered Valencia County is the next urbanizing corridor and they want a safe space to go where they can see birds and wildlife, so they should not be surprised if that is the desire of the public served by the Bosque as they go farther south.

Chairman Kelly thanked Ms. Langan-McRoberts for coming and said they value their long-term relationship with the City of Open Space on taking care of the Bosque, which is the biggest asset they have.

b. Report on the Urban Issues Advisory Committee Meeting, July 27, 2026 - Casey Ish, Director of Lands & Conservation, Amanda Molina, Director of Communications, Vice Chairman Baugh, and Director Russ Baca

Mr. Ish reported they were successful in getting full attendance and they now have the full composition of the advisory group and still discussing the areas of interest and trying to figure out how they want to start organizing.

Director Russo Baca stated education and public understanding emerged as the leading priorities for the committee, and they touched on the irrigation and urban issues and having irrigation 101. She added that she also wrote a written report on the meeting.

Vice Chairman Baugh said they found some people in the application process that were really engaged in their community and looking to find pragmatic solutions going forward. He felt they were building something special and really relevant to where they are in these hard times.

c. Consideration/Approval of Water Rights Purchase Agreement with Bosque Del Sol, LLC

Mr. Ish expressed he appreciated the Board's support on developing a water rights acquisition policy. He stated they brought the opportunity for the District to purchase 546-acre feet of pre-1907 Water Rights from the San Antonio area at the last meeting from Hope Farms. He said they came up with a two-phase purchase agreement for those 546-acre feet split into two different types of acquisition. He explained Phase 1 is the buyers, where MRGCD is purchasing a portion of the water rights comprising of 80-acre feet by September 30th at \$2,000,000 per acre foot with their Capital Investment and General Fund Reserves. He said after Phase 1 they will be working with the DFA to secure a long-term loan to acquire the remaining rights.

Vice Chairman Baugh asked if Phase 1 and 2 combined were the total amount they are asking for today.

Mr. Ish answered they are asking for the entire purchase agreement today, but it will be split up into two different phases, with phase one being \$2,000,000 for 80-acre feet and \$8,928,506.25 at a rate of \$19,125 per acre for the rest.

Chairman Kelly asked if they did an independent assessment of the validity of these at pre-1907 rights.

Mr. Weschler answered yes. He added there is no transfer of the water rights because it is already within the MRGCD system, so they are not seeking approval or filing an application with the state engineer.

Mr. Ish added the District is not proposing to move the rights at this given point in time and they will stay where they are.

Chairman Kelly inquired if the seller provided a third assessment, after their two independent assessments.

Mr. Ish responded that the State Engineer's Office provided a thorough assessment.

Mr. Casuga added they are acquiring both a surface and groundwater right on a property assessed by the State Engineer's Office to allow a surface to ground transfer previously on the same property. He did not have any fear that the water rights they are acquiring are not tangible pre-1907 water rights.

Chairman Kelly asked if they looked at the 1917 and 1918 maps and made their own assessment.

Mr. Weschler answered yes.

Director Sandoval asked how the water is going to be used and what they are going to do with it.

Mr. Ish responded there is a wide array of things they may or may not do with the water, but they are going to make sure it stays in the valley and stays in Ag.

Mr. Casuga noted MRGCD already has a portfolio of pre-1907 water rights so they are adding to that.

Chairman Kelly inquired if there was any portion being farmed under a lease agreement.

Mr. Ish answered yes, a portion of the acreage is enrolled in their leasing program this year and a smaller subset is being farmed actively.

Director Lopez asked if the water rights were going to stay with the property until it is sold to somebody else.

Mr. Ish responded yes, the idea is that MRGCD will retain those water rights, but if the current farmer desires to change their operation or their footprint, the District will work to accommodate that change. He added that a lot of what happens to the land sale itself is yet to be determined.

Vice Chairman Baugh reminded the Board that he asked for \$200,000 for the District to start looking into the water rights acquisition previously, and this \$10 million supersedes that in a very good way. He felt this was an incredible opportunity and was thankful for Mr. Ish and his team for their due diligence to bring this in front of them.

Vice Chairman Baugh made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE WATER RIGHTS PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH BOSQUE DEL SOL, LLC WITH PHASE 2 SUBJECT TO DFA APPROVAL FOR THE LOAN**. Seconded by Director Russo Baca. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

d. Consideration/Approval of Resolution No. M-08-10-26-240 Authorizing and Approving Submission of a Completed Application for Financial Assistance and Project Approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION M-08-10-26-240, AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A COMPLETED APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND PROJECT APPROVAL TO THE NEW MEXICO FINANCE AUTHORITY**. Seconded by Vice Chairman Baugh. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

e. Consideration/Approval of 5-Year MOA with Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust

Mr. Ish explained that staff drafted a follow-up on a 5-year MOA between MRGCD and Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust to continue efforts to preserve agricultural lands within the Middle Rio Valley. He said staff is recommending maintaining the agreement at \$50,000 for fiscal year 27 and then adjusting that amount annually 3% to help Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust account for increases in cost and salary of employees.

Ms. Rosacker gave an update on how things have progressed over the last 5 years and what will be coming in the next 5. She shared they were able to leverage small agreements with Bernalillo County and Via del Oro, go from a one woman operation to three staff, sought bigger grant funding, four conservation easements bringing \$1,500,000 to protect 120 acres of irrigated farmland and 90 acres of transferable water rights, approval for almost \$2 million more in grant funding to protect 200 acres in the Lemitar area, a project under consideration for 220 acres in Tome, sought \$1,500,000 in NHCA funding for a state conservation easement program, working on improving programs and policies, and working with Western Conservation to get NRCS ALE programs to meet the needs of landowners in the west and consider water in those easements as a high priority. She said one of the biggest priorities they have right now is the New Mexico Land Conservation Incentives Act Reform and trying to increase the tax benefits on that. She expressed that they are trying to figure out ways to help keep water rights in the community, protect their lands, and keep farms viable. She talked about how they have been working to do restoration as well. She said the agreement with MRGCD has been a game changer for their organization and having a 5-year reoccurring fund has given them the opportunity to build relationship with other organizations and leverage that money and legitimized conservation easements as a tool for protecting land and water with other organizations.

Vice Chairman Baugh asked Ms. Rosacker's thoughts on how they are encouraging the next future farmers to come work that land in the mix of all the things they are doing and how that conversation is on helping pair the individuals with some of the lands as they are put into conservation easements to be added.

Ms. Rosacker answered they have had several projects where the landowner wanted to protect the land and water but did not want to farm anymore and wanted to help make it affordable for another farmer. She said when they do a conservation easement, that means the development rights are extinguished and are about 50% of their fair market value of the land. She shared some projects where they have done the easement, they have then been able to sell the land to a young or new farmer at half of that fair market value. She noted they also engage with some food and agricultural policy groups and share that information, as well as putting it on their social media to let people know about the programs and opportunities for food, Ag, restoration and conservation easements.

Vice Chairman Baugh asked about the targeted amount of acreage they are looking to inquire every annual year.

Ms. Rosacker responded they like to protect at least 10% of the MRGCD service area and they would love if MRGCD adopted that goal as well so they can figure out how to do that. She said they have been working more in a paradigm where they consider them as they come, and they developed the Bernalillo County Conservation easement program with Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District as a way to help smaller farms.

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE 5-YEAR MOA WITH RIO GRANDE AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST**. Seconded by Director Lopez. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

f. Report from Center for Social Sustainable Systems - Jorge Garcia, CESOSS Executive Director

Mr. Garcia expressed they are very concerned about the state of the water and they are losing water and knowledge and what they do with it. He asked if New Mexico is projected to have 25% less water in the river system, how much water will remain for human and ecological sustenance and what would be the minimum amount of water required to sustain the Middle Rio Grande as a living socioecological system and not merely to satisfy the legal water rights, but to sustain communities, food production, aquifer recharge, repairing ecosystem, and the future generations. He stated education will be very important moving forward. He talked about the Valle Vista classroom they are working on and the Ciclos de la Tierra curriculum they have, with the goal of creating an ecosystem to the Family Resource Center so they can connect with families. He shared they will run a pilot project this year to develop all the specific programming and additional information they will use to supplement the school and the outdoor classroom. He discussed the project goals, which are to develop culturally grounded materials based on the Ciclos de la Tierra curriculum, expand acequia, land stewardship, food systems and nutrition education, increase student and family participation in outdoor learning, strengthen youth leadership through direct environmental education, and use the Agricultural Site and MRGCD Outdoor Classroom as learning spaces. He also listed the proposed outcomes, including 8 to 10 curriculum modules for multiple grades, bilingual education materials, outdoor learning activity guides and digital and print resources, STEM-based Genius Hour activities, and expanding family engagement in acequia education. Mr. Garcia expressed they need to bring back this idea that they need food security, increase culturally relevant learning and information in the school following the Jose Martinez case, connect youth to land base practices, bring back acequia knowledge, create environmental literacy, and connect people to the outdoors. He mentioned MRGCD is working the Atrisco Acequia Madre Project and they have made the argument that was an excellence place because it is the gateway, as there is a

lot of potential to run the pilot project, have discipline, think about replicating it along the schools, and create opportunities to expand knowledge that they want to spend in a realistic manner.

Mr. Garcia then discussed the Pajarito Landmarks Project, which will go from the Duran Open Space to the Hubbell House and will provide information the Gutierrez-Hubbell House does not currently provide, including all the signage alluding and attesting to the information from the 1800s forward about the Pajarito Land Grant. He noted they will have four stops, one giving an overview of the history of the community, one talking about ecology and convergence, one on acequias and water rights, and one on land, water and spirituality. He shared the Acequia Walk & Talks start in May and they are projecting to do it again on February 13th and March 21st. He thanked the Board for their support and said he looked forward to the engagement and making some of the projects happen.

See also Appendix VII.

Chairman Kelly thanked Mr. Garcia for his presentation and bringing the situation to light.

Director Russo Baca encouraged everyone to attend the Acequia Walk & Talks.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 - REPORT(S) FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES - Alicia Lopez, PE

a. Update on Monsoon Response

Ms. Lopez expressed this dry year brings additional challenges, but they are prepared. She said when ditches are dry more often and longer, they are more prone to damage when suddenly receiving large inflows, which they have already experienced. She stated they are making sure they understand what they can do before, during an event, and the learning that comes afterward. She explained that before a storm, ISOs and Divisions communicate about what is operating, what ditches are on, and where water is moving, and the water team monitors forecasts and field conditions. During a storm, their goal is to manage the problem operationally first and will mobilize crews when needed. She noted they have seen a lot of issues with gophers this year, which makes a channel harder to turn back on. She added larger events can require all night support, but life and safety comes first. She voiced that after a storm, maintenance divisions prioritize cleanup and the water team submits ditch break reports to capture what took place. She said the goal is to make each problem a learning experience to target and identify mitigation strategies.

b. Update on Projects:

1. Corrales Siphon

Ms. Lopez expressed the project was awarded in October 2025, received the notice to proceed for mobilization around January, and they have been moving through construction since then, including horizontal directional drilling operation, which has been the most difficult part, as they ran into an issue with a stuck auger when they started the pilot drill. She said they reassessed, realigned the casing, and a new casing was put in successful last month. However, as they prepared for the second attempt at the pilot drill, the contractor found subsurface conditions they were not expecting, so they stopped and developed a plan. She

stated the contractor collection a lot of detailed information on the material as they started the pilot and they are confident that 40 extra feet of casing would be the right amount to set the pilot bore on the correct and accurate path as it navigates 80 feet underground. She shared the scheduled remain the same.

Mr. Dan Aguirre, with Wilson & Company, explained they started the pilot hole, ran about 40 feet of pure cobble at the end of the casing and then hit competent material, and they ran the pilot hole drill a little extra length to gather data. He said they were worried if they start pulling that pipe back through the cobbles, it may move up and get hung up on the casing, but the driller said that would not be a problem once they are away from the casing and the drill is moving forward. He said the team came together to get two pieces of pipe that were delivered on Friday, and they are working on welding those today. He shared they notified the public they are going to be pushing again for a couple hours a day for the next couple days to get that casing advanced through the gravel and then start again with the pilot hole, and then start the process of reaming it up to pull the pipe through. He expressed his appreciation that everyone has been pitching in to help.

Chairman Kelly asked how far the pilot drill went beyond the 40 feet into good material.

Mr. Aguirre responded they talked about going 5 to 10 feet into the material and the driller said they were comfortable that they had enough to do that and if they hit cobble coming back up the other side, that would not be a problem, as the spec allows the pipe to move about 10 feet, which gives alto of flexibility.

Mr. Casuga added that once they start pulling it, they will pull it all the way through in one day.

Chairman Kelly asked if the pipe was fusion welded.

Mr. Aguirre answered yes.

Vice Chairman Baugh asked if they ream it from the back and hit a bunch of cobbles would it collapse on itself.

Mr. Aguirre answered they are not worried about that, as there are drilling fluids in there and it will compact it a little bit along the hole, and if some of the cobbles fall in, the machinery will continue to clean those out.

2. Feeder 3 Pump Station

Ms. Lopez gave an update on the Feeder 3 Pump Station Phase 1. She said this is a strategic system flexibility project that will benefit around 2,300 acres downstream of Feeder 3, an area that is impacted during low water years when it is difficult to run water all the way down to Belen Highline. She said since January, they have run about 5,000 linear feet of 36-inch mainly PVC line down to the Feeder 3 Canal, which also included a jack and bore operation underneath the roadway and railroad. She stated they are almost down with Phase 1, with the remaining work involving AUI installing four butterfly valves and one air relief valve near the river side. She voiced now they are thinking forward to Phase 2,

talking with their water team and informing BHI they need up to 60 CFS capacity using water down to the 5 CFS level in 5 CFS increments. She added they are currently working through a Build America by America waiver, as they do believe they can get the pumps in the United States.

Mr. Karl Deissinger, with Bohannon Huston, expressed the project has been very successful so far, as the biggest hiccup has been the lead times on the valves that remain to be installed. He said for Phase 2, they are looking forward with working with them to get under construction as soon as possible, as they would like the system fully operational by March 2028. He stated they are working on the final design and then will have a concurrence review to do with the engineering team for Phase 2 of the pump station and installation of the pumps and equipment. He added they are a great benefit to the Conservancy from a maintenance and operations perspective and should be able to be maintained, repaired, and operated without any consultant needs. He explained that one pump can do anywhere between 5 and 12.5 CFS, and all four can go about 60.

Chairman Kelly asked who the German manufacturer is for the pumps and if they will all be set at the same elevation in the wet well.

Mr. Deissinger answered KSB Pumps and yes, they will all be at the same elevation.

Chairman Kelly asked if there was a trash rack going into the wet well.

Mr. Deissinger responded they can pass a 5-inch spherical solid, but they are planning to put a trash rack grating with about a 7/8 inch opening so there should not be any clogging.

Ms. Lopez stated they can still reconsider sizing of the grates, but the frequency of maintenance is something they have been asking BHI to consider.

Mr. Casuga inquired if they would be bringing a procurement request to the Board in September for the purchase of the pumps.

Ms. Lopez answered yes that is the plan, but it depends on the Build America by America waiver.

Chairman Kelly asked if the butterfly valves are motor operated.

Mr. Deissinger answered no, as they are extremely large and the intent is for them to remain open.

Mr. Casuga added the primary discharge is always going to be at the top of Feeder 3 and they still may need to isolate the system one day but they do not know for sure. He said they wanted to have some level of control on the valve system, but if everything is working properly, they are pumping the water up to the top of Feeder 3 and letting it cascade down the existing system.

3. Loretta Road Project

Ms. Lopez shared that Lopez Precision finished the Interior Drain Crossing in June, which was Phase 1.

Chairman Kelly asked if the entire pen space parking lot will be gravel plated in the final project with Star Paving.

Ms. Lopez responded they have not gotten that far yet, as they next phase 1 the intersection and left turn signaling.

Mr. Casuga added he did not believe they would have the funding for the whole parking lot, but they will gravel as much as they can afford.

Chairman Kelly asked where they were with the Highway Department.

Ms. Lopez explained they recognized a few months back that they need to obtain five certifications, and they have been successful in getting those certifications issued. She added they are making sure that MRGCD, Bernalillo County, and BHI understand their roles on the project and NMDOT is expected to issue them the PO next week, with the anticipated start date for Star Paving to be August 18th and a planned completion date being in December.

Chairman Kelly inquired if there would be any Balloon Fiesta implementations for traffic control.

Ms. Lopez answered they have been told there is a moratorium around September 26th, but they feel very confident they can work outside of those timeframes but may have to pause and then come back for a few things and then be done. However, they expect the majority of work to be done before that.

Chairman Kelly asked if Star Paving is holding their prices.

Mr. Casuga responded that in waiting for the permits, the contract was authorized to go ahead and make the order for the masked arms and long lead items. He did not know if the signal would be operational by the Balloon Fiesta.

See also Appendix VIII.

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

a. Report on the Finance Committee Meeting, August 10, 2026 - Chairman Kelly, Vice Chairman Baugh, and Director Russo Baca

Chairman Kelly said they talked about a couple budget resolutions. He stated they had a grant they did not get budgeted they had to remove, got a grant they were surprised to get that they had to put in the budget, as well as another one of the levee investigation for the Albuquerque East Levee from the North Diversion Channel down to the South Diversion Channel for design work, which they are going to be the sole lead on and will seek construction funding for.

b. Consideration/Approval of Resolution No. BA-08-10-26-117 Adoption of Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 (07-01-26 to 06-30-27) Grant Fund

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION BA-08-10-26-117**. Seconded by Vice Chairman Baugh. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

c. Consideration/Approval of Resolution M-08-10-26-241 Water Trust Board Application for the Albuquerque East Levee System 2 Improvements

Vice Chairman Baugh made the **MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION M-08-10-26-241**. Seconded by Director Russo Baca. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

d. Notification/Discussion of the 2026 MRGCD Water Service Charge Reclassification (Protest) Hearing per NMSA 73-18-8.1; hearing scheduled for September 14, 2026

Chairman Kelly stated the Special Meeting will be at 2:00 pm prior to the Regular meeting on September 14, 2026.

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

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

Mr. Casuga reported there were questions about trying to schedule their meeting between the Board and the key group of people from the Coalition on the storage resolution, and they reached out to the Coalition secretary to try to get dates. He said that representation will come from a mix of multiple pueblo entities and they understand the limitations they have and that it will not be tabled indefinitely, but there is an urgency to get the team put together and a meeting held. He expressed there were a lot of questions around P&P operations and terminology and rules the state has put in place. He said he gave them an update since the contract is officially in the hands of Tetra Tech and they will be reaching out to the Pueblos to see if they want to engage on the HCP, as a Coalition, or both.

b. Information on Upcoming Events:

1. **Los Lunas Agricultural Science Center & USDA Plant Materials Center's Field Day, August 13, 2026: Los Lunas**
2. **CESOSS' 2026 Acequia Walk & Talks Series**
 - a. **August 22, 2026 - Los Padillas Acequia**
 - b. **September 5, 2026 - Armijo: Sanchez Farm Open Space**
 - c. **October 24, 2026 - Pajarito: Durand Open Space**
3. **Coalition of Rio Grande Water Users Annual Conference, September 16-18, 2026: Tamaya Resort, Pueblos of Santa Ana**
4. **Tribal Water Law Annual Conference, September 28-29, 2026: Santa Fe, NM**
5. **New Mexico Water Law Annual Conference, October 8-9, 2026: Santa Fe, NM**
6. **Family Farm Alliance Annual Conference, October 28-30, 2026: Reno, NV**
7. **Colorado River Water Users Association Annual Conference, December 9-11, 2026: Las Vegas, NV**

Director Russo Baca added that MRGCD is sponsoring the Los Lunas Agricultural Science Center field day, where she and Ms. Strange will table the event. She invited people to come by if they want to help.

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

Counsel did not have any reports for regular session.

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

- a. **Report on the 3rd MRG Farmer Survey Advisory Committee Meeting, July 14, 2026 - Director Russo Baca**
- b. **Report on the Farmers for Future Farmers Meeting, July 14, 2026 - Director Russo Baca**
- c. **Report on the VCSWCD Monthly Meeting, July 16, 2026 - Director Russo Baca**
- d. **Report on the NM ISC Meeting, July 23, 2026 - Director Russo Baca**

Director Russo Baca provided written reports.

See also Appendix IX.

- e. **Report on the Bosque Del Apache Tour, July 29, 2026 - Vice Chairman Baugh and Director Lopez**

Vice Chairman Baugh gave a shoutout to Mike Padilla for putting the tour together and driving them down there. He said it was very beneficial to get eyes on something critical and he learned a lot. He noted they had a lot of great conversations to discuss with the Board on how to better collaborate with their federal agencies and parents when the federal government is really taking a backseat on doing a lot of housekeeping.

Mr. Lopez expressed he remembered going through the northern end of the Bosque del Apache back in the 80s when it was all farmland and now there is not a single farm out there. He said they have 12 wells and no funding to run them.

Vice Chairman Baugh added they got to see some interesting easements and got a better understanding on where they can use their expertise to help on moving water efficiently.

- f. **Report on the Hispano Chamber of Valencia County Installation Banquet, August 8, 2026 - Vice Chairman Baugh**

Vice Chairman Baugh stated it was a lovely event, where they celebrated that they are the future of the state from economic development and urbanization in the valley. He said he shared how hard it has been and that the common denominator will be unifying the people in the valley to get through it.

Chairman Kelly made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORTS FROM THE BOARD**. Seconded by Director Jiron. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:26 PM**. Seconded by Director Jiron. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14 EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

1. Threatened or Pending Litigation: Potential of the State of New Mexico Violating the Rio Grande Compact

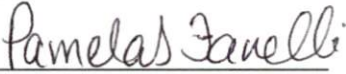
Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO GO BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION AT 7:32 PM**. Seconded by Director Jiron. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED**.

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

Chairman Kelly noted no decisions were made in Executive Session and with no further comments, questions, or concerns, Chairman Kelly adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of August 10, 2026.

ATTESTED:


 Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM
 Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

 for
 John P. Kelly, Chairman
 MRGCD Board of Directors

Water Supply Update

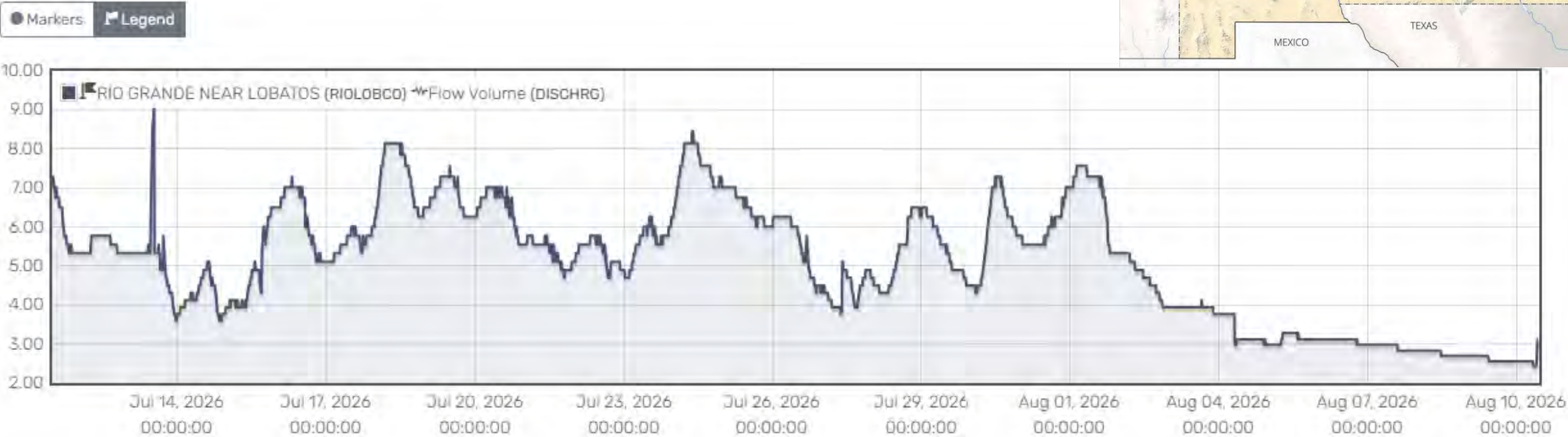
Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Board of Directors Meeting

Prepared and Presented by: Anne Marken

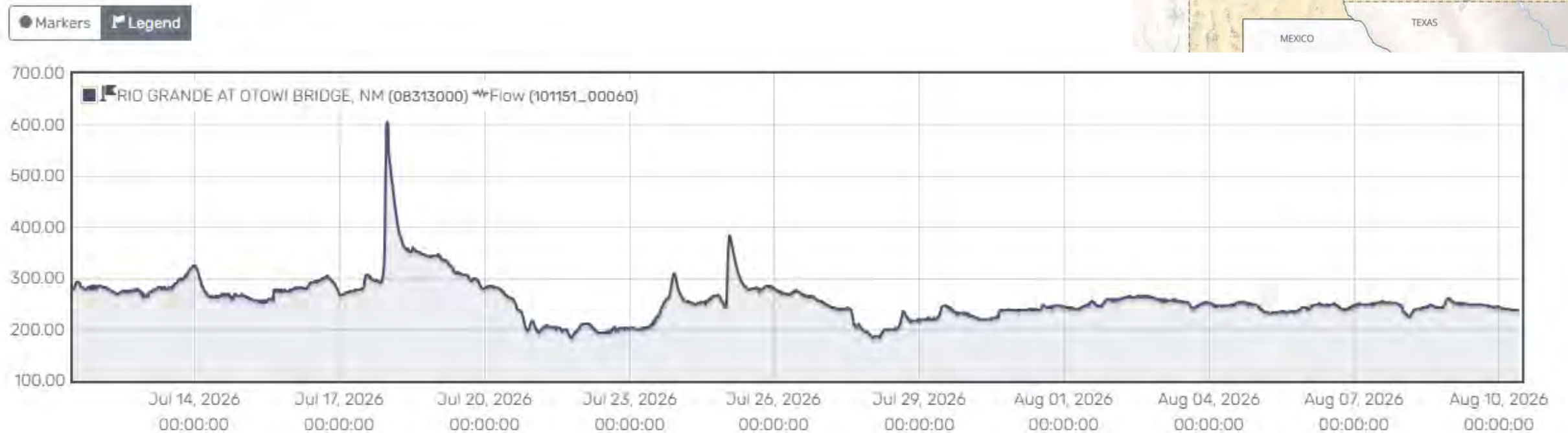
Date: 8/10/2026



CDWR Rio Grande at Lobatos Gage



USGS Rio Grande At Otowi Gage



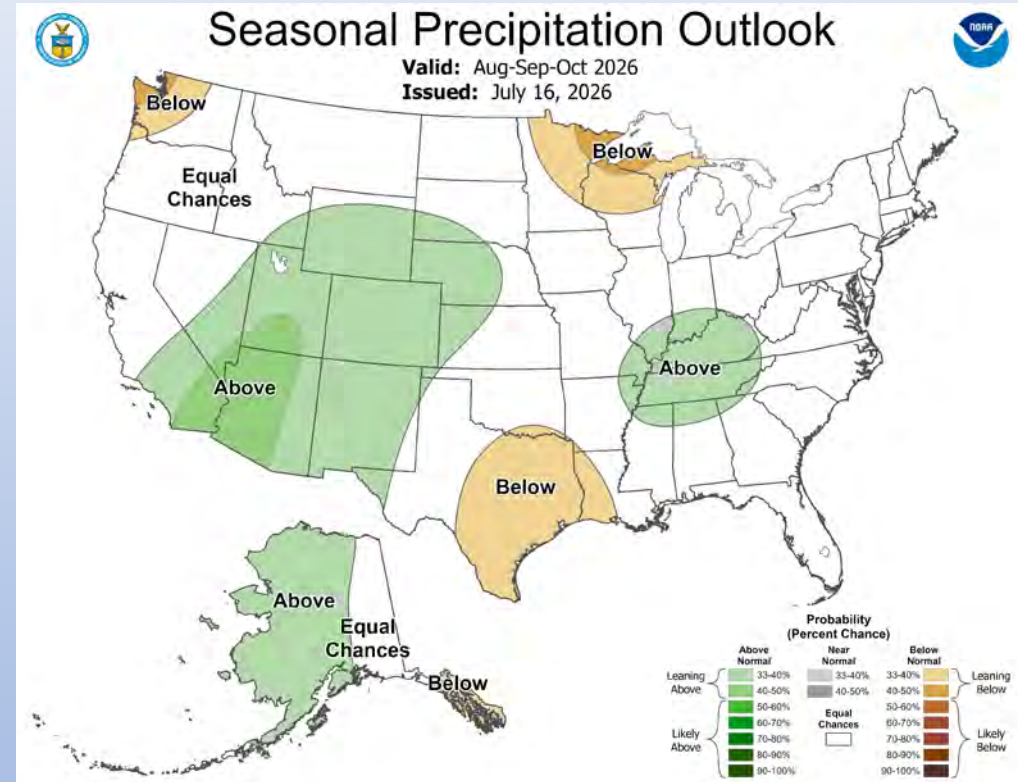
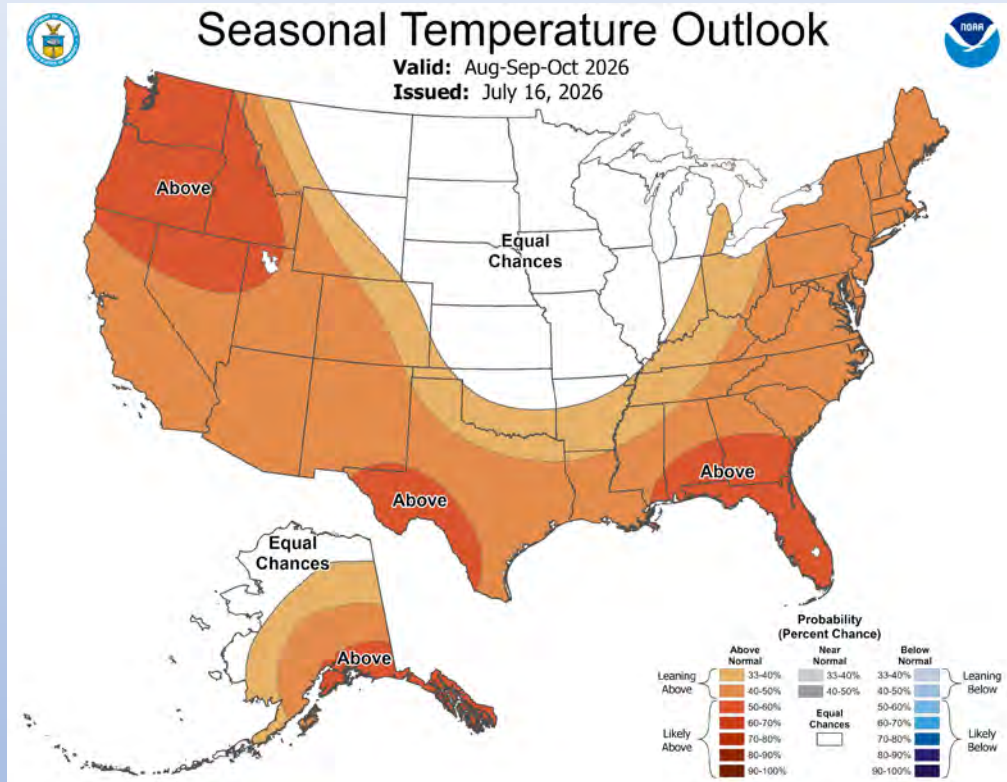
NWS 7-Day Forecast

 Location	Maximum Temperature							Probability of Precipitation						
	Mon 08/10	Tue 08/11	Wed 08/12	Thu 08/13	Fri 08/14	Sat 08/15	Sun 08/16	Mon 08/10	Tue 08/11	Wed 08/12	Thu 08/13	Fri 08/14	Sat 08/15	Sun 08/16
Albuquerque	99	97	94	90	91	91	92	20	50	30	40	30	30	30
Santa Fe	96	93	90	87	87	88	89	20	40	30	50	40	40	30
Farmington	99	97	90	84	87	90	91	0	20	50	40	30	10	20
Gallup	92	89	84	80	81	84	86	30	40	50	40	40	30	30
Grants	93	90	86	81	83	85	86	30	40	60	60	50	40	50
Clayton	98	97	97	92	91	88	88	0	0	0	40	60	40	30
Raton	94	93	91	87	86	85	84	20	30	20	50	60	60	60
Las Vegas	93	91	89	86	85	84	84	20	40	10	40	50	60	50
Moriarty	97	95	91	88	88	88	88	30	50	20	40	40	50	50
Tucumcari	101	102	102	99	97	95	94	0	0	0	40	50	30	20
Clovis	99	99	100	98	96	94	93	0	0	0	30	50	30	10
Roswell	100	102	102	99	99	97	96	0	0	10	30	30	20	10
Socorro	101	101	98	94	93	96	94	10	20	20	40	40	40	30
Chama	90	87	81	77	78	80	81	10	50	60	60	50	40	40
Taos	95	92	86	83	84	85	86	30	30	50	60	50	40	40
Angel Fire	86	84	80	77	76	77	78	30	60	60	60	60	60	60
Los Alamos	91	89	85	82	82	83	83	30	40	30	60	60	50	50
Ruidoso	88	88	85	82	82	81	80	10	20	30	40	70	80	70
Quemado	89	86	82	76	79	82	84	40	50	70	60	50	40	50

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



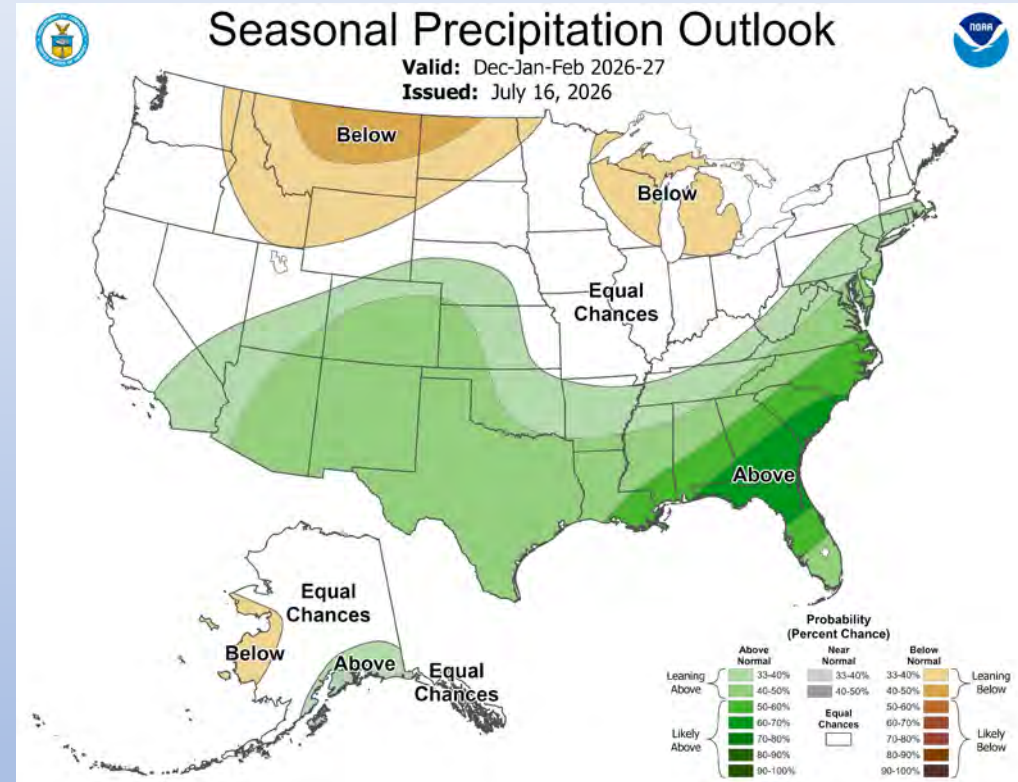
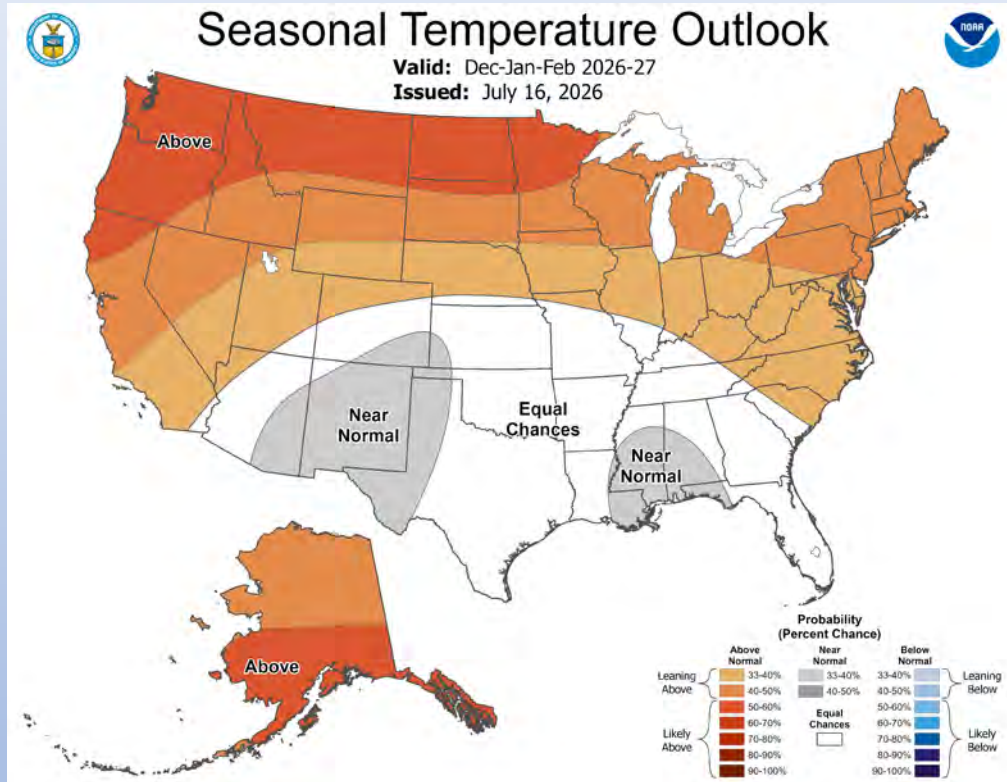
NWS Seasonal Outlook



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



NWS Winter Seasonal Outlook



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



Questions?



PRIOR AND PARAMOUNT RESTRICTIONS TIMELINE

June 2 – August 10, 2026 (Inclusive)

Appendix II

JUNE 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10					



PRIOR AND PARAMOUNT
RESTRICTIONS (P&P)
(55 days)



RESTRICTIONS LIFTED*
(15 days)

SUMMARY

Prior and Paramount Restrictions (P&P): **55 days**

Restrictions Lifted*: **15 days**

TOTAL (June 2 – August 10, 2026 Inclusive): **70 days**

Dates are inclusive. Each colored day represents the full calendar day.



*** WHEN RESTRICTIONS WERE LIFTED, THERE WAS VERY LITTLE WATER OVER P&P NEEDS FOR NON-PUEBLO IRRIGATION.**

Appendix III

MRGCD Meeting – August 10, 2026 Public Comment – Elaine Hebard

During several meetings, public comment has included concerns about the impacts of transferring surface water to ground water wells. While of obvious benefit to the applicant in that the full allotment can be received via pumping when surface water is not available, what about the benefits or harm to the rest of us? Rather than the irrigation water seeping into the shallow aquifer, helping to keep the river whole, the water would be basically removed from the system. Should the District have a policy to intervene when other customers, and the river, are negatively impacted?

The example I am using is an application currently in front of the State Engineer to temporarily move water irrigating a 40-acre parcel of land in southern Bernalillo County directly next to the Rio Grande, to groundwater wells 2 miles uphill from the river and west of Belen and I-25.



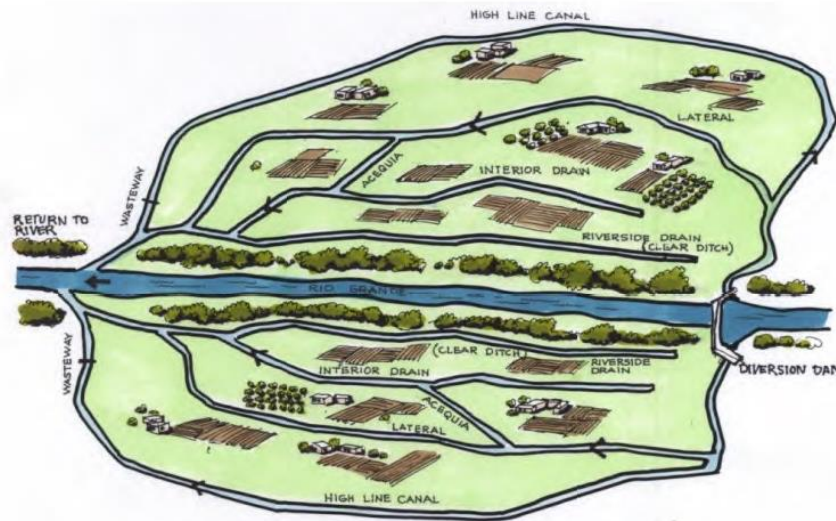
Proposed transfer from surface to groundwater wells. Transfer-from location is next to the river. Transfer-to is up hill and 2 miles from the river.



The District should evaluate what the impacts of such a move --to the neighbors, to the river, to

the Compact—are.

To begin with, the design --with ditches, drains and flood irrigated fields-- replicates the untamed braided river within the flood plain of the MRGCD.



Representation of MRGCD Irrigation System

Removing water currently irrigating the lands closest to the Rio Grande will weaken the vital link between the river and the shallow aquifer.

While MRGCD manages primarily surface water, its conveyance, delivery and drainage of irrigation water are important hydrologic components in the groundwater budget of the region

....

In the Albuquerque subregion, the main sources of aquifer recharge are mountain front recharge, river seepage, and canal seepage and on-farm deep percolation in the inner valley from the irrigation system operated by MRGCD (ABCWUA, 2023; Hilton, 2026; USGS, 1995). Subsurface drainage is used to control the water table, returning excess groundwater to the river. **When groundwater levels decline, drain flows decrease, adversely affecting the downstream surface water flow.** (emphasis added)

New Mexico 360 Groundwater Report, New Mexico Groundwater Alliance, January 2026,
nmgroundwateralliance.org

Furthermore, while the surface water user is limited to the availability of supply, such is not the case with a groundwater user. Pumping not only draws down the aquifer, it impacts the declining river flows.

Given the Compact deficit and the need to reduce depletions by at least 25 kafy, the District should also evaluate transfers with an eye towards depletions. Pulling water out of the well west of Belen, in Valencia County, will ultimately deplete river flows, rather than helping them.

Another consideration must be -- what are the impacts to the other ditch users? Removing water

for the 40 acres will reduce the hydraulic head in the ditch for other irrigators.

The MRGCD must also include climatic changes in its evaluations. River flows have declined as much as 50% over the past 50 years.

Rio Grande at Otowi Bridge Annual Flow 1975-2025

Mean Annual Discharge (KAF) at Otowi Gauge		
1975-1991	1992-2008	2009-2025
1191	1003	796

Norm Gaume *The Rio Grande Has Never Been Drier!*
New Mexico Water Advocates, March 7, 2026

As discussed in the State's *Leap Ahead Report*, flows will continue to decline. The *NM 360 Groundwater Report* states that as climate change intensifies and temperatures continue to rise, increasing aridification is driving a projected 25% to 30% decrease in surface water availability for New Mexico by 2050. Furthermore, people, plants and animals will all require more water as it gets hotter. Such demands will increase reliance on groundwater.

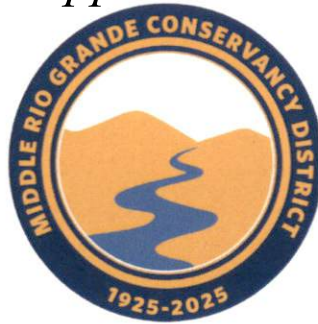
Leap Ahead Report, 2022, <https://mainstreamnm.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Leap-Ahead-Report.pdf>
New Mexico 360 Groundwater Report, nmgroundwateralliance.org, January 2026

And finally, while the application says that after 5 years, the water will revert to the 40 acre parcel, that parcel was platted as a 38-parcel subdivision years ago, with efforts to sell the platted land recently being increased. If the 38 lots are sold and built upon, this arrangement could create two direct consumptive uses of wet water associated with a single piece of land, which originally had only one right attached to it, effectively doubling the wet water use rate associated with that plot.

So while the claim (a) that this a temporary change, (b) that upon termination of the permit, the water right "will automatically revert to the original move-from point of diversion, place, and purpose of use," and (c) that no new appropriation of water is sought by the application, that is not entirely correct.

I would encourage the MRGCD to evaluate temporary lease applications with as much scrutiny as permanent transfers, especially those moving water rights from surface supply to wells, keeping in mind that the MRG must reduce depletions. In that way, the District will be helping to keep the valley green!

Appendix IV



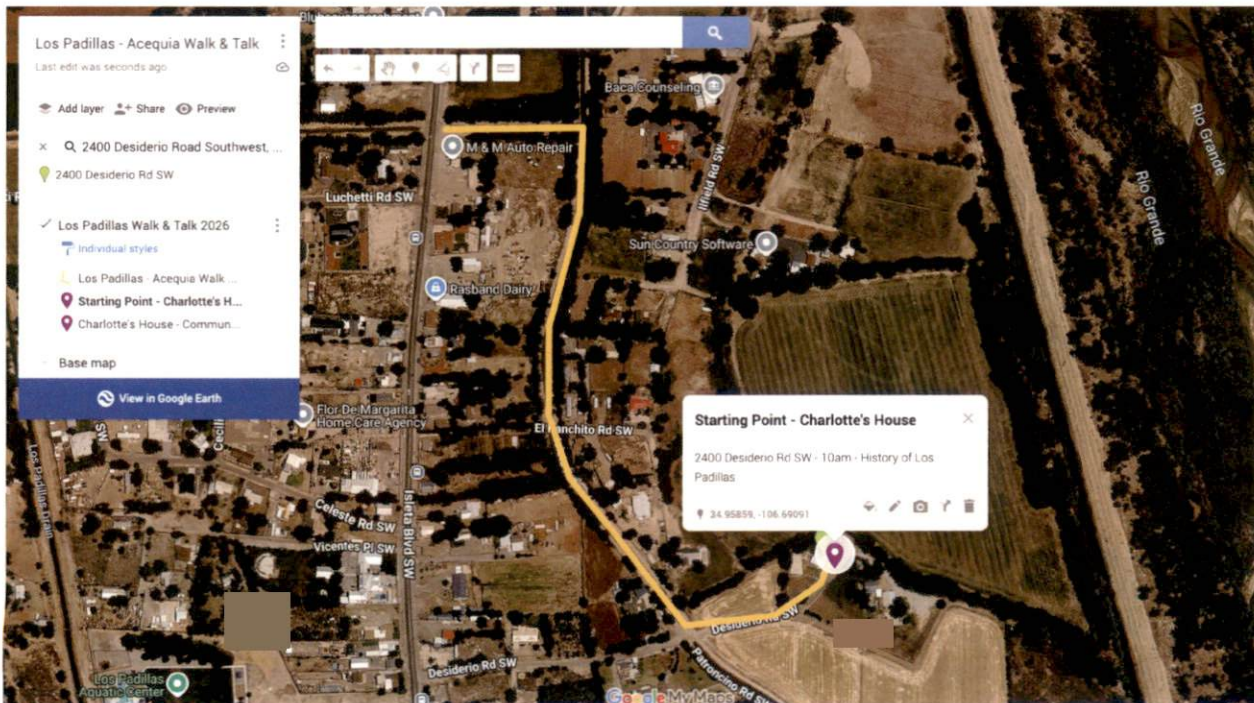
RSVP Link

<https://tinyurl.com/keepLPgreen>



Google Map of Walk

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1J91LTChWmsa97bP8woxFGDLBNV8XD6U&usp=sharing>



SAVE THE DATE

Keep Los Padillas Green

El Agua Es La Sangre De Los Padillas



**No more water transfers!
Our community future is a green future!**



SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

10:00 am – 12:00 pm • 2400 desiderio rd sw

CESOSS Walk & Talk at 9:30 am



**community
speakers**



**south valley
water protectors**



**kids' activities
& games**



food & music

protect our acequia • protect our water • protect our future

Appendix V Reservoir Storage Status

Aug 4, 2026 data



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

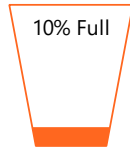
Heron

Active
Conservation



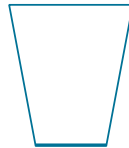
401,000 acre-ft

Current
Content



40,819 acre-ft

MRGCD



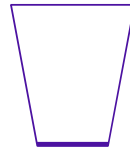
5,449 acre-ft

ABCWUA



22,242 acre-ft

Other SJC
Contractors



8,739 acre-ft

Project
Storage



3,849 acre-ft

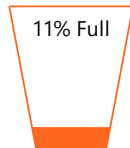
El Vado

Restricted
Conservation*



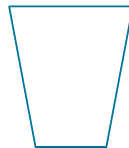
184,343 acre-ft

Current
Content



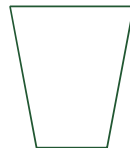
20,587 acre-ft

MRGCD SJC
& EDW



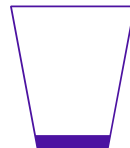
1,539 acre-ft

Rio Grande
& USBR EDW



-0 acre-ft

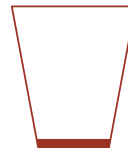
Other SJC
Contractors



12,347 acre-ft

Combined**

Prior &
Paramount



10,533 acre-ft

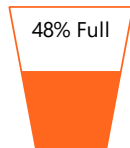
Abiquiu

Active
Conservation



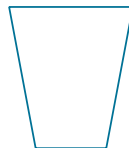
229,199 acre-ft

Current
Content



109,868 acre-ft

MRGCD SJC



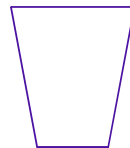
0 acre-ft

ABCWUA



98,894 acre-ft

Other SJC
Contractors



2,649 acre-ft

USBR



0 acre-ft

Cochiti

Current
Content



41,798 acre-ft

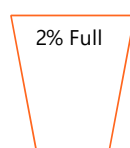
Elephant Butte and Caballo

Active
Conservation***



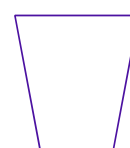
2,249,520 acre-ft

Combined
Current Content



41,975 acre-ft

SJC Content****



3,710 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 (8-5-2026)

1. Heron Summary

Content:	7,078	ac-ft	(8/5/2026)
Azotea Tunnel:	0	cfs	
Total SJ-C Inflow (2026):	32,490	ac-ft	
Currently Releasing:	35	cfs	
Current MRGCD Storage:	5,449	ac-ft	

2. El Vado Summary

Content:	20,587	ac-ft	(8/5/2026)
Rio Grande Storage:	6,702	ac-ft	
MRGCD SJ-C Storage:	1,539	ac-ft	
P&P:	6,702	ac-ft	
Other SJ-C Contractors:	12,346	ac-ft	
Current Release:	100	cfs	RG Inflow: 15-30 cfs

3. Abiquiu Summary

Content:	108,621	ac-ft	(8/5/2026)
MRGCD SJ-C Storage:	0	ac-ft	
P&P:	3,831	ac-ft	

Total Supplemental Water Released (2026): 2,415 ac-ft

Precipitation to date for Water Year 2026 to 8/5 (% Median; NRCS SNOTEL)

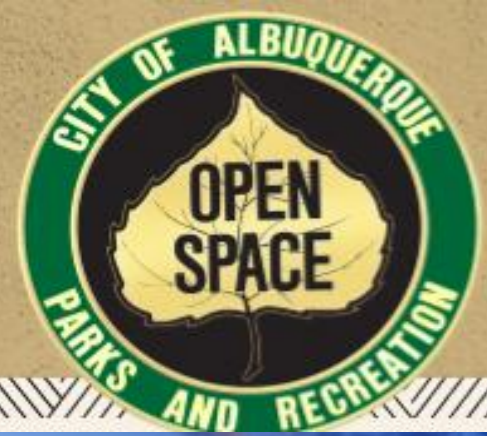
Rio Chama Basin.....	72%
Upper Rio Grande Basin.....	83%
Sangre de Cristo Basin.....	63%
Jemez Basin.....	73%
San Juan River Basin.....	92%

- P&P storage reached a maximum of 27,029 ac-ft on May 12, and irrigation releases began May 23. Approximately 14,635 ac-ft have been released so far with 10,533 ac-ft remaining in storage.
- Yesterday, there was just under 83 miles of river drying. The Angostura reach had 12.9 miles dry in a single segment. The Isleta reach had 21.4 miles dry in two segments, and there were 48.3 river miles dry in the San Acacia reach.
- The release from Elephant Butte Dam ceased on July 29 and from Caballo Dam on July 30. Elephant Butte Reservoir ended irrigation season at about 1.3% of full, and the lowest level seen since 1956.

Appendix VI

Open Space Division

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Board of Directors



www.cabq.gov/openspace



Rio Grande Valley State Park



- Operations and general management
- Ecological Health, Restoration, Habitat
- Low-impact recreation and education



Challenges and Solutions

➤ Challenges

- Persistent Drought Conditions
- Fires
- Invasive Species
- Development Pressures
- Recreation impacts
- Unauthorized uses

➤ Planning

- Desktop Database
- Bosque Assessment Updated Prioritization (BAUP)
- Additional studies identifying fuel loads throughout the RGVSP

- Action- Fire prevention was a major theme of the BAUP, with a goal of thinning 150 acres per year, and removing jetty jacks to reduce risk to firefighters



Project Details and Public Outreach

Prescription Description:

- The project will also include the removal of downed wood, including large woody debris from past fires.
- Thinning will focus on removing invasive plant species including Ailanthus, Siberian Elm, Salt Cedar, and Russian Olive.
- Work will take place outside of the migratory bird nesting season, September to April. Additional wildlife surveys will be conducted before the project starts, and buffer zones will be established where detected.
- Under native canopy trees, there will only be hand removal to avoid impacts to the roots and soil.
- Authorized trails and corridors will be used primarily for equipment to limit soil disturbance.
- Wood and mulch will be removed from the Bosque, except in isolated situations to mitigate soil disturbance.
- A buffer zone of non-disturbance will be established 5 ft. from the levee and 10 meters from the river's edge.
- Trails will be reestablished, and areas will be seeded at the end of the project.
- Areas will be retreated to ensure the project is successful.

Upcoming Public Engagement:

- Partners Walking Tour and Input Session this August
- Second Public Meeting in September
- Updates on the following website:

<https://www.cabq.gov/parksand recreation/open-space/bosque-thinning-project>



Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Restoration Project

Campbell to Montano

Project Timeline

- | 2026-2027 | 2027-2028 | 2028-2029 |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Pilot projectJetty Jack RemovalRetreat in pilot areaPhase 1 Fuels ReductionReestablish TrailsSeeding and PlantingSurvey and monitoring | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Phase 2 Fuels ReductionRetreat in Phase 1 areaReestablish trailsSeeding and PlantingInterpretive sign on Jetty Jacks | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Retreat in Phase 1 & 2 areasSurveysPlantingsOngoing management in treated and non-treated areas |

Pilot Project this past spring included treatment of 13 acres within the larger area



Before



After

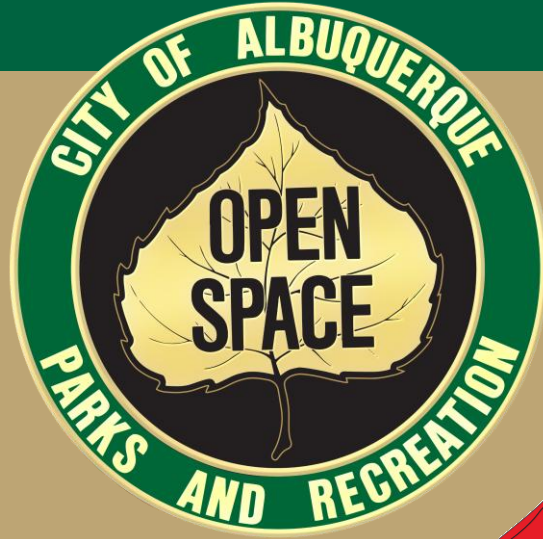
Ongoing Commitment

- Per the Joint Powers Agreement, the OSD is committed to managing the RGVSP, including the long-term commitment to this project. The City has stepped up and is dedicating more funds and staffing than ever to support management of the RGVSP.

Resources

- Dedicated Bosque Staff includes the following
 - Bosque Manager
 - Bosque Forestry Supervisor
 - Bosque Field Operations Specialists, 2
 - Bosque Program Specialist
 - Bosque Field Technician, 1 FTE
 - Bosque Field Techs, 3 Contract Staff
 - Educators and other OSD staff support
- General Funding, \$800,000 this fiscal year
- Partners including NMSF, CIUDAD Soil and Water Conservation District
- Volunteers Bosque Stewards
 - Trail Watch and Fire Watch
 - Annual Events like Dia del Rio
 - Dedicated neighbors

Partners and Agency Support!



"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

Operational Crosswalk

Pairing the FY2026-27 CESOSS Operational Plan with the
Five-Year Memorandum of Agreement



The Big Questions we are having with respect to water



QUESTION 1

IF NEW MEXICO IS PROJECTED TO HAVE 25% LESS WATER IN THE RIVER SYSTEM...

How much water will actually remain for human and ecological subsistence?

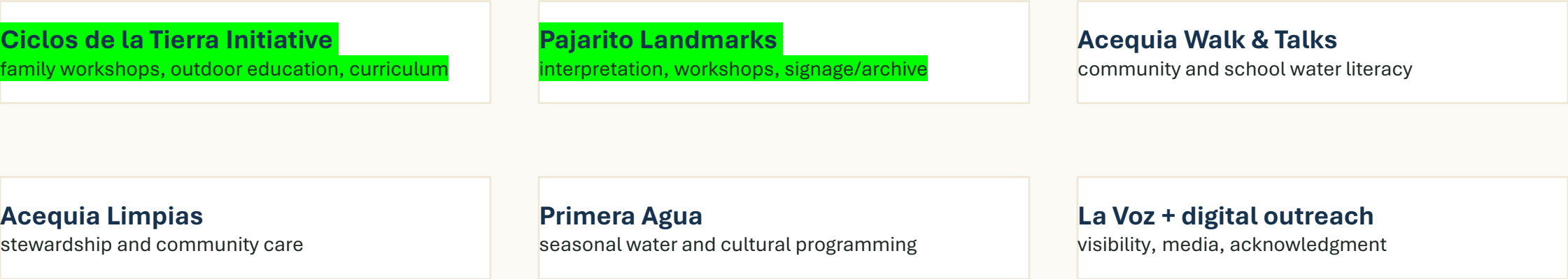


QUESTION 2

WHAT IS THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF WATER REQUIRED TO SUSTAIN THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE AS A LIVING SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM—

not merely to satisfy legal water rights, but to sustain communities, food production, aquifer recharge, riparian ecosystems, and future generations?

Existing program vehicles carry the agreement



Valle Vista Elementary: The MRGCD Outdoord Acequia Classroom



Community building through land, water, culture, and youth leadership

Ciclos de la Tierra Initiative: Building an ecosystem for culturally relevant education

A year-long school and community ecosystem rooted in acequia knowledge.

FY2026–27 Pilot Project

Expand the Ciclos de la Tierra Acequia Outdoor Education Agricultural Site at Valle Vista and transmit local land and water stewardship knowledge to future generations.



Community building through land, water, culture, and youth leadership

Goals & expected outcomes

Curriculum, participation, youth leadership, and community education.



Project goals

- Develop culturally grounded materials based on Ciclos de la Tierra.
- Expand acequia, land stewardship, food systems, and nutrition education.
- Increase student and family participation in outdoor learning.
- Strengthen youth leadership through direct environmental education.
- Use the Agricultural Site and MRGCD Outdoor Classroom as learning spaces.

Proposed outcomes

- 8–10 curriculum modules for multiple grade levels.
- Bilingual educational materials for families, teachers, and students.
- Outdoor learning activity guides and digital/print resources.
- STEM-based Genius Hour activities aligned to standards.
- Expanded family engagement in acequia education.



Why this pilot matters

The plan responds to intersecting challenges in the South Valley.

Community need

Food insecurity

Limited culturally relevant learning

Youth disconnection from land-based practices

Erosion of acequia knowledge

Need for environmental literacy



Pilot response

A place-based educational ecosystem connecting students, families, educators, community organizations, and local acequias.

Long-term aim: resilience, stewardship, cultural identity, and continuity.

Why does this matter?

Atrisco Acequia Madre Project

Trailhead + future site visioning

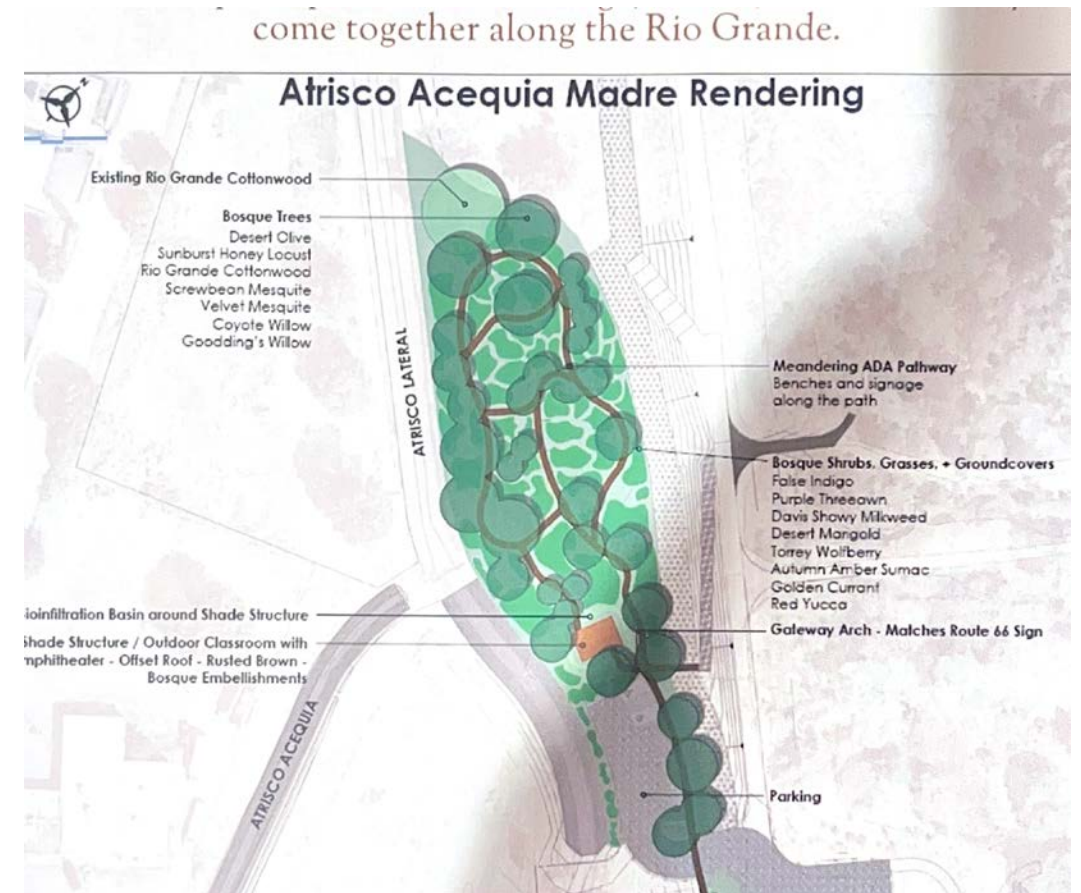
Purpose

Celebrate acequia culture while preserving Rio Grande Valley agricultural traditions through a community outdoor education and recreation site near Central Avenue and the Rio Grande.

Future site features

- Acequia history + culture education area
- Picnic areas, walking paths + ADA pathway
- Revegetation with bosque trees, shrubs + grasses
- Trail connections + gathering space for community and trail users

**MAKE THIS SITE AN EDUCATIONAL
OUTDOOR FACILITY**



Site context: Atrisco Lateral / Central Ave / Rio Grande

South Valley Schools & Open Spaces Corridor

Central + Sunset → Sunset Road south → Isleta Boulevard south → Gutiérrez-Hubbell House



Schematic for planning; verify parcel boundaries before public use.

Corridor Pull-Out Inventory

Use these labels for the revised map: schools in blue and open spaces in green.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- 1 Atrisco Elementary
- 2 Valle Vista Elementary
- 3 Kit Carson Elementary
- 4 Armijo Elementary
- 5 Adobe Acres Elementary
- 6 Barcelona Elementary
- 7 Navajo Elementary
- 8 Pajarito Elementary
- 9 Los Padillas Elementary

OPEN SPACES + PARKS

- A Valle del Bosque Park & Open Space
- B Rio Grande Valley State Park / Bosque
- C Dolores Huerta Gateway Park
- D Sánchez Farm Open Space
- E Arenal Open Space
- F Durand Open Space
- G Pajarito Open Space
- H Gutiérrez-Hubbell Open Space
- I Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

Route spine: Central + Sunset → Sunset Rd SW → Isleta Blvd SW → Gutiérrez-Hubbell House, 6029 Isleta Blvd SW.

Sources: APS School Directory; Bernalillo County Open Space; City of Albuquerque Open Space; Open Space Alliance; Visit Albuquerque.



PAJARITO LANDMARKS PROJECT

ACCESSIBLE | CONNECTED | SAFE | VISIBLE

The Pajarito Acequia is an educational open space for our community. Four interactive, bilingual signs will be installed from Durand Open Space along the Pajarito Acequia, ending at Gutierrez-Hubbell House.

Explore and learn more about the Pajarito Acequia community through an interactive signage experience. Visual design by local artists and QR code integration offer further web access.



**WE ARE
TRAIL
BLAZERS**

Share your
Pajarito community
& family history.

By Us, For Us.

info@cesoss.org

Project at a glance

Four landmark signs will create an educational trail experience along a one-mile stretch of the Pajarito Acequia, connecting physical signage with digital stories, audio, maps, and historical imagery.

4

interactive landmark
signs

1 mile

Durand Open Space to
Gutierrez-Hubbell House

QR

links to audio, maps, and
community archives



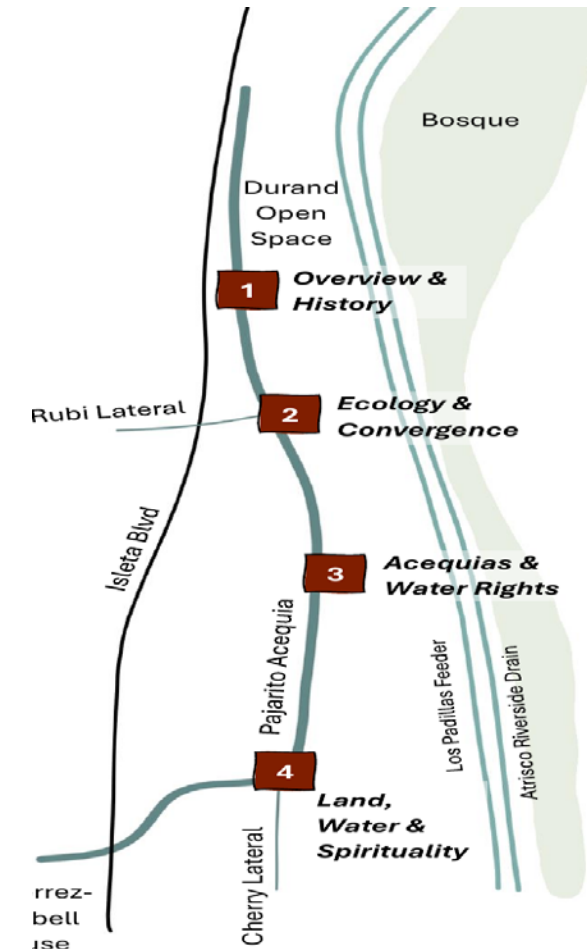
Draft branding emphasizes community storytelling and local artist design.

Purpose: recognize the Pajarito Acequia as both an operating irrigation system and a historic landmark of the Atrisco/South Valley community.

Why the Pajarito Acequia?

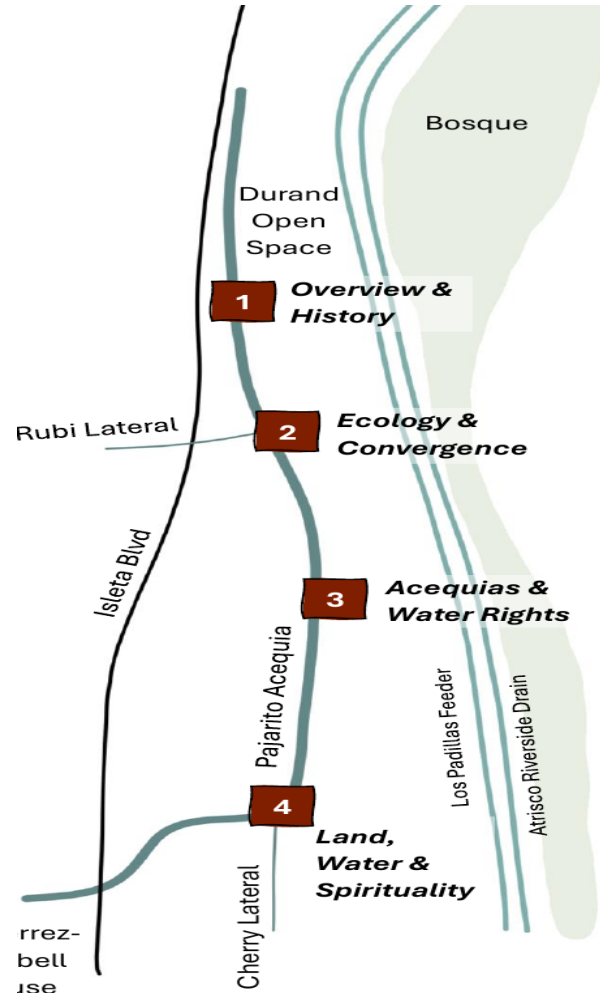
The Pajarito is one of five ancient acequias in the Atrisco community, alongside Arenal, Armijo, Los Padillas, and Atrisco.

- Community-owned irrigation and stewardship infrastructure
- A living history of land, water, agriculture, and mutual aid
- A pilot corridor anchored by public, educational, and cultural spaces
- A way to make acequia knowledge visible for youth, families, and visitors



Project corridor: Durand Open Space to Gutierrez-Hubbell House.

The landmark path: four story nodes



1

Overview & History

Durand Open Space: Pajarito as an old Middle Rio Grande region and landmark.

2

Ecology & Convergence

Confluence with the Rubi Lateral: waterways, habitat, cultures.

3

Acequias & Water Rights

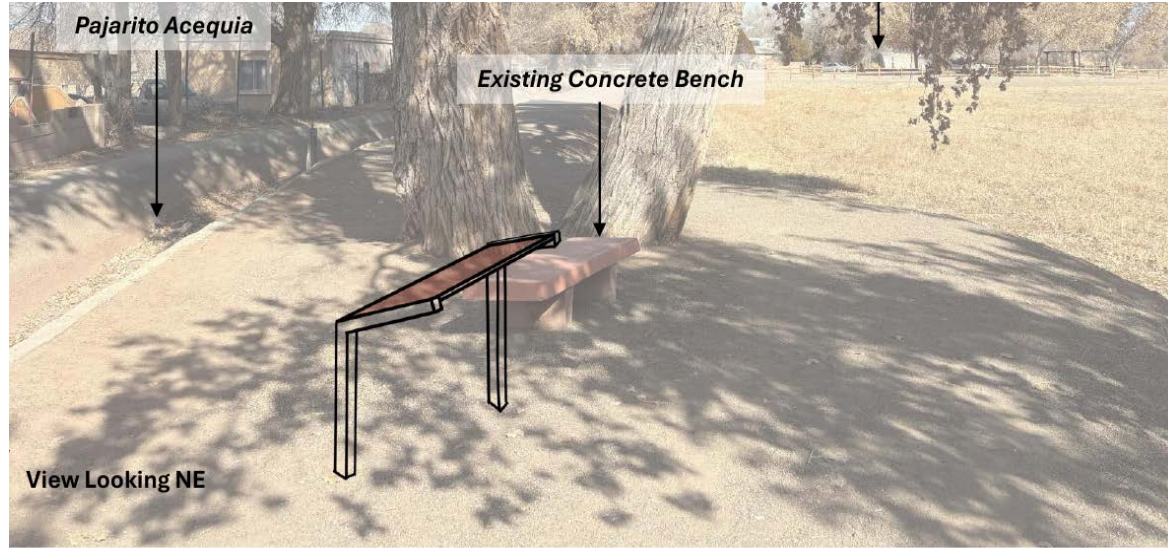
CNM South Valley fence line: governance, advocacy, water rights.

4

Land, Water & Spirituality

Cherry Lateral junction: families, farming, local spiritual traditions.

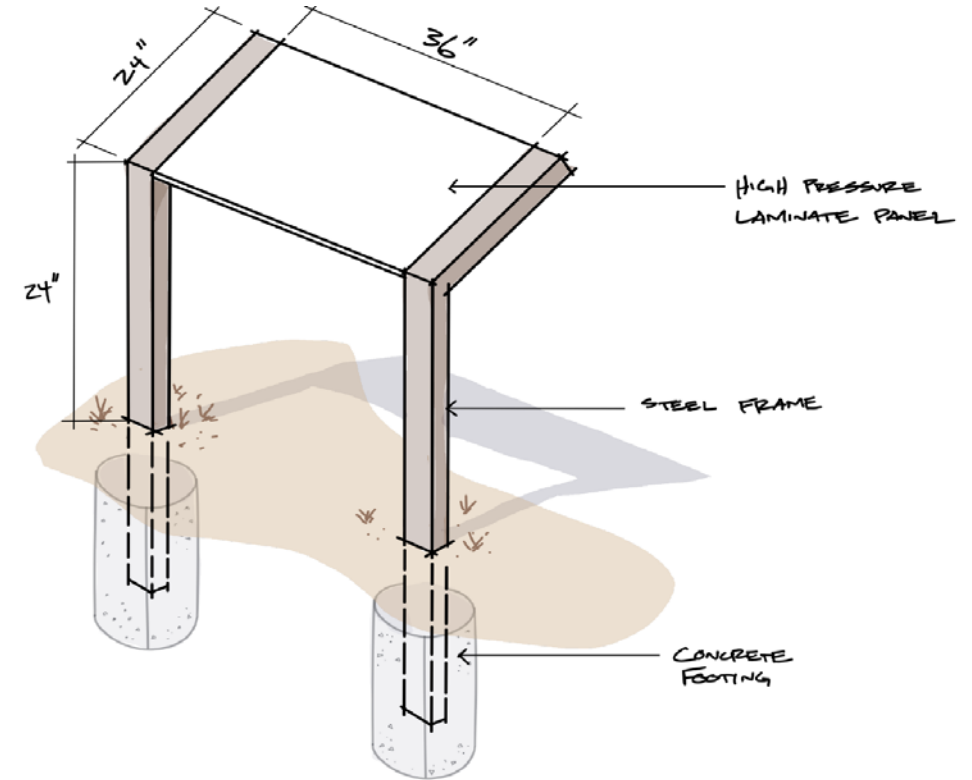
Sign 1: Overview & History



See p 3 for signage construction information and layout.

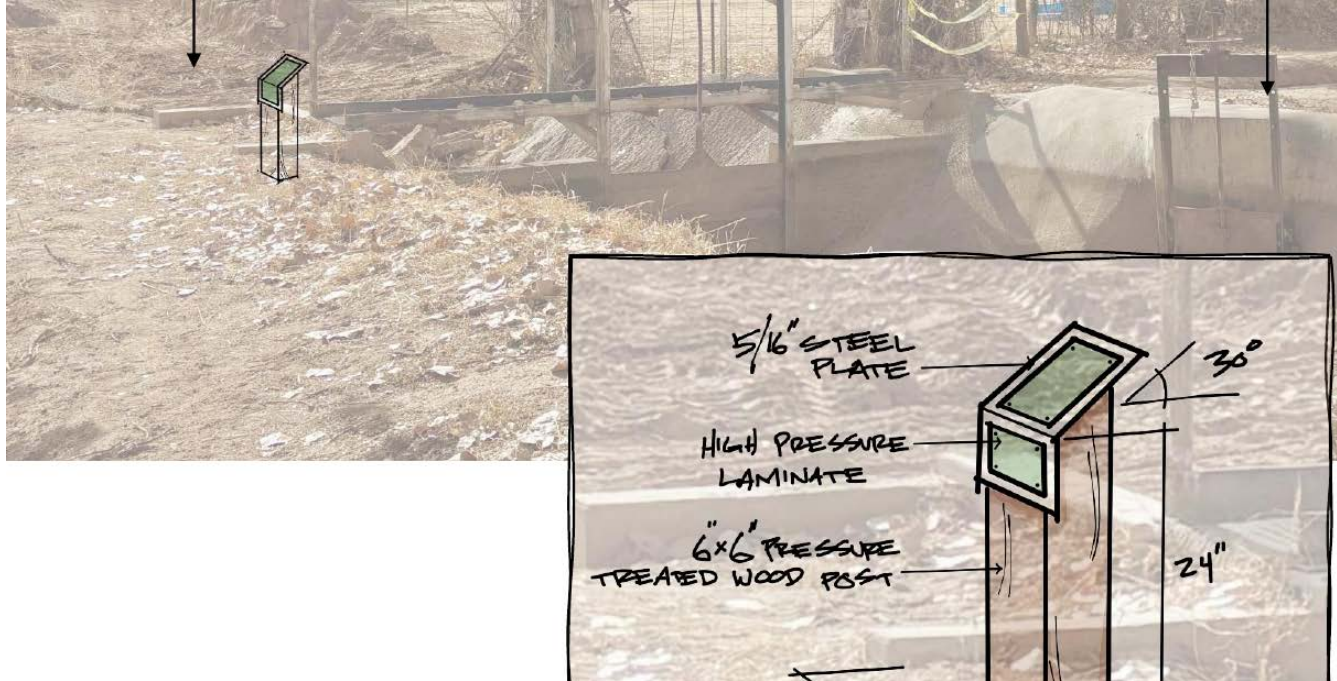
Largest sign

Location: large cottonwood tree and existing bench at Durand Open Space. This sign introduces the route, the SVRAA acequia map, and Pajarito as a landmark of the South Valley.



Design intent: locally fabricated metal frame with high-pressure laminate panel and QR-linked storytelling content.

Sign 2: Ecology & Convergence



Theme

Where water, ecology, and cultures meet

At the Rubi Lateral confluence, this sign can help visitors read the acequia as an ecological network: waterways, drains, laterals, riparian habitat, and ancient systems embedded in a modern urban environment.

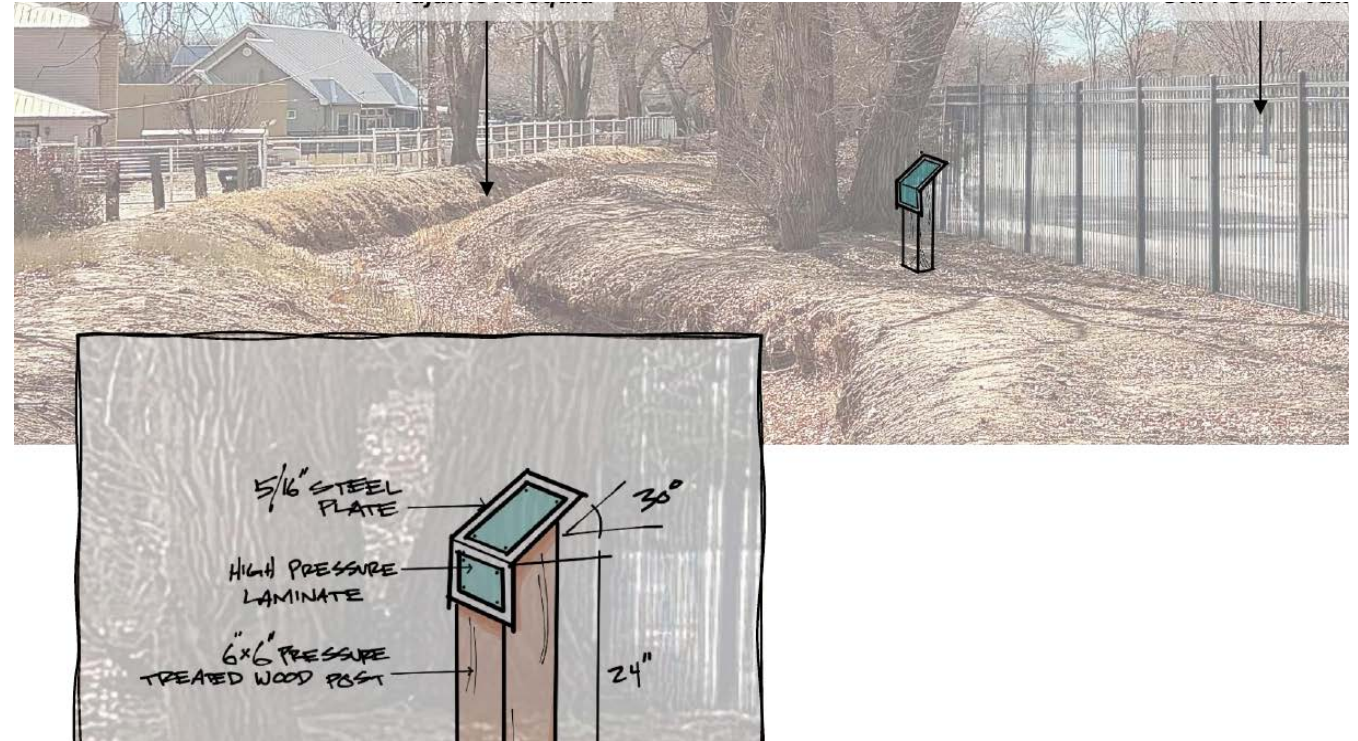
Potential digital layer: audio reflections and maps showing converging waters and community histories.

Sign 3: Acequias & Water Rights

Governance, advocacy, and water rights

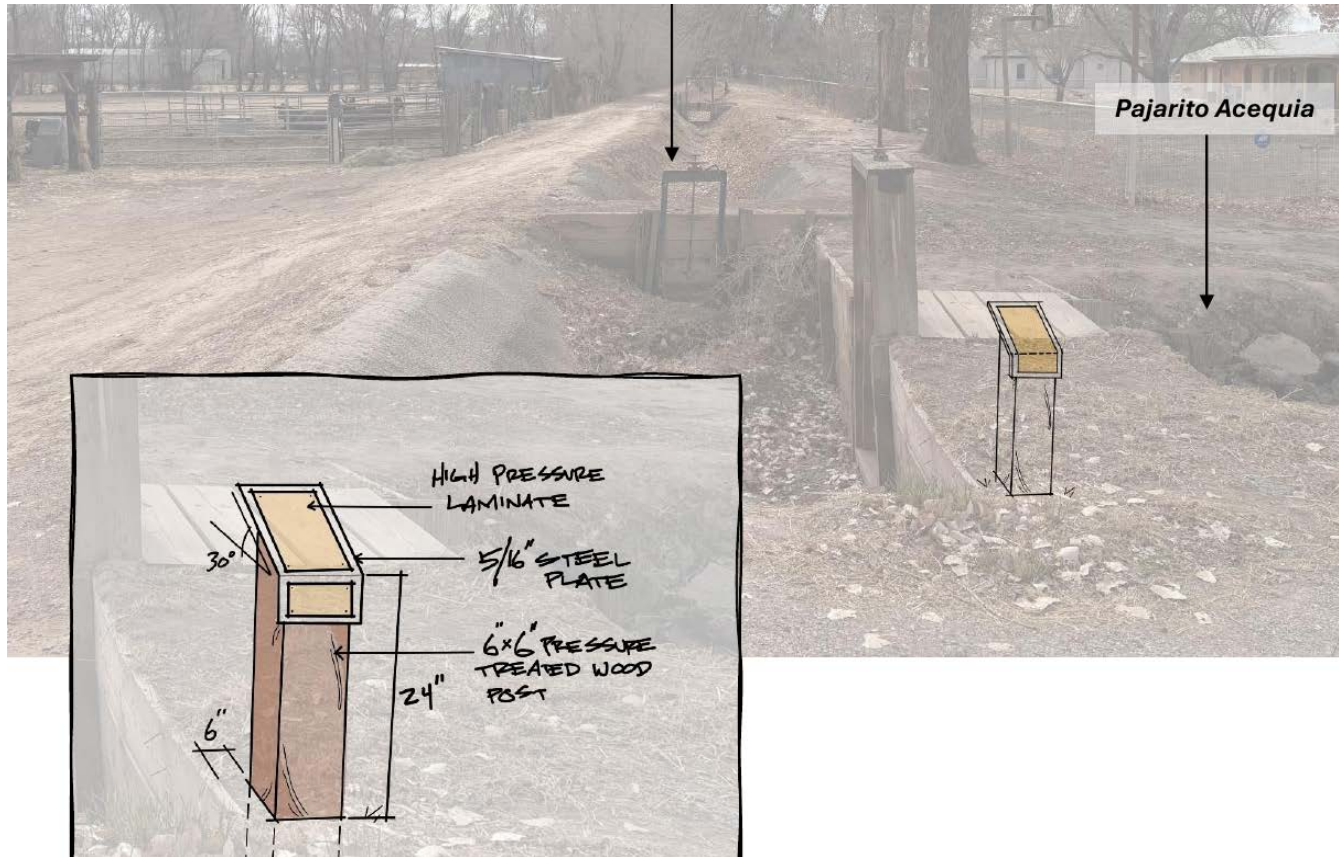
Located along the CNM South Valley Campus fence line, this sign focuses on present-day acequia organization and advocacy.

Content can point to legal and community frameworks including the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, roles of mayordomo and comisionados, and acequia governance practices.



QR-linked learning

Sign 4: Land, Water & Spirituality



At the Pajarito Acequia and Cherry Lateral junction, this sign becomes both a story marker and a wayfinding moment toward Gutierrez-Hubbell House.

Theme: farmers, families, local traditions, and spiritual relationships to acequias, including San Isidro.

Design opportunity: colorful base or additional artwork to mark the final node in the corridor.

Other Activities in our Plan of Action 2026-2027

Acequia Walk & Talks- Summer 2027

community and school water literacy

Acequia Limpias- Feb 13

stewardship and community care

Primera Agua- March 21

seasonal water and cultural programming

La Voz + digital outreach

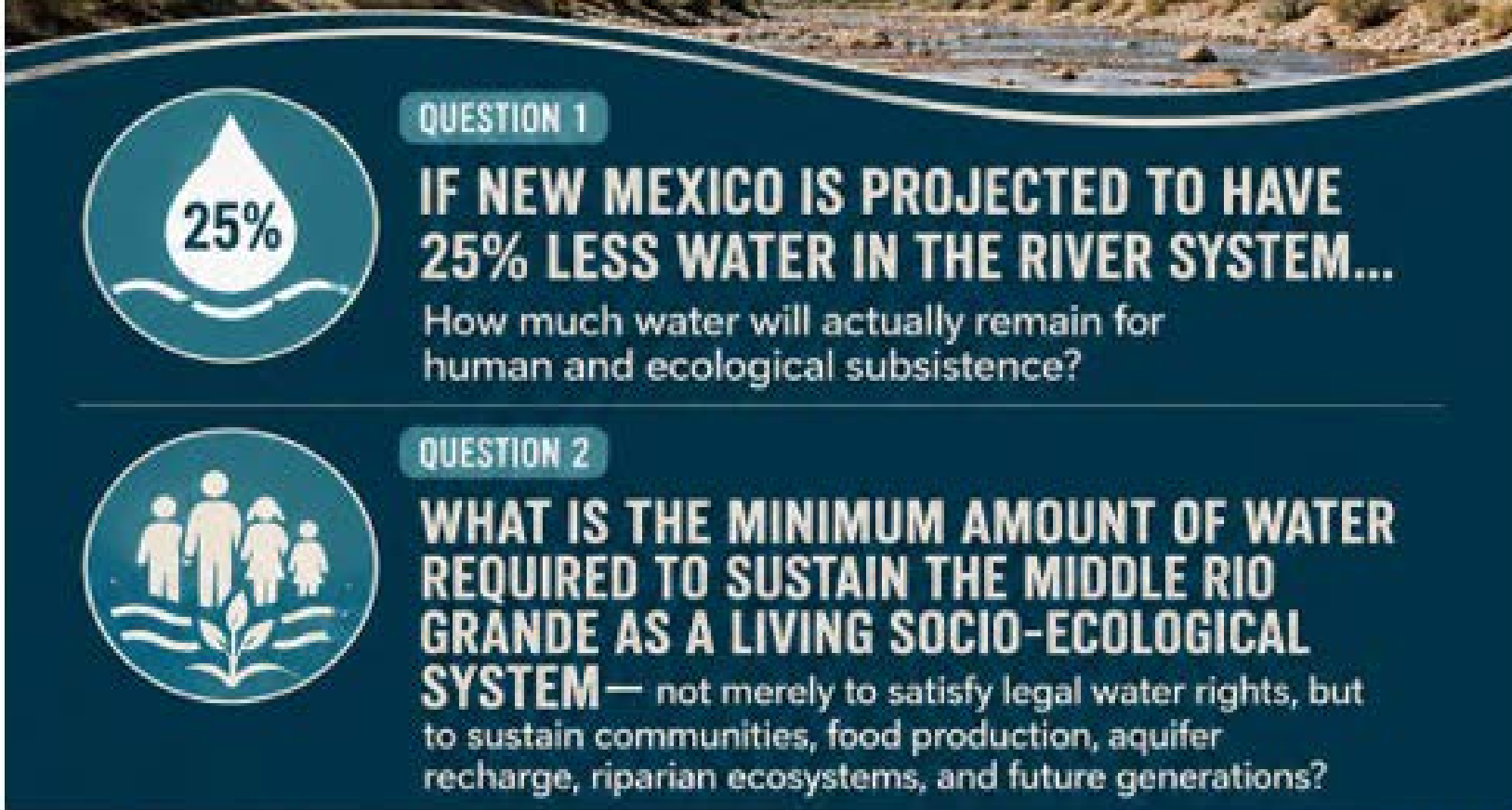
visibility, media, acknowledgment



Public outreach • youth engagement • land, water, and acequia stewardship • cultural preservation

OUR COMMUNITY IS BETTER WHEN WE ALL WORK TOGETHER.

FOR THE SAKE OF OUR REGION: LET'S KEEP OUR PREDICAMENT AT THE FORE FRONT OF EVERYTHING WE DO.



The infographic is set against a dark teal background with a wavy top edge. The top section features a circular icon with a white water drop containing the text '25%'. To its right, 'QUESTION 1' is written in a small white box, followed by the main question in large white capital letters. Below this is a smaller line of white text. The bottom section features a circular icon with white silhouettes of a family (two adults and two children) standing above a plant. To its right, 'QUESTION 2' is written in a small white box, followed by the main question in large white capital letters. Below this is a smaller line of white text.

QUESTION 1

IF NEW MEXICO IS PROJECTED TO HAVE 25% LESS WATER IN THE RIVER SYSTEM...

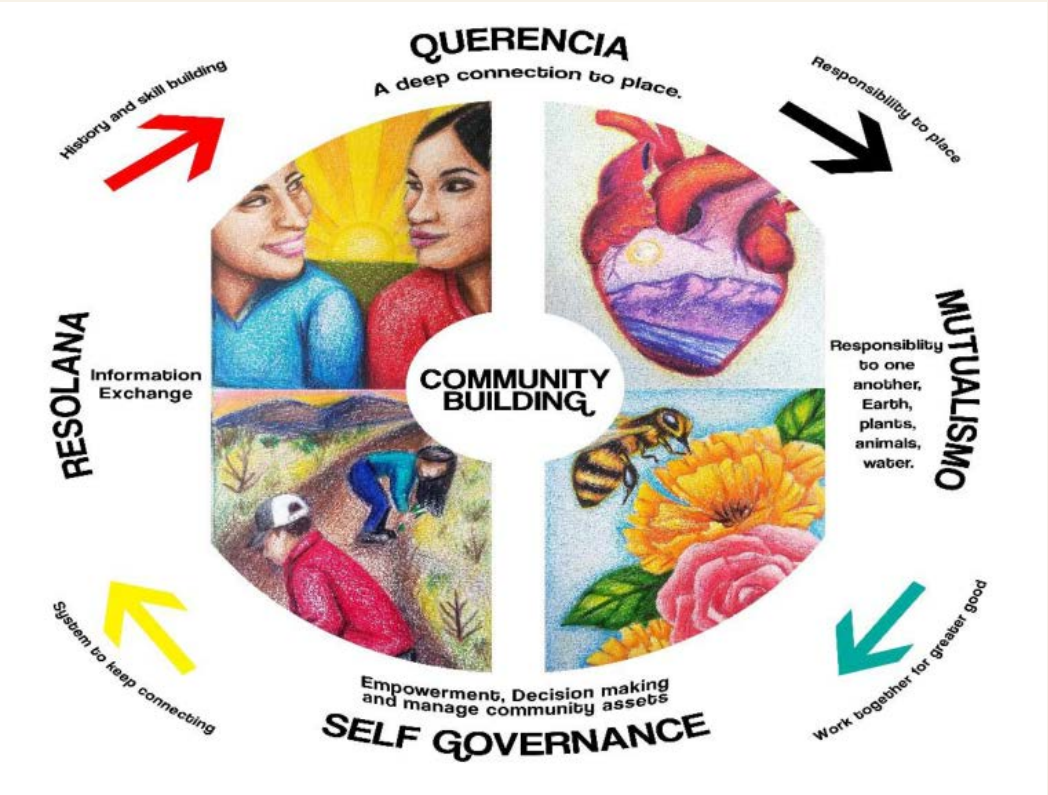
How much water will actually remain for human and ecological subsistence?

QUESTION 2

WHAT IS THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF WATER REQUIRED TO SUSTAIN THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE AS A LIVING SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM— not merely to satisfy legal water rights, but to sustain communities, food production, aquifer recharge, riparian ecosystems, and future generations?

CESOSS framework: community building

Four principles guide how the pilot teaches, convenes, and evaluates impact.



Querencia	Deep connection to place.
Mutualismo	Responsibility to people, Earth, plants, animals, and water.
Self-governance	Empowerment, decision-making, and community asset management.
Resolana	Information exchange and spaces to keep connecting.

Technical Services Update

August 10, 2026

Presented by:
Alicia Lopez, PE
Director of Technical Servies



Monsoon Operations

	Irrigation Distribution	Divisions
Before	Forecast & prepare system conditions	Inspect & repair problem areas
During	Manage water routing, Request mobilization	Mobilize crews, repair/ debris clearing
After	Provide irrigation scheduling priorities	Cleanup execution



Loretta Road / Alameda Intersection Project

Nichols Interior Drain Crossing

Funding Source: Capital Outlay Grant #G3731

Construction: Lopez Precision - \$238,687.23

- Included concrete barriers and sidewalk, and reinforced culvert with shotcrete channel sloping
- **Completed on June 26, 2026**



Loretta Road / Alameda Intersection 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

- Obtained all five (5) NMDOT certifications on July 23, 2026
- Coordinating with Bernalillo County and NMDOT to schedule a pre-construction meeting.
- Contract Time: 115 Calendar Days
- Anticipated completion: December 2026



Corrales Siphon Project

Funding Source: WTB

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

Construction: Compass Engineering- \$7,947,200.76
(w/NMGRT)

- \$3,369,832.68 Funds Expended for construction
- Installation of steel pipe casing and completed site prep for HDD
- Anticipated Completion: Dec 2026



Feeder 3 Pump Station Phase 1

Funding Source: WTB and WaterSMART
Consultant Services: BHI - \$286,732.37
Construction: AUI. Inc. - \$3,993,730.21
(w/NMGRT)

Progress/Work Completed

- \$3,954,784.60 Funds Expended
- Completed installation of transmission pipe

Lookahead

- Install 6" ARV and (4) butterfly valves
- Adjusted Contract Completion Date:
December 31, 2026



QUESTIONS?



Appendix IX

Director Russo Baca Board Reports August 2026

Report on the 3rd MRG Farmer Survey Advisory Committee Meeting, July 14, 2026.

The final report for the Middle Rio Grande agricultural water users survey has been published on the project website. I appreciate the committee members' thoughtful participation and feedback during and after the review meeting. Many of the committee's recommendations were incorporated, helping clarify key findings and strengthen both the analysis and presentation of the results.

A half-day stakeholder workshop is planned for the morning of September 22, 2026, to present the survey results and discuss their implications for future agricultural water management in the basin. The workshop will bring together representatives from federal and state agencies, local water entities, conservation and community organizations, and agricultural stakeholders. The discussion will focus on the survey findings, opportunities to improve water management strategies, and priorities for future action. [MRG Farmer Survey](#)

Report on the Farmers for Future Farmers Meeting, July 14, 2026.

The group continued planning how Farmers for Future Farmers can expand its impact in support of local agriculture. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the 4 Daughters office. Jason Casuga and other MRGCD staff are expected to join the discussion.

The meeting will focus on identifying the most important issues facing local farmers, strengthening outreach to producers, promoting the group, and increasing community involvement. The discussion is intended to help establish the next practical steps and broaden support for local farmers throughout the Middle Rio Grande Valley.

Report on the VCSWCD Monthly Meeting, July 16, 2026.

Director Russo Baca attended the Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District monthly meeting and provided updates on current water conditions and MRGCD partnership activities.

Report on the NM ISC Meeting, July 23, 2026.

The New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission staff report reflected exceptionally difficult conditions in the Upper and Middle Rio Grande Basin. As of July 6, approximately 44 percent of the Rio Grande between Cochiti and Elephant Butte - nearly 87 miles - was dry. This included 11.2 miles in the Albuquerque reach, 28.9 miles in the Isleta reach, and 47.1 miles in the San Acacia reach. June irrigation releases were largely limited to Pueblo lands served by Prior and Paramount water. Through June 30, 7,938 acre-feet of Prior and Paramount water had been released, with 19,479 acre-feet remaining in storage for Pueblo irrigation needs.

Preliminary Rio Grande Compact accounting showed New Mexico with an accrued debit of approximately 132,000 acre-feet. Low snowpack, high temperatures, and very dry conditions continued to make required deliveries difficult. Article VII restrictions remained in effect, preventing storage of native water in El Vado Reservoir except for Prior and Paramount water reserved for the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos. At the end of June, total storage was approximately 52,129 acre-feet at Heron, 24,035 acre-feet at El Vado, and 108,469 acre-feet at

Abiquiu. Usable native Rio Grande water in Elephant Butte and Caballo reservoirs was approximately 86,300 acre-feet.

NMISC and the Bureau of Reclamation also finalized an interagency charter to coordinate sustainable river-channel sediment transport and water-conveyance projects in the Middle Rio Grande. Planned FY2027 work includes a channel-conveyance project near River Mile 161, downstream of the Highway 6 bridge in Los Lunas. The interagency team is also working with MRGCD on monitoring completed projects for vegetation management, channel function, system response, and ecosystem impacts.

Report on the Urban Issues Advisory Committee Meeting, July 27, 2026.

The Urban Issues Advisory Committee emphasized that MRGCD should be understood and managed as a connected ecosystem. Water-management decisions affect agriculture, irrigation, bosque health, groundwater recharge, recreation, wildlife habitat, fire risk, and both urban and rural communities. Members discussed the value of keeping water near the river and on agricultural land, the multiple public benefits supported by irrigation, and the need to reduce depletions while preserving those benefits.

Education and public understanding emerged as leading priorities. Members recommended developing a Flood Irrigation 101 course or flyer for real estate professionals and new property owners, expanding youth pathways into agriculture and natural-resource careers, and improving public communication about how farmers and agricultural water support the valley's recreation, landscapes, habitat, and community identity. Other priorities included improving access to bosque in the South Valley, stabilizing the agricultural water supply, exploring opportunities to reactivate inactive acequias, and considering a "Brought to You by a Middle Rio Grande Farmer" outreach campaign.

MRGCD staff will provide graphs and reports showing long-term changes in diversions, water demand, and water use; distribute the District's bosque FAQs for committee review; explore presentations to neighborhood associations; and continue developing irrigation education for new property owners, real estate professionals, and prospective irrigators.

Report on the RG6-Pueblo Coalition Meeting, August 6, 2026.

Jason Casuga, Anne Marken, and Casey Ish presented MRGCD updates to the RG6-Pueblo Coalition. Their participation supported continued coordination and information-sharing between the District and the coalition.