MINUTES OF THE
2,237th REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

JULY 13, 2026

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

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

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

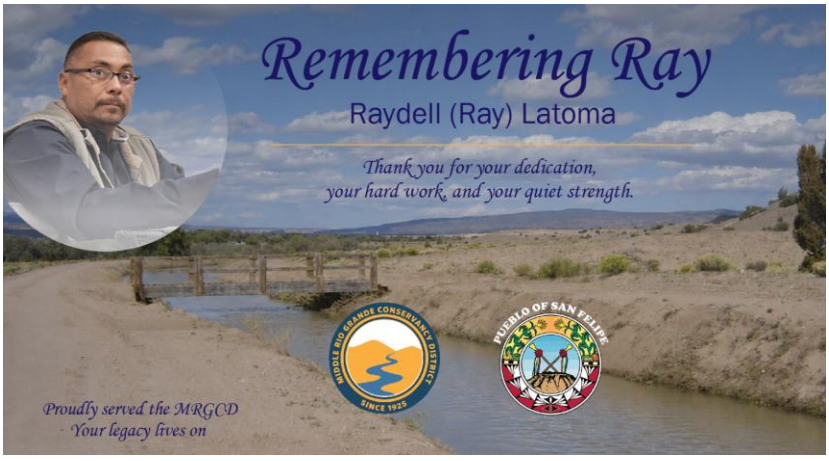
Anne Marken, MRGCD	Vincent Sanchez	Shellie Wright
Matt Martinez, MRGCD	DeAnna Philips	Jimmy Beal
Patrick Taber, BIA	Santiago Maestas, SVRAA	Chris Sichler
Ondrea Hummel, TT	Daniel Aguirre, W&C	John Thompson, MRGCD
Vincent Sanchez, LR	Jorge Garcia, CESOSS	

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

DeAnna Philips led the Pledge of Allegiance at today's meeting.

Chairman Kelly was absent from today's meeting. Director Russo Baca chaired today's meeting and declared a quorum. The meeting was publicly noticed. This meeting was a hybrid meeting with Vice Chairman Baugh attending virtually. Rollcall votes will be necessary for regular motions.

Mr. Casuga led a moment of silence for Raydell Latoma.



AGENDA ITEM NO.2 - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA .

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 - CONSENT AGENDA

a. **Consideration/Approval of Payment Ratification – June 2026**
b. **Consideration/Approval of June 2026 Invoices for Wiggins, Williams & Wesenberg, PC**
c. **Consideration/Approval of June 2026 Invoices for Spencer Fane LLP**
d. **Consideration/Approval for the Special Board Meeting - June 8, 2026**
e. **Consideration/Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting – June 8, 2026**
f. **Memo on CEO Approval of Pumping Fee Amendment (For Informational Purposes Only)**
g. **Memo on MRGCD Approved Licenses for May 2026 (For Informational Purposes Only)**

Mr. Casuga explained the pumping fee amendment they made to try and conserve as much water as possible.

Director Dunning made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA**. Seconded by Director Lopez. 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 a report on water supply conditions. She shared the Middle Rio Grande has experienced a significant 95 miles dry river length, as the average annual dry length has been 37 river miles. She stated there have been a few rain events over the past month, but they did not produce enough to improve water supply, and there is only 9 CFS crossing the Colorado-New Mexico state line on the main stem of the Rio Grande. She added there is only 16 CFS flowing at the Rio Chama and 280 CFS at the Otowi Gage, which is the lowest ever been recorded at this site at this point in the year, and there is a 500 CFS gap between what they need to meet irrigation demand and what is available. She expressed the amount of native Rio Grande water being produced by the basin is not sufficient to meet the needs of the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos, which has caused non-tribal use upstream of Isleta Pueblo to be curtailed, and BOR is releasing P&P water from storage. She noted that will remain curtailed until rain inflows increase available supply in locations that can benefit those lands. She said the landscape is very dry, which is going to limit the amount of runoff any rain events can produce. She stated the forecast for this week calls for temperatures in the 80s and some chances for rain, so they are getting prepared for potential rain inflow; however, the seasonal outlook continues to show elevated chances of above average temperatures and equal chances for above or below average precipitation. She shared MRGCD received authorization to move forward with the pilot Low Flow Conveyance Channel monsoon operation, which will allow them to divert up to 200 CFS from monsoon events into the Low Flow Conveyance Channel at the San Acacia intake gates

to try and help improve Compact deliveries during monsoon season. She thanked those involved in getting the necessary compliance work done in time for monsoon season.

See also Appendix I.

Mr. Casuga thanked staff, Mr. Ish, and Ms. Marken, and all that participated in the work, the State of New Mexico, who took responsibility of paying for it and working through the EA process, and BOR for moving as diligently as they could. He said it is an important step for the state and MRGCD to show the value of trying to move water all 12 months of the year and the partnership should be celebrated.

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

Mr. Martinez gave the report on water distribution. He expressed the first half of the season was full of historically low spring runoff, limited water supply, and prolonged P&P operations. He said these conditions have severely limited irrigation opportunities and left many non-Pueblo properties in significant stress. He recapped the last six weeks, which have included operating prior and paramount restrictions 31 of the last 42 days. He expressed there were two brief opportunities during the last six weeks that allowed meaningful irrigation deliveries, but they were still not enough to reach all the irrigations needing water. He said they continue to work with BIA and Pueblo representatives to honor the senior water rights of the Pueblos. He shared, based on reports, flow data, and communication with Pueblo staff and water users, there has been significant supply to meet priority water rights thanks to P&P releases, and MRGCD defers to BIA regarding P&P releases and distribution of deliveries for the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos. He voiced that high temperatures have increased water demand and system depletions and prolonged P&P operations created understandable frustration among Non-Pueblo irrigators. He said they track each area's irrigation status throughout the season, which allows them to respond immediately. He added meaningful monsoon runoff is the best opportunity to improve irrigation conditions, and he asked that irrigators remain prepared to take deliveries in short notice for when water is available. He expressed that they understand the hardship these conditions have taken on irrigators and they appreciate their continued patience and understanding, and hopefully they will get some relief in the second half of the season. He recognized the passing of Raydell Latoma, who dedicated over a year of service to the MRGCD, who will be greatly missed, and whose contributions to the District will not be forgotten.

Director Jiron commented since the last board meeting, the Peralta Main has been low, but when farmers needed the water, they were filling the ditch up quite fast. He thanked them for that. He added they were also able to get water in the canal a few times and it has been working fine. He noted he heard from some constituents off the Big Chical that the ISOs are doing the best they can to get them water, and he was happy to hear that.

Mr. Martinez responded they appreciate the coordination and communication from the Pueblo so they can make those adjustments and get water where needed.

Mr. Casuga added he has gotten more questions this year than ever about P&P operations from non-tribal members and reemphasized the MRGCD recognizes the senior water rights of the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos and are in partnership with BIA. He said the system was designed to make sure they continue delivering water until there is no water available and that the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos would be the last users of the water on the Rio Grande in extreme drought. He noted the system they

have today that is interconnected at four diversions would not exist without the Pueblos consenting to easements and they have their own diversions. He expressed to the public that they do see the struggle, but MRGCD is fulfilling their commitment in partnership with BIA that they made a long time ago so they could enjoy the system they have today.

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

Santiago Maestas
Mr. Maestas, with the South Valley Regional Association of Acequias, followed up on the comments he made at the last meeting. He thanked them for their transparency with the minutes and comments made by the public. He announced the Pueblo joined their protest on the water transfer from the Indian Lateral, and they were able to access the Office of the State Engineer's water rights summary pages in regard to where the water rights were used on the pecan farm. He explained it was based on a permit, not pre-1907 water rights, and the total acreage is 837 and the total diversion is 1,149 acre feet per year. He added it was a supplemental well permit issued to the properties in 1964, and 68 acre feet are the pre-1907 water rights of the pecan farm. He interprets that as it being MRGDCD water that was used to divert from the Belen Highline Canal to these properties when there was water, but he has been using the permit to pump water from the shallow aquifer for the last several years. He expressed that is unfair and they are disappointed that the District did not join the protest, but felt it should be investigated.

See also Appendix II.

Shellie Wright
Ms. Wright shared she has a property in Bosque Farms and is protesting any future annual charges for water services. She stated the last time her property was irrigated was in May 2022, when her father passed, whose property was adjacent to hers. She said when they sold the property, the new owners refused to let water cross the property for her to irrigate hers and still refuses to this day, so she asks MRGCD to assess that property to confirm the ditch actually ends on her property, so they can stop any future billing of water rights to her place.

See also Appendix III.

Mr. Casuga responded their Lands & Conservation team could help with that.

Vincent Sanchez
Mr. Sanchez addressed MRGCD as a fellow steward of acequias and informed them of a significant change that would directly affect operations. He explained the current Village of Los Ranchos Zoning Director recommended to the Commission that all private or MRGCD controlled acequias have the 25 foot setback rule eliminated in favor of 15 for all structures abutting acequias, which will increase the encroachment of structures onto acequia setbacks by 60%. He expressed that important clarity was lacking on where the measurement will be taken from. He asked if there were any engineered recommendations for structures and their proximity to earthen acequias, and he hoped MRGCD had an opinion on this, as MRGCD's access at a minimum of 60% per side reduction of working space would negatively affect the ability to do state required duties. The amendment was made available last week and will be voted on tomorrow.

Director Russo Baca voiced that she received his e-mail and sent it to staff for review.

Mr. Casuga added they will have staff in the audience tomorrow night and will probably provide a comment stating they would not like to see that change happen until they are directly coordinated with. He expressed he did not know why they were doing that, and said their setback area cannot be within MRGCD lands, as the setback actually resides on the private property, not MRGCD's. He added MRGCD puts machinery in, and any setback that shrinks down the ability to turn that machinery could impact their ability to do certain maintenance.

Jorge Garcia

Mr. Garcia, Director of CESOSS, presented on major initiatives they are going to be working on in the coming year, which include community water stewardship and a signed petition to request a moratorium on water transfer to be able to offset some of their crazy suggestions, Valle Vista open classroom, Atrisco Memorial Project with a mural across from the Rio Grande and signage for Atrisco Memorial, and the Atrisco Acequia Madre.

See also Appendix IV.

Director Russo Baca voiced she will talk to Chair Kelly about putting a report on the agenda.

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

a. **Bureau of Reclamation - John Irizarry-Nazario, Deputy Area Manager**
   Not present at today's meeting.

   See also Appendix V.

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

   Mr. Taber presented for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He first thanked the Board for the recognition and moment of silence for Mr. Latoma. He pointed out of the P&P releases they saw on Ms. Marken's graph, approximately two-thirds is stored water, so 190 CFS per day of the 280 at Otowi is released P&P water. He said he is working with the Pueblos and Mr. Martinez on making sure they are getting the distribution ironed out as well as they can. He noted there were reports of some upstream users trying to take some of the Pueblo's water. He stated they have been working on trying to isolate points of contact to make it easier to work through coordination efforts. He added offseason projects are coming up, and he will need to work with the District on prioritizing those they normally request through the work request system. He shared there have been normal maintenance issues there have already been requests for coordination on.

   Mr. Jiron extended his appreciation for the work Mr. Taber has done with the District and for coming down to the Pueblo to look at the problems they are experiencing.

   Director Russo Baca asked about the current amount released and stored for P&P.

   Mr. Taber answered approximately 10,000 acre feet has been released and around 16,000-17,000 acre feet remaining.

   Mr. Casuga asked to encourage the Pueblos to put O&M in. He said offseason O&M actions do not necessarily have to wait until the offseason, especially if requiring advanced engineering. He said the sooner they let them know, the sooners they can get started on it.

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 job changes, which consist of a new Assessment and Collections Lead in the General Office, a promotion to Medium Equipment Operator and two new Field Maintenance Technicians in the Cochiti Division, a transfer to Medium Equipment Operator and a new Field Maintenance Technician in the Albuquerque Division, promotion to Heavy Equipment Operator and a transfer from in the Belen Division, and a returnee as Right-of-Way Specialist in the Socorro Division.

b. Recognition of Retiring Employee - Estella Gamboa, Assessment & Collections Supervisor

Ms. Nardi recognized Estella Gamboa, as she is retiring on July 24th, presented her with a plaque and other gifts, and thanked her for her service to the MRGCD. She thanked her for everything she has done for the District.

Ms. Gamboa thanked everyone for their hard work, being there for her during the tough times, and for giving her the opportunity to end her career there.

DeAnna Philips expressed her appreciation and thanks to Ms. Gamboa as well.

The Board members congratulated Ms. Gamboa on her retirement and thanked her for the professionalism she brought to the MRGCD.



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

a. Consideration/Approval for MRGCD's Habitat Conservation Plan

Mr. DeLoia presented on the approval for the MRGCD Habitat Conservation Plan RFP. He stated the request for proposals was advertised on February 13th, 18th, and 24th, and nine were received by the deadline. He added the MRGCD Evaluation Committee recommends award to Tetra Tech in the amount of $1,487,599.21.

Director Dunning asked if they were expecting it to be that much money. She also wanted to abstain from the vote, as her daughter works for Tetra Tech in another state, and wanted to avoid any conflict of interest.

Mr. DeLoia answered yes, it will take a few years to get through.

Ondrea Hummel, Tetra Tech Manager with the Albuquerque Office introduced herself and she looked forward to working with the MRGCD through this process.

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

Director Russo Baca	Yes	Vice Chair Baugh	Yes
Director Lopez	Yes	Director Jiron	Yes
Director Sandoval	Yes		

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

a. Consideration/Approval of Memorandum of Agreement between MRGCD and National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine for the Upper Rio Grande Basin Federal Reservoir Operations Study

Mr. Ish stated a few years ago there was a Water Resources Development Act activity for the Corps of Engineers to review and study how to optimize federal reservoirs within the Rio Grande Basin, and that has now been funded and is ready to move forward. He said there is local cost share and several other entities that are looking to partner on getting this study done. He explained this is the agreement between MRGCD and that National Academy of Sciences (NAS) for that work. He noted NAS prides themselves on independence of their research and this will help inform some subsequent changes to potential authorizations if they find there are things MRGCD can be doing better with their reservoirs. He looked forward to working with NAS, Reclamation, Utility Authority, and possibly Sante Fe on this.

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MOA BETWEEN MRGCD AND NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, ENGINEERING, AND MEDICINE FOR THE UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN FEDERAL RESERVOIR OPERATIONS STUDY**. Seconded by Director Dunning. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

b. Consideration/Approval of DRAFT Resolution Concerning Water Rights Acquisition Policy

Mr. Ish stated this is a follow-up on a discussion the Board had at the last board meeting on the draft resolution, where staff brought about a policy where the District may begin acquiring water rights for various reasons. He said they had a thorough discussion and he entertained any additional topics today in terms of the policy.

Mr. Casuga noted they discussed the draft resolution at the last meeting, with the intention to bring it back for consideration/approval, but he seceded to legal counsel on that.

Ms. Wiggins responded that anything listed on the agenda is subject to action even if it was listed as draft instead of consideration/approval on the agenda.

Director Dunning commented everything was covered very thoroughly in the draft resolution.

Director Dunning made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING WATER RIGHTS ACQUISITION POLICY**. Seconded by Director Lopez. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

c. Report on the Urban Issues Advisory Committee Inaugural Meeting, June 15, 2026 - Casey Ish, Director of Lands & Conservation, Amanda Molina, Director of Communications, Vice Chair Baugh, Directors Dunning and Russo Baca

Director Russo Baca expressed she did a written report on this.

See also Appendix IX.

Mr. Ish explained this was the first meeting with the newly formed group, and they had a good initial discussion even though there was not full attendance. He listed the top five issues the group was interested and engaged in trying to address, which was land use planning, access policies, education and outreach, wildfire and vegetation management, and declining Cottonwood and native tree canopy, and legislative matters.

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

a. Update on Corrales Siphon

Ms. Lopez shared what they can expect from her in the next few months back, including gathering lots of information, understanding where they are in their maintenance and engineering program, and defining a starting point to improve where they can do better. She said that along with her team, they will start defining key performance indicators and define how the metrics and success align with their long-term vision.

She gave an update on the Corrales Siphon. She stated the Corrales site contract was executed in September, Compass started obtaining permits, and in December they were allowed to mobilize based on the final agreement with Sandia Pueblo. In March, they had the issues with the auger getting stuck as they began drilling operations, and DH Underground attempted to install the first step of the horizontal directional drill on the conductor casing, but they could not remove the casing or auger, which remains in place. She said they decided to install a second casing slightly to the west of the existing alignment and that was successful and completed in May. She added prep for the HGD operation has restarted and there is a plan forward. She expressed the project received a $7 million Water Trust Board Grant, with an expiration date of December 31, 2026, which they are working diligently to get done. She noted there are approved and unapproved change orders associated with this work, but Wilson & Company, MRGCD, and the owner are working to identify a logical distribution of overages.

See also Appendix VI.

Dan Aguirre, with Wilson & Company, gave the Board a schedule on how they plan to proceed forward. He gave Compass credit for going out of their way to get a second subcontractor, because Global was not going to be able to get on site very quickly. He stated NPL is going to do the initial pilot holes and reaming to get the bore to the 60-inch size they need, which they plan to start next week. He said they hoped to get the final drilling plan tomorrow so they can start drilling next week, and the pad has been getting built in the last week to get that machine set up. He explained the process of inserting the centralizer casing, and then they will pull the pipe through. He noted the whole process and cleanup should be done by mid-September. After that, they have the weir to put in and the head wall and riprap that goes in, which they have been talking to the contractor about doing concurrently. He added they are also looking at if there is a way to bypass the weir structure and get that built right away, but right now the contractor is on schedule to be done by Thanksgiving.

Director Dunning asked if there was a possibility for a second extension or if it had to be done by that time. She thanked them for trying their best to meet the deadline.

Mr. Aguirre answered they are going to make it happen as best they can.

Director Russo Baca appreciated their diligence of saying they will make it happen.

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

a. Review of End of Fiscal Year 2026 and Fourth Quarter Financials

Ms. Fanelli presented on the Fiscal Year 2026 unaudited financial report. She reported the District finished the year very strong and is well positioned to begin Fiscal Year 27. In the General Fund, they adopted a balanced budget originally, but during the year, they adopted some budget adjustments totaling a $2.7 million impact on the budget. She said the total revenues for Fiscal Year 2026 year-to-date is $33,626,000, ad valorem revenues represent 77% of total revenues, General Fund revenues are expected to exceed budgeted revenues, General Fund expenditures total $32,760,000, and salaries and fringes making up the largest portion of the expenditures. She noted they are expecting to see a surplus in the General Fund. For the Grant Fund, actual grant revenue totaled $21.8 million during the fiscal year. Approximately $8 million of the

budgeted grant funded projects will not occur in fiscal year 2026 and will be re-budgeting in Fiscal Year 27. She expressed they are going to rebudget a portion of the Socorro Lining Project again in Fiscal Year 27. Since NFWF grant had a delay in signing the contracts, they are rebudgeting in Fiscal Year 27. She shared the Capital Investment Fund generated revenues above budgeted and revenues that came from ad valorem, but they continue funding equipment purchases, infrastructure improvements, temporary Corrales Siphon pumping operations, and transfers from the Capital Investment Fund went to the Debt Service Fund and Grant Fund for grant match. The Debt Service Fund remained healthy and scheduled debt payments were made on time. She expressed that Fiscal Year 26 was a financially successful year overall.

See also Appendix VII.

Director Dunning thought they were going to do a cost benefit analysis for utilities cost to see if it was worthwhile to get solar in this building and the Division offices.

Ms. Fanelli answered that has not been done yet, but they plan to. She noted that would go into their Capital expenditures, which will reduce General Fund expenditures.

Director Dunning asked if they were still running electricity to the Corrales pumps since there is no water to pump.

Mr. Casuga responded yes, there is lighting out there, but the bill should be significantly lower.

Director Russo Baca requested seeing the ad valorem by county on the pie chart.

b. Report on Audit Entrance Conference, July 13, 2026 - Pamela Fanelli, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and Director Russo Baca

Director Russo Baca reminded the Board to answer any calls from CRI.

Ms. Fanelli gave the report on the Audit Entrance Conference, where they went over what everyone's responsibilities are during the audit and any areas of concern they had. She said they project the audit be completed by November 30, 2026.

c. Consideration/Approval of Resolution BA-07-13-26-116 Fiscal Year 2026 Fourth Quarter Unaudited Financial Report and Cash Balance Review as of July 1, 2026

Director Dunning made the **MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION BA-07-13-26-116 FISAL YEAR 2026 FOURTH QUARTER UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT AND CASH BALANCE REVIEW AS OF JULY1, 2026**. Seconded by Director Sandoval. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

d. Consideration/Approval of the Travel Policy to reflect changes to State Statutes 10-8-1- to 10-8-8 NMSA 1978

Ms. Fanelli stated that State Statute 10-8, 1 through 8, changed the Travel Policy, so they are asking for approval of the new Travel Policy, but it will change the per diem and mileage rates for board members.

Director Dunning commented that in the statute, it sounds like they could make their own rules in some instances, but it was hard to figure out where they would have the authority to make their own rules.

Mr. Casuga responded right now the resolution just brings them in line with what the state is doing and there is a conversation to be had with counsel if they do or do not fall within the state purview.

Ms. Wiggins reviewed it and made some language suggestions that were incorporated in regard to emphasizing expenses that are incurred have to be consistent with the employees' duties, course and scope of employment, and duties as elected officials of public officers. She added if there are any questions about if something is appropriate to seek reimbursement for, they should be asked beforehand.

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

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12 - REPORT(S) FROM THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS - Amanda Molina

a. Introduction of Redesigned MRGCD Website

Ms. Molina shared Ms. Gamboa will be missed. She presented on the new redesigned website. She said they took feedback from constituents on things they could fix on the website, and she discussed all the updates and changes made, including a place to see updates and the MRGCD news form. She added they put a note on Facebook saying if anyone sees something missing or they do not like, to contact them. She said this was a team effort.

Director Dunning asked if there is a policy to determine what to put on the website.

Mr. Casuga answered they do not have a set policy for that, but as the CEO, he wanted the context to be what MRGCD is doing and not things that are not going to impact them. He said they believe their website should be reserved for things contextual to MRGCD and the things they do and let others do their own advertising and tell their own stories.

b. Update of Community Events

Ms. Molina shared she has gotten a lot of invites from the community for MRGCD to be at the events since her time there, and many board members and staff attend those. She showed some photos from the Socorro Truck Event.

Mr. Lopez was there with his grandkids and thought it was a really nice event and said the kids enjoyed the equipment.

See also Appendix VIII.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13 - REPORT(S) FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER/CEO– Jason M. Casuga, PE

a. Report on MRGCD's Valencia County Community & Farmers Informational Meeting, June 18, 2026 - Jason M. Casuga, Chief Engineer/CEO, Chairman Kelly, Directors Dunning, Sandoval, Jiron, Lopez and Russo Baca

Mr. Casuga reported on the Valencia County Community and Socorro County Community & Farmers Informational Meetings. He appreciated the community coming and engaging with them and the emotions they bring in, their thoughtful and composed questions. He shared some of the new things they are looking at doing, including producing material available to the public to be informed on bigger items they are going to talk about and a direct ask portion. He said they heard from constituents on hydrology, no hope to store water because of the Compact debt, and getting themselves in better position to manage water and the future. He expressed New Mexico is now in a position to control their own destiny more. He talked about there being a need and value to have at least three board members be able to see some of those materials. He expressed that among the Executive Team, they had a conversation about the product they can produce and being able to take questions from the community and coming up with a podcast element, where they get together and have those questions posted to staff and recorded and give the community access to it. He felt the next logical step is to make it where people can readily access those questions.

Director Dunning suggested they could ask questions on the chat and then answer those questions on the chat, and it would still be recorded so anybody could listen to it later like they did with the Water Advocates did with their Zoom Meeting on conservation.

Mr. Casuga responded they were happy to do that, but will not be creating a new public meeting to people to attend. He added they were likely going to do a studio recording, which will produce into a transcript. He said every time they get something unique they have not covered, that would be a good opportunity to update that.

Director Russo Baca delegated it to the Irrigation Committee to be the committee reviewing those materials before publishing.

b. Report on MRGCD's Socorro County Community & Farmers Informational Meeting, June 24, 2026 - Jason M. Casuga, Chief Engineer/CEO, Chairman Kelly, Vice Chair Baugh, Directors Dunning, Sandoval, Lopez and Russo Baca

See above report for 13a.

c. Report on Legislative Committee Meeting, June 29, 2026 - Jason M. Casuga, Chief Engineer/CEO, John Thompson, MRGCD Lobbyist, Vice Chair Baugh, Directors Dunning and Russo Baca

Mr. Thompson stated the Legislative Committee discussed election results, what things may look like from a composition standpoint, and strategizing for future sessions relative to ongoing efforts for Bosque funding. He wanted to have at least one meeting in the fall

and one more before the January session. He noted they are having a Water and Natural Resources Committee Meeting in Socorro on August 31st, that will be fairly water centric, and he expected a healthy and robust agenda.

Mr. Casuga added they talked some about the materials they will get together and how to use them at the Interim Committee of Water and Natural Resources Committee. He noted they want the State of New Mexico to look at the title transfer of the Low Flow and begin making a business case to the legislative body that it is the right things for the state to be doing. He expressed they came out of the community meetings convinced it should not be MRGCD doing all the work on the Low Flow and the state should jump in and get that lower piece and let MRGCD act as their agent.

Mr. Thompson added he would send the agenda as soon as it is available.

d. Report on 6-Middle Rio Grande Pueblos Coalition Meeting, July 2, 2026 - Jason M. Casuga, Chief Engineer/CEO and Director Russo Baca

Mr. Casuga reported it was a short meeting for the Coalition on MRGCD's part. He said he reintroduced Alicia to the Coalition and thanked them for their moment of silence for Mr. Latoma. He shared that Mr. Ish announced the Habitat Conservation Plan and MRGCD will try to get feedback from individual pueblos or the Coalition as a whole.

e. Information on Upcoming Events:

1. **Pueblo of Isleta's Environmental Fair, July 25, 2026: Isleta Rec Center**
2. **Los Lunas Agricultural Science Center & USDA Plant Materials Center's Field Day, August 13, 2026: Los Lunas**
3. **CESOSS' 2026 Acequia Walk & Talks Series**
   a. **August 22, 2026 - Los Padilla Acequia**
   b. **September 5, 2026 - Armijo: Sanchez Farm Open Space**
   c. **October 24, 2026 - Pajarito: Durand Open Space**
4. **Coalition of Rio Grande Water Users Annual Conference, September 16-18, 2026: Tamaya Resort, Pueblo of Santa Ana**
5. **Tribal Water Law Annual Conference, September 28-29, 2026: Santa Fe, NM**
6. **New Mexico Water Law Annual Conference, October 8-9, 2026: Santa Fe, NM**

Mr. Casuga discussed the upcoming events.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14 - 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. 15 - REPORT(S) FROM THE BOARD

a. Report on Corrales Farmers Co-Op Meeting, June 9, 2026 - Director Russo Baca
b. Report on the VCSWCD Conservation Camp, June 10, 2026 - Director Russo Baca
c. Report on Next Generation Water Summit, June 11-12, 2026 - Director Russo Baca
d. Report on CESOSS' 2026 Acequia Walk and Talk Acequia Madre Headwaters, June 13, 2026 - Director Russo Baca
e. Report on NM Water Trust Exploratory Committee Meeting, June 30, 2026 - Director Russo Baca

f. Report on MRGCD Field Visit to Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, July 1, 2026 - Vice Chair Baugh, Director Lopez and Russo Baca

g. Report on CESOSS' 2026 Acequia Walk and Talk Arenal Acequia, July 11, 2026 - Director Russo Baca

Mr. Lopez expressed farmers in Socorro liked having the meetings and getting answers.

Director Russo Baca was impressed they used Mentimeter, with the interactive question and answer, and that Socorro was on it. He said a gentlemen made the comment it was the most helpful thing to be able to look at the presentation after.

There were written reports provided for each report.

See also Appendix IX.

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

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

Director Sandoval made the **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 5:16 PM**. Seconded by Director Dunning. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14 EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

Director Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO GO BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION AT 6:01 PM**. Seconded by Director Jiron. Rollcall vote was administered with all members voting yes. The **MOTION CARRIED.**

Director Russo Baca	Yes	Director Jiron	Yes
Director Dunning	Yes	Director Sandoval	Yes
Director Lopez	Yes		

Director Russo Baca noted Vice Chair Baugh was no longer in the meeting. She also shared that no decisions were made in Executive Session.

With no further comments, questions, or concerns, Director Russo Baca adjourned the meeting at 6:02 pm.

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

ATTESTED:

Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

John P. Kelly, Chairman
MRGCD Board of Directors

Water Supply Update

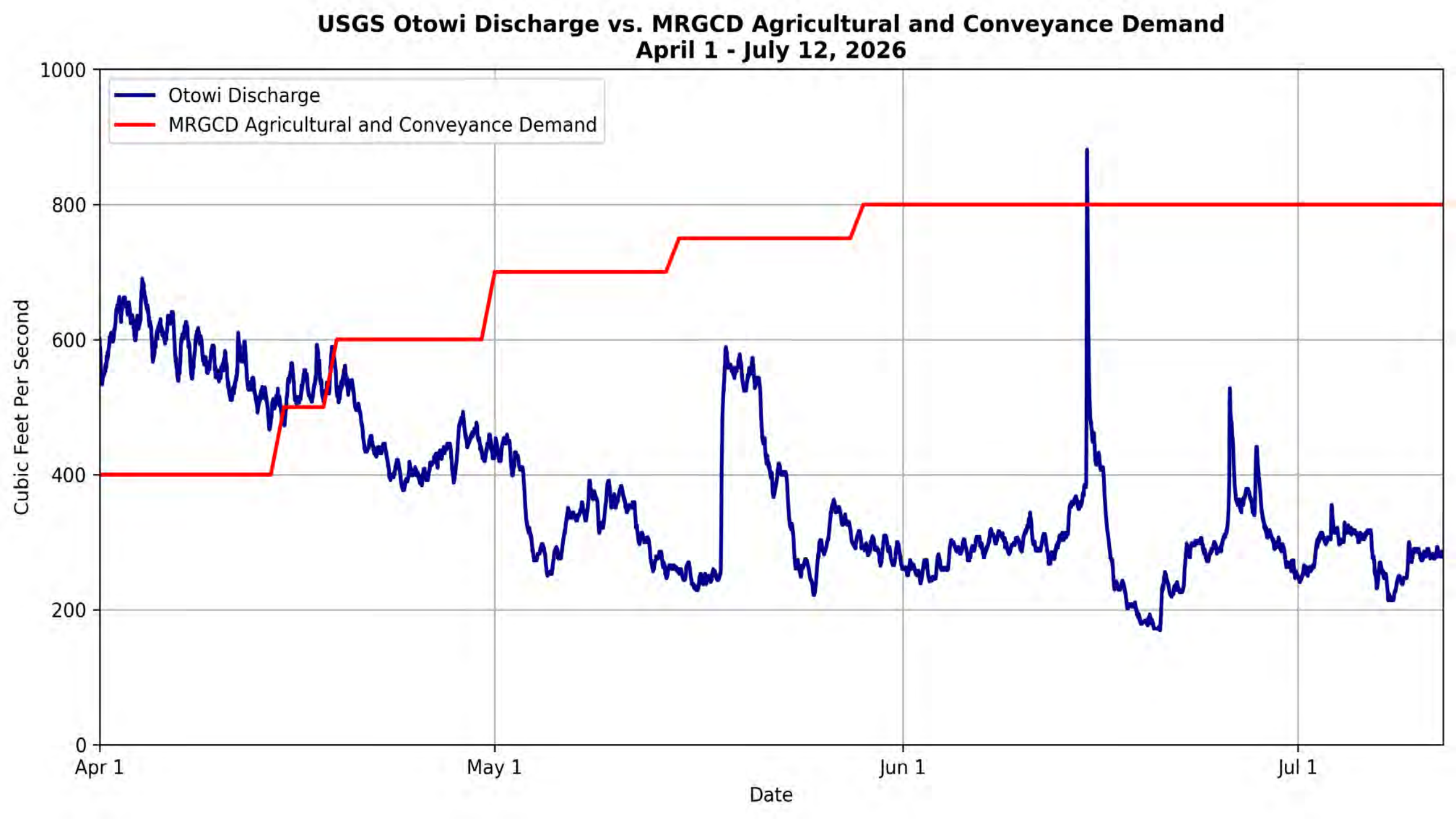
Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Board of Directors Meeting

Prepared and Presented by: Anne Marken

Date: 7/13/2026

USGS Rio Grande At Otowi Gage Location




USGS Otowi Discharge vs. MRGCD Agricultural and Conveyance Demand
April 1 - July 12, 2026
Otowi Discharge
MRGCD Agricultural and Conveyance Demand
1000
800
600
400
200
0
Cubic Feet Per Second
Apr 1
May 1
Jun 1
Jul 1
Date

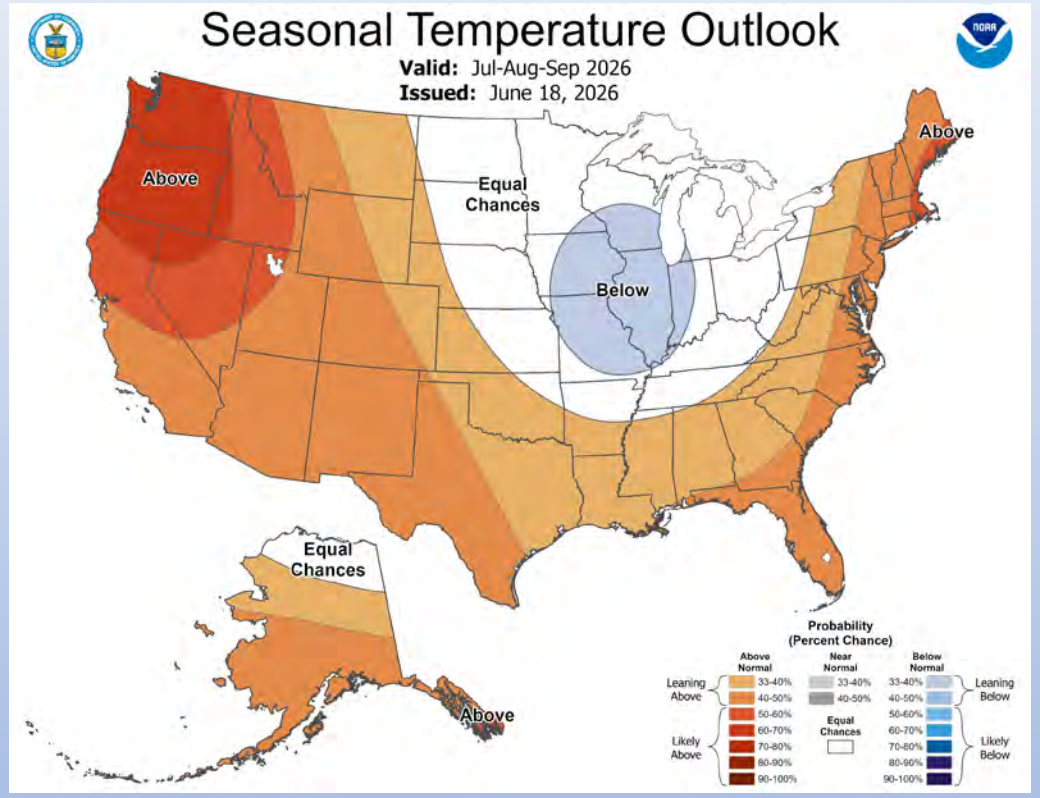
7-Day NWS Forecast

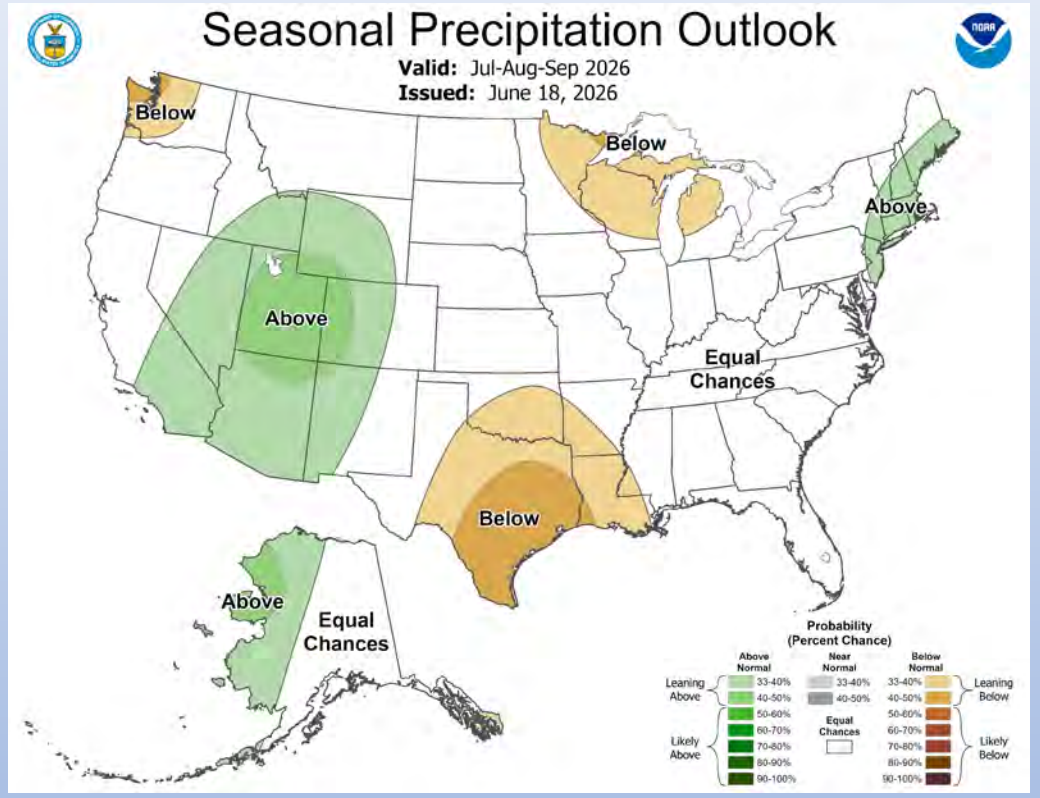
Location	Maximum Temperature							Probability of Precipitation						
	Mon 07/13	Tue 07/14	Wed 07/15	Thu 07/16	Fri 07/17	Sat 07/18	Sun 07/19	Mon 07/13	Tue 07/14	Wed 07/15	Thu 07/16	Fri 07/17	Sat 07/18	Sun 07/19
Albuquerque	94	93	89	88	89	90	91	0	30	40	40	40	40	30
Santa Fe	89	88	84	84	85	86	88	20	40	60	50	50	50	40
Farmington	97	96	93	91	90	91	93	20	30	50	60	50	40	40
Gallup	91	90	87	84	83	84	86	20	50	70	70	70	50	40
Grants	90	89	85	84	83	84	86	10	40	60	60	60	60	40
Clayton	88	88	86	87	88	91	93	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
Raton	87	86	83	84	86	88	89	20	20	10	10	20	30	30
Las Vegas	83	82	79	79	81	84	85	10	30	50	30	40	40	30
Moriarty	89	88	85	85	86	88	89	0	30	40	40	50	40	20
Tucumcari	91	91	89	89	91	93	95	10	10	10	0	20	10	10
Clovis	89	90	87	86	87	90	93	20	20	10	10	20	10	10
Roswell	90	91	88	86	89	91	94	20	30	20	30	30	20	20
Socorro	97	96	93	92	92	93	94	10	30	30	30	40	30	20
Chama	85	84	80	79	79	82	83	40	40	70	80	80	60	50
Taos	87	86	82	82	83	84	86	30	40	60	70	70	60	50
Angel Fire	79	78	74	75	77	78	79	40	40	70	70	70	50	50
Los Alamos	86	85	80	80	81	83	84	10	30	60	60	60	50	40
Ruidoso	78	79	76	75	76	78	79	20	30	30	50	70	70	60
Quemado	88	86	83	80	79	80	82	10	40	70	70	70	70	50

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



NWS Seasonal Outlook





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

Questions?

Appendix II

Water Right Summary

get image list

WR File Number:	RG 10260	**Subbasin:**	MRG	**Cross Reference:**	
Primary Purpose:	IRR IRRIGATION				
Primary Status:	PMT Permit				
Total Acres:	837.834	**Subfile:**		**Header:**	
Total Diversion:	1149.800	**Cause/Case:**			
Owner:	ROY D MERCER LLC	**Owner Class:**	Owner		
Contact:	MICHAEL MECHENBIER				

Documents on File

(acr

Transaction Images	Trn #	Doc	File/Act	Status 1	Status 2	Transaction Desc.	From/To	Acres	Diversic
	524855	STGPP	2012-10-03	APP	RCV	SD-04257-B INTO 10260 & 82157	T	0.000	7.500
	522407	STGPP	2012-07-27	APP	RCV	04064-A INTO RG-82157,10260	T	0.000	67.830
	547651	STGPP	2010-03-04	APP	RCV	SD 06286-A INTO RG-82157 &	T	0.000	0.000
	414340	STGPP	2008-08-28	APP	RCV	07658 INTO RG-10260	T	0.000	0.000
	414339	STGPP	2008-08-28	APP	RCV	07263 INTO RG-10260	T	0.000	0.000
	414338	STGPP	2008-08-28	APP	RCV	07709 INTO RG-10260	T	0.000	0.000
	414337	STGPP	2008-08-05	APP	RCV	08114 INTO RG-10260	T	0.000	0.000
	414335	STGPP	2008-08-05	APP	RCV	08112 INTO RG-10260	T	0.000	0.000
	414334	STGPP	2008-08-05	APP	RCV	07090 INTO RG-10260	T	0.000	0.000
	414331	STGPP	2008-08-05	APP	RCV	08111 INTO RG-10260	T	0.000	0.000
	414328	STGPP	2008-08-05	APP	RCV	04533 INTO RG-10260	T	0.000	0.000
get images	286141	STGPP	2004-09-01	PMT	NC	04552 A & RG-7639 TO RG-10260	T	22.940	68.820
get images	263270	CLW	2004-01-06	PMT	LOG	RG 10260	T	58.278	174.834
get images	263270	CLW	2004-01-06	PMT	LOG	RG 10260	F	58.278	174.834
get images	263444	COWNF	2003-02-26	CHG	PRC	RG 10260	T	0.000	0.000
	287809	ADM	1964-04-21	PMT	APR	RG 10260	T	58.278	174.834

Current Points of Diversion

POD Number	Well Tag	Source	Q64	Q16	Q4	Sec	Tws	Rng	X	Y	Map	Other Location Desc
RG 10260 CLW		Shallow				25	05N	01E	335895.0	3833529.0 *		
RG 10260 POD3		Shallow										
RG 17111		Shallow	NW	NW	SE	25	05N	01E	336001.0	3833415.0 *		** TR NO: 102C1
RG 82157 POD1		Shallow				12	04N	01E	335718.8	3828735.0		MRGCD MAP 109
RG 93792 POD1		Shallow							334782.6	3825508.0		

*** UTM location was derived from PLSS - see Help**

Priority Summary

Priority	Status	Acres	Diversion	POD Number	Source
1964-01-21	ADM	837.834	1149.800	RG 10260 CLW	Shallow
				RG 17111	Shallow

Place of Use

Q256	Q64	Q16	Q4	Sec	Tws	Rng	Acres	Diversion	CU	Use	Priority	Status	Other Location Desc
				00									
				00									
				00									
				00									
				00									
				00									
				00									
				00									
				00									
				00									
				00									
				00									
				00									
				00									
				00									
				25	05N	01E	8.250	24.750	17.325	IRR	1906-12-31	PMT	
				25	05N	01E	58.278	174.834		IRR	1964-12-31	PMT	

Q256	Q64	Q16	Q4	Sec	Tws	Rng	Acres	Diversion	CU	Use	Priority	Status	Other Location Desc
				25	05N	01E	2.660	7.980	5.586	IRR	1906-12-31	PMT	
				25	05N	01E	1.900	5.700	3.990	IRR	1906-12-31	PMT	
				25	05N	01E	7.910	23.730	16.611	IRR	1906-12-31	PMT	
				25	05N	01E	2.220	6.660	4.662	IRR	1906-12-31	PMT	

Source

Acres	Diversion	CU	Use	Priority	Source	Description
22.940	68.820	48.174	IRR	1906-12-31	GW	

The data is furnished by the NMOSE/ISC and is accepted by the recipient with the expressed understanding that the OSE/ISC make no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability, usability, or suitability for any particular purpose of the data.

©2024 New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, All Rights Reserved. | Disclaimer | Contact Us | Help | Home |

Appendix III 3/4/26 / Rcvd @ COUNTER E.6

Copy

WATER SERVICE CHARGE ASSESSMENT PROTEST

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, 1931 Second St. SW, P.O. Box 581, Albuquerque, NM 87103-0581
PH: (505) 247-0234

(Please type or print the following information)

THE PROTEST WILL NOT BE VALID IF OWNERSHIP HAS CHANGED BEFORE THE FINAL DETERMINATION

PROPERTY OWNER NAME: Shellie Wright	DATE: 3/4/2025
PROPERTY OWNER MAILING ADDRESS: Street 3202 Dakota St NE Apt.# P.O. Box	
City Albuquerque ST. NM Zip 87110	CUSTOMER ID#: 3207 5
CONTACT # CELL/HOME: 505 688 4369	**COUNTY:** Valencia

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF LANDS SUBJECT TO WATER SERVICE CHARGE PROTEST:
**** PLEASE BE SPECIFIC REGARDING THE ACREAGE AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY BEING PROTESTED****

LDS of Roberts and Wright, TR H4 Exc SWLY 45 FT
Radius Cul de sac = 09.277 AC total acres = 0.93
Property/Parcel # 1011040206~~22~~33300000

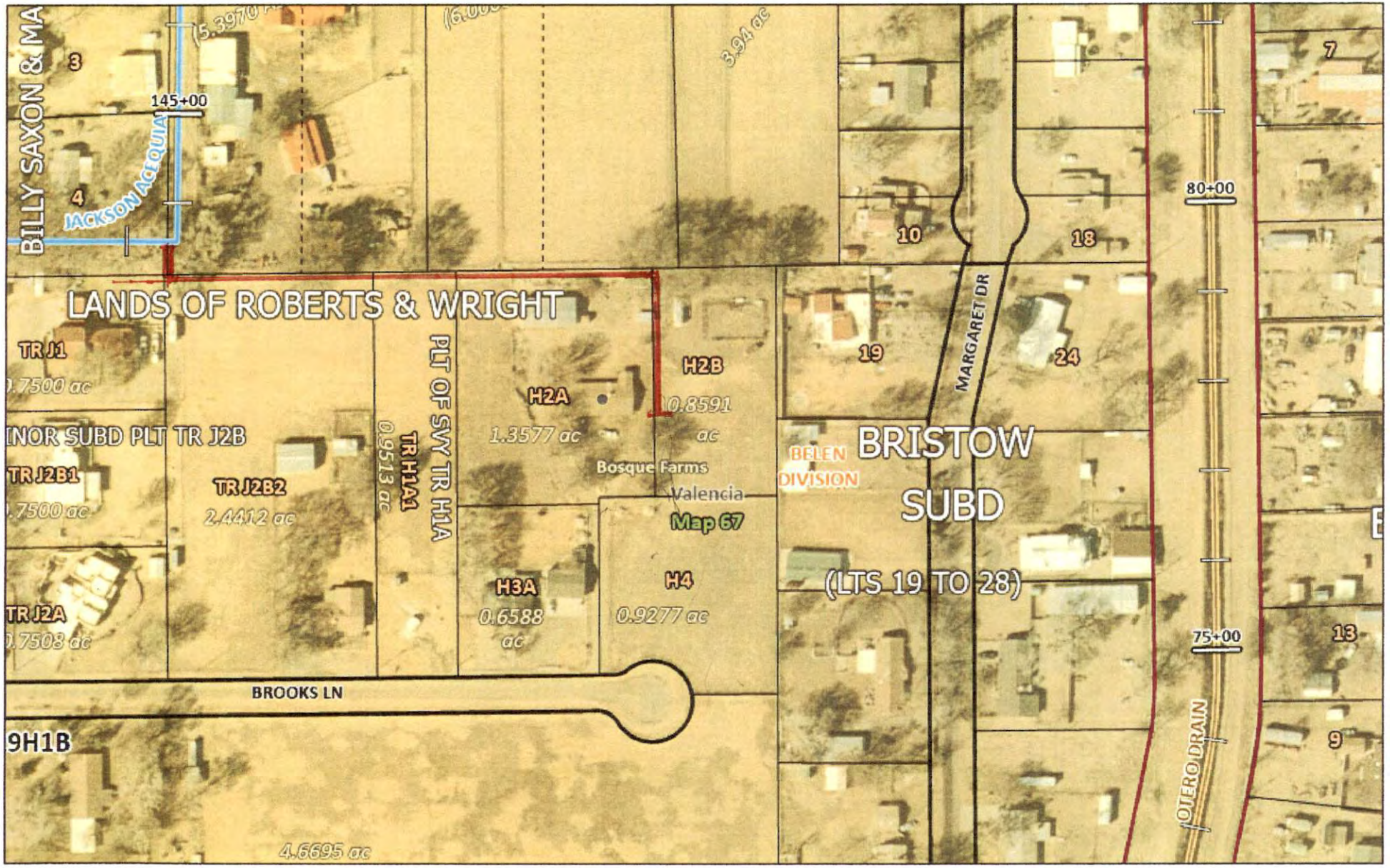
BASIS OF PROTEST: physical **TURN OUT:** Yes ☐ No ☒

I have not had access to irrigate my property since June of 2022 when my fathers ~~property~~ H2A and H2B was sold to her (Stephanie & Mike Mickelson). The last time I irrigated my property was May 2022. Platt doc - 3-~~0078~~ 0708 shows trak H-4 has no ditch easement.

By signing this protest, I certify that the information in this protest is true and accurate and that the property(s) listed above is not currently being irrigated and will not be irrigated after reclassification. I understand that if the District determines that the information provided is incorrect and/or that the property is being irrigated that I will be liable for all applicable charges.

Protestor Signature: S Wright

Data Viewer Print



9/13/2024, 11:27:04 AM

1:2,257

0 0.01 0.03 0.06 mi

0 0.03 0.05 0.1 km

MRCOG-NM, Bohannan Huston, Maxar, Microsoft

New Mexico Incorporated Places
MRGCD Jurisdictional Boundary
New Mexico Counties

MRGCD Cadastre Lines
Lot Lines
Combined Lots
MRGCD ROW

Public ROW

Facility Network
Drain
Other

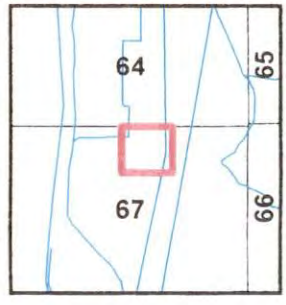
Facility Network Stationing
Major
Minor
MRGCD Map Index



LDS OF ROBERTS & WRIGHT, TR H4 EXC SWLY 45 FT
RADIUS CUL DE SAC = 0.9277 AC

PROPCD: 101104020633300000 **Map No:** 2222

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT



Legend

- MRGCD Facility
- R/W - Public & MRGCD
- Parcel Line
- Combination Line

Surface Water Current Status,WR_Type

- Water Right
- No Pre-1907 Water Right
- Supplemental
- Cancelled/Expired
- No Right
- Other

N

0 50 100 200 300 400

Scale in Feet

NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®
COVID-19 – HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT 2020

THIS FORM IS FOR USE BY PERSONS WHO WIL BE VIEWING OR INSPECTING THE PROPERTY IN-PERSON OR OTHERWISE ENTERING THE PROPERTY OR WHO WILL BE ALLOWING OTHERS TO VIEW OR INSPECT THE PROPERTY IN-PERSON OR OTHERWISE ENTER THE PROPERTY. THIS AGREEMENT IS ONLY ENFORCEABLE BETWEEN AND AMONG THE PARTIES WHO SIGN IT.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 970 Brooks Ln Bosque Farms NM 87068

Or SUBD: LAND OF ROBERTS AND WRIGHT TRACT: H2A 1.36 ACRES MAP 67 & Land Of Roberts And Wright Tract H2b
Legal Description

Or see metes and bounds description attached as Exhibit ____, Valencia County, New Mexico.

BACKGROUND. On March 11, 2020, as a result of the current spread of COVID-19, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, issued a Proclamation of State of Emergency ("Emergency"). The issuance of the Emergency and accompanying Executive and Public Health Orders highlight the health concerns associated with the COVID-19 virus.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.
By signature below, the undersigns acknowledge the following:

- The existence of the COVID-19 virus, and any applicable federal, state and/or local orders regarding the same;
- That the COVID-19 virus creates risks to those who view and/or inspect the Property in-person or otherwise enter the Property;
- That the COVID-19 virus creates risks to those who own and occupy the Property when allowing others to view, inspect or otherwise enter the Property.
- That the COVID-19 virus is transmittable and could result in illness, permanent disability, or death.

The undersigns further acknowledge that they are responsible for staying current and in compliance with any federal, state or local orders regarding the COVID-19 virus which may apply to them and for taking precautions to protect themselves against the COVID-19 virus, as set forth by the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the New Mexico Department of Health, links below.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html

https://cv.nmhealth.org

HOLD HARMLESS. After fully and carefully considering all the potential risks involved with the COVID-19 virus, the undersigns hereby assume the same and mutually release and hold-harmless each other and their respective successors, assigns, employees, officers and agents and waive any and all claims associated with entering the Property and/or allowing others to enter the Property, as the case may be. Any person representing or conducting business for an entity signs below in his/her individual and personal capacity AND in his/her capacity as a representative of the entity, this includes, but is not limited to, associate brokers signing on behalf of their qualifying brokers/brokerages.

CAREFULLY READ TERMS AND IF NOT UNDERSTOOD, CONSULT AN ATTORNEY BEFORE SIGNING.

Signature	Printed Name	Entity (if applicable)	Date
[signature]	Shellie Wright	Seller	5/27/2022
[signature]	Larry Wright	Seller	5/27/2022

This form and all New Mexico Association of REALTORS® (NMAR) forms are for the sole use of NMAR members and those New Mexico Real Estate Licensees to whom NMAR has granted prior written authorization. Distribution of NMAR forms to non-NMAR members or unauthorized Real Estate Licensees is strictly prohibited. NMAR makes no warranty of the legal effectiveness or validity of this form and disclaims any liability for damages resulting from its use. By use of form, the parties agree to the limitations set forth in this paragraph. The parties hereby release NMAR, the Real Estate Brokers, their Agents and employees this from any liability arising out of the use of this form. You should consult your attorney with regards to the effectiveness, validity or consequences of any use of this form. The use of this form is not intended to identify the user as a REALTOR®. REALTOR® is a registered collective membership mark which may be used only by Real Estate Licensees who are members of the National Association of REALTORS® and who subscribe to the Association's strict Code of Ethics.

©2020 New Mexico Association of REALTORS®
This copyright protected form was created using Instanet Forms and is licensed for use by Lori Whitener.
TRANSACTIONS

Fidelity National Title of New Mexico Inc.

1052 Main Street NE, Suite C, Los Lunas, NM 87031
Phone: (505)866-6666

SELLER'S STATEMENT

Settlement Date: July 28, 2022
Disbursement Date: August 1, 2022

Escrow Number: SP000137165
Escrow Officer: Michelle Gonzales
Email: Michelle.Gonzales@fnf.com

Buyer: Arther Mikkelsen and Stephanie Mikkelsen

Seller: William G Wright Trust, u/t/a dated November 9, 2004, William G Wright, Trustee or his Successor Trustee
970 Brooks Lane
Bosque Farms, NM 87068

Property: 970 Brooks Lane
Bosque Farms, NM 87068
; Subdivision: SUBD LAND OF ROBERTS & WRIGHT TRACT H2A & TRACT H2B MAP 67

Appendix IV

CESOSS–MRGCD PARTNERSHIP REPORT

Executive Brief for the MRGCD Board of Directors

Building the Next Generation of Water Stewards

Our Shared Vision

The Memorandum of Agreement between the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) and the Center for Social Sustainable Systems (CESOSS) establishes a long-term partnership to preserve agricultural lands, protect water resources, strengthen acequia communities, and educate future generations through community-based outreach, partnerships, and culturally grounded education.

Return on the MRGCD Investment

- Expanded community outreach and acequia education throughout the Middle Rio Grande.
- Established the Valle Vista Open Classroom as a model for experiential water education.
- Strengthened partnerships with Bernalillo County, APS, SVRAA, educators, and community organizations.
- Advanced preservation projects include the Atrisco Memorial and Pajarito Landmarks.
- Leveraged the MRGCD partnership to pursue additional grants and collaborative initiatives.
- Developed youth leadership through Ciclos de la Tierra and outdoor learning.

MOA Commitments and CESOSS Deliverables

MOA Commitment	Current CESOSS Initiative	Partners	Future Opportunity
Public outreach & workshops	Acequia Walk & Talks, Primera Agua, water workshops	MRGCD, BernCo, Communities	Regional expansion
Water & acequia education	Valle Vista Open Classroom, Ciclos de la Tierra	APS, MRGCD, Green Latinos	District-wide Open Classrooms
Youth stewardship	Leadership Institute, school agriculture	Schools	Youth Water Steward Network
Partnership development	Grant collaboration and coalition building	County, foundations	Regional funding consortium
Historic preservation	Atrisco Madre Project, Atrisco Memorial, Pajarito Landmarks	Communities	Acequia Heritage Trail

Featured Partnership Projects

Valle Vista Open Classroom: A living classroom where students learn directly from acequias, agriculture, ecology, and water stewardship through the partnership of MRGCD, Bernalillo County Open Space, APS, and CESOSS.

Community Water Stewardship: Educational outreach encouraging science-based, transparent, and long-term stewardship of New Mexico's water resources.

Atrisco Memorial: A community-centered initiative preserving the history, culture, and relationship between acequias, land, and future generations.

Looking Ahead (2026–2030)

- Expand the Valle Vista Open Classroom into additional schools.
- Develop the Atrisco Acequia Madre Learning Site.
- Increase teacher professional development in acequia education.
- Expand youth leadership and agricultural stewardship opportunities.
- Produce an annual CESOSS–MRGCD Partnership Report with measurable outcomes.

MRGCD Outdoor Classroom

Memorandum of Agreement

This Memorandum of Agreement (the "Agreement") is made and entered this 10th day of June, 2025 (the "Effective Date) by the Center for Social Sustainable Systems (CESOSS), a 501c3 nonprofit organization and U.S. tax-exempt public charity ("Grantee") with the address of 211 10th ST SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102, to induce Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD), a quasi-governmental entity under the state of New Mexico ("Grantor") with its principal place of business at 1931 Second Street SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102, and mailing address of P.O. Box 581, Albuquerque, NM 87103, to make a grant in the initial amount of U.S. $25,000 in fiscal year 2026 to Grantee for operational support to conduct outreach and implementation of water resource and acequia focused education as described below (the "Purpose").

WHEREAS the mission of Grantee is to protect and preserve ways of life and traditions connected to land and water issues in the Middle Rio Grande region; and

WHEREAS the mission of Grantor is to provide irrigation, drainage, and river flood protection services while preserving the ecological, cultural and quality of life values within the middle Rio Grande valley; and

WHEREAS the Rio Grande and its tributaries within New Mexico (the "Rio Grande Watershed") is a major source of water for more than half of the state's population, including those living in metropolitan and rural communities and on Native American Pueblo and tribal lands as well as approximately 55,000 acres of irrigated farmland from Cochiti Dam to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge; and

WHEREAS the Grantee serves communities in the Middle Rio Grande region by protecting and preserving ways of life and traditions connected to land and water through education-based programs and projects which help to maintain the viability of agriculture and ecosystem resiliency in the middle Rio Grande valley, MRGCD's service area; and

WHEREAS the Grantee increases the education and engagement of the public with issues related to the viability of agriculture and ecosystem resiliency in the middle Rio Grande valley, MRGCD's service area; and

WHEREAS the Grantor has need for community outreach services to support programmatic goals for improving constituent knowledge while advancing preservation of agricultural lands and related water supplies particularly as it relates to the traditional acequias and communities within the benefited area of the District,

NOW THEREFORE, Grantee and Grantor (collectively the "Parties") agree to the following:

1. **Grant Implementation**. The initial amount of the Grant (as defined below) is $25,000, but Grantor may increase the amount of the Grant throughout the Term (as

defined below), if additional funds are appropriated and made available by Grantor, by providing written notice to Grantee of such increases. For the purposes of the Agreement and notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the Contrary, the defined term the "Grant" means the initial amount of $25,000 plus the cumulative amount of any additional funds granted by Grantor to Grantee under this Agreement. Beginning in fiscal year 2026 (July 1, 2025) Grantor will deliver the amount of $25,000 to Grantee in two installments: one of $12,500 on or before July 15, 2025; and one of $12,500 on or before March 1, 2026. Grantor shall continue future installments on or before August 1 and March 1 in subsequent years as defined in the Term. Grantor will deliver any amounts of the Grant to Grantee on a similar schedule. Grantor and Grantee agree that Grantee requires advances of the Grant funds (rather than reimbursements of already-expended funds) in order to pursue the Purpose. Grantee will provide annual progress reports to Grantor that describe how the immediately preceding advance of the Grant funds was utilized by Grantee and how any upcoming advance is intended to be utilized by Grantee. Grantee will use the Grant received from Grantor only for the Purpose.

The Parties acknowledge that Grantee will have full control and responsibility over the planning, content, terms and implementation to achieve the Purpose and that any line items of the budget may be adjusted among categories to meet the Purpose. Grantee will retain its organizational authority to select contractors and grantees according to its own policies and procedures, including those related to due diligence procedures and the Conflict of Interest Policy, while assuring such parties' qualifications and performance are appropriate to achieve the Purpose and to meet the legal requirements for a U.S. public charity in the jurisdiction where the work is performed. As such, if any party identified in a proposal is not selected or retained, another party or Grantee employees with appropriate qualifications may be selected by Grantee to complete the work to achieve the Purpose.

2. **Term.** The Term of the Grant is five consecutive years beginning on August 1, 2025, and continueing through June 30, 2030 (the "Term").
3. **Warranties and Representations of Grantee**. The Grant shall not be used for anything other than the Purpose. Grantee is a tax-exempt U.S. public charity. In the event that there is any change in Grantee's tax-exempt status, Grantee will immediately notify Grantor of such change.
4. **Annual and Final Reports.** Within sixty (60) days following the end of each of Grantor's fiscal year and the expiration of the Term, Grantee shall submit an annual report and a final report. The final report will include a description of all work funded under the Grant performed each year during the Term.

5. **Amendments**. This Agreement may be amended from time to time upon the written agreement of the Parties.
6. **Books and Records**. Grantee shall maintain records in accordance with General Accepted Accounting Practices and as required to maintain records for internal Code purposes. The reports submitted to Grantor shall be kept for at least six (6) years after completion of the use of all Grant funds. Grantee will permit Grantor, or its duly authorized representative to inspect records reflecting all work done, labor performed, and material furnished in connection with the activities funded under this Agreement.
7. **Intellectual Property**. Rights to any intellectual property created in part or wholly with funds under this Agreement vest solely with Grantee. Grantor may receive up to 10 copies of any final publications produced under this Agreement at no cost.
8. **Publicity**. Any publicity related to the work funded by this Agreement shall be approved by both Parties, prior to disseminating.
9. **Remedies**. Grantee agrees that Grantor may withhold Grant funds or terminate any commitment under this Agreement if Grantee fails to comply with the Agreement. Grantee may terminate this Agreement in the event it determines that the work undertaken or this Agreement will violate its policies or standard operating procedures or result in adverse publicity to Grantee.
10. **Choice of Law**. The law of the State of New Mexico exclusively shall govern and apply to any and all legal proceedings pertaining to the Agreement, including the provisions of the New Mexico Trust Claims Act. This Agreement shall be deemed to be entered into and formed in the New Mexico and shall become effective when Grantor executes this instrument, bearing its CEO's signature. By execution of this Agreement, Grantee submits to the personal jurisdiction and venue of the courts of New Mexico.
11. **Termination for Lack of Appropriations**. Funding for the initial $25,000 of the Grant has been appropriated by Grantor's governing board. Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Agreement, its continuation beyond the end of the fiscal year is contingent on Grantor's governing board making the appropriations necessary to fund the Agreement which Grantor's governing board may make or not in its sole and absolute discretion. If the Grantor's governing board does not make appropriations for a fiscal year, this Agreement may be terminated at the end of the Grantor's current fiscal year upon written notice given by Grantor to Grantee. Such termination shall not constitute a default. All payment obligations of the Grantor and all its interest in the Agreement will cease upon the date of termination. Grantor's decision whether to make shall be accepted by Grantee and shall be final.
12. **Termination for Convenience**. Either party may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving at least thirty (30) consecutive calendar days' notice in writing of such termination to the other party. In the event this Agreement is terminated for any

reason other than a material default by Grantee, Grantor will pay Grantee for any work performed or expenses incurred, as of the termination date.

13. **Entire Agreement**. This Agreement sets forth the entire understanding of the parties concerning the Grant and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous communications and negotiations, both oral and written, relating to the Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this Agreement to be made of the Effective Date.

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District

By: _____

Jason M. Casuga, Chief Executive Officer/Chief Engineer

Center for Social Sustainable Systems

By: _____

Jorge Garcia, Executive Director

Attest:

_____

Exhibit A
To Memorandum of Agreement

Grantee's work in the middle Rio Grande, funded by this Agreement, may include various combinations of the following tasks, as reasonably determined by Grantee and Grantor:

1. Conduct public outreach and education to promote agricultural land and water conservation efforts to stakeholders in the MRGCD. Organize, publicize, coordinate, or participate in at least four community workshops per year. Participate in community events and produce articles and public service announcements in various media sources (print, online, radio, social media) acknowledging the funding and contribution of Grantor.
2. Research and apply for prospective third-party funding sources to fund development of alternative public/private funding partnerships for meeting the MRGCD's and the Grantee's goals related to land and water preservation and conservation.
3. Coordinate with appropriate MRGCD staff and partners in efforts to protect and promote agricultural lands, water preservation, and conservation in the MRGCD service area.
4. Coordinate with other private and public partners, on efforts that promote and preserve the ecological, cultural and quality of life values within the middle Rio Grande valley.
5. Coordinate with other private and public partners on efforts to promote and further develop educational outreach specific to acequia protection and preservation in the middle Rio Grande valley.
6. Initially work with Bernalillo County and MRCOG to capitalize on existing networks and programs to optimize efforts to raise community awareness regarding the importance of sustaining agricultural practices and ecosystem resiliency in the middle Rio Grande valley. As capacities expand, CESSOS will expand into other counties and communities within MRGCD's service area.
7. This program will emphasize the need to educate area youth regarding the importance of the preservation of farmlands and water within the MRGCD while supporting efforts to recruit and sustain young farmers interested in small farm agribusiness.

Grantee may use the funds received within the project area as determined by Grantee in its reasonable discretion.

CESOSS Planning Document
4/18/2025
Rev. 5/1/2025

Strategic Plan

Vision: To create sustainable, healthy, and thriving communities where traditions connected to land and water are protected, preserved, and passed on to future generations.

Mission: To develop sustainable community-based and culturally centered events, programs, activities, and initiatives to empower and preserve the traditions and science-based practices of local and Indigenous communities, related to land, water, and human development.

Goal 1: To create a framework for Acequia Community Restorative Justice

Acequia Community Restorative Justice means that CESOSS will continue to support restoring agriculture and ways of living with the land and the natural cycles. CESOSS will follow the idea of restorative justice as a peacemaking instrument.

Goal 2: To conduct Acequia Conservation and Preservation

Under this goal, CESOSS will create strong partnerships with the community, local farmers, state agencies-schools, and other community partners and collaborators to support water conservation and preservation.

Goal 3: To facilitate Acequia community education

Our education model will closely follow Ciclos de la Tierra as a framework. Our long-term expectation is to increase the acequia knowledge base in the South Valley by maximizing the use of social media, curriculum development, online workshops, and in-site community workshops.

Goal 4: To support Acequia and Community Healing

A fundamental task for CESOSS in terms of youth and community empowerment will be to include healing as a central theme in everything we do. Our healing will come from empowering the community's history, legal rights, cultural connections, and ways of thinking that come from the long history of the communities in the Rio Grande Region. Ceremony will be included in most of our events.

Plan of Action - FY2025-2026

Goal 1: To create a framework for Acequia Community Restorative Justice

To conduct public outreach to promote the preservation of agricultural land and water conservation efforts to stakeholders in the Middle Rio Grande Region

1. Acequia Educational Activities
    - Summer of 2025 and Fall of 2025
    - Acequia 101: History of the Region
    - Acequia Water Rights: Acequia Laws
    - Acequia Conservation: Existing Programs
2. Acequia Walk and Talks
    - Ranchos de Armijo/Atrisco Acequia - June 28
    - Pajarito Acequia - August 30
    - Los Padillas Acequia - September 27
    - Arenal and Atrisco Acequias - Oct 18

Goal 2: To conduct Acequia Conservation and Preservation

Conduct public outreach and education to promote agricultural land and water conservation efforts to stakeholders in the MRG. Organize, publicize, coordinate, and moderate at least four community workshops per year. The following are the events and activities that CESOSS will coordinate during FY2025-2026.

1. CESOSS will organize at least two water conservation workshops to inform the community about sustainable agricultural practices and water conservation initiatives tied to agricultural lands and water delivery practices for acequias. These workshops will be organized in the Fall of 2025 and Spring 2026.
2. Consult and seek a partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Services, Bernalillo County, and the Water Utility Authority to promote water conservation efforts in the Middle Rio Grande service area.
3. Use CESOSS's publication, La Voz, to promote agricultural land and water conservation efforts. La Voz will be published every quarter of the year. A full section of this publication will be dedicated to conservation programs and initiatives.

Goal 3: To facilitate Acequia community education

To promote a culturally appropriate curriculum that reflects the history, values, and customs of the acequia communities of the Middle Rio Grande Region (Acequia Community Advocacy)

1. Pajarito Landmarks Project: The intent of this project is to highlight the history of the Pajarito Acequia
2. CESOSS Atrisco Research Collaborative: CESOS created this group serves as the backbone for CESOSS to conduct Research and Learning. This group is composed of community members.
3. Acequia Documentation Project: We are still planning this project. This project will take place in the Summer of 2025
4. Youth Empowerment
    a. ACE Leadership Program - 2024/2025
    b. Youth Leadership Institute - Ce Akatl: This Leadership program will take place in the Fall of 2025 and Spring of 2026
5. Ciclos de la Tierra/Acequia Education: CESOSS is partnering with the New Mexico Public Education Department to extend Acequia education into schools in New Mexico. The following are the activities that CESOSS is planning for under this objective
    a. Create a Teachers Network: CESOSS has hired an Acequia Education Coordinator and a teacher with expertise on developing school agricultural facilities to extend agricultural education into the schools.
    b. Ciclos de la Tierra: Currently CESOSS has a curriculum for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade that is based on the Ciclos de la Tierra. CESOSS is working with a teacher from Polk to create an Acequia-based 7th grade New Mexico history.
    c. CESOSS will be coordinating efforts in the following educational conferences.
        i. NMSBA - December 2025
        ii. La Cosecha Dual Language Conference - Nov. 2025
        iii. EdUprising - Spring 2026
    d. Teachers Training
        i. To continue extending teacher education, CESOSS is building a Ciclos-AI site for teachers training that will allow teachers to obtain a lesson plan and an action plan that will support classroom education. This site will be ready for deployment in the fall of 2025

ii. Expand to other levels of instruction beyond the 3rd-5th grade level and Promote Acequia Outside Classrooms. CESOSS will be working with the following schools.
    1. Alvarado Elementary
    2. Valle Vista Elementary
    3. Los Ranchos Elementary
    4. Los Padillas Elementary

Goal 4: To support Acequia and Community Healing

CESOSS will continue to include healing and ceremony in all our community events and activities. The following are the activities that we plan to host in 2025-2026

1. Acequia Limpias: CESOSS will coordinate acequia limpias and all 5 main acequias in the South Valley. In addition, CESOSS will coordinate with local schools to conduct acequia limpias.
    a. Winter and Spring 2026
2. Acequia Education Office: Under this area, CESOSS will continue to undertake Acequia Advocacy and will support local pre-1907 water right holder to do water rights declaration
3. Community events
    a. Primera Agua/Atrisco Madre Project - Spring 2025
    b. Primera Agua - Spring 2026
    c. Fun Run - Fall 2025
4. Special Projects
    a. New Mexico Outdoor Recreational Department
        i. Outdoor Education
    b. New Mexico Economic Development Office
        i. The Pajarito Landmark Project. See Annex A
    c. Justice Outside
        i. Outdoor Education
    d. Green Latinos
        i. Outdoor environmental education and local sustainability

Annex A - Pajarito Acequia Landmarks Project - Pilot project

- Grantee will work with Comisionados and the Mayordomo of the Pajarito Acequia to provide interactive educational signage on 1) acequia usage, 2) the 1938 Rio Grande Compact, 3) and preserve acequia archives. This project seeks to increase community accessibility, connectivity, safety, and visibility to acequias in the Pajarito Community in the Middle Rio Grande region.
    - *Deliverable 1: Public Outreach* the Project will serve as a tangible form of public outreach and education that promotes agricultural land and water conservation efforts to stakeholders in the MRGCD
    - *Deliverable 2:* This project will include at least four community workshops in which community members have the opportunity to provide input on educational and archival materials presented for the signage
    - *Deliverable 3:* This project will produce signage that acknowledges the funding and contribution of the Grantor
    - *Deliverable 4:* Provide educational guidance to youth in the community and/or schools to educate youth on acequia and community ditch related issues and purpose.
    - *Deliverable 5:* Provide an accessible archive to the Pajarito community

A Declaration of Community Stewardship

A Community Call for Science, Law, and Long-Term Stewardship of New Mexico's Waters

Issued by the undersigned acequia commissioners, community organizations, neighborhood associations, farmers, educators, researchers, faith leaders, and residents of the Middle Rio Grande in support of responsible, science-based stewardship of New Mexico waters.

https://www.change.org/protectnmwaters

To: State Engineer Elizabeth Anderson, P.E., New Mexico Office of the State Engineer

ISC Director Hannah Riseley-White, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission

Re: Community request for science-based water administration, respect for law and public welfare, and a temporary moratorium on additional Middle Rio Grande water transfers pending cumulative-impact review

Dear State Engineer Anderson and Director Riseley-White,

Water has always been the foundation of New Mexico's communities. Long before modern water administration, acequias sustained families, agriculture, local economies, and entire communities through a shared ethic of stewardship and mutual responsibility. Today, as New Mexico enters one of the most severe periods of drought and water uncertainty in its recorded history, we believe our responsibility to protect this shared resource has never been greater. It is in that spirit--not confrontation--that we write to you.

We write as acequia commissioners, farmers, neighborhood associations, nonprofit organizations, educators, community leaders, and residents of the Middle Rio Grande. We recognize the difficult responsibility entrusted to the Office of the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission. We also recognize that your agencies have publicly acknowledged the seriousness of current water conditions: persistent drought, extremely challenging Rio Grande conditions, low water deliveries to irrigators, extensive Rio Grande drying, extremely low water levels at Elephant Butte, increasing groundwater dependence, and projections of approximately 25 percent less water in New Mexico streams over the next 50 years.

We take seriously Director Riseley-White's statement that New Mexico's water future must be grounded in science, law, and long-term stewardship. We also take seriously the State Engineer's acknowledgement that New Mexico's river basins have seen below-average precipitation and that reservoir levels are among the lowest on record. These are not abstract concerns. They describe the reality already being lived by acequia communities, farmers, domestic-well users, and families across the Middle Rio Grande.

For that reason, the question before us is larger than a single application. It is whether the State's current administrative practices adequately reflect the scientific realities that your own agencies have publicly acknowledged. When the State warns of declining streamflows, increasing aridification, compact pressures, groundwater stress, and reduced future water supply, then decisions allowing additional transfers from already stressed systems must be evaluated with exceptional care.

SOMOS ATRISCO

We are not asking the State to abandon New Mexico's system of water rights. We are asking that the system be administered in a manner that reflects today's science, today's hydrologic realities, and the State's own commitment to law, conservation, public welfare, and long-term stewardship. A water-rights system that works for all New Mexicans must be transparent, accountable, and resistant to practices that may appear procedurally permissible while undermining the broader public purpose of water administration.

Every generation inherits the responsibility to care for New Mexico's waters. Previous generations built and defended the acequias that still nourish our communities today. Our responsibility is not simply to administer those systems according to procedures established under different conditions. Our responsibility is to ensure that those procedures continue serving the public welfare as scientific understanding evolves and the climate changes around us.

Acequias are not merely irrigation infrastructure. They are living community institutions that protect local food production, aquifer recharge, cultural continuity, mutual aid, and democratic stewardship. When surface water is moved away from communities, the impacts are not limited to a parcel boundary. They may affect shallow groundwater, return flows, soil moisture, domestic wells, wildlife habitat, agricultural viability, and the cultural landscape that has sustained New Mexico for generations.

The current administrative framework may not adequately account for cumulative impacts during an era of unprecedented drought and groundwater uncertainty. As a result, procedures that were developed under different hydrologic conditions deserve careful reexamination to ensure they continue fulfilling their intended public purpose. This is especially important in the Middle Rio Grande, where compact obligations, declining flows, increased pumping, and climate-driven aridification are converging at the same time.

We therefore respectfully call upon the Office of the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission to implement a temporary moratorium--or another appropriate interim policy mechanism--on additional water transfers in the Middle Rio Grande until the cumulative effects of drought, groundwater depletion, climate change, return-flow loss, aquifer recharge reduction, and existing transfers can be fully evaluated using the best available science and consistent with New Mexico law.

At minimum, before additional transfers are approved, the State should ensure that applicants demonstrate, with substantial evidence, that proposed transfers will not impair existing rights, undermine the public welfare, conflict with conservation of water, weaken Rio Grande Compact compliance, diminish groundwater sustainability, or place disproportionate burdens on acequia communities and domestic-well users.

We also respectfully request a public meeting or working session with acequia commissioners, community organizations, local governments, farmers, scientists, MRGCD representatives, and affected residents to discuss how transfer decisions are being evaluated in light of current drought conditions and long-term water projections. Communities that depend on these systems should not be treated as afterthoughts in decisions that may shape their future.

We are not asking the State to choose between agriculture and conservation. We are not asking the State to disregard existing water rights. We are not asking the State to abandon New Mexico's proud tradition of water law. We are asking the State to lead--with science, with transparency, with courage, and with the understanding that the decisions made today will determine whether future generations inherit rivers that still flow, aquifers that still recharge, farms that still produce food, and acequia communities that continue to define the cultural identity of New Mexico.

We stand ready to work collaboratively with your offices, elected officials, water users, researchers, and communities across New Mexico to strengthen a water management system that works for all. Our concern is not only what happens in one proceeding. Our concern is whether New Mexico will meet this moment with the honesty, discipline, and stewardship that our water future requires.

Respectfully,

The Undersigned

Name	City	State	Postal Code
Jorge Garcia			
Jessamyn young	Albuquerque	NM	87111
Rita Padilla -Gutierrez	Jarales, NM	NM	87023
Esther Esther Garcia	Albuquerque	NM	87105
shel corri	Albuquerque	NM	87107
Lysander Reid-Powell	Albuquerque	NM	87105
Dalilah Naranjo	Albuquerque	NM	87107
Alfredo Quiroz	Albuquerque	NM	87111
Larissa Trudell	Albuquerque	NM	87121
Esaú Monterroza	Albuquerque	NM	87108
Giovanni Lucero	Albuquerque	NM	87106
Isaac Tirado	Roswell	NM	88201
Alfonso Sanchez	Albuquerque	NM	87105
Myles Martinez	Albuquerque	NM	87110
Robert Chavez	Albuquerque	NM	87121
Aaron Bradley	Albuquerque	NM	87102
Emilia Chavez	Albuquerque	NM	87105
Xazziel Martinez	Albuquerque	NM	87106
Ashley Pepe	Albuquerque	NM	87114
Emily Garcia	Albuquerque	NM	78228
Celeste Dallas	Albuquerque	NM	87120
Sarah Beuzekom	Albuquerque	NM	87123
Jocelyn Roque	Albuquerque	NM	87105
Brandon Clifton	Albuquerque	NM	87106
Erika Knopf	Albuquerque	NM	87110
Ryan Swank	Edgewood	NM	87015
Isaiah Chavez	Albuquerque	NM	87109
Erin Muffoletto	Albuquerque	NM	87105
Ibrahim Dominguez	Albuquerque	NM	87102

Marcos Ruiz-Carillo	Gilbert	AZ		85295
Drey Garcia	Albuquerque	NM		87110
Thelma Martinez	Albuquerque	NM		87110
Makayla Tillinghast	Albuquerque	NM		87111
Marisa Santistevan	Albuquerque	NM		87120
Haley Myler	Albuquerque	NM		87106
Jade Hopkins	Albuquerque	AZ		87102
Camila bayo	Albuquerque	NM		87112
Silas Chavez	Albuquerque	UT		84115
Alistair Fene	Albuquerque	NM		87121
Shawn Carlucci	Albuquerque	NM		87106
Savana Stoneking	Albuquerque	NM		87108
Carolyn Griffin	Savannah	GA		31401
Luis Mora	Albuquerque	NM		87121
Rosemary Neely	Albuquerque	NM		87114
Judah Kismetti	Albuquerque	NM		87108
Kandace Montoya	Los Ranchos	NM		87107
Jonathan Gamez	Los Lunas	NM		87031
Evelyn Fernandez	Albuquerque	NM		87105
Kathey Morales	Albuquerque	NM		87106
Audi Munoz	Albuquerque	NM		87120
Liz Archuleta	Albuquerque	NM	87106-2959	
Anselmo Gutierrez	Albuquerque	NM		87113
Xiomara Quinones	Albuquerque	NM		87114
Kathleen Carville	Rutland	MA		1543
Angelis Sancruzado	Miami	FL		33137
Josh Johnson	Albuquerque	NM		87114
Briana Lisignoli	Albuquerque	NM		87106
Ciarah Sanchez	Albuquerque	NM		87122
Wyatt Lawson	Albuquerque	NM		87120
Norma Quinones	Albuquerque	NM		87107
Eli Salas	Albuquerque	NM		87110
Charlotte Alderete	Albuquerque	NM		87105
Sonne Olsen	Albuquerque	NM		87106
Angela Marino	Sonoma	CA		95476
ick Bowi	Las Cruces	NM		88001
Lexus Sanchez	Albuquerque	NM		87114
Deb Serna	Rio Rancho	NM		87124

Judith Pfeif	Taos	NM	87571
Leah Quezada	Albuquerque	NM	87102
Carla Lovato	Albuquerque	NM	87114
Becca Marshall	Albuquerque	NM	87105
Ethan Belmontes	Thornton	CO	80241
Daniella Montanez	Albuquerque	NM	87120
Laura Blalock	Albuquerque	NM	87112
Michelle Gonzalez	Albuquerque	NM	87120
Karina Quiroz	Albuquerque	NM	87110
Alana Preziosi	Swedesboro	NJ	8085
Donald Lenz	Holt	MI	48842
Xochi Garcia	Albuquerque	NM	87106
Sophia Saiz	Albuquerque	NM	87106
Cassandra Reid	South Valley	NM	87105
Eva Dominguez	Albuquerque	NM	87107
Ian Hillsman	Portales	NM	88130
Donnie Guzman	Rio Rancho	NM	87144
Larry Kronen	Albuquerque	NM	87108
Roberto Roibal	Santa Fe	NM	87505
brian jaramillo	Rio Rancho	NM	87144
Raven Garcia	Albuquerque	NM	87110
Monica Sanchez	Albuquerque	NM	87107
Michael Jakiche	San Antonio	TX	78240
Bianca White	Sacramento	CA	95823
Isaac Bender	Sarasota	FL	34232
Twyla Courtney	Albuquerque	NM	87120
Darcy Brazem	Albuquerque	NM	87102
Monica Rivera	Las Vegas	NV	89119
Paul walker	Albuquerque	NM	87121
Tim Moya	Albuquerque	NM	87102
Vic Gomez	Albuquerque	NM	87105
William Walker	Albuquerque	NM	87121
Arlo casias	Albuquerque	NM	87102
Alicia Lueras	Albuquerque	NM	87121
Andrea Padilla	Tome	NM	87060
Ronna Kalish	Socorro	NM	87801
Ruby Ethridge	Albuquerque	NM	87108
Moises Gonzales	Albuquerque	NM	85032

Jeremy Dyer	Albuquerque	NM	87109
Richard Woodruff	Albuquerque	NM	87110
Citlaly canales	Dallas	TX	75243
Kim Langbecker	Santa Fe	NM	87501
Jim Ruff	Socorro	NM	87801
Pancho Quiñones	Albuquerque	NM	87121
Michael Lechuga	Albuquerque	NM	87102
Stephanie Nieto	Albuquerque	NM	87114
Regina Dello Russo	Socorro	NM	87801
Yolanda Cruz	Sapello	NM	87745
SOLEDAD MARJON	Albuquerque	NM	87107
Neda McGuinness	Albuquerque	NM	87106
Peggy Neff	Albuquerque	NM	87114
Francine Sanchez	Bernalillo	NM	87004

Pilot Project and Plan of Action Between Valle Vista Elementary School and the Center for Social Sustainable Systems (CESOSS)

CICLOS DE LA TIERRA EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE

2026–2027 Pilot Program

Prepared by:

Center for Social Sustainable Systems (CESOSS)

www.cesoss.org

Purpose of this Pilot

This document reframes the Ciclos de la Tierra initiative as a pilot project and collaborative plan of action intended to support exploratory implementation during the 2026–2027 academic year. Rather than presenting the initiative as a fully institutionalized long-term program, this pilot structure allows Valle Vista Elementary and CESOSS to evaluate feasibility, student engagement, curriculum integration, family participation, and long-term partnership potential.

Pilot Project Overview

The Ciclos de la Tierra Pilot Project is designed to test and evaluate culturally grounded outdoor education, acequia stewardship, agricultural learning, and youth leadership programming within the Valle Vista Elementary community. The pilot will focus on developing scalable educational activities that can later expand into a broader school-community educational model.

Why a Pilot Structure Matters

A pilot structure creates flexibility for Valle Vista Elementary and CESOSS to collaboratively evaluate implementation strategies, identify strengths and challenges, refine curriculum approaches, and determine long-term sustainability before full expansion. This framework also allows the school to measure student engagement, educational impact, and family participation in a manageable and supportive way.

Pilot Goals and Objectives

- Test culturally grounded outdoor learning activities
- Pilot youth leadership and environmental stewardship programming
- Develop and refine lesson plans and curriculum materials
- Increase student and family engagement through hands-on educational experiences
- Strengthening collaboration between Valle Vista, CESOSS, and community partners
- Collect data and feedback to guide future program expansion

Pilot Program Components

1. Outdoor Learning Activities: Pilot outdoor learning sessions connected to agriculture, ecology, acequia systems, and environmental stewardship.
2. 5th Grade Leadership Pilot: Small-group leadership activities focused on responsibility, environmental stewardship, and community engagement.
3. Family and Community Events
4. Seasonal pilot events centered around agricultural traditions, gardening, cultural celebrations, and family participation.

5. Curriculum Testing and Development: Development and testing of lesson plans, educational guides, and culturally grounded learning activities.
6. After-school Pilot Programming
7. Pilot after-school programming focused on gardening, agriculture, storytelling, cooking, and environmental education.

Pilot Timeline

Summer 2026

- Planning meetings and pilot preparation
- Curriculum drafting and activity development
- Garden and outdoor learning site preparation

Fall 2026

- Launch pilot outdoor learning activities
- Begin leadership and after-school pilot sessions
- Hold initial family engagement event

Winter 2026–2027

- Continue pilot implementation and feedback collection
- Refine lesson plans and educational materials

Spring 2027

- Conduct final pilot activities and celebrations
- Compile evaluation findings and recommendations
- Discuss future expansion opportunities

Evaluation and Assessment

CESOSS and Valle Vista Elementary will collaboratively evaluate the pilot through participation tracking, student engagement observations, family feedback, teacher collaboration, and documentation of educational activities. Findings from the pilot will help guide decisions regarding long-term implementation and future funding opportunities.

Expected Pilot Outcomes

- Increased student engagement in outdoor learning
- Stronger student connections to land, water, and agriculture
- Increased family participation in school-community activities
- Development of tested curriculum materials and educational activities

- Improved understanding of how culturally grounded education can support student wellness and leadership

Long-Term Vision

If successful, the Ciclos de la Tierra Pilot Project may serve as the foundation for a broader long-term educational partnership that integrates environmental stewardship, acequia education, agricultural learning, and culturally grounded curriculum into future school programming and community partnerships.

Educational Context and Importance of the Pilot

The Ciclos de la Tierra Pilot Project emerges during a critical moment for education in New Mexico. Schools across the state are currently facing challenges related to chronic absenteeism, student disengagement, academic struggles, mental health concerns, teacher burnout, and growing disconnection between students, schools, families, and local communities.

Many students struggle to find meaningful connections between classroom learning and their daily lives, cultural identities, and local environments. The Ciclos de la Tierra Pilot Project seeks to address these challenges through culturally grounded, place-based, and community-centered educational experiences that reconnect students to land, water, agriculture, acequia traditions, and environmental stewardship.

How the Pilot Addresses Current Educational Challenges

1. Student Engagement and Chronic Absenteeism

The pilot creates hands-on educational experiences through outdoor learning, gardening, leadership activities, and community engagement. These experiences help students feel more connected to school and learning.

2. Social-Emotional Wellness and Mental Health

Outdoor learning and cultural activities provide opportunities for emotional regulation, reflection, teamwork, and community connection.

3. Culturally Relevant and Place-Based Education

The pilot integrates acequia traditions, local agriculture, and Indigenous and community knowledge systems into learning experiences.

4. Family and Community Engagement

The project strengthens relationships between schools, families, and community organizations through workshops, events, and collaborative activities.

5. Leadership Development

Students participate in stewardship and leadership activities that build responsibility, confidence, teamwork, and community awareness.

6. Innovative Educational Models

The pilot allows Valle Vista Elementary and CESOSS to collaboratively test educational approaches that combine environmental learning, social-emotional learning, agriculture, and culturally grounded curriculum.

Why Valle Vista is an Important Site for this Pilot

Valle Vista Elementary is uniquely positioned to support this pilot because of its existing commitment to outdoor learning, family engagement, and community-centered educational practices. The school's agricultural and outdoor learning spaces provide a strong foundation for testing innovative educational strategies that may later support broader educational partnerships and future expansion.

ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
APS STRONG
Valle Vista

Dr. Gabriella Durán Blakey
Superintendent

Jasmin Maestas- Principal
Ashley Pena- Assistant Principal

05/29/2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am honored to provide this letter of support for the Center for Social Sustainable Systems (CESOSS) and the expansion of the Ciclos de la Tierra Acequia Outdoor Education Agricultural Site at Valle Vista Elementary School for the 2026–2027 academic year.

As Principal of Valle Vista Elementary School, I have witnessed firsthand the importance of culturally grounded educational opportunities that connect our students and families to their heritage, community, environment, and local traditions. The Ciclos de la Tierra initiative represents an innovative and deeply meaningful approach to education that aligns with our school's commitment to academic excellence, student wellness, environmental stewardship, and community engagement.

The South Valley community possesses a rich history rooted in acequia culture, agriculture, land stewardship, and intergenerational learning. Unfortunately, many students today are increasingly disconnected from these traditions due to urbanization, economic challenges, and limited access to culturally relevant educational experiences. This initiative directly addresses those challenges by creating hands-on learning opportunities that integrate environmental education, leadership development, agriculture, nutrition, STEM learning, and cultural preservation into the daily experiences of our students.

Through the partnership between CESOSS and Valle Vista Elementary School, students and families will benefit from outdoor learning experiences, after-school programming, leadership development activities, family engagement opportunities, acequia stewardship projects, and culturally responsive curriculum materials. These experiences will not only strengthen academic learning but also foster a sense of identity, belonging, responsibility, and pride within our students and community.

I am especially supportive of the initiative's focus on:

- Developing bilingual and culturally grounded curriculum materials;
- Expanding outdoor and experiential learning opportunities;
- Supporting student leadership development through environmental education;
- Strengthening family and community engagement;
- Preserving acequia traditions and local agricultural knowledge for future generations; and
- Creating meaningful STEM-based educational activities connected to local land and water systems.

The Ciclos de la Tierra initiative has the potential to serve as a model for community-based education that honors local knowledge systems while preparing students to become thoughtful leaders and environmental stewards. The use of the Acequia Agricultural Site and the MRGCD Outdoor Classroom as living educational spaces will provide invaluable opportunities for authentic, place-based learning experiences that are both academically enriching and culturally sustaining.

Valle Vista Elementary School fully supports this initiative and values our partnership with CESOSS. We believe this work will have a lasting positive impact on our students, families, and the broader South Valley community by strengthening cultural continuity, environmental literacy, community resilience, and educational equity.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this important initiative. Please feel free to contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Jasmin Maestas
Principal
Valle Vista Elementary School
505-836-7739 jasmin.maestas@aps.edu

The Atrisco Memorial Project

Briefing

Purpose

The Atrisco Memorial Project is a Bernalillo County initiative led by Anthropopulus Design + Planning (ADP). Through a formal subcontract, CESOSS serves as the community engagement, education, and youth leadership partner responsible for ensuring the memorial is shaped by the voices, history, and aspirations of the Atrisco and South Valley communities.

Why CESOSS Was Selected

CESOSS brings deep relationships with acequia associations, neighborhood organizations, schools, youth, and community leaders. Its culturally grounded approach helps ensure the memorial reflects authentic community knowledge while building long-term stewardship.

Major Deliverables

- Conduct up to three community engagement forums.
- Analyze community input and translate it into design recommendations.
- Facilitate up to three community feedback meetings.
- Support design refinement and implementation planning.
- Coordinate participation with Rio Grande High School.
- Organize one Rio Grande High School community forum.
- Lead up to six student design and implementation sessions.
- Provide project management, reporting, and stakeholder coordination.

Project Value

Beyond public participation, CESOSS will help develop youth leadership, document community knowledge, strengthen partnerships, and create a memorial that reflects the cultural identity and resilience of the South Valley. The work integrates education, civic engagement, and collaborative planning into the design process.

Atrisco Acequia Cultural & Economic Dev. Site

Concept Paper

The Atrisco Acequia Cultural & Economic District is a community concept intended to foster conversation among community organizations, public agencies, educational institutions, and other partners about the long-term future of the historic Atrisco Acequia Madre corridor. Rather than representing a finalized development plan or committed project, this concept offers a shared vision that can be explored, refined, and shaped collaboratively over time.

The concept imagines how the Atrisco Acequia Madre landscape near Central Avenue and Sunset Road could evolve into a regional destination that integrates education, agriculture, cultural heritage, environmental stewardship, and community-centered economic development while preserving the area's historic and ecological significance.

Potential elements for future exploration include an Acequia education and research center, outdoor classrooms, demonstration gardens, community gathering spaces, farmers markets, cultural programming, heritage tourism connected to Route 66, and opportunities to strengthen local food systems. These ideas are intended to stimulate discussion about how traditional acequia knowledge and community values might inform innovative approaches to sustainable development.

In addition to its educational and cultural potential, the concept invites partners to explore new models of community-centered economic development. By building upon the area's existing cultural, agricultural, and environmental assets, the partnership could evaluate opportunities to support local entrepreneurs, farmers, heritage tourism, small businesses, workforce development, and regional investment. Rather than viewing economic development as separate from conservation, the concept explores how protecting land, water, and cultural heritage could become the foundation for a resilient local economy that benefits both current and future generations.

The concept also provides a framework for exploring partnerships among CESOSS, the South Valley Regional Association of Acequias (SVRAA), Bernalillo County, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, the City of Albuquerque, schools, universities, community organizations, and residents. Through an inclusive planning process, partners can evaluate opportunities, priorities, community needs, funding strategies, and governance models before determining whether and how any future projects should move forward.

Ultimately, this concept invites stakeholders to consider how protecting land, water, history, and community knowledge could contribute to a resilient future for the South Valley. It serves as a starting point for dialogue and collaboration rather than a commitment to a specific development, recognizing that any future direction should be guided by community input, partner participation, and shared decision-making.

Appendix V

Reservoir Storage Status

Jul 8, 2026 data

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Heron

Active Conservation	Current Content	MRGCD	ABCWUA	Other SJC Contractors	Project Storage
401,000 acre-ft	49,039 acre-ft	5,123 acre-ft	28,598 acre-ft	8,488 acre-ft	6,272 acre-ft
	12% Full				

El Vado

Restricted Conservation*	Current Content	MRGCD SJC & EDW	Rio Grande & USBR EDW	Other SJC Contractors
184,343 acre-ft	23,326 acre-ft	1,556 acre-ft	-0 acre-ft	11,511 acre-ft
	13% Full			

Combined**

Prior & Paramount
16,662 acre-ft

Abiquiu

Active Conservation	Current Content	MRGCD SJC	ABCWUA	Other SJC Contractors	USBR
229,199 acre-ft	109,122 acre-ft	0 acre-ft	93,762 acre-ft	3,942 acre-ft	0 acre-ft
	48% Full				



Cochiti

Current Content
42,007 acre-ft

Elephant Butte and Caballo

Active Conservation***	Combined Current Content	SJC Content****
2,249,520 acre-ft	77,446 acre-ft	3,702 acre-ft
	3% Full	

* 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 (7-9-2026)

1. Heron Summary

Content:	7,085	ac-ft	(7/9/2026)
Azotea Tunnel:	0	cfs	
Total SJ-C Inflow (2026):	32,490	ac-ft	
Currently Releasing:	35	cfs	
Current MRGCD Storage:	5,123	ac-ft	

2. El Vado Summary

Content:	23,326	ac-ft	(7/9/2026)	
Rio Grande Storage:	10,259	ac-ft		
MRGCD SJ-C Storage:	1,556	ac-ft		
P&P:	10,259	ac-ft		
Other SJ-C Contractors:	11,511	ac-ft		
Current Release:	100	cfs	RG Inflow:	15-50 cfs

3. Abiquiu Summary

Content:	107,879	ac-ft	(7/9/2026)
MRGCD SJ-C Storage:	0	ac-ft	
P&P:	6,403	ac-ft	

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

Precipitation to date for Water Year 2026 to 7/9 (% Median; NRCS SNOTEL)

Rio Chama Basin.....	71%
Upper Rio Grande Basin.....	83%
Sangre de Cristo Basin.....	63%
Jemez Basin.....	72%
San Juan River Basin.....	89%

- 2026 was the worst snow season on record for New Mexico and the Rio Grande Basin, with snowpack between 32-53% below the previous recorded low on April 1.
- SNOTEL stations in New Mexico melted out an average of 44 days earlier than normal, which is the largest anomaly documented for any state.
- 8,903 ac-ft of water stored for irrigation on the P&P lands has been released from May 23 to July 8.
- There are 89 miles of river channel drying in five segments between Cochiti Dam and Elephant Butte Reservoir.

Appendix VI



Corrales Siphon Reconstruction Progress Update

MRGCD

7/13/26

Corrales Siphon Reconstruction

Work Update

- Conductor Casing Installed
- Horizontal Direction Drilling (HDD) site preparation kicked off last week
- HDD Mobilization this week.
- HDD Work Anticipated to continue for 2-3 Months
- Site work near end of project to finalize following drilling and pipe pull through



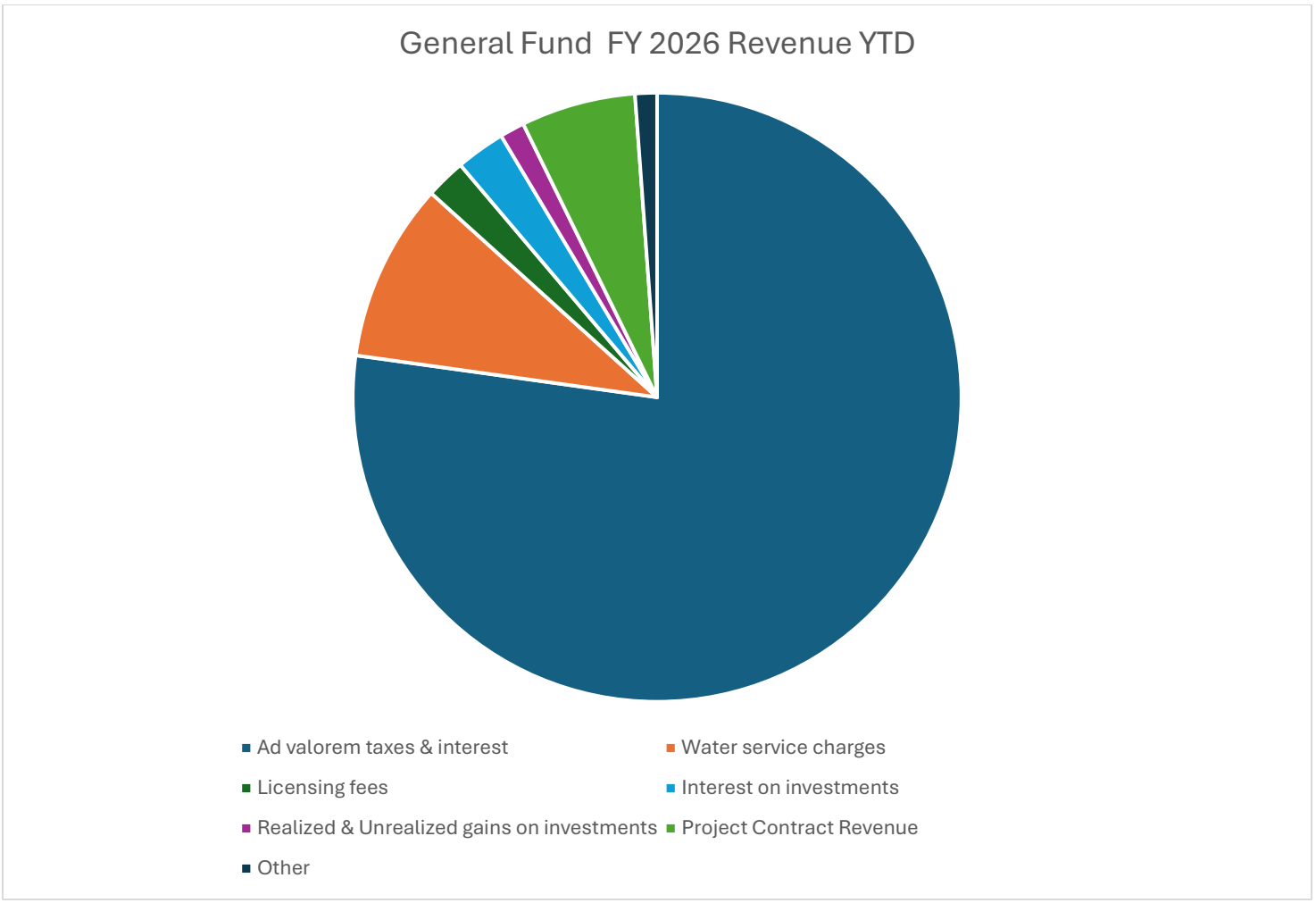


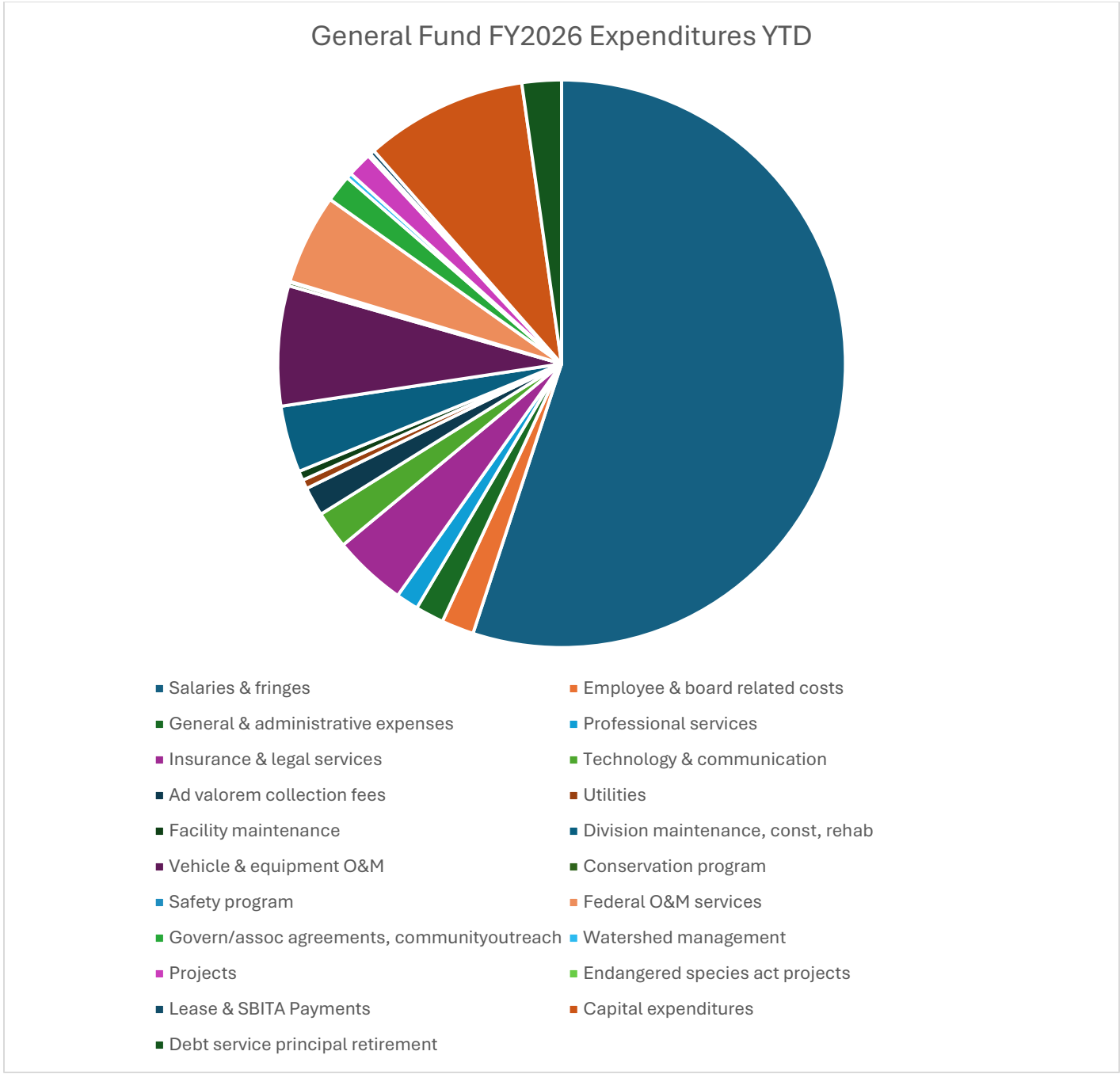






Appendix VII




General Fund FY2026 Expenditures YTD
Salaries & fringes
Employee & board related costs
General & administrative expenses
Professional services
Insurance & legal services
Technology & communication
Ad valorem collection fees
Utilities
Facility maintenance
Division maintenance, const, rehab
Vehicle & equipment O&M
Conservation program
Safety program
Federal O&M services
Govern/assoc agreements, communityoutreach
Watershed management
Projects
Endangered species act projects
Lease & SBITA Payments
Capital expenditures
Debt service principal retirement

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Budget to Actual - General Fund (1) FY2026
For the Periods Ending June 30, 2026

Line		Original Budget	Encmbr rolled forward	Original Budget + Encmbr RF	Budget Adjustment	Revised Budget	Variance with Original Budget- Over(under) Final Budget	Actual	Encumbrances	(Under)/Over
	REVENUES									
1	Ad valorem taxes & interest- Sandoval County	2,411,280		2,411,280		2,411,280	-	2,504,132	-	92,852
2	Ad valorem taxes & interest- Bernalillo County	16,338,510		16,338,510		16,338,510	-	17,466,343	-	1,127,833
3	Ad valorem taxes & interest -Valencia County	4,809,780		4,809,780		4,809,780	-	5,296,791	-	487,011
4	Ad valorem taxes & interest-Socorro County	675,250		675,250		675,250	-	692,067	-	16,817
5	Water service charges	3,150,885		3,150,885		3,150,885	-	3,145,671	-	(5,214)
6	Alternative curtailment location fees	23,000		23,000		23,000	-	45,860	-	22,860
7	Licensing fees	63,505		63,505		63,505	-	713,503	-	649,998
8	Interest on investments	600,000		600,000		600,000	-	882,401	-	282,401
9	Realized gains/(loss) on investments	-		-		-	-	6,363	-	6,363
10	Unrealized Gain/(loss) on investments	-		-		-	-	434,315	-	434,315
11	Project Contract Revenue - federal	1,673,750		1,673,750		1,673,750	-	1,673,000	-	(750)
12	Project Contract Revenue - local	365,000		365,000		365,000	-	374,472	-	9,472
13	Operating and capital grants	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
14	Other	113,000		113,000	232,926	345,926	232,926	391,312	200	45,586
15	**Total revenues**	30,223,960	-	30,223,960	232,926	30,456,886	232,926	33,626,230	200	3,169,544
	EXPENDITURES									
16	Salaries	12,940,188		12,940,188		12,895,346	(44,842)	12,969,217	-	73,871
17	Employee benefits	5,188,933		5,188,933		5,194,333	5,400	5,066,373	-	(127,960)
18	Employee & board related costs	778,298	540	778,838		655,376	(122,922)	604,427	5,190	(45,759)
19	General & administrative expenses	403,898	128,060	531,958		649,631	245,733	530,937	45,485	(73,209)
20	Professional services	594,485	80,794	675,279		642,186	47,701	419,120	68,916	(154,150)
21	Insurance & legal services	1,503,405	26,570	1,529,975		1,449,021	(54,384)	1,370,133	69,164	(9,724)
22	Technology & communication	750,019	11,359	761,378		776,893	26,874	697,888	42,738	(36,267)
23	Ad valorem collection fees	511,545		511,545		540,853	29,308	540,491	-	(362)
24	Utilities	160,200		160,200		178,150	17,950	169,101	-	(9,049)
25	Facility maintenance	90,000	12,073	102,073		192,907	102,907	174,605	12,020	(6,282)
26	Division maintenance, const, rehab	1,522,900	3,277	1,526,177		1,380,249	(142,651)	1,243,978	13,653	(122,618)
27	Vehicle & equipment O&M	2,165,100	18,740	2,183,840		2,524,239	359,139	2,237,327	9,459	(277,453)
28	Conservation program	150,000	14,523	164,523		123,168	(26,832)	68,972	-	(54,196)
29	Safety program	21,400	2,295	23,695		19,369	(2,031)	15,346	35	(3,988)
30	Federal O&M services	1,826,304	81,817	1,908,121		1,765,539	(60,765)	1,681,686	82,162	(1,691)
31	Govern/assoc agreements, communityoutreach	448,755	51,887	500,642	232,926	733,568	284,813	507,818	23,230	(202,520)
32	Watershed management	100,000		100,000		100,000	-	100,000	-	-
33	Projects	336,000	38,549	374,549		456,492	120,492	459,286	61,046	63,840
34	Endangered species act projects	150,000		150,000		150,000	-	49,911	-	(100,089)
	Lease & SBITA Payments	32,648	6,477	39,125		94,881	62,233	88,246	-	(6,635)
35	Capital expenditures	4,228,882	364,781	4,593,663	1,107,639	5,818,278	1,589,396	3,031,193	3,031,218	244,133
	Debt service principal retirement	-	-	-	734,860	734,860	734,860	734,860	-	-
36	**Total expenditures**	33,902,960	841,742	34,744,702	2,075,425	37,075,339	3,172,379	32,760,915	3,464,316	(850,108)
37	Excess (deficiency) of revenues less Expenditures	(3,679,000)	(841,742)	(4,520,742)	(1,842,499)	(6,618,453)	(2,939,453)	865,315	(3,464,116)	4,019,652
	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)									
38	Loan proceeds	4,000,000		4,000,000		4,000,000	-	3,966,995	-	(33,005)
39	Lease financing	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
40	Equipment disposition proceeds	50,000		50,000		50,000	-	141,948	-	91,948
41	Transfers in	-		-		-	-	34,542	-	34,542
42	Transfers out	(371,000)	-	(371,000)	-	(115,788)	255,212	(115,788)	-	-
44	**Total other financing sources and (uses)**	3,679,000	-	3,679,000	-	3,934,212	255,212	4,027,697	-	93,485
45	**Net change in fund balance**	-	(841,742)	(841,742)	(1,842,499)	(2,684,241)	(2,684,241)	4,893,012	(3,464,116)	4,113,137

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
General Fund - Comparison of FY 26 to FY 25 Actual Revenues & Expenditures
For the Periods Ending June 30, 2026

Line		2025 Actual	2026 Actual	Increase (Decrease) FY26 over FY25
REVENUES				
1	Ad valorem taxes & interest- Sandoval County	2,364,679	2,504,132	139,453
2	Ad valorem taxes & interest- Bernalillo County	16,386,509	17,466,342	1,079,833
3	Ad valorem taxes & interest -Valencia County	4,916,172	5,296,791	380,619
4	Ad valorem taxes & interest-Socorro County	772,400	692,067	(80,333)
5	Water service charges	2,764,262	3,145,671	381,409
6	Alternative curtailment location fees	48,341	45,860	(2,481)
7	Licensing fees	80,490	713,503	633,013
8	Interest on investments	856,440	882,401	25,961
9	Realized gains/(loss) on investments	56,049	6,363	(49,686)
10	Unrealized gain/(loss) on investments	199,722	434,315	234,593
11	Project Contract Revenue - federal	1,050,000	1,673,000	623,000
12	Project Contract Revenue - local	359,023	374,472	15,449
13	Operating and capital grants	-	-	-
14	Other	133,000	391,312	258,312
15	**Total revenues**	29,987,087	33,626,229	3,639,142
EXPENDITURES				
16	Salaries	11,938,194	12,969,216	1,031,022
17	Employee benefits	4,797,767	5,066,373	268,606
18	Employee & board related costs	388,897	604,427	215,530
19	General & administrative expenses	438,592	530,937	92,345
20	Professional services	399,941	419,120	19,179
21	Insurance & legal services	1,443,394	1,370,133	(73,261)
22	Technology & communication	629,730	697,888	68,158
23	Ad valorem collection fees	515,654	540,491	24,837
24	Utilities	167,262	169,101	1,839
25	Facility maintenance	92,979	174,605	81,626
26	Division maintenance, const, rehab	1,308,425	1,243,978	(64,447)
27	Vehicle & equipment O&M	2,095,326	2,237,327	142,001
28	Conservation program	52,194	68,972	16,778
29	Safety program	10,635	15,346	4,711
30	Federal O&M services	1,763,085	1,681,686	(81,399)
	O&M services Low Flow	-	-	-
31	Govern/assoc agreements, communityoutreach	208,805	507,818	299,013
32	Watershed management	100,000	100,000	-
33	Projects	103,206	459,286	356,080
34	Endangered species act projects	66,984	49,911	(17,073)
	Lease & SBITA Payments	69,608	88,246	18,638
35	Capital expenditures	1,788,806	3,031,193	1,242,387
36	**Total expenditures**	28,379,484	32,026,054	3,646,570
37	Excess (deficiency) of revenues less Expenditures	1,607,603	1,600,175	(7,428)
	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
38	Loan proceeds	-	3,966,995	3,966,995
39	Lease financing	285,239	-	(285,239)
40	Equipment disposition proceeds	13,051	141,947	128,896
41	Transfers in	139,547	34,542	(105,005)
42	Transfers out	-	(115,788)	(115,788)
43	**Total other financing sources and (uses)**	437,837	4,027,696	3,589,859
44	**Net change in fund balance**	$ 2,045,440	$ 5,627,871	$ 3,582,431

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
Budget to Actual - Long-Term Assets Fund (4) FY2026
For the Periods Ending June 30, 2026

Line		Original Budget FY25	Encmbr rolled forward	Original Budget + Encmbr RF	Budget Adjustment	Revised Budget	Original Budget-Over(under) Final Budget	Actual	Encumbrances	(Under)/Over
REVENUES										
6	Interest on investments	50,000		50,000		50,000	-	42,641	-	(7,359)
7	Realized gains/(loss) on investments	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
8	Unrealized Gain/(loss) on investments	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
9	Project contract revenue - federal	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
10	Project Contract Revenue - Local	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
11	Operating and Capital Grants	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
12	Other	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
13	**Total revenues**	50,000	-	50,000	-	50,000	-	42,641	-	(7,359)
EXPENDITURES										
17	General & administrative expenses	(400)		(400)		400	800	539	-	139
39	Capital expenditures	-		-	433,691	433,692	433,692	433,692	-	-
40	**Total expenditures**	(400)	-	(400)	433,691	434,092	434,492	434,231	-	139
8	Excess (deficiency) of revenues less Expenditures	50,400	-	50,400	(433,691)	(384,092)	(434,492)	(391,590)	-	(7,498)
	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)									
12	Transfers in	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
13	Transfers out - capital investment fund	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Transfers out - grants	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
15	**Total other financing sources and (uses)**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	**Net change in fund balance**	50,400	-	50,400	(433,691)	(384,092)	(434,492)	(391,590)	-	(7,498)

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District

Budget to Actual - Debt Service Fund (7) FY2026

For the Periods Ending June 30, 2026

Line		Original Budget	Encumbrances rolled forward	Original Budget + Encmbr RF	Budget Adjustments	Revised Budget	Variance with Original Budget- Over(under) Final Budget	Actual	Encumbrances	(Under)/Over
REVENUES										
1a	Ad Valorem Taxes & Interest - Sandoval County	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
1b	Ad Valorem Taxes & Interest- Bernalillo County	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
1c	Ad Valorem Taxes Interest -Valencia County	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
1d	Ad Valorem Taxes Interest -Socorro County	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
3	Water Service Charges	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
4	Alternative Curtailment Location Fees	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
5	Licensing Fees	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
1	Interest on investments	22,000		22,000		22,000	-	40,286	-	18,286
7	Realized gains/(loss) on investments	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
8	Unrealized Gain/(loss) on investments	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
9	Project Contract Revenue - Federal	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
7	Project Contract Revenue - Local	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
10	Operating and Capital Grants	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
2	Other	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
3	**Total revenues**	22,000	-	22,000	-	22,000	-	$ 40,286	-	$ 18,286
EXPENDITURES										
40	Debt service principal retirement	1,018,961		1,018,961	(206,975)	811,986	(206,975)	683,856	-	(128,130)
41	Debt service interest	167,961		167,961	(48,237)	119,724	(48,237)	95,479	-	(24,245)
43	**Total expenditures**	1,186,922	-	1,186,922	(255,212)	931,710	(255,212)	779,335	-	(152,375)
8	Excess (deficiency) of revenues less Expenditures	(1,164,922)	-	(1,164,922)	255,212	(909,710)	255,212	(739,049)	-	170,661
	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)									
9	Loan Proceeds	-		-		-		440,778	-	440,778
10	Lease Financing	-		-		-		-	-	-
11	Equipment disposition proceeds	-		-		-		-	-	-
12	Transfers in	1,186,922		1,186,922	(255,212)	931,710	(255,212)	860,278	-	(71,432)
13	Transfers out	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
14	Transfers out - grants	-				-	-	-	-	-
15	**Total other financing sources and (uses)**	1,186,922	-	1,186,922	(255,212)	931,710	(255,212)	1,301,056	-	369,346
16	**Net change in fund balance**	$ 22,000	$ -	$ 22,000	$ -	$ 22,000	$ -	$ 562,007	-	$ 540,007

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District

Budget to Actual - Grants Fund (8) FY2026

For the Periods Ending June 30, 2026

Line	Original Budget	Encumbrances rolled forward	Original Budget + Encmbr RF	Budget Adjustments	Revised Budget	Variance with Original Budget- Over(under) Final Budget	Actual	Encumbrances
REVENUES								
Operating and Capital Grants								
1 Federal	1,600,000		1,600,000	108,485	1,708,485	108,485	947,337	-
2 State & local	20,954,014		20,954,014	4,052,969	26,267,047	5,313,033	20,888,853	-
3 Other	-		-	1,260,064	-	-	-	-
4 **Total revenues**	22,554,014	-	22,554,014	5,421,518	27,975,532	5,421,518	21,836,190	-
EXPENDITURES								
Grant Expenditures								
5 General & administrative expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Professional services	200,000	89,305	289,305	3,470,317	4,195,141	3,995,141	1,843,581	(662,053)
7 Lease payments	175,000	550,175	725,175		706,099	531,099	549,374	-
8 Projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
O&M services Low Flow	6,915,587	6,278,288	13,193,875	(6,665,448)	6,528,426	(387,161)	6,529,227	-
9 Construction, rehab projects	-		-	88,641	200,123	200,123	153,952	(46,267)
Loan Expenditures			-					
10 Loan professional services	-		-		-	-	-	-
11 Loan grant expenditures	-		-		-	-	-	-
Match Expenditures			-					
12 Match professional services	-	2,068	2,068		195,237	195,237	1,457	-
13 Match grant expenditures	-		-		-	-	-	-
14 Project match	-		-		-	-	-	-
Capital Expenditures			-					
15 Grant capital expenditures	15,263,427	1,324,139	16,587,566	1,667,493	17,727,135	2,463,708	12,446,990	(4,507,049)
16 Loan capital expenditures	1,361,414		1,361,414	176,256	1,537,670	176,256	1,075,372	(415,883)
17 Match capital expenditures	5,309,867		5,309,867	(200,000)	4,916,698	(393,169)	2,420,137	(1,558,307)
18 **Total expenditures**	29,225,295	8,243,975	37,469,270	(1,462,741)	36,006,529	6,781,234	25,020,090	(7,189,559)
19 Excess (deficiency) of revenues less expenditures	(6,671,281)	(8,243,975)	(14,915,256)	6,884,259	(8,030,997)	$ 6,781,234	(3,183,900)	7,189,559
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)								
20 Loan proceeds	1,361,414		1,361,414	176,256	1,537,670	176,256	1,075,372	-
23 Transfers in - Match from cap inv fund	5,309,867		5,309,867	(200,000)	5,109,867	(200,000)	2,420,293	-
24 Transfers out - Indirect overhead to gen fund	-		-	(32,052)	(32,052)	(32,052)	(34,542)	-
26 **Total other financing sources and (uses)**	6,671,281	-	6,671,281	(55,796)	6,615,485	(55,796)	3,461,123	-
27 **Net change in fund balance**	$ -	$ (8,243,975)	$ (8,243,975)	$ 6,828,463	$ (1,415,512)	$ 6,725,438	$ 277,223	$ 7,189,559

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District

Budget to Actual - Capital Investment Fund (9) FY2026

For the Periods Ending June 30, 2026

Line		Original Budget	Encumbrances rolled forward	Original Budget + Encmbr RF	Budget Adjustment	Revised Budget	Variance with Original Budget-Over(under) Final Budget	Actual	Encumb rances	(Under)/Over
REVENUES										
1a	Ad valorem taxes & interest- Sandoval County	429,910		429,910		429,910	-	466,134	-	36,224
1b	Ad valorem taxes & interest- Bernalillo County	2,953,734		2,953,734		2,953,734	-	3,231,147	-	277,413
1c	Ad valorem taxes & interest -Valencia County	890,126		890,126		890,126	-	975,320	-	85,194
1d	Ad valorem taxes & interest-Socorro County	123,730		123,730		123,730	-	122,461	-	(1,269)
6	Interest on investments	-		-		-	-	14,184	-	14,184
3	Other	-				-	-	-	-	-
4	**Total revenues**	4,397,500	-	4,397,500		4,397,500	-	4,809,246	-	411,746
EXPENDITURES										
5	Ad valorem collection fees	92,653		92,653		92,653	-	99,217	-	6,564
6	Projects	300,000	67,408	367,408		367,408	67,408	367,408	-	-
9	Capital expenditures	-	784,606	784,606		984,606	984,606	934,857	19,219	(30,530)
10	**Total expenditures**	392,653	852,014	1,244,667	-	1,444,667	1,052,014	1,401,482	19,219	(23,966)
11	Excess (deficiency) of revenues less Expenditures	4,004,847	(852,014)	3,152,833	-	2,952,833	(1,052,014)	3,407,764	(19,219)	435,712
	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)									
12	Loan proceeds	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Lease financing	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
14	Equipment disposition proceeds	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
15	Transfers in	-		-		-	-	-	-	-
16	Transfers out	(6,125,789)		(6,125,789)		(5,925,789)	200,000	(3,164,784)	-	2,761,005
17	**Total other financing sources and (uses)**	(6,125,789)	-	(6,125,789)	-	(5,925,789)	200,000	(3,164,784)	-	2,761,005
18	**Net change in fund balance**	(2,120,942)	(852,014)	(2,972,956)	-	(2,972,956)	(852,014)	242,980	(19,219)	3,196,717

Cash Balances

ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT NAME	END BALANCE
0100000 11100	CASH - G/F OPERATING ACCT	2,015,910.63
0100000 11120	CASH - G/F PAYROLL	0
0100000 11130	CASH - G/F BASIC FLEX PLAN	11,920.53
0100000 11140	CASH - G/F ASSESSMENT DRAWERS	300
0100000 11141	CASH - G/F PETTY CASH FUND	550
0700000 11150 31301	NMFA CASH DEBT SERVICING	56,147.04
0700000 11150 31302	NMFA CASH DEBT SERVICING	40,234.42
0700000 11150 31303	NMFA CASH DEBT SERVICING	88,792.02
0700000 11150 31304	NMFA CASH DEBT SERVICING	116,089.63
0700000 11160 31301	NMFA CASH RESERVE BOKF,NA	282,933.25
0700000 11160 31302	NMFA CASH RESERVE BOKF,NA	103,312.43
0700000 11160 31303	NMFA CASH RESERVE BOKF,NA	340,729.35
0700000 11160 31304	NMFA CASH RESERVE BOKF,NA	443,911.08
0100000 11170 31304	NMFA PROGRAM FUNDS BOKF,NA	3,489,832.50
0900000 11170 31303	NMFA PROGRAM FUNDS BOKF,NA	103,789.13
0100000 11180 31310	CASH-US BANK INVESTMENTS	148,667.20
0100000 11180 31311	CASH-US BANK INVESTMENTS LIQ	3,254,398.25
0100000 11182 31313	ST. INV COUNCIL- ENDOWMENT INV	6,557,773.00
0100000 11183 31323	US BANK ENDOWMENT INV	3,014,860.95
0100000 11183 31333	US BANK ENDOWMENT INV	129,251.48
0400000 12351	LGIP LEVEE PROJECTS DISTRICT	1,247,547.46
0400000 12352	LGIP LEVEE PROJECTS AMAFCA	484,213.70
0400000 12353	LGIP LEVEE PROJECTS BERNALILL	93,057.25
0100000 12500	LGIP GENERAL FUND	14,119,268.88
0100000 12700	LGIP CAPITAL RESERVE FUND	1,874,544.19
0100000 19000	INTERFUND CASH	-2,377,371.40
0400000 19000	INTERFUND CASH	-428,691.53
0700000 19000	INTERFUND CASH	0
0800000 19000	INTERFUND CASH	-392,775.77
0900000 19000	INTERFUND CASH	3,198,838.70
	Total	38,018,034.37

To: Board of Directors
From: Pam Fanelli
Date: July 9, 2026
Subject: YTD 4Q FY2026 Financial Information

General Fund – Budget to Actual

The District budgeted for a balanced General Fund in FY26.

Budget adjustments were made throughout the year to incorporate unbudgeted items. The total amount of budget adjustments to be pulled from the fund balance was $2,684,241, consisting of $1,842,499 for the Belen Highline Rundown, to pay the Isleta Settlement, and for prior year encumbrances of $841,742.

Revenues (excluding other financing sources ytd through July 9, 2026):

- Actual revenues total $33,626,230.
- Ad Valorem revenues are trending approximately $1,724,513 above budget. An additional $500,000 is anticipated in July.
- Additional revenues above budget include:
    - Licensing fees: $649,998 higher than budgeted due to the modified licensing fee schedule.
    - Interest on investments: $282,401 higher than budgeted.
    - Realized and unrealized gains on investments: $434,315 (not budgeted).

Expenditures (excluding transfers):

- Actual expenditures total $32,760,915, compared to revised budgeted expenditures of $37,075,339.
- FY2026 encumbrances total $3,464,316, bringing total expenditures plus encumbrances to $36,225,231.

A projected surplus of $1.9 million is expected for the General Fund, primarily due to revenue surpluses of $3.1 million, projected expenditure surplus $600 thousand (including projected expenditures), offset by additional expenditures of $1.8 million.

Major expenditure categories trending higher than FY2025 include:

- **Salaries and employee benefits:** Increased due to union negotiations.
- **Employee and Board Related Costs:** FY26 was an election year
- **Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance:** Higher costs from increased parts and repairs
- **Governmental Agreements:** Additional agreements were added in FY26; some were offset by additional revenues
- **Capital expenditures:** Secured equipment with a loan, paid for the Belen Highline Rundown #2

Long Term Assets Fund (Levee) – 4Q FY2026 Budget to Actual

Revenues:

- $42,641 primarily from interest earned on cash with LGIP.

Expenditures:

- Right-of-way purchase for the Albuquerque Levee $123,000, Additional amount due to USACE for the Bernalillo to Belen Levee Design $310,000.

Debt Service Fund – 4Q FY2026 Budget to Actual

Revenues:

- $40,286 from interest earned on cash with NMFA. (need to add June once statements are received)

Expenditures:

- Total debt service expenditures: $779,335, comprising principal payments of $683,856 and interest payments of $95,479.
- Monthly transfers from the Capital Investment Fund totaled $860,278.

Grant Fund – 4Q FY2026 Budget to Actual

Revenues:

- Year-to-date grant revenues total $21,836,190. The current negative cash balance reflects billed but not yet received grant funds or grants to be billed once checks have cleared. Fund balance will net to zero once all grants have been billed.
- Loan proceeds total $461,261 and transfers-in from the Capital Investment Fund total $862,498.

The District originally budgeted $27,975,532 in grant revenue/expenditures. Approximately $8.0 million (Including Transfers) is expected to remain unspent and will be re-budgeted in FY2027, due to delays in the following projects:

- **G3736 Corrales Siphon Grant ($6,000,000):** Delayed due construction and right-of-way issues.
- **G3745 Socorro Canal Lining Phase 2 ($500,000):** Extension granted; will bid out phase 3 in FY27.
- **G3752 NFWF Grant ($600,000):** Delay in signing the grant. Budgeted in FY27.

Expenditures:

- Total $25,020,090 (excluding other financing sources). A transfer was made to the General Fund for $34,542 for Indirect Overhead Charges.

Capital Investment Fund – 4Q FY2026 Budget to Actual

Revenues:

- $4,809,246 including Ad Valorem revenues through June. An additional distribution is expected in July. Actual revenues came in $400 thousand above budgeted revenues.

Expenditures:

- Total expenditures: $1,401,482, including:
    - Equipment: $784,606.
    - Projects: Allison Lateral/ New Belen Wasteway $150,251.
    - Corrales Siphon Pumping $367,408
    - Ad Valorem collection fees: $99,217.

Transfers:

- $744,467 to the Debt Service Fund.
- $2,420,316 to the Grant Fund.

Cash balances for each fund are shown in the Balance Sheet. Unaudited cash balances in the general ledger total $38,018,034.

Cash Balances

ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT NAME	END BALANCE
0100000 11100	CASH - G/F OPERATING ACCT	2,015,910.63
0100000 11120	CASH - G/F PAYROLL	0
0100000 11130	CASH - G/F BASIC FLEX PLAN	11,920.53
0100000 11140	CASH - G/F ASSESSMENT DRAWERS	300
0100000 11141	CASH - G/F PETTY CASH FUND	550
0700000 11150 31301	NMFA CASH DEBT SERVICING	56,147.04
0700000 11150 31302	NMFA CASH DEBT SERVICING	40,234.42
0700000 11150 31303	NMFA CASH DEBT SERVICING	88,792.02
0700000 11150 31304	NMFA CASH DEBT SERVICING	116,089.63
0700000 11160 31301	NMFA CASH RESERVE BOKF,NA	282,933.25
0700000 11160 31302	NMFA CASH RESERVE BOKF,NA	103,312.43
0700000 11160 31303	NMFA CASH RESERVE BOKF,NA	340,729.35
0700000 11160 31304	NMFA CASH RESERVE BOKF,NA	443,911.08
0100000 11170 31304	NMFA PROGRAM FUNDS BOKF,NA	3,489,832.50
0900000 11170 31303	NMFA PROGRAM FUNDS BOKF,NA	103,789.13
0100000 11180 31310	CASH-US BANK INVESTMENTS	148,667.20
0100000 11180 31311	CASH-US BANK INVESTMENTS LIQ	3,254,398.25
0100000 11182 31313	ST. INV COUNCIL- ENDOWMENT INV	6,557,773.00
0100000 11183 31323	US BANK ENDOWMENT INV	3,014,860.95
0100000 11183 31333	US BANK ENDOWMENT INV	129,251.48
0400000 12351	LGIP LEVEE PROJECTS DISTRICT	1,247,547.46
0400000 12352	LGIP LEVEE PROJECTS AMAFCA	484,213.70
0400000 12353	LGIP LEVEE PROJECTS BERNALILL	93,057.25
0100000 12500	LGIP GENERAL FUND	14,119,268.88
0100000 12700	LGIP CAPITAL RESERVE FUND	1,874,544.19
0100000 19000	INTERFUND CASH	-2,377,371.40
0400000 19000	INTERFUND CASH	-428,691.53
0700000 19000	INTERFUND CASH	0
0800000 19000	INTERFUND CASH	-392,775.77
0900000 19000	INTERFUND CASH	3,198,838.70
	Total	38,018,034.37

Appendix VIII





Socorro Touch a Truck – June 25

Socorro Public Library

Appendix IX

Director Russo Baca Board Reports July 2026

Report on Corrales Farmers Co-Op Meeting, June 9, 2026

Director Russo Baca attended the Corrales Farmers Co-Op meeting at the invitation of participants she met during MRGCD's Sandoval County Community & Farmers Informational Meeting. Director Russo Baca provided an overview of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, including its mission, water management responsibilities, and current irrigation operations, with particular emphasis on MRGCD's conservation programs and opportunities available to agricultural producers. The meeting provided an opportunity to answer questions regarding irrigation operations, water conservation, and the District's ongoing efforts to support agriculture while strengthening relationships with the Corrales farming community.

Report on the VCSWCD Conservation Camp, June 10, 2026

Director Russo Baca participated in the Valencia County Soil and Water Conservation District's annual Conservation Camp, an educational program sponsored in part by the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District that introduces youth to agriculture, conservation, and natural resource stewardship through hands-on learning experiences. Director Russo Baca presented an overview of the MRGCD, discussing the District's mission, irrigation system, and the importance of responsible water management in supporting agriculture throughout the Middle Rio Grande Valley. Drawing on her own experience as a livestock producer, Director Russo Baca also led demonstrations on dairy goat management and milking, providing campers with the opportunity to learn firsthand about animal husbandry and the connection between water, agriculture, and food production. Throughout the day, campers participated in interactive activities focused on livestock, farming, wildlife, soils, and conservation practices. MRGCD's continued sponsorship and participation in the Conservation Camp reflects the District's commitment to agricultural education and inspiring future generations to become responsible stewards of New Mexico's land and water resources.

Report on the 2026 Next Generation Water Summit, June 11-12, 2026

Director Russo Baca attended the 2026 Next Generation Water Summit, which brought together water professionals, builders, developers, engineers, researchers, and policymakers to discuss innovative approaches to water conservation and water reuse in the arid Southwest. This year's theme, *Increasing Demand, Declining Realities*, focused on practical solutions to address growing water demands through conservation, reuse, advanced building technologies, and integrated water management. Presentations explored potable and non-potable water reuse, decentralized water systems, green infrastructure, water-efficient development, and policy initiatives intended to improve long-term water resilience. The conference provided valuable insight into emerging technologies and strategies that may inform future water management practices throughout the Middle Rio Grande Valley.

Report on CESOSS' 2026 Acequia Walk and Talk Acequia Madre Headwaters, June 13, 2026
Director Russo Baca attended the CESOSS Acequia Walk & Talk as an invited representative of MRGCD. Hosted in partnership with the South Valley Regional Association of Acequias, the Walk & Talk series brings together community members to learn about the history, culture, and continuing importance of the South Valley acequia system. Participants discussed the historical development of the Acequia Madre, current challenges facing traditional irrigation systems, community stewardship, and the importance of protecting acequias as both cultural and agricultural resources. The program included guided discussions along the Acequia Madre Headwaters focusing on the role of acequias in irrigation, community stewardship, native vegetation, and the interconnected relationship between water, agriculture, and the bosque. Participants also engaged in bilingual educational activities designed to introduce families and youth to acequia infrastructure, local wildlife, and the natural features that make up the acequia environment.

Report on the MRGCD's Urban Issues Advisory Committee, June 15, 2026
Director Russo Baca, Vice Chair Baugh, and Director Dunning attended the inaugural meeting of the Urban Issues Advisory Committee. Committee members reviewed the committee's purpose and discussed priorities identified through the public application process. The five primary areas of interest identified by applicants included land use and planning/access policies, education and outreach, wildfire and vegetation management, declining cottonwood and native tree canopy, and legislative matters. The meeting established a framework for future discussions and provided an opportunity for committee members to begin identifying priorities affecting urban constituents within the District.

Report on MRGCD's Valencia County Community & Farmers Informational Meeting, June 18, 2026
Director Russo Baca attended MRGCD's Valencia County Community & Farmers Informational Meeting, which was well attended by local farmers, ranchers, elected officials, and community members. District staff provided updates regarding the 2026 irrigation season, available water supplies, infrastructure maintenance, and current operational conditions. Producers expressed concerns regarding reduced water availability, drought conditions, irrigation scheduling, and the challenges facing agriculture during another dry year. The meeting provided an important opportunity for the District to hear directly from water users, answer questions, and continue strengthening communication with Valencia County agricultural producers.

Report on MRGCD's Socorro County Community & Farmers Informational Meeting, June 24, 2026
Director Russo Baca attended MRGCD's Socorro County Community & Farmers Informational Meeting. District staff presented updates regarding water operations, infrastructure maintenance, irrigation scheduling, and current river conditions affecting the Socorro division. Local producers discussed irrigation challenges, water supply conditions, and maintenance concerns while District staff responded to questions and provided updates on ongoing projects. The meeting continued MRGCD's commitment to maintaining open communication with constituents throughout the service area.

Report on the MRGCD Legislative Committee Meeting, June 29, 2026
Director Russo Baca, Vice Chair Baugh, and Director Dunning attended the MRGCD Legislative Committee meeting with District staff and legislative counsel. Committee members reviewed the New Mexico Legislative interim committee schedule, discussed issues anticipated during the upcoming legislative session, and considered potential legislative priorities affecting the District. Discussions included opportunities to improve water infrastructure, support agricultural water management, and monitor legislation that may impact conservancy districts and water management throughout New Mexico.

Report on NM Water Trust Exploratory Committee Meeting, June 30, 2026
Director Russo Baca attended the New Mexico Water Trust Exploratory Committee meeting. Committee members reviewed the draft New Mexico Water Trust Business Plan, including the proposed values statement, discussed a potential WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program funding opportunity, and considered transitioning the Exploratory Committee into a permanent Advisory Committee. Members also discussed committee membership, organizational structure, and next steps for advancing the New Mexico Water Trust initiative.

Report on MRGCD Field Visit to Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, July 1, 2026
Director Russo Baca, Vice Chair Baugh, Director Lopez, and MRGCD Right-of-Way Manager Michael Padilla toured the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge with Refuge Manager Jeff Sanchez. The field visit focused on ongoing habitat restoration and water conservation projects within the refuge, including efforts to improve riparian habitat, enhance wildlife resources, and promote efficient water management. The visit provided an opportunity to discuss collaborative conservation approaches and identify areas of mutual interest between MRGCD and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.





Report on the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos Coalition Meeting, July 2, 2026
Director Russo Baca attended the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos Coalition meeting. Jason Casuga, MRGCD Chief Engineer and CEO, provided an overview of current District operations and initiatives. Anne Marken presented an update on current water conditions and operations, while Alicia Lopez, MRGCD's new Director of Technical Services, introduced herself to Coalition members. The meeting continued the ongoing dialogue between the Coalition and MRGCD regarding issues of mutual interest, including water management, intergovernmental coordination, and continued collaboration throughout the Middle Rio Grande Valley.

Report on CESOSS' 2026 Acequia Walk and Talk Arenal Acequia, July 11, 2026
Director Russo Baca attended the CESOSS Acequia Walk & Talk featuring the Arenal Acequia. Hosted in partnership with the South Valley Regional Association of Acequias, the community event explored the history, operation, and cultural significance of the Arenal Acequia and its role within the South Valley irrigation system. Community members discussed the importance of preserving acequia traditions, maintaining irrigation infrastructure, and protecting the agricultural heritage of the Middle Rio Grande Valley. Director Russo Baca participated in discussions on MRGCD operations and answered questions on irrigation management and District programs.