

## THE ACEQUIA RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Acequia Restoration and Rehabilitation Program helps acequia associations build or restore diversion structures and ditches used for irrigation.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Acequia associations that provide a copy of their bylaws showing that the group is organized and operated as a community ditch as defined by state statute.

### HOW TO APPLY

- 1 . Contact ISC and the local NRCS office** regarding your community ditch improvement needs.
- 2 . Request a preliminary site visit,** assessment and cost estimate from the local NRCS office
- 3 . Send** a copy of your community acequia by-laws to ISC for review and approval.
- 4 .** Begin gathering easements and other ditch requirements



## THE NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION



### Contact:

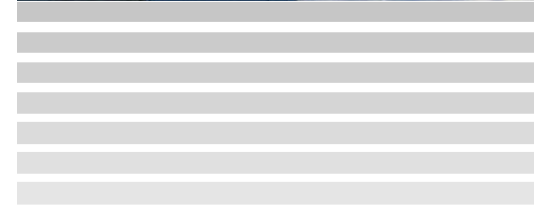
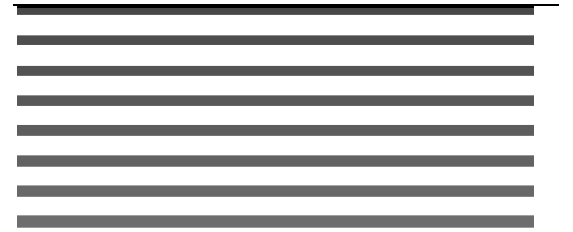
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## NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION

*Financial Aid and Technical Assistance for the Restoration and Preservation of Community Acequia Irrigation Systems*



# RESTORING NEW MEXICO'S ACEQUIAS

## WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

Acequias are **political subdivisions** of the state of New Mexico.

The older acequias operated since the Spanish colonization period of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Historically, acequia commissions have been a principal local government unit for the distribution and use of irrigation water and are governed by four elected officers.

Today, as many as 900 acequias exist in the state of New Mexico.

## PARTNER AGENCIES

- New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NM ISC)
- US Army Corps of Engineers (COE)
- US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS)
- Acequia or Community Ditch

**ISC Contact Information on back**

## COST SHARE PROGRAMS

### 1. NM ISC 80/20 Program

NM ISC provides grants for 80% of the project construction costs and the acequia provides the remaining 20%. The 80/20 Grant Program is limited to projects with a total construction cost of \$120,000 or less.

The Water Resources Development Act of 1986 established two assistance programs within the Acequia Restoration and Rehabilitation Program through the US Army Corps of Engineers:

### 2. Section 215 Program

Small to medium sized projects, between 120,000 to \$500,00. NEPA compliance required. The funding formula is 75% Federal funds, 17.5% State funds and 7.5% Acequia share. Capital Improvement Project appropriations can be used for the Acequia's 7.5% cost share.

### 3. Corps Section 1113 Program

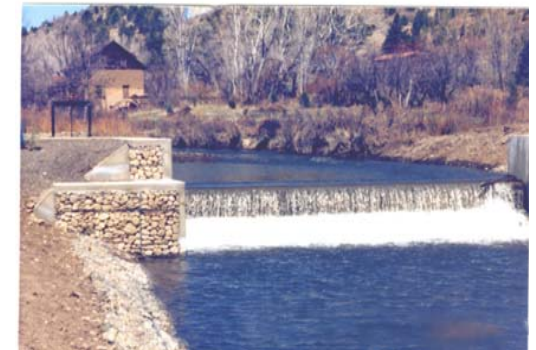
Large scale projects, between \$500,000 and \$1.5 Million. NEPA compliance required. In the 1113 program, the COE plans, designs and constructs the entire project. The funding formula is 75% Federal funds, 17.5% State funds and 7.5% Acequia share. Capital Improvement Project appropriations can be used for the Acequia's 7.5% cost share.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USDA NRCS generally provides preliminary review, cost estimates, and project recommendations. Acequias may contact the NRCS local office for this service.

NRCS also may provide planning, design, and construction oversight on both 80/20 and 215 programs.

The Acequia may also employ private engineering firms for planning, design and construction oversight services. Engineering and administrative costs may be credited against the Acequia's share of project costs for either the Section 215 or Section 1113 Programs but not for the 80/20 Program.



## NM INTERSTATE STREAM LOAN PROGRAM

NM ISC makes low-interest loans available to acequias for their share of repair and irrigation system construction costs. Loans are made at 2.5% interest and the repayment period averages 10 years.