

Subject: Please Join Us June 21st: En Dias de Menos, Acequias Managing Water in Drought

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To: johplummer@yahoo.com

Date: Friday, June 15, 2018, 3:31:27 PM MDT



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Noticias de las Acequias

New Mexico Acequia
Association
June 15, 2018

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Upcoming Eve

**[Statewide
Commissioner
Mayordomo
Conference](#)**


**[Thursday, June 7,
2018
9:00am-4:00pm](#)**

**[Los Luceros Rancho
Alcalde, NM](#)**

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Member**

**[Become a member of
the New Mexico
Acequia Association](#)**


The NMAA is a charitable, educational non-profit organization that relies on membership contributions and foundations for its general operating expenses. We rely on folks who join as members to contribute membership dues and donations to support our work. It has never been more important to have a united front to protect our acequias and strengthen our future.



The NM Acequia Association Presents:
**6TH ANNUAL
 STATEWIDE
 COMMISSIONER/MAYORDOMO
 CONFERENCE**

“EN DIAS
 de MENOS:
 Acequias
 Managing
 Water In
 Times of
 Drought”

“UNO AÑO SI,
 UN AÑO NO.”
 Photo by Quita Ortiz.



THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2018

9am-4pm | Los Luceros Historic Ranch | Alcalde, NM

\$15.00 Lunch Fee

Please call the NM Acequia Association for more information and to RSVP
 (505) 995-9644 or email Lori@lasacequias.org

and agricultural traditions.

Technical Assistance

HOW DO WE PROTECT OUR WATER RIGHTS
 HOW DO WE GET FUNDING TO IMPROVE OUR ACEQUIA? WHAT CAN OUR ACEQUA DO TO PROTECT OUR EASEMENT
 WHAT PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT FARMERS AND RANCHERS

The NMAA offers technical assistance to Acequia Governors and USDA programs for landowners. If any of these questions apply to you or your acequia, please submit a

[Request for Technical Assistance](#)

Acequia Drought Summit 2018



Water Sharing Panel -Photo taken by Olivia Romo, NMAA Staff

Written by, Olivia Romo

On April 3, 2018 acequia leaders from across the state gathered at Los Luceros Ranch to strategize about water management during times of drought. The main topics of the gathering were water sharing, active water resource management, and water quality. The dialogue began with Chris Romero, NRCS Hydrological Technician and Snow Surveyor who reported on the science of our current snow pack condition for the state of New Mexico. In April, the state was at an overall 15% snowpack with a projection that the runoff will be over at the end of May. Unfortunately, we are not getting either snow or rain! Chris also reported that we have a 7% snow water equivalent when in normal years we have at least 34%. How far off is this from our normal in New Mexico? In a thirty year average, 2018 is in the bottom tier for the worst year in precipitation and snowpack.



Former mayordomo speaks about his experience moving water fairly in the Taos Valley -Photo taken by Pablito Herrera

Afterward, esteemed acequia leaders from Taos, Embudo and Anton Chico facilitated a panel discussion that focused on water sharing practices between acequias. The panelists explained that historically acequias have rationed water equitably based on verbal understandings or written agreements. These water sharing practices continue today and are especially relevant during this year's drought. Water sharing agreements keep the management of acequia water under local jurisdiction.

The next panel consisted of commissioners who have endured long standing disputes about water within the context of adjudication or administration of basin specific rules and regulations implemented by the State Engineer. Commissioners within the Rio Gallinas, NPT (Nambe, Pojoaque, Tesuque) and Rio Chama expressed concerns with the installation of meters, being assigned water masters, and having to report to the State Engineer acreage "to be irrigated" during the irrigation season. Commissioners expressed their continued resistance to the systematic unraveling of our acequia systems and affirmed local autonomy, decision making, and leadership development for the future of managing of our watersheds.



Gael Minton of Acequia del Monte in Taos expresses the frustration of sharing water in a growing community" -Photo taken by Pablito Hererra

Finally, the topic of water quality was discussed to raise awareness of the potential devastation of acequia-served farmland due to discharge and effluent being dumped into rivers by municipalities and cities. The conversation extended beyond protecting farmland and addressing the need to protect fish and wildlife. Participants were encouraged to get involved and keep the State's Water Quality Control Commission accountable and to do their own water testing.

To read more about the Acequia Drought Summit follow:
<https://lasacequias.org/2018/06/15/acequia-drought-summit/>

En Memoria: Remembering Pablo O. Chavez



Pablo O. Chavez Mayordomo of Acequia Rio Grande del Rancho, Taos NM -Photographer Unknown

It is because of the work of our ancestors, elders and maestros that we now stand on the shoulders of giants, taking steps to ensure that our acequias and way-of-life will never be erased from this landscape. We pause to reflect on and honor the lives of the men and women who worked tirelessly for our acequias out of love and querencia.

Pablo O. Chavez

January 20, 1948 - May 24, 2018

We note the passing of a defender and protector of the acequia way of life!

Pablo O. Chavez, Mayordomo of Acequia Madre del Rio Grande del Rancho in the Taos Valley with an estimated 300 *parciantes* passed away unexpectedly on May 24th 2018. According to his daughter Paula, "my father was a very simple man who loved working the land. He gave it his all; bailing hay, working the acequia, and showing everyone respect. The constituents of the acequia respected him and yes, even in times of drought when people would get mad he knew how to keep the peace while distributing the water. He took this position as Mayordomo very seriously". Daniel Martinez, Commissioner of Acequia Madre del Rio Grande del Rancho remembers chatting with him along the ditch the week before his passing about bringing the water down to the *parciantes* who had not irrigated this season yet, "We are in a bad drought but Paul always had a plan to make sure that every *parciantes* got the water at least once". Currently the commission of the acequia will take turns completing the duties of Mayordomo until they can appoint someone for the remainder of the term.

Pablo enjoyed being outdoors, hunting, fishing and going for wood. His passion was working with his tractor, whether it was irrigating or bailing hay. Pablo loved his family dearly and enjoyed spending time with everyone he loved.

Pablo was preceded in death by his parents, Eleverio and Gregorita Chavez; mother and father-in-law, Eloy and Erlinda Pacheco; brothers, Eusebio Sanchez, Jose Chavez, sister, Christina Mares; sister-in-law, Dorthy Martinez, brothers-in-law, Bobby Pacheco, Eloy Pacheco Jr.; grandson, Clarence Sisneros, nephews, Robbie Martinez, Jose Chavez Jr., and Rodney Tafoya. He is survived by his wife, Mary Alice Chavez; children, Paula (Fred) Sisneros, Christopher (Carla) Chavez, Francisco (Brienne) Chavez; nephew whom he considered a son, Lawrence Chavez (Theresa); sister, Connie (Bobby) Martinez; sisters-in-law, Emilia Sanchez, Frances Martinez, Ellen Tafoya, brothers-in-law, Jerry (Geneva) Pacheco and Alfred (Barbara) Grant; grandchildren, Mateo Sisneros, Christopher Chavez Jr., Edward Romero, Justin Chavez, Victoria Chavez and Leila Belle Chavez, and numerous nieces, nephews and friends whom he loved dearly.

Support the NM Acequia Association! Donate Today



Acequia Madre San Jose de la Cienega -Photo taken by Dustin Vigil

NMAA has a comprehensive approach to fulfill our vision of acequias flowing with clean water and people working together to grow food and celebrate our cultural heritage. Our work centers on all aspects of keeping acequias thriving, including: acequia governance, water rights protection, farmer training, leadership development and organizing, policy advocacy, youth engagement, food and seed sovereignty.

Will you join the NM Acequia Association TODAY with a donation and membership to advance *el movimiento en defensa del agua*?

Donor Levels

Padrino/Madrina de las Acequias Above \$500

Hermano/Hermana de las Acequias \$251-\$500

Amigo/Amiga de las Acequias \$25-\$250

Membership Levels

Individual Acequia membership \$50

Parciante/Supporter membership \$25

Membership includes a newsletter subscription.

Note: Donations to NMAA are tax deductible.

Make checks payable to the New Mexico Acequia Association,

805 Early St. Blg B Suite 203 Santa Fe NM 87505

Donate Today At: <https://lasacequias.org/product/donate/>

New Mexico Acequia Association, 805 Early St. , Building B, Suite 203, Santa Fe, NM 87505

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