

Subject: Nuestra Querencia -Luz, Tierra, Agua, Vida!

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Noticias de las Acequias

New Mexico Acequia
Association
December 7, 2017

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Community Spotlight: Acequia del Rincon



Gilbert Joe Montoya proudly holds up his miaz grown from acequia del rincon
-Photo submitted by Martha Trujillo

Written by Martha Trujillo,

The name "Acequia del Rincon", noun **rincón**: (ángulo) **corner inside**; (inside) is true to its name. The diversion point is within the corner of the Nambe and Pojoaque Pueblo exterior boundaries dating back to 1739, in the Nambe, Pojoaque, Tesuque Basin (NPT Basin).

Much of our history is documented in the odd shaped red on white journals, yes, the journals that everyone knew were not to be touched but treasured and preserved under the care of the Commissioners of the Acequia (ditch). In the possession of the commissioners is a recorded entry dated Abril 21 de 1900 documenting Reglas de la Acequia Del Rincon En Pojoaque, New

Donate



Upcoming Events

Acequia Day at the Legislature

January 25, 2018
NM State Capitol

Become a 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 food and agricultural traditions.

Technical Assistance

HOW DO WE PROTECT
OUR WATER RIGHTS?
HOW DO WE GET
FUNDING TO IMPROVE
OUR ACEQUIA? WHAT
CAN OUR ACEQUIA
DO TO PROTECT OUR
EASEMENTS? WHAT

Mexico. The history of our ancestors told with each handwritten entry, in script font penning the gastos (spending), the treasurers report, the reglas (rules), the derechos of the acequia and the lay of the land. Not only do we have the history of rules and water rights, but what a gift to see our ancestry of primos (relatives) passing down the roles and tradition to their children and their children's children.

Over hundreds of years the legacy, dedication, and responsibility has not missed a beat! Past Commissioners and Mayordomos memories of yesteryears speak affectionately of their fathers as commissioners and mayordomos and the work that needed to be done out of necessity, all the while comparing those hardships to the luxuries of today. Rudy Roybal, a former Treasurer for 23 years recalls his father, Meliton Roybal, having to pull dirt from the acequia madre to stop the water and divert it into the lateral, year after year. With the luxury of a modern day compuerta, (headgate) Rudy's life is much easier. You hear Rudy's voice soften as he remembers his father and smiles.

To read the rest of this testimony, please follow: <https://lasacequias.org/2017/12/06/community-spotlight-acequia-del-rincon/>

Nuestra Querencia -Luz, Tierra, Agua, Vida



Comanches dancing for Dia de Manuel in Talpa, NM -Photo taken by Miguel Gandert

*Allí viene amaneciendo,
yo sigo trabajando
para mantener
lo que yo quiero tanto.*

There comes the dawn,
I keep on working
to take care of
what I love so much.

-*"Canto a la acequia"* - David García, Cipriano Vigil, y Roger Montoya

When we are born, our mother literally gives us the light. "*Da luz,*" we say in the language of our Iberian forebears. As soon as our eyes are accustomed to the brilliance, we memorize the features of her face. As we rise to walk upon the earth, we transpose her profile to those first intimate horizons: a house,

PROGRAMS ARE
AVAILABLE TO
SUPPORT FARMERS
AND RANCHERS?

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

[Request for
Technical
Assistance](#)

cottonwoods by a river, an *acequia*, a field, a road, a distant line of hills beyond. Because we are human we see faces in the rocks. Clouds are animate visitors to this realm. Trees lift up their arms to greet them as they pass. The river at their feet is a messenger who sings of life and distant oceans. Drink from this stream and you are destined to return to its waters.

Querencia is the place of returning, the center space of desire, the wellspring of belonging and yearning to belong, a destination overflowing with life but suitable to die in, that vicinity where you first beheld the light. The place of birth or re-birth. *Querencia* is remembrance of harmony, a longing so profound even trees and stones share in its emotion: "*Los palos, las piedras lloran / por verme salir cautiva.*" In the old ballads of exile and captivity, a compassionate landscape is moved to tears by human suffering. "*Este valle de lágrimas*, this valley of tears" is the place of our pain and redemption, of the prayers we offer to the mother of pain.

To read the rest of this article, please follow:<https://lasacequias.org/2017/12/06/nuestra-querencia-luz-tierra-agua-vida/>

2017 Acequia Needs Assessment Survey



West Sandoval Ditch Bank Stabilization- Photo taken by Juanita Revak

Dear Acequia Commissioner or Mayordomo,

Thank you so much for your contributions to your local acequia. The New Mexico Acequia Association is conducting a statewide acequia needs assessment and we need your participation.

The New Mexico Acequia Association is a non-profit statewide organization of Acequias and Regional Association of Acequias. Our mission is to protect

historic acequia water rights and strengthen agricultural traditions. We are requesting your voluntary participation in filling out that attached Acequia Survey. Acequias are defined as local governments and the information requested is considered public information which would be shared with the state of New Mexico. Your participation supports acequias across the state.

Please note that every year we change and update many of the questions.

Please respond by December 29th at the latest.

Methods of response:

Online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/acequianeeds2017>

Call the NMAA office: You can dictate your responses to staff and be done!

Paper survey:

Complete the enclosed survey and mail, fax or scan it back to us [Download and Print NMAA Acequia Survey 2017](#)

Special Thanks to the Acequias Who Have Completed the Survey!

***If you have any questions or if there is any way we can assist your acequia please feel free to contact Toribio at 505-995-9644 or Toribio@lasacequias.org.**

2017 Agricultural Census



Better data, better decisions: Upcoming census will capture a complete picture of New Mexico agriculture!

In just a few months, America's farmers and ranchers will have the opportunity to make a positive impact on their communities and industry by taking part in the [Census of Agriculture](#). Conducted every five years by USDA's [National Agricultural Statistics Service \(NASS\)](#), the census captures a complete count of all U.S. farms and ranches and those who operate them. Even the smallest plots of land and those raising only a few animals during

the census year are counted.

The census helps tell the whole story of U.S. agriculture. Without the information collected, we wouldn't know that 3.3 million U.S. farmers and ranchers - only one percent of our total population - provide food, fuel, and fiber to the other 99 percent. The census remains the only source of uniform and comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

Census of Agriculture questionnaires will be mailed in December. **Responses are due by February 5, 2018.** Producers are highly encouraged to complete their forms https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Online_Response/index.php. Improved this year, the online census form is convenient and dynamic - it can be accessed on your mobile phone, tablet, desk- or laptop. It's user-friendly and saves time by calculating totals automatically and skipping questions that do not pertain to your operation.

Your answers to the census help grow your farm's future, shape farm programs, and boost services for you, your community and your industry.

For more information about the Census, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call 1-888-4AG-STAT (1-888-424-7828). The Census of Agriculture is ***Your Voice, Your Future, Your Opportunity.***

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