

Subject: Acequia Customs & San Isidro Blessings

From: New Mexico Acequia Association (communications@lasacequias.org)

To: johplummer@yahoo.com;

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Milpas de Maiz Mora, NM -Photo taken by Paula Garcia

Noticias de las Acequias

New Mexico Acequia
Association
May 22, 2017

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Agricultural Census

Acequia Customs & Traditions of Allocating Water



Victor Villapando planting in Espanola -Photo of mural taken by Donatella Davanzo

As we move from the spring cleaning of the acequias into the irrigation season we are reminded to practice the *Repartimiento de la agua* (sharing of the water.) Every acequia has its own rules and local customs for the *repartimiento* either in a formalized form (court decree, bylaws) or maintained through practice and word of mouth.

To read the rest of this article, please follow:

<http://www.lasacequias.org/news/acequia-custom-traditions-of-allocating-water/>

Acequia Audits & Budget Requirements



Upcoming Events

Acequia Pathways to Financial Compliance

Tuesday, June 27th
2017
1:00-4:00pm

NM State Archives
1205 Camino Carlos
Rey
Santa Fe, NM

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



Great Grandfather's Ledger- Photo taken by Sarah Rivera-Cordova

As political subdivisions of the state, acequias are required to comply with the Audit Act, which includes the Tiered Reporting System for any entities with under \$750,000 in annual revenue. Additionally, acequias are required to comply with budget reporting through DFA Local Government Division if annual revenues are over \$10,000.

Acequia associations must comply with the state annual audit requirements. Those requirements arise from the Audit Act, Sections 12-6-1 through 12-6-14, NMSA 1978, and the Audit Rule, 2.2.2 NMAC. Section 2.2.2.16 of the Audit Rule addresses small political subdivisions like acequias. The Audit Rule is issued by the OSA and is available at [https://www.saonm.org/media/uploads/Audit Rule 2014.pdf](https://www.saonm.org/media/uploads/Audit_Rule_2014.pdf)

Audit Act Compliance:

- For Tier 1 (under \$10,000) and Tier 2 (under \$50,000), all acequias are required to complete a Certification Form online on the OSA website
- Acequias in Tier 3 and above (those acequias with \$50,000 or over or Capital Outlay expenditures), are required to contract with an Independent Public Accountant (IPA) to complete a financial report. Deadlines
- For acequias with a fiscal year end of December 30, 2016, the deadline to submit your reports to the State Auditor is May 30, 2017 (five months after the end of the fiscal year).

For acequias with a fiscal year end of June 30, 2017, the deadline to submit your reports to the State Auditor is November 30, 2017. All reporting to the Office of the State Auditor must be done through

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 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**](#)

their online portal called OSA Connect: https://www.saonm.org/procuring_contracts

All acequias regardless of annual income should register with OSA Connect to complete the tier forms or to generate a contact for an audit.

Budget and Reporting Requirements:

- Many acequias must also comply with the state budget and reporting requirements, which arise primarily from the Local Government Finances statute, Sections 6-6-1 through 6-6-19, NMSA 1978, and the Budget Certification Rule, 2.2.3 NMAC. The Budget Certification Rule is issued by DFA and is available at <http://www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/NMAC/parts/title02/02.002.0003.htm> Acequias with annual revenues of less than \$10,000 per year are exempt from the state budget and reporting requirements.

Budget Reporting Compliance (applies to all acequias with over \$10,000 in revenue):

- DFA is accepting submissions online or in a paper format. The template forms are on the DFA website -
- For acequias with a fiscal year start of January 1
 - Interim or draft budget are due December 1 in anticipation of the following year.
 - Final budget was due January 31st.
 - Fourth Quarter Budget Report and Resolution due January 31st
 - Quarterly reports are due 30 days after the end quarter.

All the forms you need for Budget compliance can be found at: or <http://nmdfa.state.nm.us/bfb-forms.aspx> then see: "Acequia Budget & Quarterly Report forms" options 1 and 2 for the Department of Finance Administration budget template options (do not forget to download it and save it to your computer). If you don't have internet access feel free to call the NMAA office. We are always here to support you in the completion of tier forms, budgets etc.

NMAA, in partnership with the Office of the State Auditor and the Department of Finance and Administration, provides detailed workshops, technical assistance, and educational materials to assist acequias with compliance. NMAA is available to assist with completing Tier 1 and Tier 2 forms and with DFA reporting, as well as all completing a budget and resolutions. NMAA also offers guidance to acequias which are Tier 3 and above, to register with OSA Connect and solicit bids from an IPA who will complete the "Audit" or Agreed Upon Procedures from the State.

Please call the NMAA office for more information 505-995-9644

Dia de San Isidro: Acequia Blessing in San Fidel, NM



Retablo de San Isidro- Photo by Harding Polk

On May 15th 2017 in San Fidel, NM over 60 acequia parciantes and neighbors came together in celebration for the feast day of San Isidro, the patron saint of farmers. For 20 years now, the San Jose de la Cienega acequia association with the help of acequia leaders Beverly and Leon Tafoya have come together to bless their acequia, the farmers, and share a meal together all in honor of acequia life-ways.

To read the rest of this article, please follow:

<http://www.lasacequias.org/news/dia-de-san-isidro-acequia-blessing-in-san-fidel-nm/>

Acequia Pathways to Financial Compliance Workshop



Blossoming Trees in Spring -Photo taken by Juliet Garcia-Gonzales

Acequia Pathways to Financial Compliance

Tuesday June 27, 2017, 1pm-4pm

NM State Archives Santa Fe

1205 Camino Carlos Rey, Santa Fe, NM 87507

Join the NMAA to learn about funding opportunities for acequia infrastructure projects and about the financial compliance requirements of receiving funding. The workshop will focus on the responsibilities of acequias and other small political subdivisions to comply with audit and

budget requirements of the State of New Mexico. Presentations and educational materials will be provided by the Office of the State Auditor, the Department of Finance and Administration, and the NMAA.

Come and learn the steps you should follow to be compliant with state law regarding the State Auditor and the Department of Finance and Administration. NMAA urges all acequias to send at least one Commissioner, particularly Treasurers. The workshop is also valuable for elected officials from land grants and MDWCAs.

To RSVP please call NMAA 505-995-9644

Acequias Count! Agricultural Census



The poster features a green header with the text "NEW MEXICO" in white. Below this, it states: "In the 2012 Census of Agriculture, nearly 23,000 small farms and ranches were counted producing over \$178 million in sales. Were you counted?" To the left of this text is a photograph of a dirt path in a rural landscape with a "Si Cuentan" sign. Below the photograph is an orange outline of the state of New Mexico. The text continues: "USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will again be counting all farmers and ranchers, including those on acequias in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. These counts are the basis for future agricultural funding in our state. No one is too small to be counted." At the bottom left, there is a yellow box with the text "2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE MAKE SURE YOU ARE COUNTED". At the bottom right, it says: "To make sure you are counted visit: www.agcounts.usda.gov/cgi-bin/counts/ or call 1 (888) 424-7828".

NEW MEXICO

In the 2012 Census of Agriculture, nearly 23,000 small farms and ranches were counted producing over \$178 million in sales. **Were you counted?**

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www.agcensus.usda.gov

U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE
MAKE SURE YOU ARE COUNTED

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or call 1 (888) 424-7828

Acequia Farmers - be sure to register with the Farm Service Agencies - this is how we get our farms counted, our voices heard and access to USDA programs to support our farms.

Please contact Serafina Lombardi at 505-995-9644 or Serafina@lasacequias.org

Support NMAA- My Change



Limpia of Acequia Madre de Chamisal y Ojito -Photo taken by Juliet Garcia, NMAA Staff

Imagine if your *change* could create change! Now, there is a simple way to help the NM Acequia Association and your community from your phone and making simple purchases at the store.

With MyChange, you can use the app everywhere you go and its super simple to join. Just sign up, download the app, choose NMAA as the organization you want to support and set a total monthly donation limit. That's it! The app does the rest, rounding-up your transactions to the nearest dollar.

We strongly encourage *YOU* to participate in MyChange so you can make a small but daily contribution to the acequia movement in defense of nuestra agua!

Please follow this link if you would like to sign up!

[MyChange4NMAcequias](#)

Muchisimas Gracias!!

Que Vivan las Acequias!

Amazon Smile for NMAA



Ethan Vigil, youngest parciante on Acequia de San Jose de la Cienega -Photo taken by Marty Vigil

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

Please consider donating to the NM Acequia Association and support the vision of acequias flowing with clean water, people working together to grow food, and communities celebrating cultural and spiritual traditions!

Click here to sign up!

<http://smile.amazon.com/>

Que Vivan Las Acequias!

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