

Subject: 300 March in Celebration of Acequias!

From: communications@lasacequias.org

To: johplummer@yahoo.com

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Acequia Day March to the Roudhouse 2018 -Photo taken by Enrique Romero

## *Noticias de las Acequias*

New Mexico Acequia  
Association  
January 31 , 2018

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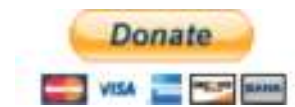
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**NPT Basin: Protect Your Water Rights Workshop Feb.10****2018 Annual Fruit Grower Workshop March 1st****2017 Agricultural Census****300 March in Celebration of Acequias!**

*Paula Garcia, Executive Director of the NM Acequia Association rally up acequia farmers at the Roundhouse -Photo taken by Eddie Moore, Albuquerque Journal*

On Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> 2018 more than three-hundred farmers, ranchers and advocates marched to the state capitol in defense del nuestra agua, advocating for funding of acequia infrastructure projects and lifting up the economic and cultural contributions of acequias! After a beautiful march with shovels and songs led by Dr. David García and Jeremiah Martinez 30 acequia leaders who represent their respective acequia regions were recognized on the rostrum. The Rally was opened by our Sembrando Semillas youth and followed by a moving speech given by Don Bustos.

**Upcoming Events****NPT Basin: Protect Your Water Rights Workshop**

**Saturday, February 10th**  
**2018**

**9:00am-12:00pm**

**Nambe Community**  
**Center**  
**Nambe, NM**

**NM Organic Farming Conference**

**Friday, February 16th**  
**8:00am**

**- Saturday, February 17th**  
**2018**

**Marriott Pyramid**  
**5151 San Francisco**  
**Road Northeast**  
**Albuquerque, NM 8710**

**2018 Annual Fruit Growers Workshop**

**March 1st 2018**  
**8:30am-3:30pm**

**Los Luceros Ranch**  
**Alcalde, NM**

**Become a Member**

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





*Don Bustos, with Santa Cruz Farms speaks during the rally at Acequia Day -Photo taken by Eddie Moore, Albuquerque Journal*

NMAA was honored to have Peter Vigil, District Manager of the Taos Soil and Water Conservation District present about the ongoing revitalization and infrastructure projects being piloted in his district followed by testimonies from Acequia del Monte del Rio Chiquito and the Rio Fernando Revitalization group who have created unique collaborations to get these projects completed. The rotunda was filled with partners, collaborators and other environmental organizations who gathered in solidarity for acequias!



*Hundreds gather at the acequia day rally in the Roundhouse -Photo taken by Serafina Lombardi, NMAA Staff*

Muchisimas gracias to all the farmers and acequia leaders who traveled near and far to participate with us on this special day, we hope you can join us next year!

NMAA wants to give a special thanks to Teresa's Tamales who fed everyone a delicious lunch after the rally! We also want to recognize our partners and sponsors, American Friends Service Committee, South West Organizing

The NMAA is a charitable educational non-profit organization that relies on membership contribution and foundations for its general operating expenses. We rely on folk 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 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](#)

Project, Interstate Stream Commission, Taos Soil and Water Conservation District, Taos Valley Acequia Association, TEWA Women United, La Cosecha del Norte, NMACD, New Mexico Acequia Commission, Rio Fernando Revitalization Group (TVAA, Taos Land Trust, Amigos Bravos, Town of Taos), South West Center for Research, and Sol Soliz Farm.

NMAA also wants to thank in a special way two artists who contributed their art for Acequia Day. Evalina Montoya, Parciante of Acequia del Rincon who donated her art for our 2018 Acequia Day Buttons and Cornelio Trujillo, Parciante on Acequia de Potrero who contributed his painting for our acequia day poster and banner!



*Embracing Our Future Without Abandoning Our Past -Art Drawn By Evalina Montoya, Acequia del Rincon*

Acequias continue to demonstrate resilience in the face of these changing times, as communities hold tight to the values, beauty, and way of life that acequias provide!

Que Vivan las Acequias!

Inter-Basin Water Transfers: San Augustin Plains





*Billboard made by the San Augustin Water Coalition -Photo taken by Olivia Romo, NMAA staff*

Written by Carol Pittman

I had never thought much about inter-basin transfers until a private corporation, the Augustin Plains Ranch LLC, applied to pump 54,000 acre feet of water per year from the Augustin Plains basin. Our property borders the Augustin Plains Ranch. The idea of removing that much water each year and transporting it to the Albuquerque urban area was surprising and alarming. We were amazed that anyone thought that much water could be pumped from our semi-arid basin.

Our economy in northern Catron County is based on ranching and hunting. Animals, like human beings, need water to survive: *agua es vida* - water is life. What do we as a community need to do to understand the implications of the plan to take away so much water? To that end we asked several questions we felt must be answered before any serious consideration of such a large inter-basin transfer could be taken seriously by the Office of the State Engineer.

The first question we asked is, "How much water is actually available in the Augustin Plains aquifer?" No one is sure.

To answer that question, the hydrology of the basin must be understood. Other important questions, similarly, can be answered only by understanding the hydrology of the basin. Key among those is knowledge of the basin's ability to recharge adequately. Will there be water indefinitely because there

is adequate recharge each year? We are in the process of gathering all available information, which is somewhat scarce at this time.

A second question is, "How much water is actually needed now and in the future in the basin of origin? Will an overly generous provision of water elsewhere engender waste and inefficient use of water?"

Predicting future water needs is tricky, of course, but the ability of our area to thrive will depend upon adequate water supplies, as might the health of the recipient area. Is the enhancement of a recipient area worth depriving a more rural area of its natural endowment of water?

Quite often managers in the "go to" place can find other means, such as conservation, to provide water adequate for its needs. Water managers have been surprised and gratified by conservation measures that have been successful beyond their expectations, and Albuquerque continues to find adequate water with methods that do not cause harm to other communities.

Third we need to ask, "To what degree are water rights in the Augustin Plains basin threatened by the proposed transfer, and is it worth it? How much impairment is fair or even tolerable? To date there is no adequate definition of impairment, and each case is decided by the State Engineer on essentially subjective grounds. We feel that a legal definition of impairment is essential and hope to get legislation to that effect before the Legislature.

Perhaps the most essential question of all is -- How do we use water from a finite source so that it best satisfies the needs and the rights of all concerned? Certainly inter-basin transfers must recognize the needs of both rural and urban areas. Politicians tend to emphasize the needs of wants of more populated and more economically productive areas. Now legislation has been introduced in our legislature which more strongly emphasizes the rights of rural communities. But it has not been successful, and so far emphasis has remained on urban needs. As reported by the Utton Center, "In New Mexico, a recent failed attempt to pass legislation regulating inter-basin transfers highlighted both the perceived lack of regulation of large transfers and the institutional unwillingness to add hurdles, especially cost, for water transfer applications. In the absence of such legislation, New Mexico's legal landscape contains limited roadblocks to inter-basin transfers." This must change.

The underlying question in all of this is "What is it we want for our communities, both urban and rural, both now and in the future?" Remember, water taken from one area is almost always irretrievable in that area. If water can be taken from our rural area in northern Catron County it can set a precedent for transporting water from all rural communities. Is it not essential to protect the rights and needs of small groups as well as those of

large groups? Overriding the rights of the few for the benefit of a larger group (in our case for the profits of a corporation) will not benefit New Mexico communities of any size.

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*From the Utton Center Report on Inter-basin Water Transfers, Water Matters, p. 19-2, 2015. <http://uttoncenter.unm.edu/pdfs/water-matters-2015/2015-water-matters.pdf>*

NPT Basin: Protect Your Water Rights Workshop Feb. 10



## **NPT Basin: Protect your water rights! Workshop on revitalizing agricultural land**

**Saturday February 10, 2018 9am-12pm**  
**NAMBE COMMUNITY CENTER**

180 A SR 503 Nambé, NM

The Aamodt Adjudication rules affecting surface water rights are now in effect. To keep the protections granted to acequia water rights under the Aamodt Settlement, parciantes must irrigate at least once every 4 years and report annually to their acequias intended usage. Whether you are an active irrigator, a novice farmer, or a water right owner concerned about losing a valuable property right, **come learn the steps to get land irrigated and producing**. Various strategies and resources to revitalize agricultural land served by acequias will be presented.

**All acequia water right owners are invited  
to the workshop.**



2018 Annual Fruit Grower Workshop

## 2018 Annual Fruit Grower Workshop



All About Discovery™  
**Cooperative Extension Service**  
 College of Agricultural, Consumer  
 and Environmental Sciences

**Time/Date: 8:30-3:30, March 1, 2018**

Pre-registration fee for meal and materials is:  
 \$12 per person before Feb. 20 and  
 \$15 after Feb. 20.



**Location: Los Luceros Ranch, Alcalde, NM**

( North of Espanola, along Highway 68, pass mile mark 8 before mile mark 9, turn west from highway 68 to County Road (CR) 0048/Los Luceros, drive 0.5 miles on this road and you will see the sign of Los Luceros Ranch. )

8:30-9:00 Registration

9:00-9:15 Welcome and overview of the fruit industry in NM (Patrick Torres/ Los Luceros Historic Ranch (Patrick Moore)

9:15-10:00 Updates on fruit research at Alcalde (jujube cultivars, organic apple rootstocks and high tunnel stone fruit etc. (Shengxi Yao)

10:00-10:15 Coffee break

10:15-11:00 Grape Varieties, Rootstocks and New Mexico Terrior (Gill Giese)

11:00-11:45 Bee and pollination in fruit production (Ashley Bennett)

11:45-12:15 Marketing/Local farmers market discussion panel (Sabra Moore/Melissa Willis, etc.)

12:15-1:00 Lunch (provided)

1:00-1:30 New Mexico organic certification and regulations (Ive Eddy)

1:30-2:00 Applea legacy in northern New Mexico (Steve Goldan)

2:00-2:45 Tree planting/transplanting and management (Field demonstration) (Gordon Tinsley)

2:45-3:30 Gopher management (field demonstration) (Tom Dominguez)

The fee will be \$15 from Feb. 21 to March 1. The cutoff date is Feb. 20 due to accurate head count needed to ensure enough food for everyone.

**To pre-register, please call Joy at Santa Fe County Extension Office at 505-471-4711. Please submit cash/check payment to the Santa Fe County Extension Office or make checks payable to New Mexico State University and mail checks to:**

Santa Fe County Extension Office  
 Attn: Joy Camyrid  
 3229 Rodeo Road  
 Santa Fe, NM 87507



If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the meeting, please contact Donald Martinez by Feb. 23, 2018 at 505-485-4523 or via email at donmart@nmsu.edu.

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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 were 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](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](http://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.***

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

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