

June 23, 1990: The Sangre de Cristo Water Co. must release water into the Acequia Madre and the Cerro Gordo Acequia, a Santa Fe District judge ruled Friday in a decision that would restore life to the historic irrigation ditches that wind through the city.

The ruling by Judge Art Encinias came in a suit brought against the water company by the Acequia Madre and the Cerro Gordo Acequia associations.

Encinias said the preservation of the ditches' water rights are important to "the vitality of a culture over three centuries old.

"The people, the land and the water are inextricably bound together and will be until Santa Fe is entirely paved over," the judge wrote.