

Blackstone Ranch seeks water rights transfer

By [J.R. Logan](#)

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The owners of Blackstone Ranch are asking for permission to stop using water from an acequia and instead use an equivalent amount of water to fill a 0.15-acre fire-suppression pond.

Black Interests Limited Partnership filed its formal request for the water rights transfer in November. The transfer would retire 2.08 acre-feet connected to the Alamitos Ditch of Los Cordovas. That water has historically been used to irrigate a parcel that's now part of the Blackstone Ranch.

The transfer is only a fraction of a 2013 proposal from the ranch that would have retired 12 acre-feet of water rights from the Alamitos and transferred those rights to a 450-foot well to be used for irrigation.

Jay Lazarus, a hydrologist hired by the ranch, said at the time the proposal would ensure the ranch had access to water in times of drought and would not impact nearby residents. But the proposal drew a protest from nearby acequia users who worried the well would deplete the shallow aquifer and dry other acequias in the process.

Adam Baker, listed as agent for Black Interests Limited Partnership on the application, could not be reached for comment.

Protests to the pending application may be submitted to the Office of the State Engineer. The office can be reached at (505) 827-6091.