



Acequia de Alcalde
PO Box 99
Alcalde, New Mexico 87511

AVISO

The Acequia de Alcalde's annual meeting will take place on Sunday December 3, 2023 starting at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Los Luceros Hacienda. Parciantes should make every effort to attend to stay informed on how your Acequia has been operating, what financial condition our acequia is in and to participate in a discussion on amendments to our bylaws.

In addition to our regular annual business there will also be discussion on a major infrastructure project that is planned for the near future. Your input will provide valuable guidance on how to proceed. Discussion on how the project will be funded will also take place. A brief report on Las Nueve Acequia's Regional Association and Alcalde's role in the Association will also occur. A young farmer of the year will also be recognized. Our annual meeting is an opportunity to gather with your fellow parciantes and to stay abreast of business pertaining to your Acequia and to your water rights.

"La Acequia Es La Vida de La Comunidad"

ACEQUIA DE ALCALDE NOTICIAS

Young Farmer of the Year Award

A parciante suggested to the Acequia Commission the idea of involving our youth and recognizing their effort to continue the farming practices of our past. The idea resonated with the Commission and nominations for young farmers were solicited. Six nominees were received and of those one was unanimously selected. That young farmer will be recognized at our annual meeting and a modest financial award and certificate of recognition will be presented. For next year the Commission would like to form a committee from among our parciantes that would take the lead and solicit nominees and select one for consideration to be honored and recognized at our annual meeting. If you would be interested in serving on this committee, please inform any one of our commissioners on or before our meeting on December 3rd.

Proposed Infrastructure Project

After reviewing the maintenance costs incurred with the operation of our acequia over the last 5 years it has become apparent that the area syphoning off the majority of acequia operation funds is in Los Luceros in what has historically been known as the dairy area. This location starts at the Louie and Armando Sanchez farms and runs north through Private drive 1037A and 1037B to the Arroyo del Pueblo. Every year heavy equipment is contracted to excavate and tamp down the west side bordo of the acequia to plug holes created by water rodents. This area of the acequia is vulnerable to rodents that tunnel through the bordo and create water leaks that affect parciantes that reside on the west side of the acequia.

Last year our acequia received a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the New Mexico Acequia Association. Grant funds were unutilized to create an Engineering Development Proposal. The Engineering Proposal was completed by Sierra Engineering Solutions LLC. and it provided the framework by which to apply for a larger engineering grant which we received from the Interstate Stream Commission. With these funds our acequia will have an engineered project that can be used to apply for up to \$250,000 from the Interstate Stream Commission Acequia Bureau. The scope of work for this project is identified as constructing a reinforced concrete retaining wall to support the west channel bank through an elevated section of the Acequia de Alcalde upstream and downstream of the existing Private Drive 1037A and 1037B bridge crossings. A reinforced concrete retaining wall properly supported on a reinforced concrete

foundation is recommended to resist the overturning movement of the saturated acequia during flood events and to prevent rodent tunneling.

Funding Received

The Acequia de Alcalde applied for and was awarded funds from several sources in 2023. Capital Outlay funds in the amount of \$110,000 were awarded through the efforts of Senator Leo Jaramillo and Rep. Joseph Sanchez. This amount coupled with \$60,000 awarded from the 2022 legislative session through the efforts of former Rep. Roger Montoya will go towards the concrete retaining wall project in Los Luceros. Commissioners also applied for and received two planning/engineering grants that will assist our acequia in completing the engineering plan for the concrete retaining wall. This will allow our acequia to have a shovel ready proposal that is required when applying for infrastructure funds. The New Mexico Acequia Association awarded our acequia \$10,000 and the Interstate Stream Commission awarded our acequia \$26,000 towards engineering costs. Our commission intends to apply for a \$250,000 grant from the ACDIF program administered by the Interstate Stream Commission Acequia Bureau. If we are successful in acquiring this grant it will provide \$250,000 that can be applied towards the concrete retaining wall project. ACDIF will also pay for any additional engineering costs. This will supplement the \$170,000 already acquired through legislative funds and the engineering grants for a total of \$456,000. We also intend to submit a request for Capital Outlay Funds during the 2024 legislative session.

Las Nueve Acequias Regional Association

The Acequia de Alcalde is one of nine acequias that make up Las Nueve Acequias en el Rio Grande and our acequia is represented by commissioner Alfredo Montoya who currently serves as President of the Association. Las Nueve has embarked on an ambitious quest to rehabilitate all of the seven presas that serve all nine acequias. Our presas were constructed forty years ago and are in dire need of repair. Some of the acequias are plagued by major silting on the river while others are in need of headgate and sluiceway overhaul, inlet trash rack replacement, repair of concrete cracks, and other major repairs. Las Nueve was fortunate to have received \$258,000 for the first phase of the engineering which was completed this past summer and an additional \$250,000 in 2023 to complete the work. All engineering should be complete by January 2024. Las Nueve will then lobby for federal funds to complete the work. It will be planned in phases because of the high cost of the project.