

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

Resolution No. 2011-47

**A Resolution Providing for In-Kind and Direct Assistance to Santa Fe County Acequias
and Community Ditch Associations**

WHEREAS, acequias and community ditch associations are the historic and traditional irrigation systems in many rural communities of Santa Fe County ("the County"), and have, for centuries, provided the life blood of water to sustain and nourish communities;

WHEREAS, the County has many traditional acequia-based communities and pueblos that utilize ancient acequia systems and whose cultures and heritage are intrinsically tied to agriculture;

WHEREAS, water provided by acequias is a vital, essential and cherished natural and cultural resource that must be protected for future generations;

WHEREAS, the County is experiencing increased urbanization and development that is contributing to the loss of our communities agricultural heritage and threatens the continued viability of acequias and community ditch associations;

WHEREAS, fewer land owners are able to keep their lands in agricultural production due to social and economic factors including advanced age, other job commitments, and the migration of younger generations out of rural communities;

WHEREAS, the intrinsic value of the acequias also includes an educational value, whereby wisdom is imparted from generation to generation;

WHEREAS, acequias provide one of the oldest models for sustaining democratic values;

WHEREAS, the ability of communities to grow and distribute their own food supply for local food security is becoming more and more critical as energy costs rise and food distribution becomes more and more centralized;

WHEREAS, maintaining a local, small farming and ranching economy is essential to the health and economic well-being of our county residents;

WHEREAS, there is a critical need in Santa Fe County to protect our communities agricultural traditions and heritage;

WHEREAS, acequias and community ditch associations are specifically recognized by New Mexico statutes, NMSA 1978, Section 73-2-28 (1965) as political subdivisions of the State

of New Mexico, with the power and authority described in NMSA 1978, Sections 73-2-1 through 73-2-64;

WHEREAS, the State or local public body in New Mexico including a county government, may, consistent with Article IX Section 14 of the New Mexico Constitution, provide direct support to another local public body or a political subdivision without the requirement that it receive equal value in return;

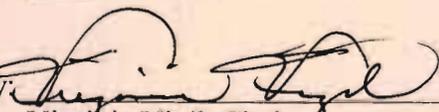
WHEREAS, it is for this reason that the State or any state or local public entity including county governments may lawfully provide support to an acequia and community ditch association; and

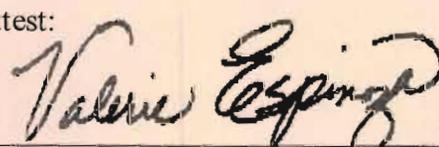
WHEREAS, the County has historically aided acequias and community ditch associations within the County with direct aid and in-kind support and desires to continue providing support consistent with the terms of this resolution.

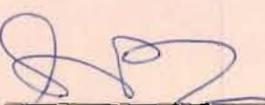
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County resolves and finds as follows:

- The County will attempt to provide acequia and community ditch associations with support to keep County agricultural lands in production as has historically been provided by Santa Fe County in the past, so long as any such assistance is done in accordance with law.
- The County will continue to work in cooperation with acequia and community ditch associations in the County and the appropriate County departments to attempt to assist acequias and community ditch associations with support as has historically been provided by Santa Fe County in the past, primarily during the annual irrigation season.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

By: 
Virginia Vigil, Chair

Attest: 
Valerie Espinoza, County Clerk

Approved as to form:

Stephen C. Ross, County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
PAGES: 2

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 30TH Day Of March, 2011 at 10:03:43
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1630966
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

2

Witness My Hand And Seal Of
Deputy  Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe

SFC CLERK RECORDED 03/30/2011