



Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association

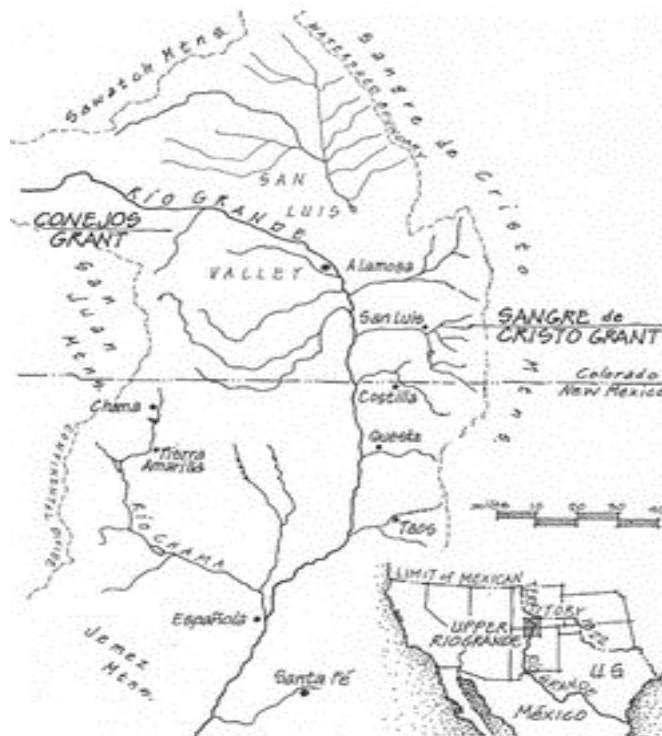
The Parciante

Southern Colorado's Only Acequia Newsletter

PO Box 721 San Luis,
CO 81152

The Mission of the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association

The mission of the Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association is to preserve acequias in Costilla, Conejos, Huerfano and Las Animas counties as the core social, political and economic institution of their watersheds, and to protect the water rights and unique governance structures that will ensure the viability of the acequia system and the rich ecology, heritage and food production it supports for generations to come.



Become an SdCAA Member

The Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association is beginning a member drive, each acequia will have an opportunity to appoint one member who will represent their acequia. Members will be helping to guide the association as it works to fulfill its mission to protect and preserve the viability of the acequia system and

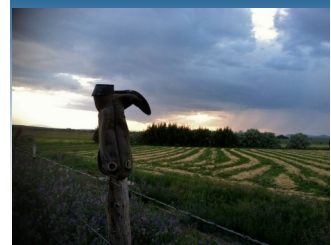
the rich ecology, heritage and food production that are a kin to acequia success.

Duties and responsibilities include:

- ◇ electing the next years board members (as seats become available). In keeping with tradition, there will be one

acequia—one vote.

- ◇ Helping to build membership to ensure all of Colorado's Acequias are recognized and supported.
- ◇ Volunteer for SdCAA events when possible!



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The Parciante SdCAA Programs

Legal and Technical Assistance Program

Water law in Colorado is complex and there are circumstances under which an irrigator can lose their water rights or be adversely impacted by a change of use within the watershed. To a small-scale farmer, water is wealth – the means by which you support your family and the means by which you participate in your community.

However, the process through which a farmer must go to defend his water rights, either in an abandonment challenge or as an intervener in a change of use proceedings, can be costly and time consuming, requiring technical and legal expertise beyond what an individual farmer can afford.

Our culture is one in which knowledge is shared orally, from generation to generation. While this strong oral tradition has meant that acequia knowledge and sustainable farming practices have been passed down for nine and ten generations, the

oral tradition has also been a hindrance in the legal and administrative world of Colorado water. Some acequias do not have written bylaws and often lack the diversion records necessary for proof of historic use in water court.

Another problem facing acequias is the challenge of governance. Most agricultural ditches in Colorado are incorporated companies with recorded bylaws and leadership structures. One goal of this program is to support acequia governance through empowerment of its members and strengthened internal controls. Thus far, we have worked to draft model bylaws which can be adopted by acequia ditches and we are currently working to develop a governance handbook for Colorado acequias.



Please see <http://www.colorado.edu/law/acequia-assistance-project> for a description of our partnership with Colorado Open Lands and the University of Colorado on this program.

For more information contact our SdCAA , Legal Assistance Liaison, Eugene Jacquez and download an application at www.coloradoacequias.org

**Ancient Traditions
Keep
Acequia
Waters
Flowing**



Congreso de Acequias

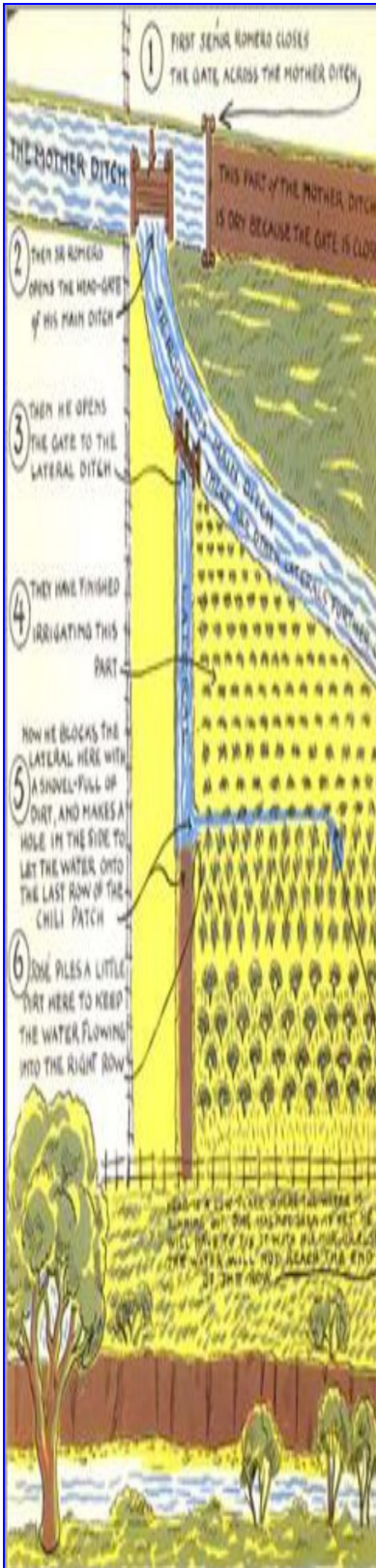
Acequias are unique and longstanding cultural and legal institutions in Colorado. Spanish and Mexican farmers and ranchers who settled here long before Colorado became a state created these systems for irrigation and water sharing that ensure sustainable use of water, and create important community bonds.

The Congreso de Acequias is an event that brings acequia Irrigators together to share not only concerns and issues, but share knowledge, heritage, and community!

The Congreso de Acequias is held each year in October, stay tuned for the date of the 2017 event!



Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association



The Board

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- Andy Manzanares 719-588-7607
- Junita Martinez 719-588-0605
- Charlie Maestas 719-672-3949
- Norman Maestas 719-672-3933
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- Bea Ferrigno 719-580-7378
- Dave Marquez 719-672-0334



Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association

Membership – Join today!

The Member Delegation form that is attached to this packet is your voice!

Please fill out and return to us by May 1, 2017

We are looking forward to receiving your Membership, so that we can identify and recognize everyone at our annual meeting!

For more information contact anyone of our Board Members!