



LA VOZ

Spring Edition

March 19, 2024

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community Members,

As the spring begins to thaw the remnants of winter, I am filled with a renewed sense of hope and purpose for the work we do. It is a pleasure to connect with you through this edition of our newsletter, a medium that allows us to share our progress, challenges, and aspirations.

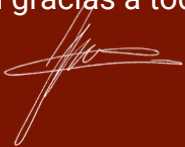
At the heart of our mission lies a commitment to preserving and nurturing the acequias of Atrisco as the conduits that carry the history, values, and traditions of the land. Acequias, as ancient irrigation ditches, not only sustain the agricultural heritage of our community but also serve as symbols of resilience and interconnectedness. With every drop of water, we are reminded of our responsibility to be good stewards of the land and water for the well-being of the next 7 generations. Over the past few months, our dedicated team has been actively engaged in various initiatives, programming, and collaborations that are helping us to move our vision forward.

In CESOSS, we believe that by working with community members and fostering partnerships, we can pave the way for a more just and sustainable future. Therefore, I am thrilled to announce the launch of our latest partnership with Valle Vista Elementary School's Acequia Outdoor Classroom, a multiorganizational effort that includes the support of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, the Duranes Acequia Association, and other community-based organizations. This collaboration seeks to ensure the continuance of acequia and water-sharing cultures by engaging our younger generation in acequia education.

As we embrace the spirit of renewal that comes with spring, let us recommit ourselves to the pursuit of environmental justice and collective community empowerment. Together, we can create a world where every individual has access to clean water and land. Atrisco, as an ancient community, possesses the teaching and lessons from the past so we can adapt to the challenges of the present, and prepare us for the future. We just need to embrace the history, values, and wisdom of our community place. To confront these obstacles head-on, let us draw strength from the resilience of our ancestors and the solidarity of our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to all our supporters, board members, and partners who have stood by us in our mission. Your unwavering dedication inspires us to push boundaries and strive for excellence in everything we do.

Mil gracias a todos,



Jorge Garcia, Executive Director



DON LORENZO CANDELARIA



IN LOVING MEMORY OF DON LORENZO CANDELARIA

This Spring issue of La Voz is dedicated to Lorenzo Candelaria in order to honor the life and legacy of a cherished member of our acequia community. Don Lorenzo was not merely a member but a pillar of strength, a beacon of wisdom, and a source of inspiration to us all. His passing leaves a void that cannot be easily filled, but his memory will forever remain etched in our hearts and minds.

Don Lorenzo embodied the true spirit of community. Whether it was tending to the land, sharing stories of generations past, or teaching how to steward and care for our Mother Earth. He exemplified the values of compassion, generosity, and resilience that define our community.

His dedication to preserving the traditions and principles of acequias was unparalleled. Through his tireless efforts and unwavering commitment, he ensured the continuity of our cultural heritage for future generations to cherish and uphold.

Though he may no longer walk among us, his spirit will forever linger in the gentle flow of water through the acequia, in the buds the bloom this season and thereafter, and in the warmth of the sun.

Let us honor Don Lorenzo's memory by continuing the work he so passionately pursued and by embodying the values of unity, wisdom, and stewardship that defined his life.

May our blackberries be a bit sweeter this year.

With heartfelt condolences,
CESOSS



SAVE THE DATE UPCOMING ACEQUIA WALK & TALK



CESOSS is excited to bring the Acequia Walk & Talk series back to the community. We invite the community and larger public to join us in an educational morning spent sharing stories/issues related to the acequias and our community, while we take a walk along one of the Atrisco acequias. Local community members connected to acequia and agricultural traditions are invited to lead the talk and the walk. Not only will we learn about the powerful history of the Atrisco community, but we'll also be improving our overall health. Join us!

Pajarito Acequia

May 18, 2024

9:00-11:00

Atrisco Acequia

June 15, 2024

9:00-11:00

Arenal Acequia

July 20, 2024

9:00-11:00

Armijo Acequia

August 17, 2024

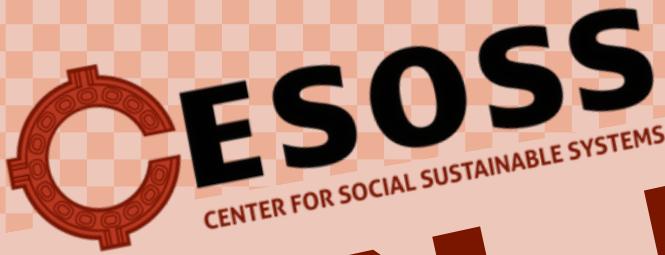
9:00-11:00

Los Padillas Acequia

September 21, 2024

9:00-11:00





5K

FUN RUN



TO REGISTER EMAIL
INFO@CESOSS.ORG OR
SCAN THE QR CODE



RUN FOR OUR INTERNS

Sun. April 14th, 2024 | 10am-2pm
Sanchez Farms 1180 Arenal Rd SW

\$30 REGISTRATION FEE IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED
\$120 FLAT RATE FEE FOR GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS!



Atrisco Water and Social Research Initiative

We are delighted to announce that with the support and guidance of our board members, Dr. Rip Anderson and Marcia Fernandez, CESOSS is planning and preparing the Atrisco Water and Social Research Initiative, an effort that is intended to organize an intergenerational and intercultural collaboration to create a community-based research initiative to collect, analyze, and report on data that is important to the Acequia community. Our research will focus on water and social systems that affect the well-being of the ecosystems in the Middle Rio Grande, including human life, animal life, migratory species, and natural life trees and medicinal herbs in the community of Atrisco.

Our Theory of Change

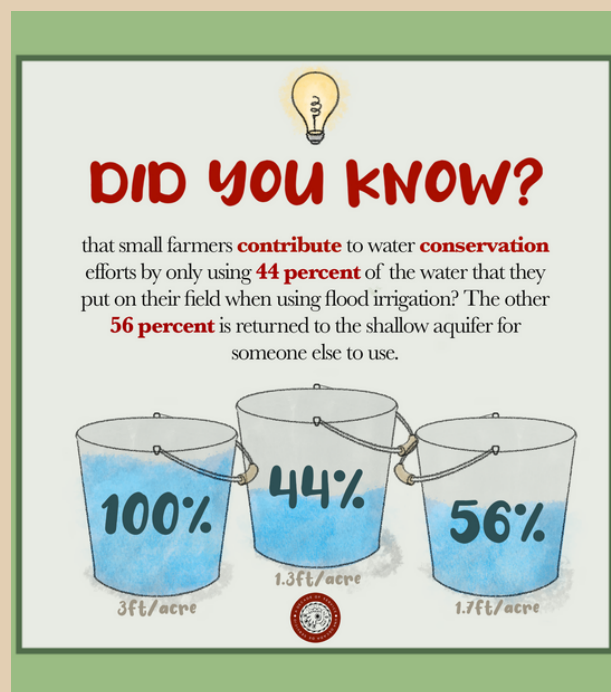
If the people of Atrisco are knowledgeable about the intersection of land, water, and policy, and IF the people from Atrisco are in the position to identify, protect, and preserve their water rights, THEN our community will be able to maintain its history, culture, traditions, acequia governing systems, and land and water as its economic and cultural, and spiritual assets.

DID YOU KNOW?

That a farmer uses only 44% of the water that they puts on their field when using flood irrigation? The other 56% is returned to the shallow aquifer for someone else to use.

Assuming that the farmer applies his full allotment of 3 feet per acre (977,552.7 gallons), then he uses only 1.3 acre feet (423,605 gallons per acre) and gives back to the shallow aquifer 1.7-acre feet (553,945 gallons) for someone else to use through aquifer recharge. These values are from four technically reviewed studies from New Mexico State University. Three of the studies were in northern New Mexico (Rio Hondo Valley, Rio Hondo, El Rito, and Alcalde by Karine K. Gutierrez Jurado et al) and one was in the southern Rio Grande Valley (Mesilla Valley by Kevin Bayko et al).

Analysis by Dr. Anderson



Voces de South Valley

With Janelle Astorga District 1 School Board Representative

In this interview Janelle Astorga is not speaking on behalf of the Albuquerque Public School Board, but as an individual representing the South Valley.

Janelle, where are you from?

I am the San Jose Neighborhood.

Considering some of the SV history like the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo giving the SV land and water access, and a long history of farming and Chicano culture, what does it mean to you to represent that space in Education?



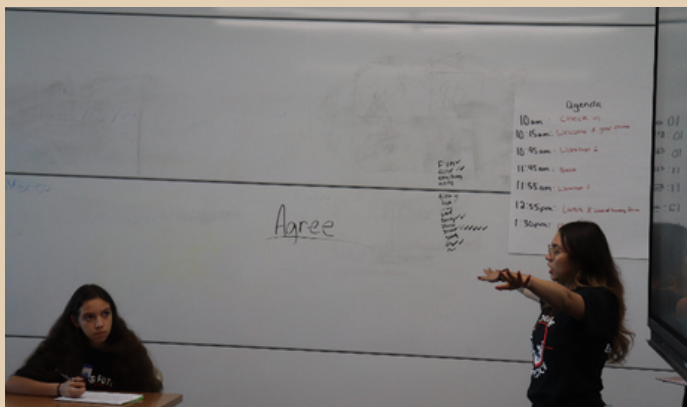
I come from a place of deep understanding about land grants because I am from the valley. I inherently understand the culture. I instinctually do what I believe is best for the community like pushing bi-lingual education being a Spanish-speaking South Valley citizen. Having students who can speak multiple languages pushes their success forward, with things like the bi-lingual seal. It allows students to have immense pride in where they come from. Another part of this is bringing in programs to the South Valley. Currently, I am focusing on Union Trade Programs like welding, carpentry, and plumbing. The reason I want to partner with the unions specifically is because they offer apprenticeship programs to students who are still in high school. It creates job opportunities for students to start right away. Right now, the students are bussed to other areas of the city but I want to bring it into the Valley. This is why I am excited to say I am partnering with Rio Grande High School and Atrisco Heritage Academy to bring in the plumbers and pipe fitters unions mobile unit to the schools.

Voces de South Valley

With Janelle Astorga District 1 School Board Representative

The language that I can find publicly is whimsy-washy about the school board's ability to set policy. I understand you guys work with a policy analyst, Jessica Martinez, and a government affairs team who create policy that gets presented to the APS school board. The school boards power lies in the ability to say yes, no, or it needs a change. In accordance with the Student Outcomes Focused Governance a.k.a “the goals and guardrails”. Which is a framework for the district to have a vision for what the community wants the students to know by the time they graduate (the goals) while honoring the values of our community which are the “guardrails.” What can you as a school board member who does not actively get to create policy continue to do for our South Valley community?

As a school board member who sits on the policy committee, what I can do for the South Valley is ensure that the policies that are brought forward to me fall in line with not only the goals and guardrails for APS but are in line with my community values. Including land and water access and bi-lingual education. It is very difficult to put aside my advocacy hat when I am in my board member role, but I am always open to communicating and relationship building with the students and families in the South Valley.



This is the Southwest Organizing Projects Community Spotlight for La Voz by: Alheli Caton-Garcia



Noticias from MRGCD

Water managers at the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District are preparing for the upcoming irrigation season in the middle valley, which will commence earlier than last year. **Beginning Monday, February 26, MRGCD water managers will start charging, flushing and ensuring proper operation of canals.**

The start of the irrigation season varies due to several factors, including water availability, weather and soil conditions, Pueblo and water user needs and the Rio Grande Compact. Irrigation deliveries will begin on a limited basis after all main canals have been charged, which likely will be around mid-March.

Some helpful links from MRGCD:

[February 2024 Water Outlook Report – Video](#)

[El Vado Dam Update – Video](#)

The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) operates, maintains and manages irrigation, drainage and river flood control in the middle valley. Serving approximately **11,000 irrigators, six pueblos and 100,000 parcels of land throughout the Middle Rio Grande**, the MRGCD is essential to maintaining the facilities required to upkeep the agricultural production in this area. The MRGCD owns and manages 30,000 acres of bosque, and has helped to establish Tingley Beach, the Rio Grande Nature Center, Los Lunas Bosque Open Space, Corrales Bosque Preserve, Escondido Lake State Park, among several more and all of which are open for recreational use by the public. The MRGCD also works in cooperation with other local, state, and federal agencies to protect the environment, wildlife, and endangered species.

To learn more about the MRGCD visit www.mrgcd.com.

Our Partners & Funders

Our partners and funders make CESOSS work possible. May we continue to work towards a world where land, water, and our Mother Earth is honored.
La Lucha Continúa.





Our **mission** is to develop sustainable community-based and culturally centered events, programs, and initiatives to empower and preserve the traditions and science-based practices of local and Indigenous communities, related to land and water.

Our **vision** is to create sustainable, healthy, and thriving communities where traditions connected to land and water are protected, preserved, and passed onto future generations.

WAYS TO SUPPORT

Donate via Check

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CESOSS
211 10th St. SW, Albuquerque, NM

Donate Online

[Using this link.](#)

