

Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Division Update

Presentation to Interim Land Grant Committee
of the New Mexico Legislature

July 16, 2026



Division Statute

8-5-18. Guadalupe Hidalgo treaty division.

A. The "Guadalupe Hidalgo treaty division" is created within the office of the attorney general. The division shall review, oversee and address concerns relating to the provisions of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo that have not been implemented or observed in the spirit of Article 2, Section 5 of the constitution of New Mexico and Section 47-1-25 NMSA 1978.

B. The division shall consist of such personnel and have such duties as the attorney general shall designate.

C. The attorney general shall report the findings and recommendations of the division to the legislature annually.

New Mexico Bill of Rights

“The rights, privileges and immunities, civil, political and religious guaranteed to the people of New Mexico by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo shall be preserved inviolate.”

Art. 2 Sec. 5.

Broad interpretation of statute

The Treaty Division interprets its statutory charge broadly to include:

- monitoring legal and policy issues that involve Land Grant and Acequia traditional communities;
- providing legal support, policy development and outreach to these communities; and
- working with statewide Land Grant and Acequia leadership and local elected officials on short-term and long-term goals.



Law and Policy

The Treaty Division is charged with overseeing the implementation of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo – this entails developing and implementing legal and policy solutions to centuries-old problems.

Direct Representation

Land Grants and Acequias have historically lacked state-supported resources to protect common rights including land and water rights.

Advocacy

Land Grants and Acequias require strong advocacy within state government to ensure local, state and federal agencies recognize existing legal protections.

Policy

Direct legal support and advocacy uniquely situate the Division to contribute to efforts of advocates to achieve long-term policy solutions.

Stakeholder Engagement

Through trainings, presentations, and other outreach efforts, the Division contributes to raising awareness of Land Grant and Acequia issues.

Court Proceedings



Direct Representation of Land Grants

Frances Gonzales et al., v. Board of
Commissioners of Torrance County, **Manzano
Land Grant**, et. al.

D-722-CV-2024-00092

Sandoval County Assessor v. Board of
Trustees of the **San Antonio de las Huertas
Land Grant-Merced**

D-1329-CV-2025-01233

Ciruela & Newville Partnership v. **San
Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grant
Merced**, et. al.

D-1329-CV-2025-02382

Richard J D'Orso, et al., v. Abraham Aragon,
Chilili Land Grant, et al.

D-202-CV-2025-02985

Direct Representation of Acequias

River Bend Ranch, LLC v. **Acequia de
Tecolotito** (Water Region 3)

D-412-CV-2023-00097

Rudy Gonzales v. **La Joya Acequia of Socorro
County**, et. al.

D-725-CV-2025-00197

Appeals

**Ciruela & Newville v. San Antonio de Las
Huertas Land Grant Merced**

A-1-CA-43490

**San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant-
Merced v. Linda P. Gallegos**

A-1-CA-43620

Amicus Briefs

R Valerio, et al., v. C De La Serna Land Grant

A-1-CA-42895

Valdez v. Juan Bautista Valdez Land Grant

S-1-SC-41364

Administrative Proceedings

San Antonio de las Huertas 2026 Property Tax
Protest

Representation and Advocacy



San Joaquin del Rio Chama
Land Grant Merced

MOU with the Santa Fe National
Forest



San Joaquin del Rio Chama
Land Grant Merced

Irrigation Project in Canon de
Chama



Acequia Abajo la Loma

Infrastructure Project
Accountability

Policy Initiatives

- Joint Memorial 1 (2018)
- House Memorial 24 (2026)
- Land Grant and Acequia Leadership Conference (3rd Annual)
- Sandoval Seven Monthly Meetings



Outreach

- Water Rights Adjudication Training (NMLGC/NMAC)
- Closed Basin Training (NMAC)
- UNM SOL Presentations
- Treaty and Acequia Day



Questions

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