



History, Present and Future of Native American Water Use

Presentation to the Water and Natural Resources Legislative Committee

July 25, 2022

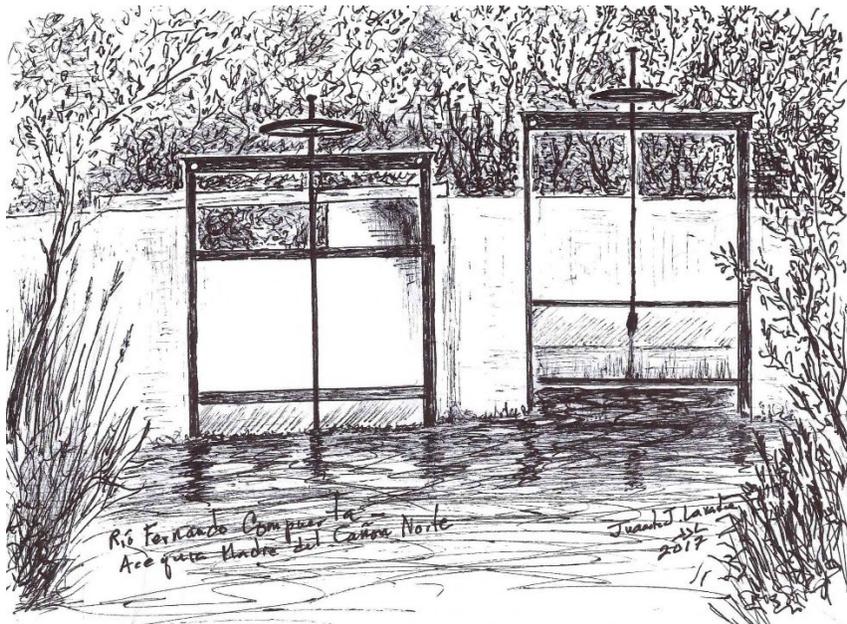


Taos Valley Acequia Association was established as a non-profit corporation in 1989 for charitable, educational and scientific purposes in order to serve the needs of acequias in the Taos Valley. TVAA Articles of Incorporation list among its purposes:

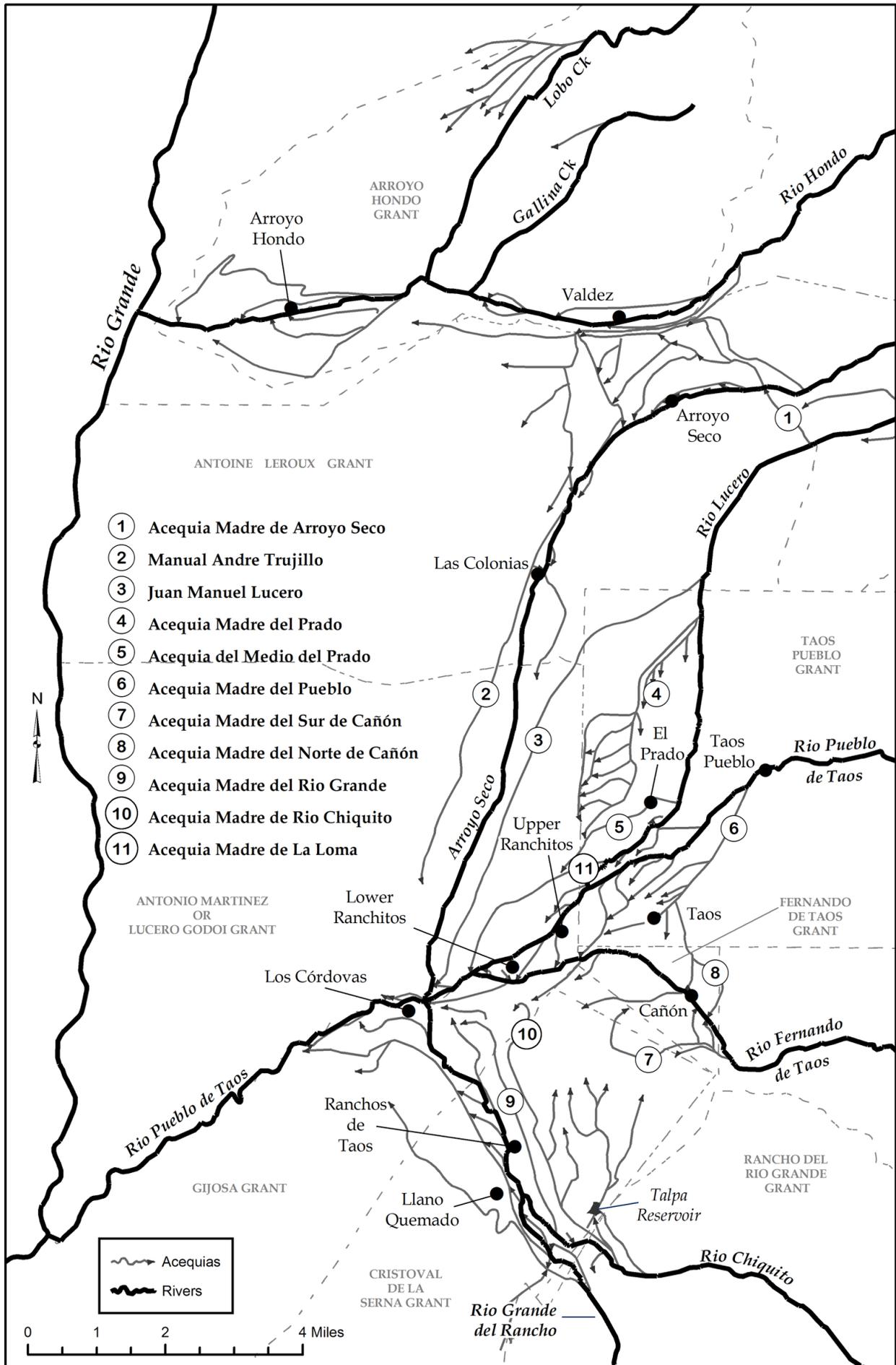
To educate, inform, advise and assist acequias and their members about their water rights, the laws and regulations pertaining to their water rights, and historical uses, agreements, and customs and water uses.

55 Acequias on 6 Streams within the Taos Valley:

- Rio Hondo - 7 acequias irrigating 1680 acres
- Rio Lucero - 10 acequias irrigating 2807 acres
- Rio Fernando - 6 acequias irrigating 852 acres
- Rio Pueblo - 14 acequias irrigating 1422 acres
- Rio Chiquito - 4 acequias irrigating 1171 acres
- Rio Grande del Rancho - 14 acequias irrigating 2223 acres



- **10,000 parciantes (growing daily)**
- **10,000 acres of land being irrigated annually.**



Taos Valley Acequia Association

Settlement Timeline

- 1988 - Taos Valley Acequia Association held its first election of officers of the TVAA
- 1989 – 2006 held negotiating meetings with Taos Settling parties – TVAA, Taos Pueblo, Mutual Domestics, Town of Taos, El Prado Mutual Domestic Water Assoc., State of NM and United States.
- 2006 – Reached a Settlement Agreement with Taos Settling parties, a ceremonial signing was held at Taos Pueblo.
 - 2012 – Settlement Agreement was conformed between the Congressional Act and local Settling parties
 - 2016 – Settlement was published in the Federal Register
 - 2017 -2022 Implementation of the Settlement Agreement
- 2017 – 2022 Bilateral meetings between TVAA and Taos Pueblo on water sharing

Taos Valley Water Rights Settlement

Mutual Benefits Projects

- Arroyo Seco Arriba Project

Cost share:

Fed. \$6,103,470 State: \$2,034,490 Total: \$8,137,960

- Acequia Madre del Prado Stream Gage

Cost share:

Fed. \$8,193 State: \$2,731 Total: \$10,924

- Town of Taos 5 new groundwater wells

Cost share:

Fed. \$12,616,584 State: \$4,205,528 Total: \$16,822,112

- El Prado Water and Sanitation District 2 new groundwater wells

Cost share:

Fed. \$11,658,767 State: \$3,886,255 Total: \$15,545,022

- 5 new mitigation wells to offset Taos Valley tributary depletion

Cost share:

Rio Grande del Rancho

Fed. \$1,321,344 State: \$440,448 Total: \$1,761,792

Rio Chiquito

Fed. \$884,489 State: \$294,830 Total: \$1,179,319

Rio Fernando

Fed. \$949,163 State: \$316,388 Total: \$1,265,551

Rio Lucero/Rio Pueblo

Fed. \$1,459,655 State: \$486,552 Total: \$1,946,207

Rio Hondo

Fed. \$998,335 State: \$332,778 Total: \$1,331,113

Taos Valley Water Rights Settlement

Article 8

Water Sharing

Rio Lucero: The waters of the Rio Lucero shall be shared consistent with the 1893 Rio Lucero decree as modified by Article 8.

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Taos Pueblo | 46.7% |
| El Prado | 35% |
| Arroyo Seco Arriba | 18.3% |
| Arroyo Seco Abajo | surplus flows |

Rio Pueblo: In times of shortage, the waters of the Rio Pueblo shall be divided consistent with the 1893 sharing agreement as modified by this Article 8, entitling the Pueblo to 4 ½ days of the surface flows and Acequia Madre del Pueblo 2 ½ days of surface flows.