



Socorro SWCD

www.socorrowswcd.org

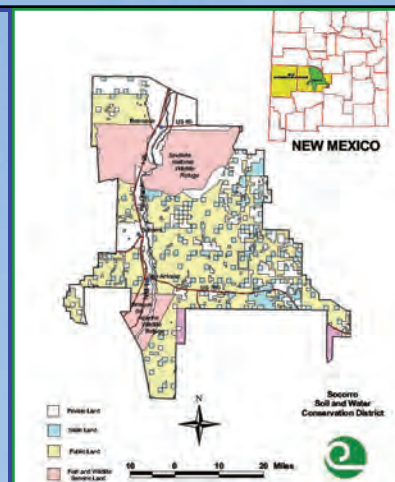
Fall 2017 Newsletter



Its Time To Reduce Your Water Use

If you have an automated drip/sprinkler system, it's that time of year to start cutting back on your watering schedule. Plants naturally begin to use less water in the fall, so by cutting back the water you are mimicking the natural cycle. Its also a good time to consider purchasing a timer with dual program options, allowing you to set program A for the summer and program B for the winter. Need help? Call our office and we will help you! Free! We will even help you install a new timer!

If you are not using an automated timer, you are wasting water and neglecting your plants. An even, timed watering schedule is the best way to water, and the SWCD will cover up to 75% of the cost! You can't lose!



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Farm & Ranch Improvement Time!

We have cost share funding available to help you with your water saving upgrades! Solar well conversions, irrigation pipelines, and brush thinning are just a few of the programs we can help you with. When needed, we survey your property and do all necessary design work, **FREE OF CHARGE**. Then we split the cost of the project with you!

For details, contact us now at 838-0078 or go to

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Update on the San Augustin Plains Well Application:

(this information is excerpted from the El Defensor Chieftain)

The Office of the State Engineer has called a public meeting for tonight at 6 p.m. in Macey Center's main auditorium.

According to the State Engineer's website, the meeting has been called to "discuss the Corrected Application filed by Augustin Plains Ranch, LLC on April 28, 2016, for a permit to appropriate groundwater in the Rio Grande Underground Water Basin in the State of New Mexico..." and "to provide information on the administrative hearing process, alternate dispute resolution, and to provide APR an opportunity, if amenable, to a description and summary of its application, and for protestants to succinctly state their positions other than those stated in the respective protest letters."

The project, first applied for in 2007 and subsequently revised twice, would involve 37 wells drilled to a depth of 2,000 feet to pump aquifer water and sell it in bulk via a north-south pipeline to the Albuquerque metropolitan area.

The amount of water pumped from the aquifer is expected to be 54,000 acre-feet, or 17 billion gallons of water, per year.

The OSE's scheduling order explains the application process and legal procedures through 2019.

According to the document, "APR proposed that any impairment of existing rights in the Gila-San Francisco Basin and the Rio Grande Basin, or any other basin, that would be caused by the applied for pumping, will be offset or replaced. APR intends to construct enhanced recharge facilities which will collect runoff that would otherwise evaporate in the Plains of Augustin [sic], recharge water that will augment the groundwater in the aquifer and offset the amount of water diverted from the APR wells."

Issues that the OSE will consider include:

- Availability of water to satisfy the application.
- Whether granting the application would result in impairment or detriment to existing water rights.
- Whether granting the application would be detrimental to the public welfare of the state.
- Whether granting the application would be contrary to the conservation of water within the state.

The application was filed on December 23, 2014, and re-filed with corrections April 28, 2016.

The application states that "the applicant intends to provide water for municipal purposes in one or more of the following municipalities." Those municipalities include Magdalena, Socorro, Belen, Los Lunas, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, and Rio Rancho.

Opponents say the project would devastate the economy of the local area.

As reported previously in the Chieftain, about 600 protests have been filed with the State Engineer since APR's initial application was filed in 2007. However, 234 Protestants failed to pay a \$25 fee and their protests have been dismissed. Another 108 didn't fill out the forms correctly and they will not be heard either, unless they provided required information by yesterday.

The New Mexico Environmental Law Center is representing 85 of those protesting, including three landowner associations. In addition, five individuals formed a group represented by the Domenici Law Firm.

A hearing deciding the outcome of the application is scheduled for June 17, 2019.

Important Upcoming Dates

November

13 - Board Meeting @ 12 noon
23 & 24 - Closed for Thanksgiving

December

8 - Last day for cost share certifications this year
11 - Board Meeting @ 12 noon
25 - Closed for Christmas

January

8 - Board Meeting @ 12 noon
15 - Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day