

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACEQUIAS GATHER ON WATER AND CLIMATE CRISIS

(Santa Fe, NM). – New Mexico’s acequias will gather on Saturday for the annual Congreso de las Acequias, a statewide meeting of acequias. “Acequia leaders are meeting to make plans about how the water crisis is affecting our collective future,” said Paula Garcia, Executive Director of the New Mexico Acequia Association. “We rely on snowpack for our irrigation and climate change is hurting us in ways we’ve never seen before.”

With a dry winter forecast, water scarcity is at the forefront of discussions. The theme of the gathering is *Corazón y Querencia: Acequias and the Way Forward (Querencia means “love of place”)*. “We are grounding our work in core values of respect and sharing,” said Garcia. “But we are also pushing our policymakers for equitable and sustainable water and agricultural policy and investment in rural communities.”

The event will feature appearances from key policymakers including Senator Ben Ray Lujan, Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez, and Representative Melanie Stansbury. In addition, renowned local artists will perform including musician Lara Manzanares and poet Olivia Romo, as well as a virtual performance by Teatro de las Acequias, which will explore the topic of land loss in northern New Mexico.

Leaders will vote on declarations and resolutions including support for land grants, water equity, position statements on state water policy, and state funding priorities. Part of the gathering is to adopt a roadmap for the year ahead, including plans for supporting water sharing agreements, defending acequia water rights, and protecting water quality.

WHAT: Congreso de las Acequias
WHEN: Saturday, December 4, 2021, 10:00am – 1:30pm
WHERE: Online via Zoom. This is a covid-safe, online gathering.

Registration FREE and open to the public. To register go to www.lasacequias.org/congreso-registration/. For more information, contact Emily Arasim at emily@lasacequias.org or call 505-995-9644.

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New Mexico Acequia Association

www.lasacequias.org

The mission of the New Mexico Acequia Association is to protect water and our acequias, grow healthy food for our families and communities, and to honor our cultural heritage.