Agenda & Workshop Details

CONGRESO DE LAS ACEQUIAS 2022

TIERRA QUERIDA: BELOVED LAND

DECEMBER 9 & 10TH, 2022

AT HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY STUDENT CENTER, LAS VEGAS, NM





Thank you for choosing to join us for Congreso de las Acequias 2022.

The annual Congreso de las Acequias is a vibrant gathering of acequias and our supporters from throughout New Mexico and Southern Colorado. We gather to celebrate our culture, share knowledge, and plan for our collective future. This two day gathering will include special workshops, as well as our Congreso main event with music, art, teatro, presentations, and the beloved bendición de las aguas.

If you have not yet registered, please do so at:
www.lasacequias.org/congreso/

Or call our office at: (505) 995-9644

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9TH - 10:00-5:00
WORKSHOPS & RECEPTION

Workshop Session 1: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (concurrent sessions)

Regional Acequia Association Roundtable: Why are they important and how do we support them? The intended audience for this session includes past and current acequia leaders who have played a leadership role in their respective regional acequia associations as well as acequia officials who are interested in learning more about the significance and benefits of having a regional acequia association. A panel of local and statewide leaders will discuss their experiences with adjudication, water rights defense, water sharing, and infrastructure planning. They will also offer suggestions about how their role in the community can be supported.

Peones de San Isidro: This session will include current and potential volunteers for the Peones de San Isidro, a mutual aid crew with the purpose of supporting acequias with labor when needed, especially during times of disaster. The peones are a newly established group who have done some work projects within the Hermit's Peak Calf Canyon burn scar where acequias have been ravaged by flooding. This was a good start to learn about how a mutual aid group can be of service. What are some lessons learned and what could be some next steps in supporting acequias in the coming months? Current and potential participants are invited to provide input and make plans for 2023.

Lunch: 12:00-1:30pm

Workshop Session 2: 1:30-3:30pm (concurrent sessions)

Hermits Peak Calf Canyon Fire Recovery Roundtable: This session will have an emphasis on communities that have endured fires and floods. The purpose of the roundtable is for local leaders, elected officials, and agency officials to reflect on progress to date, identify areas of need, and to engage in dialogue around problem solving that will lead to better outcomes for recovery in the entire region. This will include Q&A around the FEMA process for acequias and the HPCC claims process for individuals, businesses, and acequias.

El Agua de Defiende: This session will focus on the acequia movement to protect water as a community resource and to resist the commodification of water. Through interactive discussion, NMAA and NM Legal Aid will offer a framework for how local leaders can assess the impacts of water transfers on their communities. Acequia leaders will be invited to give updates on their efforts to counter the impacts of water transfers in their respective communities.

Workshop Session 3: 3:30-5:00pm (concurrent sessions)

Resolutions Review (for Regional Delegates): This session is for official Congreso delegates to review and vote upon proposed resolutions on policy positions and strategic direction of the New Mexico Acequia Association. Draft resolutions will be developed through the Concilio Policy Committee and a pre-meeting of delegates prior to the Congreso. This session will be for final discussions and for voting on resolutions.

Youth Rising to Protect Water for Future Generations: This is a session dedicated to youth to create a space for lifting up their voices to protect water for future generations. As our communities are facing water scarcity, commodification, and the climate crisis, urgent action is needed to ensure that future generations will have water for their needs. The goal of this session is to inspire youth to advocate for their own future, to provide tools for how to organize, and to learn how to participate in NMAA's policy advocacy.

Reception: 5:00-6:00pm - Music by Chicano Son. Tamales to be served.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10TH - 9:30-1:30
CONGRESO MAIN EVENT

8:00 am - Procesión from Río de las Gallinas with Los Peones de San Isidro

8:30 am - Doors Open and Música

9:30 am - Welcome, Roll Call of Acequias and Bendición de Las Aguas

10:00 am - Remarks from Senator Ben Ray Lujan, Recognition of Dignitaries

10:20 am - Remembrance of the Fires and Floods of 2022

- Diosito Mandanos la Lluvia by Luisa G.

10:30 am - State of the Acequias, Awards and Recognitions

11:00 am - Tragedy of the Commons - Poetry by Olivia Romo

11:10 am - Introduction of NMAA Youth and Apprentices

11:20 am - Music by Lara Manzanares

11:40 am - Teatro de las Acequias

12:00 pm - Lunch, Art Awards

1:30 pm - Closing Remarks

Thank you to our sponsors so far! If you would like to support Congreso as a sponsor - please visit: lasacequias.org/product/sponsorship/

NMDA New Mexico Department of Agriculture

BERNCO Bernalillo County

CESDP Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations

NEW MEXICO FARMERS' MARKETING ASSOCIATION

TROUT UNLIMITED NEW MEXICO COUNCIL

American Friends Service Committee

New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts

QUIVIRA COALITION