

# CONGRESO DE LAS ACEQUIAS 2023

## EL AGUA NO SE VENDE: SE AMA Y SE DEFIENDE

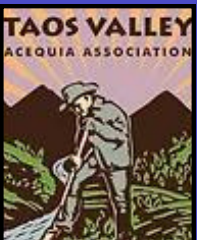


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Thank you for joining us for Congreso de las Acequias 2023, hosted by the New Mexico Acequia Association and the Taos Valley Acequia Association. The annual Congreso de las Acequias is a vibrant gathering of acequias and our supporters from throughout New Mexico and Southern Colorado. We gather to celebrate our culture, share knowledge, and plan for our collective future.

This year, we commemorate the 20 year anniversary of the passage of the 2003 Water Transfer Statute. We honor those who have fought for these water protections, and uplift the next generations who are fighting for resilient, land-based communities.  
¡Que Vivan las Acequias!

[WWW.LASACEQUIAS.ORG/CONGRESO](http://WWW.LASACEQUIAS.ORG/CONGRESO)





# SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

## Teatro de Las Acequias: Ponte trucha o te vuelven boquinete



The Teatro de Las Acequias is a community theater group that presents short "actos" - politically charged and comically infused plays. Its mission is to entertain and teach through popular education acequia values to audiences of all ages. In this years acto, the river animals have a "Junta" to discuss getting their wildfire and drought challenges acted on.

Director: Yolanda Jaramillo

Teatristas: Virgil Trujillo, Maximiño Manzanares, David Manzanares, Dabi García, and guests.

## Los Hermanos Martínez

A family group of New Mexico musicians based in Truchas. The group has been performing new and traditional favorites and local music for many generations. Bandleader and songwriter Jeremías Martínez has many recordings and is currently a lead for the music ministry at the Santuario de Chimayó. His current recording "Encantado" has been voted Number One on various radio stations in New Mexico.



## David and Maximiño Manzanares



David Manzanares (he/him) and Maximiño Manzanares (she/they) are from Abiquiú, New Mexico. They are the son and grandchild of Herman and Eleanor Manzanares, and their family have been parcientes of the Abeyta-Trujillo Acequia for four generations. As small children, their father and uncles played guitar while the family danced and sang the rancheras, corridos, huapangos, boleros and valsés of another time. This early musical influence is a big source of their inspiration.

# PANELISTS

## David Benavides

David has been director of the land and water rights project for New Mexico Legal Aid for 33 years. He received both his B.S. and J.D. from the University of New Mexico. David has advised countless acequia officials on water rights protection methods and governance matters. Additionally, he has assisted land grants in retaining their common lands against various legal threats.

**Don Bustos** is a family farmer from Northern New Mexico, farming land that has been in his family since the Spanish Land Grant of 1598. He was one of the first farmers in New Mexico to receive organic certification. Don was co-director of the American Friends Service Committee's New Mexico farmer training program. He has received numerous awards for his dedication and visionary attitude towards agriculture.

## Aracely "Arcie" Chapa

Arcie is an award winning broadcast journalist and documentary filmmaker. She has over 30 years experience in many facets of broadcast journalism. She is currently the Manager of Multi-Media Services at the UNM Center for Regional Studies and the director of *Acequias: the Legacy Lives On*.

**Connie Maxwell** is an ecological planner and water scientist that works with communities on local and regional levels. At New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute, she founded the Water and Community Collaboration Lab (WCC-Lab), which links communities to the best science to inform decision-making on water and the environment and support transformations towards resilience.

## José A. Rivera

Jose holds a Ph.D. in Social Policy from Brandeis University where he concentrated in community development and social planning. He spent most of his academic career at the UNM teaching in various graduate programs. He has published many academic articles and books, and he is co-editor of the anthology *Water for the People: The Acequia Heritage of New Mexico in a Global Context* with Enrique R. Lamadrid.

# 2023 AWARDS

## Acequia Community of the Year Award

### Taos Valley Acequia Association

The NMAA wishes to recognize the dedication and leadership of the TVAA and local acequias in the valley for their vigilance in protecting acequias from development in their watersheds that are the source of water for the acequias. Taos Valley acequias have stood firm in opposition to continued development and water degradation from the Taos Ski valley expansion and to proposals to dramatically increase trails in areas impacting water and cultural landscapes.



### Rio Chama Acequia Association and other parties to the Ohkay Owingeh Settlement on the Rio Chama

The NMAA wishes to recognize the outstanding work and dedication of the acequia parties to the Ohkay Owingeh Settlement on the Rio Chama including the Rio Chama Acequia Association, La Asociación de las Acequias Norteñas de Rio Arriba, El Rito Acequia Association, Las Tusas, Ojo Caliente, Vallecitos Acequia Association, which includes 79 acequias and community ditches from the confluence of the Rio Chama and Rio Grande to the Colorado border. The decades long claims were recently settled through an inclusive and respectful process with Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo.

## PANELISTS (CONT.)

### Sylvia Rodriguez

Sylvia is a native Taoseña, a commissioner on the Acequia de San Antonio in Valdez and a member of the TVAA board of directors. She is professor emerita of anthropology and former director of the Alfonso A. Ortiz Center for Intercultural Studies at UNM. She currently focuses on the anthropology and politics of water, and collaborates with acequia organizations and researchers around issues of resilience and sustainability.

**Enrique Romero** is Division Director of the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Division and Assistant Attorney General at the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General. Before joining the NMOAG, Enrique was an Assistant County Attorney at Santa Fe County where he advised clients on local government issues. For over eight years, Enrique focused on providing direct legal services to acequias in his capacity as NMAA's Director of Legal Services and as a staff attorney at New Mexico Legal Aid.

### New Mexico Farm Service Agency

NM FSA is here to support farmers, ranchers, and foresters with financial aid, technical expertise, and educational resources. Whether you need help with crop insurance, farm loans, or conservation programs, our experienced team is ready to assist you. Over the last 5 years, New Mexico FSA has distributed over \$508 million in program benefits and loans to New Mexico's agricultural producers. Go to [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) for more information.

### USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

The NRCS works in close partnerships with farmers and ranchers, local and state governments, and other federal agencies to conserve our nations natural resources, by providing conservation planning, financial assistance, and technical assistance. Find your local office under "[Contact Us](#)" on [www.nrcs.usda.gov/nm](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/nm).

### NMDA's Healthy Soil Program

NMDA's Healthy Soil Program offers competitive grants to improve soil health in New Mexico.

Learn more here: <https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/healthy-soil-program.html>

**Acequia Bureau - NM Interstate Stream Commission** administers the Acequia and Community Ditch Infrastructure Fund ("ACDIF") to provide funding for the planning, engineering design or construction of irrigation works of acequias or community ditches. Please contact: [Jonathan.Martinez@ose.nm.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Martinez@ose.nm.gov), (505) 660-5446

### The Office of the State Auditor

The OSA plays a crucial role in ensuring transparency, accountability, and efficient utilization of public resources within a government organization. The OSA provides independent assessments to enhance the overall fiscal effectiveness of government programs and services through meticulous examination and evaluation of financial records, operational procedures, and compliance with regulations. Please contact: [Manuel.Luna@osa.state.nm.us](mailto:Manuel.Luna@osa.state.nm.us), (505) 394-1600



# AGENDA

## Friday, November 17th - Reception & Workshops

- 8:00 - 9:00am:** Registration, Light breakfast, Música
- 9:00 - 9:30am:** Welcome and Las Mañanitas
- 9:30 - 10:15am:** Overview of 2003 Water Transfer and Water Banking Laws
- Panelists: David Benavides, Enrique Romero
- 10:15 - 10:45am:** Break
- 10:45 - 11:30am:** Regional Water Planning: Acequias and Public Welfare
- Panelists: David Benavides, Don Bustos, Connie Maxwell
- 11:30 - 12:15pm:** Acequia Disaster Recovery and Watershed Restoration
- Panelists: Paula Garcia and Matt Smith, High Water Mark, LLC
- 12:15 - 1:30pm:** Lunch and Book Signing with José A. Rivera, *Water for the People*
- 1:30 - 2:30 pm:** Concurrent Breakout Sessions
- ACDIF Program, OSA Workshop, NMDA Healthy Soils, NRCS-FSA Workshop, Youth Session
- 2:30 - 3:00pm:** Networking break
- 3:00 - 4:30pm:** Delegates Meeting
- 5:00 - 6:00pm:** Reception: Los Hermanos Martinez and light food
- 6:00 - 7:30pm:** Acequias: The Legacy Lives On Film

## Saturday, November 18th - Congreso de las Acequias

- 8:00 - 9:00am:** Registration, Light breakfast, Música
- 9:00 - 9:15am:** Welcome and Canción de las Acequias
- 9:15 - 9:45am:** Bendición de las Aguas
- 9:45 - 10:15am:** Roll Call and Introduction of Dignitaries
- 10:15 - 10:30am:** State of the Acequias
- 10:30 - 11:15am:** Acequia Self Determination: 20 Years of Water Transfer Decisions
- Speakers: David Benavides and Sylvia Rodriguez
- 11:15 - 11:30am:** David and Maximino Manzanares
- 11:30 - 12:00pm:** Awards and Recognitions
- 12:00 - 12:30pm:** Teatro Acequero: Ponte trucha o te vuelven boquinete
- 12:30 - 2:00pm:** Lunch, Art Contest Winners, Door Prizes



### Thank you to our Hava sponsors:

Alianza Agricultura Network, River Source, Trout Unlimited, Chamisal y Ojito, Quivira Coalition, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Es Que Market, New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light, Amigos Bravos, Breath of My Heart Birthplace, Acequia del Monte del Rio Chiquito/Talpa, Communities for Clean Water, Sangre de Cristo Acequia Association

## Thank you to the Sponsors of Congreso 2023!



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