

## Report to Congress for Future Water Resources Development (WRRDA 7001) Submission Package

Proposal Name: Project Modification for Abiquiu Dam and Reservoir New Mexico

Submission Date: 08/26/2019

Proposal ID Number: bf42e6bd-4aac-47ea-bcec-15db948f1b63

Purpose of Proposal: This is a Project Modification for Abiquiu Reservoir which is necessary to clarify existing Congressional authorizations to store native Rio Grande system water and San Juan-Chama water in Abiquiu reservoir. Abiquiu Dam was authorized as a flood control facility in northern New Mexico on the Rio Chama in the 1960's. Public Law 97-140 authorized storage of 200,000 acre-feet of San Juan-Chama water to be stored in Abiquiu reservoir in the mid-1980's. Public Law 100-522 further authorized the storage of native Rio Grande system water in lieu of San Juan-Chama water when space is available. This Project Modification provides for modification of the storage from the volume of 200,000 acre-feet to elevation 6230.00 NGVD29 which is within the existing authorized storage elevation and allows for temporary storage within the sediment reserve space until that space fills in with sediment. In addition, this Project Modification would allow users to concurrently store both native Rio Grande system water and San Juan-Chama water. With the Project Modification, additional storage space is allocated to the non-federal sponsor the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority. Finally, the Project Modification establishes by statute permanent allocations for all other San Juan-Chama contractors. This Project Modification does not require a feasibility study as the proposed legislation is intended to clarify existing legislation and the storage elevation is within the existing authorized elevation. Furthermore, there is no federal cost component to the modification and all costs for implementation will be borne by the non-federal entity the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority. The legislative language is provided as an attachment entitled Project Modification for Abiquiu Reservoir dated August 20, 2019.

*1. Administrative Details*

**Proposal Name: Project Modification for Abiquiu Dam and Reservoir New Mexico**

**by Agency: Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority**

**Locations: NM**

**POC Name:**

**POC Phone:**

**POC Email:**

**Date Submitted: 08/26/2019**

**Confirmation Number: bf42e6bd-4aac-47ea-bcec-15db948f1b63**

*Supporting Documents*

<b>File Name</b>	<b>Date Uploaded</b>
Total Package of Letters of Support (13).pdf	08/26/2019
Map of Abiquiu Reservoir.pdf	08/26/2019
Project Modification for Abiquiu Reservoir - 8-20-2019.pdf	08/26/2019

**2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.**

Sponsor	Letter of Support
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority(Primary)	The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority has been working with the Corps of Engineers and multiple other federal and state partners for more than three years on this Project Modification. The Project Modification is needed to clarify the two existing statutes that provide for water supply storage for native Rio Grande system water and San Juan-Chama water. There are multiple benefits for implementation of the Project Modification which are outlined in this submittal. It also provides additional water supply storage space within the existing authorized water supply storage elevation and does not interfere with flood control purposes at Abiquiu Dam and Reservoir.

**3. State if this proposal is for new feasibility study authority, a modification to an existing feasibility study authority, a modification to an existing USACE project authority, or a modification to an existing USACE Environmental Infrastructure Program authority. If it is a proposal for a modification to an existing study, project or program authority, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.**

[x] Modification to a USACE Project Authority : Abiquiu Dam and Reservoir New Mexico

***4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.***

This is a Project Modification for Abiquiu Reservoir which is necessary to clarify existing Congressional authorizations to store native Rio Grande system water and San Juan-Chama water in Abiquiu reservoir. Abiquiu Dam was authorized as a flood control facility in northern New Mexico on the Rio Chama in the 1960's. Public Law 97-140 authorized storage of 200,000 acre-feet of San Juan-Chama water to be stored in Abiquiu reservoir in the mid-1980's. Public Law 100-522 further authorized the storage of native Rio Grande system water in lieu of San Juan-Chama water when space is available. This Project Modification provides for modification of the storage from the volume of 200,000 acre-feet to elevation 6230.00 NGVD29 which is within the existing authorized storage elevation and allows for temporary storage within the sediment reserve space until that space fills in with sediment. In addition, this Project Modification would allow users to concurrently store both native Rio Grande system water and San Juan-Chama water. With the Project Modification, additional storage space is allocated to the non-federal sponsor the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority. Finally, the Project Modification establishes by statute permanent allocations for all other San Juan-Chama contractors. This Project Modification does not require a feasibility study as the proposed legislation is intended to clarify existing legislation and the storage elevation is within the existing authorized elevation. Furthermore, there is no federal cost component to the modification and all costs for implementation will be borne by the non-federal entity the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority. The legislative language is provided as an attachment entitled Project Modification for Abiquiu Reservoir dated August 20, 2019.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
<b>Study</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Construction</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Explanation (if necessary)**

The Project Modification is needed to clarify two existing authorizations for Abiquiu Reservoir to allow for concurrent storage of native Rio Grande system water and San Juan-Chama water. It also allocates additional storage space for the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority and permanently establishes space for all other San Juan-Chama contractors. There is no feasibility study needed or construction related to this Project Modification. Prior to the implementation and use of the new storage space, the non-federal entities will need to complete the necessary environmental studies (NEPA) and obtain the required permits from the NM State Engineer. There is no federal funding for this Project Modification and all costs associated with be borne by the non-federal entities.

***6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.***

The Project Modification has significant nonmonetary benefits to meeting Rio Grande Compact obligations, meeting instream flow needs for environmental purposes and others needs as follows:

1. Allows for storage of native Rio Grande system water and San Juan-Chama water. Concurrently storing both native Rio Grande system water provides needed flexibility to manage the storage and release of water to meet environmental needs, proactively meeting delivery obligations for the Rio Grande Compact and provide other opportunities for tribal, municipal and agricultural entities.
2. The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority has set aside 30,000 acre-feet of space in Abiquiu Reservoir as an environmental pool to store and release water for instream flow purposes to support habitat for multiple endangered species in the Middle Rio Grande. This language provides the ability to concurrently store native Rio Grande system water and San Juan-Chama water for environmental purposes.
3. Native Rio Grande system water could be captured and stored on the Rio Chama for release to meet obligations under the Rio Grande Compact. Storing excess native Rio Grande system water for later release to meet Rio Grande Compact obligations or to carry over for other purposes allowed the State of NM through the Interstate Stream Commission the ability to actively manage the water resources in NM.
4. Storing both native Rio Grande system and San Juan-Chama water is a conservation measure called for by the Fish and Wildlife Service in the 2016 Biological Opinion for Water Operations in the Middle Rio Grande, New Mexico.

**7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.**

Yes

### **Local Support Description**

There are a multitude of federal, state and local supporters of the Project Modification. Attached are thirteen letters of support from the Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Corps of Engineers, NM Interstate Stream Commission, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, Rio Chama Acequia Association, Audubon New Mexico, Nature Conservancy, WildEarth Guardians, Rio Arriba County, City and County of Santa Fe.

**8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?**

Yes

# Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

(This is as uploaded, a blank page will show if nothing was submitted)

**Total Package of Letters of Support (13).pdf**



# City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

200 Lincoln Avenue, P.O. Box 909, Santa Fe, NM 87504-0909  
www.santafenm.gov

*Alan Webber, Mayor*

Councilors:

Signe I. Lindell, Mayor Pro Tem, District 1  
Renee Villarreal, District 1  
Peter N. Ives, District 2  
Carol Romero-Wirth, District 2  
Roman "Tiger" Abeyta, District 3  
Chris Rivera, District 3  
Mike Harris, District 4  
JoAnne Vigil Coppler, District 4

April 4, 2018

Mark S. Sanchez  
Executive Director  
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority  
P.O. Box 568  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Re: Support for Additional Storage in Abiquiu Reservoir

Dear Mr. Sanchez:

The City of Santa Fe (City) supports the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's (Water Authority) efforts to increase storage in Abiquiu Reservoir. The increase in storage will provide much needed flexibility for water operations in the Rio Chama and Rio Grande to support municipal, agricultural and environmental purposes. In addition, having the ability to store both native Rio Grande water and San Juan-Chama water will relieve stress on El Vado reservoir and provide for additional storage for other native Rio Grande water users and provide a place to temporarily store water when needed.

The additional storage will also provide additional recreational opportunities in and around Abiquiu reservoir which will provide financial support to Rio Arriba County and the surrounding communities. We understand that the Water Authority has coordinated and worked with federal, state, local and environmental entities to provide for many interests.

We look forward to continue working with the Water Authority in the future.

Sincerely,

Shannon Jones  
Public Utilities Director  
City of Santa Fe  
801 W. San Mateo Rd  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

**Henry P. Roybal**  
*Commissioner, District 1*

**Anna Hansen**  
*Commissioner, District 2*

**Robert A. Anaya**  
*Commissioner, District 3*



**Anna T. Hamilton**  
*Commissioner, District 4*

**Ed Moreno**  
*Commissioner, District 5*

**Katherine Miller**  
*County Manager*

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

April 24, 2018

Mark S. Sanchez  
Executive Director  
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority  
P.O. Box 568  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Re: Support for Additional Storage in Abiquiu Reservoir

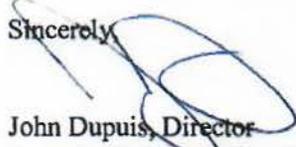
Dear Mr. Sanchez:

Santa Fe County supports the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's (Water Authority) efforts to increase storage in Abiquiu Reservoir. The increase in storage will provide much needed flexibility for water operations in the Rio Chama and Rio Grande basins to support municipal, agricultural and environmental purposes. In addition, having the ability to store both native Rio Grande water and San Juan-Chama water will relieve stress on El Vado reservoir and provide for additional storage for other native Rio Grande water users and provide a place to temporarily store water when needed.

The additional storage will also provide additional recreational opportunities in and around Abiquiu reservoir which will provide financial support to Rio Arriba County and the surrounding communities. We understand that the Water Authority has coordinated and worked with federal, state, local and environmental entities to provide for many interests which Santa Fe County supports.

We look forward to continue working with the Water Authority in the future.

Sincerely,

  
John Dupuis, Director  
Santa Fe County Utility Division  
424 NM SR 599  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

## NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION

### COMMISSION MEMBERS

MARK SANCHEZ, Chairman, Albuquerque  
TOPPER THORPE, Cliff  
TOM BLAINE, P.E. Secretary  
BLANE SANCHEZ, Isleta  
CAROLYN HOLLIFIELD, Roswell  
SAMUEL GONZALES, Aztec  
FRANKLIN McCASLAND, Tucumcari  
JACK KING, Alto



BATAAN MEMORIAL BUILDING, ROOM 101  
POST OFFICE BOX 25102  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504-5102  
(505) 827-6160  
FAX: (505) 827-6188

April 6, 2018

Mr. John Stomp  
Chief Operating Officer  
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority  
P.O. Box 568  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Re: Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority request for Congressional Authorization to increase storage elevation to 6230 and allow for native water storage in Abiquiu Lake

Dear Mr. Stomp:

This letter is to express the support of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) for the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's (ABCWUA) request for Congressional Authorization to increase storage elevation to 6230' and allow for storage of native water in Abiquiu Lake. This authorization will allow for a significant increase in the amount of available storage for ABCWUA of native Rio Grande basin flows and imported water from the San Juan Chama Project. This is critical for future water planning and use by ABCWUA.

It is anticipated this added storage and native water capacity may also provide opportunities to benefit: 1) acequias in northern New Mexico, many of which have the oldest water rights in the Rio Grande basin but do not have any ability to store water for use in drought years, 2) management of water operations in the Middle Rio Grande for Endangered Species Act compliance, and 3) Rio Grande Compact compliance for the State of New Mexico.

The NMISC has broad powers to investigate, protect, conserve, and develop New Mexico's waters including both interstate and intrastate stream systems.

The NMISC supports this Congressional Authorization and looks forward to having another resource to better manage water.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Longworth".

John Longworth, P.E.  
Director  
New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission



*Rio Arriba*  
**Board of County Commissioners**

**COMMISSIONERS**

**Barney Trujillo**  
Chairman, District I

**Alex M. Naranjo**  
District II

**Danny J. Garcia**  
District III

**COUNTY MANAGER**  
Tomas Cámpo III

April 9, 2018

Mr. Mark S. Sanchez  
Executive Director  
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority  
P.O. Box 568  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Re: Support for Additional Storage in Abiquiu Reservoir

Dear Mr. Sanchez:

Rio Arriba County supports the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's (Water Authority) efforts to increase storage in Abiquiu Reservoir. The increase in storage will provide much needed flexibility for water operations in the Rio Chama and Rio Grande to support municipal, agricultural and environmental purposes. In addition, having the ability to store both native Rio Grande water and San Juan-Chama water will relieve stress on El Vado reservoir and provide for additional storage for other native Rio Grande water users and provide a place to temporarily store water when needed.

The additional storage will also provide additional recreational opportunities in and around Abiquiu reservoir which will provide financial support to Rio Arriba County and the surrounding communities. We understand that the Water Authority has coordinated and worked with federal, state, local and environmental entities to provide for many interests.

We look forward to continue working with the Water Authority in the future.

Sincerely,

Alex M. Naranjo  
Commissioner, District 2

AMN/jel



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
4101 JEFFERSON PLAZA NE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87109-3435

April 20, 2018

SUBJECT: Additional Storage in Abiquiu Reservoir

Mark S. Sanchez  
Executive Director  
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority  
P.O. Box 568  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Dear Mr. Sanchez:

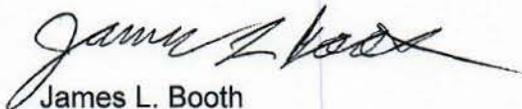
The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District (Corps) and the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) have been in discussions for several years regarding ABCWUA's efforts toward storing additional water at Abiquiu Reservoir (Abiquiu). The Corps manages Abiquiu for several Congressionally-authorized purposes, one of which is water storage for entities which have contracted with the Bureau of Reclamation for water from the San Juan-Chama project. ABCWUA is one of seventeen San Juan-Chama contractors. The Corps also has the authority to store native Rio Grande system water at Abiquiu to the extent that such storage space is not required by San Juan-Chama contractors.

As I am sure you are aware, there are currently three key limitations to additional water storage at Abiquiu. First, the statutory language that authorized storage of San Juan-Chama project water limited that storage to 200,000 acre-feet. Second, storage is limited by the acquisition of real property interests from surrounding landowners. Finally, storage of native Rio Grande system water is limited by the requirements of other San Juan-Chama contractors.

ABCWUA has been diligently attempting to remedy the second limitation by easement acquisition however, it is my understanding that sufficient interests have not yet been fully acquired. I am also aware that ABCWUA has been exploring opportunities to remedy the remaining two limitations as well. The Corps will continue to work within its authorities to collaborate with ABCWUA on these efforts.

I look forward to our continued partnership. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Ryan Gronewold, Planning Branch Chief, at (505) 342-3340.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Booth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James L. Booth  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Commander



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Upper Colorado Region  
Albuquerque Area Office  
555 Broadway NE, Suite 100  
Albuquerque, NM 87102-2352

IN REPLY REFER TO:

ALB-602  
WTR 4.03 (2.2.4.23)

APR 11 2018

VIA US MAIL

Mark S. Sanchez, Executive Director  
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority  
P.O. Box 568  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Subject: Support for Additional Storage in Abiquiu Reservoir

Dear Mr. Sanchez:

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) supports the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's (Water Authority) efforts to increase storage in Abiquiu Reservoir. The increase in storage creates and expands flexibility for water operations on the Rio Chama and Rio Grande to support multiple uses and interests, including municipal, agricultural and environmental. In addition, the ability to store both native Rio Grande water and San Juan-Chama Project water will decrease stress on El Vado Reservoir by providing for additional storage for native Rio Grande water users and a place to temporarily store water when needed.

Additional storage in Abiquiu Reservoir and the ability to store native Rio Grande water is a specific water management tool that will help Reclamation and others meet several commitments to the 2016 Biological Opinion (*Final Biological and Conference Opinion for Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Non-Federal Water Management and Maintenance Activities on the Middle Rio Grande, New Mexico*), including no fewer than eleven (11) Conservation Measures important to the survival of the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow and other species of importance in the Middle Rio Grande.

Reclamation looks forward to working with the Water Authority now and in the future on this important initiative and other initiatives that benefit both agencies and the many constituents better served by thoughtful and proactive water management in New Mexico.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Falor, P.E.  
Area Manager

VIA HAND DELIVERY  
cc: John Stomp



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office  
2105 Osuna Road NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113  
Telephone 505-346-2525 Fax 505-346-2542  
[www.fws.gov/southwest/es/newmexico/](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/newmexico/)

April 12, 2018

Mark S. Sanchez  
Executive Director  
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority  
P.O. Box 568  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

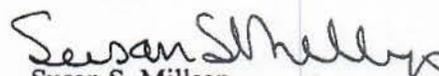
Dear Mr. Sanchez:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supports the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's (Water Authority) efforts to increase its storage in Abiquiu Reservoir. The increase in storage will provide needed flexibility for water operations in the Rio Chama and Rio Grande, enhancing your ability to support municipal, agricultural and environmental purposes. In addition, having the ability to store both native Rio Grande water and San Juan-Chama water will relieve stress on El Vado reservoir and provide for additional storage for other Rio Grande water users.

We understand that the Water Authority has coordinated and worked with federal, state, local and environmental entities to provide for the many interests expressed. We hope the Water Authority will continue to manage its water assets for the benefit of Federally listed species and the habitats upon which they depend.

We look forward to continue working with the Water Authority in the future.

Sincerely,

  
Susan S. Millsap  
Field Office Supervisor



## United States Department of the Interior

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Taos Field Office  
226 Cruz Alta Road  
Taos, New Mexico 87571-5983  
[www.blm.gov/nm](http://www.blm.gov/nm)



In Reply Refer To:  
8012 (F020)



April 26, 2018

Mark S. Sanchez  
Executive Director  
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority  
P.O. Box 568  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Re: Support for Additional Storage in Abiquiu Reservoir

Dear Mr. Sanchez:

The Bureau of Land Management, Taos Field Office co-manages the Rio Chama Wild and Scenic River with the Santa Fe National Forest. We support the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's efforts to increase storage in Abiquiu Reservoir. The increase in storage will provide much needed flexibility for water operations in the Rio Chama and Rio Grande to support municipal, agricultural, recreational and environmental purposes. In addition, having the ability to store both native Rio Grande and San-Juan Chama water will relieve stress on El Vado reservoir and provide for additional storage for other native Rio Grande water users and provide a place to temporarily store water when needed.

The additional storage would allow enhancement of recreational opportunities such as boating; fishing; and, in and around Abiquiu reservoir, other water based activities which will provide financial support to Rio Arriba County and the surrounding communities. The additional flexibility should help manage water in the Rio Chama system more effectively and should benefit all water users including recreational boaters. We understand that the Water Authority has coordinated and worked with federal, state, local and environmental entities to provide for a wide variety of interests.

We look forward to continue working with the Water Authority in the future. For additional information, please contact our River Manager Mark Sundin at [msundin@blm.gov](mailto:msundin@blm.gov) or 575-751-4720 or myself at [sacridge@blm.gov](mailto:sacridge@blm.gov) or 575-751-4713.

Sincerely,

Sara Acridge  
Field Manager, Acting

**Rio de Chama Association, Inc.**  
**PO Box 441**  
**Medanales, New Mexico 87548**

12 April 2018

Mark S. Sanchez  
Executive Director  
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority  
P.O. Box 568  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Re: Support for Additional Storage in Abiquiu Reservoir

Dear Mr. Sanchez:

The Rio Chama Acequia Association, Inc. (RCAA) supports the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's (Water Authority) efforts to increase storage in Abiquiu Reservoir. The increase in storage will not only benefit the Water Authority but would also provide much needed flexibility for the RCAA's water operations in the Rio Chama and may improve access to water for our centuries old agricultural practices. In addition, having the ability to store both native Rio Grande water and San Juan-Chama water will relieve some uncertainty for the RCAA in drought years.

The additional storage will also provide improve recreational opportunities in and around Abiquiu reservoir which benefits everyone in Rio Arriba County, particularly those communities around Abiquiu reservoir. We understand that the Water Authority is coordinating its efforts to increase storage in Abiquiu with federal, state, local and environmental entities to provide benefits to all parties involved, and the RCAA supports this collaborative approach.

We look forward to continue working with the Water Authority in the future.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Seaman  
Board President, RCAA



Randall Davey Audubon Center  
P.O. Box 9314  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-9314  
Tel: 505-983-4609  
Fax: 505-983-2355

April 13, 2018

Mark S. Sanchez  
Executive Director  
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority  
P.O. Box 568  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Re: Support for Additional Storage in Abiquiu Reservoir

Dear Mr. Sanchez:

Audubon New Mexico (ANM) supports the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's (Water Authority) efforts to increase storage in Abiquiu Reservoir. The increase in storage will provide much needed flexibility for water operations in the Rio Chama and Rio Grande to support municipal, agricultural and environmental purposes. In addition, having the ability to store both native Rio Grande water and San Juan-Chama water will relieve stress on El Vado reservoir and provide for additional storage for other native Rio Grande water users and provide a place to temporarily store water when needed.

The additional storage will also provide additional recreational opportunities in and around Abiquiu Reservoir which will provide financial support to Rio Arriba County and the surrounding communities. We understand that the Water Authority has coordinated and worked with federal, state, local and environmental entities to provide for many interests.

We are very interested the benefits this increased management flexibility will provide environmental flow efforts within the Rio Grande and Rio Chama. As you are aware, we have collaborated with the Water Authority in 2016 and again this year for storing and releasing San Juan Chama water into the Middle Rio Grande. ANM greatly appreciates our partnership with the Water Authority and looks forward to continuing efforts to improve the environment of these rivers. We also appreciate all the efforts the Water Authority has done to ensure a sustainable water supply for Albuquerque and surrounding communities.

We look forward to continue working with the Water Authority in the future.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Hayes  
Executive Director  
Audubon New Mexico



April 13, 2018

Mark S. Sanchez  
Executive Director  
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority  
P.O. Box 568  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

**RE: Support for Additional Storage and Flexibilities in Abiquiu Reservoir**

Dear Mr. Sanchez:

I write to express our support for the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's effort to add flexibilities and increase storage in Abiquiu Reservoir. The storage increase will provide much needed additional options for water operations in the Rio Chama and Rio Grande to support municipal, agricultural and environmental purposes. In addition, the ability to store both native Rio Grande water and San Juan-Chama water will relieve stress on El Vado Reservoir and provide for additional storage for other native Rio Grande water users and provide a place to temporarily store water when needed.

The additional storage will also provide additional recreational opportunities in and around Abiquiu Reservoir, which will provide financial support to Rio Arriba County and the surrounding communities. We understand that the Water Authority has coordinated and worked with federal, state, local and environmental entities to provide for many interests.

We appreciate the Water Authority's efforts to take the lead in adding these flexibilities to Abiquiu Reservoir and acquiring necessary easements for this additional storage. We look forward to working with the Water Authority to facilitate the filling of the environmental storage space in Abiquiu and optimizing reservoir operations throughout the Basin to ensure a sustainable future for communities and the environment going forward.

Sincerely,

Jen Pelz  
Rio Grande Waterkeeper &  
Wild Rivers Program Director  
WildEarth Guardians  
[jpelz@wildearthguardians.org](mailto:jpelz@wildearthguardians.org)  
(303) 884-2702



April 13, 2018

Mark S. Sanchez  
Executive Director  
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority  
P.O. Box 568  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Re: Support for Additional Storage in Abiquiu Reservoir

Dear Mr. Sanchez:

The New Mexico chapter of The Nature Conservancy is writing to express our support of the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's (Water Authority) efforts to increase storage in Abiquiu Reservoir. This increased storage is in line with the Authority's 2120 Water Resources Management Strategy.

The benefits of this increased storage are numerous. First, it will provide much needed flexibility for water operations in the Rio Chama and Rio Grande to support municipal, agricultural and environmental purposes. In addition, having the ability to store both native Rio Grande water and San Juan-Chama water will relieve stress on El Vado reservoir, serving as additional storage for other native Rio Grande water users and providing a place to temporarily store water when needed.

The increased storage will also provide additional recreational opportunities in and around Abiquiu reservoir, resulting in a positive economic impact in Rio Arriba County and the surrounding communities.

We understand and appreciate that the Water Authority has coordinated and worked with federal, state, local and environmental entities to provide for many interests.

We look forward to continuing our work with the Water Authority on important conservation efforts in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura F. McCarthy".

Laura McCarthy  
Associate State Director

April 5, 2018



Mark S. Sanchez  
Executive Director  
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority  
P.O. Box 568  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Re: Support for Additional Storage in Abiquiu Reservoir

Dear Mr. Sanchez:

The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) supports efforts by the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's (Water Authority) to increase storage in Abiquiu Reservoir under specific conditions. The increase in storage will provide much needed flexibility for water operations in the Rio Chama and Rio Grande to support municipal, agricultural and environmental purposes. In addition, having the ability to store both native Rio Grande water and San Juan-Chama water will allow the MRGCD to optimize storage at El Vado Reservoir as well as the releases into the Wild and Scenic portion of the Rio Chama. Additional storage for MRGCD in Abiquiu Reservoir, through the finalization of the Settlement Agreement, will assist in the conservation of irrigation releases, provide for additional storage for other native Rio Grande water users such as the Rio Chama Acequia Association, and provide a place to temporarily store water when needed.

This added storage will also provide additional recreational opportunities in and around Abiquiu Reservoir which will provide financial support to Rio Arriba County and the surrounding communities. We understand that the Water Authority has coordinated and will continue to work with federal, state, local, including the MRGCD, and environmental entities to provide for the many interests.

We look forward to continue working with the Water Authority in the future.

Sincerely,

Mike A. Hamman, CEO

P.O. Box 581

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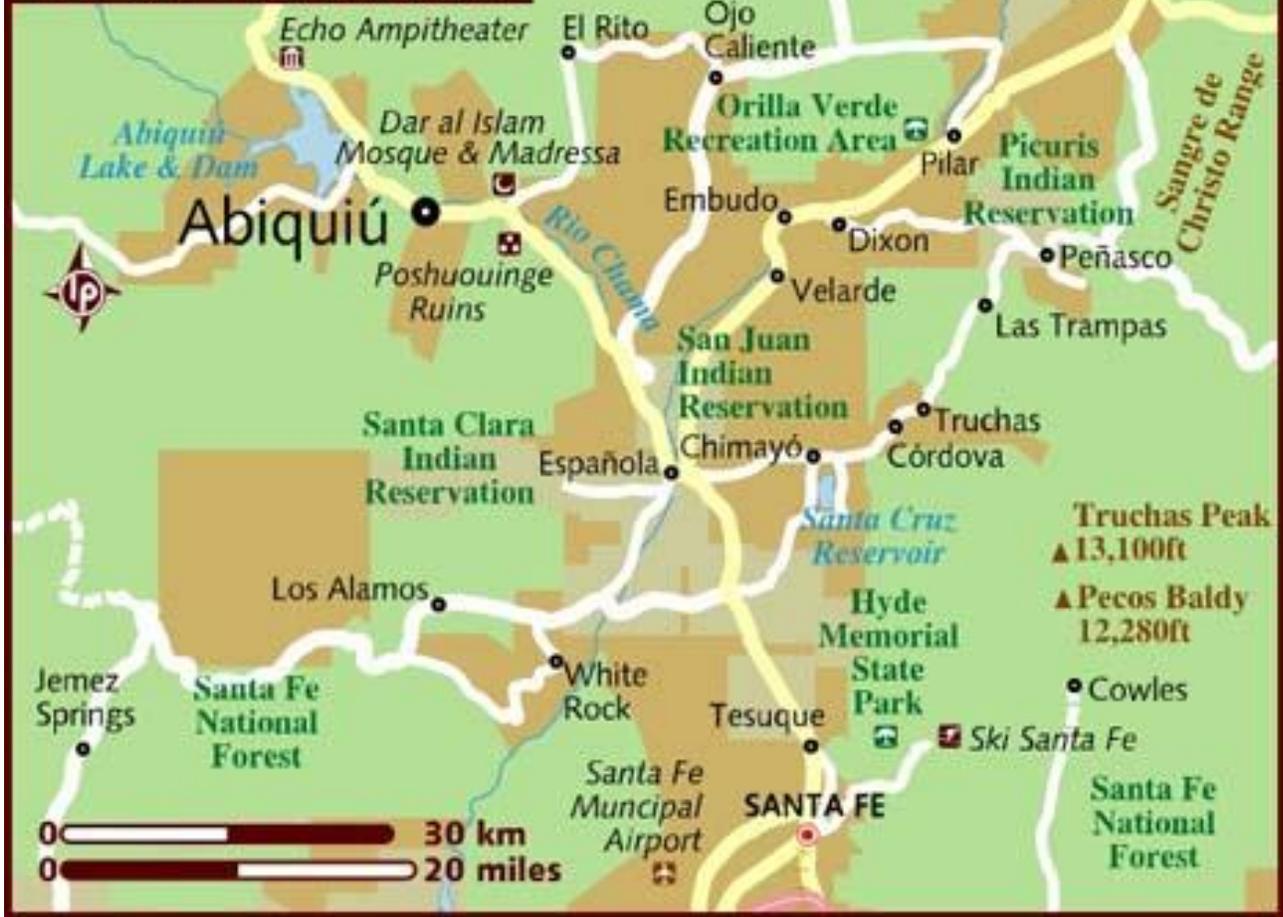
Fax # 505.243.7308

# Map Document

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## Map of Abiquiu Reservoir.pdf

# ABIQUIU & AROUND



# Additional Proposal Information

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**Project Modification for Abiquiu Reservoir - 8-20-2019.pdf**

Project Modification for Abiquiu Reservoir  
August 20, 2019

Section 1. Increase in Water Storage

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers is authorized and directed to—

- (a) store up to elevation 6230.00 NGVD29 at Abiquiu Dam, New Mexico, to the extent that the necessary real property interests have been acquired by any entity requesting such storage;
- (b) to amend the March 20, 1986 Contract between the United States of America and the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (assigned by the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico to the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority) for Water Storage Space in Abiquiu Reservoir to allow for storage by the ABCWUA of San Juan Chama Project water or native Rio Grande system water up to elevation 6230.00 NGVD29.

Section 2. Amendment to Public Law 97-140

Public Law 97-140, Section 5(b) is amended to allow for storage of either San Juan-Chama Project water or native Rio Grande system water as follows— striking “a total of two hundred thousand acre-feet of”.

Section 3. Amendment to Public Law 100-522

Public Law 100-522 is amended to allow for storage of either San Juan-Chama Project water or native Rio Grande system water as follows—

- (a) striking “200,000 acre-feet of”; and
- (b) inserting “and San Juan-Chama Project” after “system”; and
- (c) striking “in lieu of the water storage authorized by section 5 of Public Law 97-140.”

Section 4. Storage Agreements with Users Other than the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority

The Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, is authorized and directed to—

- (a) retain or enter into new agreements with entities for a proportionate allocation of 29,100 acre-feet of storage space as authorized under Public Law 97-140 ; and
- (b) Amend or enter into new storage agreements for storage of either San Juan-Chama Project water or native Rio Grande system water up to the space allocated for that entities’ proportionate share of San Juan-Chama water.

Section 4. Operations Documents

The Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineer, is directed to amend or revise any existing operations documents including the Water Control Manual or operations plan for Abiquiu Reservoir as necessary to conform to this section.

Section 5. Limitations

- (a) The storage of native Rio Grande system water shall be subject to the provisions of the Rio Grande Compact and the resolutions of the Rio Grande Compact Commission;
- (b) The storage of native Rio Grande system water shall only be authorized to the extent that the necessary water ownership and storage rights have been acquired by the entity requesting such storage; and
- (c) The storage of native Rio Grande system water or San-Juan Chama project water shall not interfere with the authorized purposes of the Abiquiu Dam and Reservoir project; and each user of storage space, regardless of source of water, shall pay for any increase in costs attributable to storage of that user’s water.