

# HERE/NOW

Drought, climate change, and the Lower Embudo Valley

## Celebrando las Acequias 2013

6<sup>th</sup> annual exploration of land, water, and culture in the Lower Embudo Valley

Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Mission Embudo, Dixon, NM

8:30-9: Registration and Coffee

### I. Morning Session: 9 to noon: Handling the Drought

Drought tests the limits of land, customs, patience, and trust. It asks us hard questions, and requires that we take stock. From 9 to 12, residents of the Lower Embudo Valley are invited to come together and respond to four questions whose answers might form a strong basis for getting through this drought together.

9:10 am: Introduction and Welcome: Estevan Arellano, Acequia Junta y Cienega

9:20 am: Framework for Dialog/Overview + Format: Hadley + Peter Arnold, ALI

#### **9:30: Question 1. Is it worth it?**

Why bother with the hard work of acequia culture? What are the limits of our commitment to our place, our history, and our neighbors? What are the payoffs?

9:45: Designated spokesperson summarizes table discussion: 2 minutes each

#### **10:00: Question 2. What's not working?**

What practices are making drought harder on you? On your family? On your neighbors?

10:30 Designated spokesperson summarizes table discussion: 2 minutes each

#### **10:45: Question 3. What might work?**

What am I open to trying? Am I open to renewing old practices? Am I open to trying new approaches?

11:15: Designated spokesperson summarizes table discussion: 2 minutes each

#### **11:30: Question 4. What do I need to be effective? How do I find out more?**

Are there others who want to work with me on this? How can I learn from others? Where can I see examples or talk with someone who has experience?

11:45: Designated spokesperson summarizes table discussion: 2 minutes each

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**12:00 – 1:30 pm:** Lunch, for participants only.

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## II: Afternoon Session: 1:30-5: Adapting to Climate Change An Updated Watershed-Based Plan for the Lower Embudo Watershed, New Mexico

The US Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] and the New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau [NMED] have recently green-lighted a watershed-based planning process for addressing urgent water and land-use issues for the Lower Embudo Valley. The two-year process, funded by the federal Clean Water Act Section 319(h), is a direct outgrowth of ongoing efforts in the Embudo Valley community to form a long-term, collaborative program for ecological restoration and stabilization of soils, arroyos, acequias, and streams in the valley. The objective is to produce, by 2015, an updated Watershed-Based Plan (WBP) for watersheds within the lower Rio Embudo drainage, northern New Mexico. A project area map is attached.

Participants in the afternoon session will work in small groups to answer five questions that will shape the watershed-based planning process:

### **1:30: Overview of the EPA Watershed-Based Planning Process: Peter Arnold**

Where we have been, where we are going, what your role might be, how today is going to work?

1:50: Q + A

### **2:00 pm: Question 1. What about this Valley do you cherish? What would you preserve unchanged?**

Participants will be drawing on a shared map (one map per table).

2:15: Designated spokesperson summarizes table discussion: 2 minutes each

### **2:30 pm: Question 2. What is missing? What's not working? What would you change?**

What would you add? Where do you see those changes taking place?

Participants will be drawing on a shared map (one map per table).

2:45: Designated spokesperson summarizes table discussion: 2 minutes each

3:00 -3:15pm: Break

### **3:15 pm: Question 3. Why make those changes? Why allocate that particular land to those changes? How would those changes affect the region?**

Participants will be making written annotations to their maps and discussing possible outcomes.

**3:45:** Table presentations:

Designated spokesperson presents and summarizes each table's vision: 5 minutes each.

### **4:30: Summary Overview and Question 4: What role do you see for yourself in this process?**

5:00 pm: END