



ACEQUIA REHABILITATION PROGRAM

PO BOX 25102

SANTA FE, NM 87504

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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS/REQUIREMENTS

Overview

The New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) received a Capital Outlay Appropriation from the Legislature in the 2014 Regular Session to plan, design, renovate, construct and equip improvements to acequias statewide (Laws of 2014, Chapter 66, Section 37, Item 2). The ISC has approved \$1,700,000 to be utilized for construction of shovel-ready projects. Each acequia may request a maximum of \$150,000 for a project. Shovel-ready projects are projects that designs have been completed for and all applicable easements/permits obtained. Projects can be combined with ISC 90/10 Grant Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), or other funds to complete projects of a larger size. All applications received will be ranked and funds distributed to the highest overall ranking score working down the list until all funds are exhausted.

Funding

Funding is available to all acequias and community ditches, as defined by state statute, for infrastructure improvements. This funding opportunity is made available to all acequias with shovel-ready projects with completed designs. A maximum of \$150,000 is available per acequia for the construction of a project. This funding request can be combined with other secured funding to complete projects of a larger size. Other funding sources could be NRCS EQIP funds, ISC 90/10 Program funds, NMACD RCPP funds, etc.

Below is the funding scenario that will be applied to this process:

- Project Construction Costs \leq \$100,000 – the acequia cost-share requirement will be 10% of the project costs up to a maximum of \$7,000.
- Project Construction Costs $>$ \$100,000 – the acequia cost-share requirement is \$10,000.

ISC Acequia Loans are available to the acequia to assist with their cost-share requirement and distributing the burden over time. The loans are low-interest loans (2.5%) with annual payments. Other non-state funds could be acquired by the acequias to assist them with their cost-share requirement.

Projects must be fully functional on a stand-alone basis once awarded funds have been expended and **must be completed within 12 months of a fully executed grant agreement**. Other funding sources, if applicable, must be secured at time of application and evidence of such must be submitted with the application.

Eligibility Requirements

1. **Registered Bylaws** – the Acequia Commission must submit a recent, signed copy of their bylaws to verify compliance with the NM State Statute regarding acequias and community ditches. The bylaws shall be attached and labeled as **Exhibit A**.
2. **Valid Water Rights** – the Acequia Commission must submit written documentation from the NM Office of the State Engineer Water Rights Division ensuring that the Acequia has valid water rights, attached as **Exhibit B**. Exhibit B is attached to the application. The top portion of Exhibit B must be filled out by the Acequia Commission and delivered to the OSE Water Rights District Office for their area to be signed by their staff. ***Please allow sufficient time for this process due to the high workloads of OSE Staff.***
3. **Completed Designs** – the Acequia Commission must submit final plans and specifications, stamped and signed by a NM licensed professional engineer, along with an engineer's estimate (less than one year old) illustrating that this project is shovel-ready. If the design plans are over one year old, the engineer must certify that site conditions have not changed and the design remains valid. The final design plans, specifications and engineer's estimate shall be attached and labeled as **Exhibit C**.
4. **Willingness to Proceed Resolution** – the Acequia Commission must adopt a resolution at a publicly-held acequia meeting authorizing the Commission to proceed with this project, acknowledging the cost-share obligation by the acequia, requesting the amount of an ISC Loan for the acequia's cost share obligation (if applicable), and delegating authority to a Commissioner to act as the point of contact for this application and project, attached as **Exhibit D**. A template resolution is attached to the application.
5. **Easements and Applicable Permits** – the Acequia Commission must attach documentation illustrating all easements, permits (US Forest Service, BLM, Tribal, etc.), and 404 & 401 Permits for construction have been obtained. If the acequia is still in the process of acquiring all required permits and easements, the Acequia Commission must demonstrate the ability to acquire such required permits/easements within 90 days of the due date of this application. All applicable easements and permits must be attached and labeled as **Exhibit E**.
6. **ISC Acequia Loan in Good Standing (if applicable)** – the Acequia Commission must submit a letter demonstrating that any outstanding ISC Acequia Loans are in good standing and must be attached and labeled as **Exhibit F**.
7. **Proof of Additional Secured Funding (if applicable)** – The Acequia Commission must submit a letter, agreement, bank statement, etc. documenting additional funds are available to be used towards this project and must be attached and labeled as **Exhibit G**.
8. **Compliance with the Governor's Executive Order 2013-006** – the Acequia Commission must be in current compliance with the Executive Order 2013-006 which requires compliance with the State Auditor and the Department of Finance and Administration financial reporting requirements. The ISC will verify the Acequia compliance with both of these offices and disqualified if found out of compliance.

Application

The acequia must completely fill-out the required application and attach all required documentation, as outlined in the Eligibility Requirements section above, to be considered for funding. Incomplete applications will be returned to the acequia contact person and will not be considered for funding.

Complete applications are due by February 24, 2017 and must be received at the following address by 3:00PM to be considered for funding:

**New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
Attn: Jonathan Martinez, Acequia Program Manager
PO Box 25102
407 Galisteo Street
Bataan Memorial Building, Room 101
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102**

Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted and incomplete applications or applications without all required exhibits attached will be rejected.

Ranking Criteria

All applications received will be ranked and funds distributed to the highest overall ranking score working down the list until all funds are exhausted. All acequia projects will be ranked as follows:

Complete Project or Phase of a Project

- Funding will complete a project (10 pts)
- Funding will complete the last phase of a project (8 pts)
- Funding will complete a phase of a project (5 pts)

Type of Project

- Diversion Dam (20 pts)
- Heading Structure (15 pts)
- Pipelining/Concrete Lining/Siphon/Flume/Over-Shot Structure (10 pts)
- Other Improvement (5 pts)

Ability of Acequia to provide funds in excess of required cost-share

- Greater than 50% additional funds (30 pts)
- 25% - 50% additional funds (20 pts)
- 10% - 25% additional funds (10 pts)
- Up to 10% additional funds (5 pts)

Permits/Easements

- All required Permits/Easements have been secured (15 pts)
- Additional time is required to secure required Permits/Easements (5 pts)

Other Funding

- Acequia has already secured other sources of funding for this project from NRCS, ISC, CIP, NMACD RCPP, etc. (15 pts)
- Acequia is relying solely on these funds for their project (5 pts)

Length of Time since Participating in an ISC Program

- Never participated – First time applicant (15 pts)
- Participated over 5 years ago (12 pts)
- Participated in the last 2 to 5 years (8 pts)
- Participated last year (5 pts)

Project to Address a Reoccurring Problem

- Problem occurs every year (15 pts)
- Problems occurs once every five years (12 pts)
- Problem occurs once every ten years (8 pts)
- Problem occurs once every twenty years (5 pts)