Taos Valley Acequia Association

Taos County Juan I. Gonzales Agricultural Center
202 Chamisa Road, Suite D
Taos, NM 87571
Phone (575) 758-9461
taosacequias@gmail.com

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March 5, 2021

New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission
1190 Saint Francis Drive
Suite # South 2102
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Water Quality Control Commissioners,

The Taos Valley Acequia Association supports protecting the Rio Hondo and the Upper Rio Grande as Outstanding Waters (ONRWs). Protecting these waters will ensure that water quality is protected for generations to come.

Outstanding Waters designation for the Rio Hondo and the Rio Grande will support and protect existing community uses, such as ranching and farming, while prohibiting new pollution from impacting our watershed. For generations the local community has depended on clean water in the Rio Hondo and Rio Grande to water livestock and feed acequia systems. This designation will ensure that clean water continues to flow downstream to these critical watershed stakeholders and protect these traditional uses from new development and impacts.

In addition, Outstanding Water protections will help draw much needed attention for restoration, and water and fuel management projects throughout the watershed. Taos Valle Acequia Association supports efforts to ensure the Upper Rio Grande and the headwaters of the Rio Hondo will continue to provide clean water to downstream communities.

We urge the Commission to designate the Rio Hondo and Upper Rio Grande as Outstanding Waters.

Sincerely,

Judy Torres
Director

The Taos Valley Acequia Association insures the long-term sustainability of traditional agricultural communities of the Taos Valley by protecting water rights and preserving and strengthening the acequia system.