How Does the BDD Work?

Water is diverted from the east side of the Rio Grande three miles below the Otowi Bridge. Some sediment, such as sand, is removed from the water at a sediment removal facility, then the water is conveyed by an underground pipeline through two booster pumping stations.

The booster pumping stations pump the water to two facilities: a new water treatment plant near the Caja del Rio landfill for the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County water customers, and a separate Las Campanas water treatment plant which is not part of the BDD.

Water in the BDD will be treated using a combination Membrane Filtration System with Ozone and Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Contactors. This process will reliably produce high-quality drinking water. It is the best available technology for removing contaminants such as radionuclides, and is the most reliable, prudent and robust of all options considered.

Once the water is treated, it will be pumped through new pipelines to the existing water distribution systems for the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County. Las Campanas will treat and deliver water to its customers separate from the BDD.

For More Information

Visit the Buckman Direct Diversion Project website at [www.bddproject.org](http://www.bddproject.org).
Or contact Rick Carpenter, BDD Project Manager, 505-955-4206; ricarpenter@ci.santa-fe.nm.us

To Schedule a Presentation

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What is the Buckman Direct Diversion Project?

The Buckman Direct Diversion project (BDD) will divert water from the Rio Grande, treat it, and deliver it to residents and businesses of the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County. Las Campanas will also receive and treat a smaller portion of the water separately for use by its residents.

The BDD is needed now to supplement the two sources of water we currently depend on – groundwater wells and reservoirs on the Santa Fe River. Our groundwater wells are not sustainable at current pumping levels, and our reservoirs can only supply about half the water we need in good years. The BDD will also help our aquifer, which supplies our groundwater wells, rest so that it will be here for our children, and their children.
How Is the BDD Being Built?
The Buckman Direct Diversion project is being constructed using a Design-Build (DB) approach to encourage innovation and creativity in design of the project, shorten the design/construction schedule, reduce administrative burdens, and allocate risk appropriately between the City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, Las Campanas and the DB contractor.

The Design-Build team of CH2M HILL Western Summit Constructors Joint Venture broke ground on the Buckman Direct Diversion project in the fall of 2008. The project is expected to be completed and operational by spring 2011.

The BDD includes a diversion structure on the Rio Grande, a raw water lift station, a sand removal facility, 11 miles of raw water pipelines, two booster stations to pump lift the water approximately 1,100 vertical feet, the water treatment plant and related facilities, two new treated water pump stations and 15 miles of finished water pipelines connected to the City and County water distribution systems. Minimal improvements will also be made to Buckman Road as part of the project.

How Much Water Will the BDD Deliver?
The BDD’s initial permitted capacity will be 8,730 acre feet annually. (An acre foot is the amount needed to cover an acre of land to a depth of one foot, equal to 33,658 cubic feet.) Of the total, 5,230 acre feet (60 percent) is allotted to the City, 1,700 acre feet (19 percent) is allotted to the County, and 1,800 acre feet (21 percent) is allotted to Las Campanas.

The BDD has the capacity to divert and treat as much as three billion gallons of water per year from the river. About two gallons out of every 10 diverted will go to Las Campanas. The City and County will use varying amounts of water based on water conditions, the amount of water available from the reservoirs, and the need to allow the underground aquifer to rest.

Are There Environmental Impacts?
Extensive environmental impact studies have been done and BDD project staff has consulted with a number of federal and state agencies as well as local bodies. The Environmental Impact Statement for the BDD was filed by two “lead agencies,” the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

The Environmental Impact Statement found that for a project of its size and complexity, the BDD is expected to have only a minor effect on the environment. The study noted the pipeline is to be built in existing utility easements, minimizing its impact. Power lines will be buried underground, and a power substation will be built on a spot near an existing buried power line in a utility corridor along Caja del Rio Road.

While some of the BDD facilities will be partially visible from the White Rock Overlook, they are being located to minimize their visibility and the environmental impact on the local area.

Who’s Paying for the BDD?
The cost of building and operating the BDD will be paid for by the City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County and Las Campanas.

Las Campanas is funding its proportional share of building the BDD on a cash basis. The City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County are splitting the remaining construction costs on an equal basis.

When the BDD becomes operational, Las Campanas will pay for a proportional share of the operational costs of the facilities it shares, but will also build its own Water Treatment Plant and finished water pipeline. The City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County will pay proportional shares of the operating costs based on their actual usage of the water.

The City of Santa Fe is providing funds for the BDD backed by City gross receipts taxes and water revenue bonds. Santa Fe County is funding its share of the BDD through general obligation bonds and gross receipts tax revenue bonds.

The BDD is also seeking state and federal funding assistance in the form of grants and low interest loans. As of fall 2008, the BDD has received approximately $13.45 million in state and federal grants and $15 million in low interest loans.

Who Governs the BDD?
The Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD) Board was created by the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County via a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to oversee implementation and operation of the BDD project. The City of Santa Fe’s Sangre de Cristo Water Division is the Project Manager of the BDD through at least 2015.

The five-member BDD Board includes two members of the City of Santa Fe Council appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council, two members of the Board of Santa Fe County Commissioners appointed by the County Commission, and one at-large member appointed by a majority vote of the other four BDD Board members. Each member has one vote.

Are There Concerns About Water Quality?
The Buckman Direct Diversion Board and staff recognize there is continuing concern about the potential presence of radionuclides in the water from the Rio Grande to be diverted and treated by the BDD. The water treatment process selected for the BDD will produce high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds all drinking water standards. The issue was fully examined and addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement process and analysis and the resulting Record of Decision, as well as in the BDD’s response to appeals of the Record of Decision. BDD staff and consultants are continuing to work with the New Mexico Environment Department and Los Alamos National Laboratories to reduce the risk of any potential contamination. For more information, visit our website, www.bddproject.org, and click on the button titled "Water Quality."