

Memorandum



Buckman Direct Diversion

DATE: August 04, 2022

TO: Buckman Direct Diversion Board

FROM: Bill Schneider, Water Resources Manager

SUBJECT: Update on San Juan Chama Return Project. (Bill Schneider, Water Resources Manager, whschneider@santafenm.gov, 955-4203; Rick Carpenter, BDD Facilities Manager, rrcarpenter@santafenm.gov, 955-4507; Kyle Harwood, BDD Legal Counsel, kyle@egolflaw.com, 986-9641)

ITEM: The San Juan Chama Return Project (Project) has reached several major milestones since the November 2-3, 2021, Public Scoping Meetings. This informational item will highlight the process underway to address permitting and engineering requirements for the Project.

BACKGROUND:

Several major milestones have been reached for the Project, which include:

1. Collective Funding Agreements (CFAs) with the 3 Federal Agencies are completed with United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). These Agreements are designed to cooperatively complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Latest EA developments, include:
 - a. Cultural and Biological Surveys
 - b. Lower Santa Fe River Hydrology Reporting
2. Return flow Plan (Plan) Application with the Office of the New Mexico State Engineer (OSE) submitted and publicly noticed. The Plan demonstrates the timing and amount of Project return flows, a field measurement strategy, and details on hydrologic conditions.
3. Receipt of 4 proposals for services to complete a 100% engineering design of the Project.
4. Submittal of financial requirements necessary to institute the Project award of \$6,000,000 from USBR under the Title XVI Program.
5. Development of a planning framework for the Santa Fe County led Lower Santa Fe River Planning Process which included public participation and contributions of the methodology and objectives.

Details for these 5 major milestones will be presented on August 4th to the Buckman Direct Diversion Board.

Requested Action:

None. Information only.

