

Acequia de los Alamos los Gallegos de Bylaws

Preamble:

Water is the lifeblood of our communities. The parciantes of Acequia de la Comunidad believe that water should be protected as a community resource so that future generations can grow food and can have a healthy and secure source of water for needs within the community. We seek to promote agriculture by keeping water rights on historically irrigated land. If changes in historic uses of water become necessary, those decisions should be made through a cultural and spiritual connection to our community and through our own process of self-governance so that those decisions can be made for the common, good. We honor the ancient customs and traditions embodied in our acequia and seek to govern our acequia to continue the connection between our land, water and culture in perpetuity.

Article 1. Purpose and Membership

*Section 1: Purpose Statement

The purpose of Acequia de la Comunidad is to 1) promote the agricultural uses of water on the lands served by the acequia, 2) promote the efficient and beneficial use of water, 3) sustain customs and traditions of providing water to parciantes in a manner that is fair and equitable, 4) protect and defend the rights and interests of the Acequia and the parciantes, 5) maintain the infrastructure and easements of the Acequia, and 6) maintain an adequate diversion right to ensure a sufficient water supply for parciantes. 7) preserve the Los Alamos Addition historical neighborhood status, which is based primarily on the irrigation system and vegetation due to it

*Section 2: Compliance with New Mexico Law

The management and operation of Acequia de la Comunidad, a political subdivision of the State of New Mexico, shall be in compliance with the laws of the State of New Mexico and the customs of the Acequia.

*Section 3: Description

The five sub-laterals of our acequia association, which serves the neighborhood of the Los Alamos Addition and North Gene Avenue, receive water from the main Gallegos Lateral (hence our name). The Gallegos Lateral diverts from the Rio Grande at the Angostura dam. The five sub-laterals are shared by four neighborhood streets in NW Albuquerque: Alamosa, La Plata, Placitas, and Sandia Roads.

*Section 4: Membership — Parciantes

The members or parciantes of Acequia de la Comunidad are those persons who own irrigated farmland with water rights from the acequia.

Article 2. Officers

*Section 1: Types of Officers

The officers of Acequia de los Alamos de los Gallegos consist of three Commissioners and one Mayordomo, each of whom shall be a member of the Acequia, as defined in Article 1. The

Commissioners consist of a Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.

*Section 2: Duties of Officers (These may vary by acequia)

- a) Chairman: Responsibilities are to direct the activities of the Acequia jointly with the other commissioners and call and preside at all Acequia meetings. In the event the Chairman is unable to preside at a meeting, he or she will appoint one of the other Commissioners to preside over the meeting.
- b) Secretary: The Secretary is responsible for keeping complete and accurate records, minutes of meetings, reading the minutes of the previous meeting and assisting the other Commissioners in running the business affairs of the Acequia.
- c) Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be responsible for management of the finances of the Acequia including the following:
 - Send notices to parciantes for billing and collection of assessments and fines.
 - Maintain accurate records for each pareiante including assessments due, hours worked and fines due in coordination with the Mayordomo.
 - Make payments for labor and materials as necessary.
 - In coordination with the Mayordomo, prepare an annual financial report to be presented to the membership.
- d) Mayordomo: The Mayordomo shall work under the direct supervision of the Commissioners. His or her responsibilities shall be as follows:
 - Coordinate and supervise all work on the Acequia including the annual Spring cleaning, day-to-day maintenance, and emergency repairs.
 - Distribute water to parciantes in a manner that is equitable and is consistent with the customs of the Acequia
 - Collect delinquencies from parciantes as reported to him by the Treasurer.
 - Supervise the Acequia to ensure that delinquent parciantes do not take water illegally. The Mayordomo has full authority to shut the individual headgate along the banks of the Acequia of those parciantes who are delinquent and to secure the headgates by any available means.

*Section 3: Vacancy of Mayordomo

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Mayordomo, the Commissioners shall appoint a Mayordomo to hold office for the remainder of the term or until his successor is elected at a meeting of the membership.

*Section 4: Vacancy of Commissioners

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Commissioner, the remaining Commissioners shall appoint a Commissioner to hold office for the remainder of the term or until his successor is elected at a meeting of the membership. If there are two vacancies for Commissioner, the remaining Commissioner shall convene a special meeting of the membership to fill the vacancies for the remainder of the term of office.

*Section 5: Meetings of Commissioners

Special meetings of the Commission may be called by the Chairman. Two Commissioners shall constitute a quorum for such meetings. Notice shall be posted in a public place three (3) days prior to a meeting.

*Section 6: Compensation of Officers

There shall be no compensation of the Mayordomo or any of the commissioners, who serve at the pleasure of the parciantes of the association.

Article 3. Meetings of Membership

*Section 1: Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting shall be held every year on the first Sunday of July or as soon as practicable thereafter.

*Section 3: Purpose of Annual Membership Meetings

At each Annual Meeting, the Secretary shall present the minutes from the previous Annual Meeting. The Mayordomo shall report on the management and of the acequia and the Treasurer shall provide a financial report.

*Section 4: Location of Annual Membership Meeting

The annual meeting shall be held at the house of a parciante of the Acequia

*Section 5: Quorum of Membership

A quorum for conducting any business shall be 20% of households in the association, except as otherwise provided in this section. A quorum, once established for that particular meeting, shall remain in effect to transact all business set on the agenda even though members shall voluntarily leave the meeting.

In the event that the above quorum is not established at a meeting duly called, those assembled shall recess for a period of not more than seven (7) days, wherein the meeting shall resume at the time and place specified at the call of the recess and all business listed on the original agenda shall be transacted by those present at the meeting, who shall then constitute a quorum for conducting business, provided there are parciantes from at least ten households. There must be at least one parciante from each sub-lateral in the association.

*Section 6: Special Membership Meetings

Special meetings of the Acequia may be called by the Commissioners or upon written petition to the Commission Chairman signed by 33% of the members. Notice for special meetings shall be the same as for annual meetings.

Article 4. Elections and Voting

*Section 1: Election of Officers

The Commissioners and Mayordomo shall be elected at the Annual Meeting by a vote of membership. The elections shall be conducted by the outgoing Commissioners.

*Section 2: Voting Rights of Parciantes

Only those members who are not delinquent in the payment of their assessments nor who have defaulted on their work assignments will be in good standing and shall be allowed to vote. Voting may be done by written proxy. Each member shall have one vote.

*Section 3: Nomination of Officers

Nomination of officers may be made by any parciante. The three Commissioners shall be elected at-large. At the end of the Annual Meeting in which the election is taking place, the three commissioners shall elect, from among themselves, a Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer

*Section 4: Terms of Office

The elected officers shall assume their office not later than the first Monday following the month they are elected. The term of office for the Mayordomo and Commissioners is one year.

Article 5. Management and Operations

*Section 1: Allocation Between Neighboring Acequias

As practiced traditionally, during times of emergency and/or drought, the Commission will represent the Acequia for the purpose of cooperating with the other acequias in the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, which draw water from the Middle Rio Grande Basin, in order to determine the most effective and equitable manner of allocating water in all of the acequias.

*Section 2: Spring Acequia Cleaning

A community ditch cleaning involving all parciantes will take place during the Spring before the irrigation season on a date determined by the Mayordomo and Commissioners.

*Section 3: Allocation of Water Between Parciantes

As currently practiced, water is allocated equally among all parciantes in the acequia association. Water may be banked by any parciante who is currently not using his/her water. The Mayordomo shall be in charge of the distribution of the water to the members

*Section 4: Parciante Assessments

Assessments will be made against parciantes by direct vote at a duly-called meeting of the association. An assessment may be made against an individual parciante, all parciantes on a specified sub-lateral, or the entire association, depending on the services being received.

Article 6. Rights and Obligations of Parciantes

*Section 1: Maintenance of Headgates

All members shall maintain their individual headgates in good condition and keep their ditch sections free of trash and other obstructions. Repairs and construction of headgates and other works should be completed before the start of the irrigation season.

*Section 2: Assessments

All members shall pay assessments as required by the Commission. All monies assessed by the Acequia de los Alamos de los Gallegos are due upon receipt of the Treasurer's statement. These assessments become delinquent thirty (30) days following the date of receipt of the billing.

*Section 3: Participation in Acequia Cleaning

All members shall contribute labor for the annual Spring cleaning or for emergency repairs. Parciantes may also contribute to these events in other ways, as determined by the Mayordomo.

*Section 4: Compliance with Bylaws

All members shall abide by Acequia Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and shall comply with

