



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Region
Albuquerque Area Office
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Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102-2352

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

ALB-440
WTR-4.40

DEC 13 2012

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Helen Hankins, State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield St.
Lakewood, CO 80215

Subject: Protest of and Request to Remove Parcels from February, 2013 Oil and Gas Lease Sale, Parcel ID: 6401 (Serial # COC75910) & 6402 (Serial # COC75911) Archuleta County, Colorado

Dear Ms. Hankins:

This protest and request to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to remove the above listed parcels from the lease sale is made on behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation by the Area Manager with jurisdiction for the affairs in the geographic region affected by the nominated parcels shown above.

Reclamation operates a trans-basin water collection and delivery system known as the San Juan-Chama Project (Project). This Project was authorized under PL 87-483, in 1962. Water collected from this project is critical to the water supply of the City of Albuquerque, the City and County of Santa Fe, and fifteen other municipalities, Pueblos, and irrigation districts.

The land-base and sub-surface estate of the subject parcels are in close proximity to critical pieces of existing Federal water collection and diversion structures. These structures, lying atop and underneath the Navajo River, include the Oso Tunnel, the Oso Siphon, the Oso Diversion Dam, and the Azotea Tunnel.

Our reason for protest and request for removal of the subject parcels is the risk of interference or harm to our facilities, and also to avoid possibly subjecting downstream landowners to new issues of sedimentation, reduced fishery potential and poor water quality which the U.S., acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, has mitigated in prior years.

We are concerned with potential effects of all subsurface activities including, but not limited to, drilling, fracturing, buried pipe installation, buried powerlines, and temporary or permanent pits.

We are also concerned with potential effects of surface-disturbing activities including, but not limited to, construction of overland and over-river roads, increased off-road traffic, denuding of lands adjacent or near the Navajo River, overhead powerlines, high and low pressure surface lines for oil, produced water, or gas, the introduction of drilling chemicals to these lands, and the storage and transport of oil, waste, and produced water within and around these two parcels.

Please find the following enclosures:

1. Maps (3): Aerials x 2, Topo x 1.
2. BLM's legal description of subject parcels
3. Reclamation's San Juan Project data

Reclamation looks forward to working with the BLM to resolve these areas of concern prior to the February, 2013 sale date. For further discussion, please contact Mr. Randy Rust at 505-462-3589.

Sincerely,

MIKE A. HAMMAN

Mike Hamman
Area Manager

Enclosures - 3

bc: ALB-101, ALB-400, ALB-150, ALB 210, 241, ALB 421, ALB-430

WBR:SWoods:jgraham:12/6/2012:505-462-3606

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BLM Tres Rios O&G Lease Sale Parcel 6402 Archuleta Co, CO.



BLM Tres Rios O&G Lease Sale Parcels 6401- 6402 Archuleta Co, CO.



ENCLOSURE 2

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-39 to protect cultural resources.

The following lands are subject to Exhibit LN-101 to protect slopes 25-40%:

T. 0420N., R 0140W., NMPM
Sec. 17: NE, NENW, E2SW, SE;
Sec. 20: NE, NENW;
Sec. 21: NE, E2NW, NESW, NWSE;

PVT/BLM; COS: TRFO

PARCEL ID: 6533 SERIAL #: COC75909

T. 0390N., R 0200W., NMPM
Sec. 25: TR 62;

Dolores County
Colorado 160.000 Acres

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-03 to protect raptor nests.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-04 to protect bald eagle roosts or nests.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-06 to protect Mexican spotted owl roosts and nests.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-15 to protect grouse winter habitat.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-18 to protect raptor nesting and fledgling habitat.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-21 to protect Mexican spotted owl nesting and fledgling habitat.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-22 to protect bald eagle nesting habitat.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-30 to alert lessee of closure period for nesting grouse species.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-31 to alert lessee of sensitive species area inventory and mitigation requirements.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-39 to protect cultural resources.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-40 to alert lessee of potential Sage Grouse habitat.

PVT/BLM; COS: TRFO

PARCEL ID: 6401 SERIAL #: COC75910

T. 0320N., R 0010E., NMPM

ENCLOSURE 2

Sec. 2: Lot 8;
Sec. 11: Lot 1-4;

Archuleta County
Colorado 23.810 Acres

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-03 to protect raptor nests.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-04 to protect bald eagle roosts or nests.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-08 to protect special status plant species.

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-09 to protect big game winter habitat:

T. 0320N., R 0010E., NMPM
Sec. 11: Lot 1-4;

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-10 to protect elk calving:

T. 0320N., R 0010E., NMPM
Sec. 11: Lot 1-4;

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-18 to protect raptor nesting and fledgling habitat.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-22 to protect bald eagle nesting habitat.

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-23 to protect bald eagle winter roost sites:

T. 0320N., R 0010E., NMPM
Sec. 2: Lot 8;

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-31 to alert lessee of sensitive species area inventory and mitigation requirements.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-39 to protect cultural resources.

The following lands are subject to Exhibit SJ-07 to protect bald eagle winter concentration:

T. 0320N., R 0010E., NMPM
Sec. 2: Lot 8;

All lands are subject to Exhibit LN-101 to protect slopes 25-40%.

PVT/BLM; COS: TRFO

PARCEL ID: 6402 SERIAL #: COC75911

T. 0320N., R 0020E., NMPM
Sec. 2: Lot 1;
Sec. 8: Lot 2,5;
Sec. 9: Lot 5;

Archuleta County
Colorado 47.720 Acres

ENCLOSURE 2

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-03 to protect raptor nests.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-04 to protect bald eagle roosts or nests.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-18 to protect raptor nesting and fledgling habitat.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-22 to protect bald eagle nesting habitat.

The following lands are subject to Exhibit CO-23 to protect bald eagle winter roost sites:

T. 0320N., R 0020E., NMPM
Sec. 8: Lot 2,5;
Sec. 9: Lot 5;

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-28 to protect riparian/wetland vegetation.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-31 to alert lessee of sensitive species area inventory and mitigation requirements.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-39 to protect cultural resources.

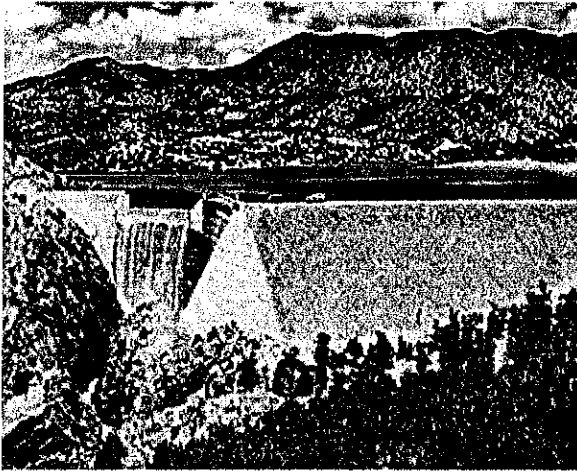
The following lands are subject to Exhibit SJ-07 to protect bald eagle winter concentration:

T. 0320N., R 0020E., NMPM
Sec. 8: Lot 2,5;
Sec. 9: Lot 5;

All lands are subject to Exhibit LN-101 to protect slopes 25-40%.

PVT/BLM;BLM; COS: TRFO

San Juan-Chama Project



Nambe Falls Dam

Project Links[Project History](#)[Project Data](#)[Contact Information](#)**Related Facilities**[Dams](#)**Related Documents**[San Juan-Chama Project History \(68 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)[General Description](#) | [Plan](#) | [Development](#) | [Benefits](#)**General Description**

The San Juan-Chama Project consists of a system of diversion structures and tunnels for transmountain movement of water from the San Juan River Basin to the Rio Grande Basin. Authorized as a participating project of the Colorado River Storage Project, the San Juan-Chama Project provides an average annual diversion of about 110,000 acre-feet of water from the upper tributaries of the San Juan River. Primary purposes of the San Juan-Chama Project are to furnish a water supply to the middle Rio Grande Valley for municipal, domestic, and industrial uses. The project is also authorized to provide supplemental irrigation water and incidental recreation and fish and wildlife benefits.

Water is supplied for the following municipal, domestic, and industrial purposes: city of Albuquerque, 48,200 acre-feet; city and county of Santa Fe, 5,605 acre-feet; city of Los Alamos, 1,200 acre-feet; village of Los Lunas, 400 acre-feet; Twining Water and Sanitation District, 15 acre-feet; city of Espanola, 1,000 acre-feet; village of Taos, 400 acre-feet; town of Belen, 500 acre-feet; town of Benalillo, 400 acre-feet; and Jicarilla Apaches, 6,500 acre-feet. Supplemental water is provided for irrigation of 89,711 acres in the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, 20,900 acre-feet; and 2,768 acres in the Pojoaque Valley Irrigation District, 1,030 acre-feet. An annual allocation of about 5,000 acre-feet is available for the Corps of Engineer's Cochiti Reservoir for fish and wildlife and recreation purposes to maintain a minimum pool of 1,200 surface acres. There is an allocated but as yet uncontracted supply of 4,990 acre-feet.

Reclamation has focused its planning efforts in the San Juan River Unit by preparing a planning report/environmental assessment for the Hammond Project. A final report on the Hammond Salinity Control Project was published in December 1994.

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Collection System

The project takes water from the Navajo, Little Navajo, and Blanco Rivers, which are upper tributaries of the San Juan River, for use in the Rio Grande basin. Blanco Diversion Dam on the Rio Blanco diverts water to the Blanco Feeder Conduit, a closed conduit of 520 cubic feet per second capacity which conveys the water to Blanco Tunnel. Blanco Tunnel is a concrete-lined structure with 520 cubic feet per second capacity to carry water 8.64 miles from the Rio Blanco to a point near the Little Navajo River. Little Oso Siphon, a concrete siphon with a capacity of 520 cubic feet per second, carries water under Little Navajo River to Oso Tunnel. Little Oso Diversion Dam on the Little Navajo River upstream from the Little Oso Siphon diverts water from the Little Navajo River through the Little Oso Feeder Conduit, a closed conduit with a capacity of 150 cubic feet per second, to the Oso Tunnel.

The Oso Tunnel is a concrete-lined structure with a capacity of 650 cubic feet per second and a length of 5.05 miles. It carries water from Little Navajo River to a point near the Navajo River. The 650-cubic-foot-per-second Oso Siphon conveys water under the Navajo River where Oso Diversion Dam diverts water to the Oso Feeder Conduit. This conduit, with a capacity of 650 cubic feet per second, extends from Oso Diversion Dam to Azotea Tunnel.

The 12.8-mile-long concrete-lined Azotea Tunnel, with a capacity of 950 cubic feet per second, conveys water from Navajo River to Azotea Creek in the Rio Grande Basin. These imported waters flow down Azotea and Willow Creeks 11.78 river miles to Heron Reservoir.

Heron Dam

The regulating and storage reservoir is formed by Heron Dam on Willow Creek just above the point where Willow Creek enters the Rio Chama. The dam is an earthfill structure 269 feet high which forms a reservoir with a capacity of 401,320 acre-feet and a surface area of 5,950 acres. The spillway has a capacity of 660 cubic feet per second, and the outlet works has a capacity of 4,160 cubic feet per second. Storage from Heron Dam provides water for municipal, domestic, industrial, recreation, and fish and wildlife purposes and also provides supplemental water for irrigation.

Heron Reservoir is operated by Reclamation in compliance with applicable federal and state laws, including the San Juan-Chama Project authorization and the Rio Grande and Colorado compacts. Under these laws, only imported San Juan-Chama Project water may be stored in Heron Reservoir; there are no provisions for storing native Rio Grande water. Thus, all native Rio Grande water is released to the river below Heron Dam.

The outlet works for El Vado Dam, located 6 miles downstream of Heron Dam, were enlarged in 1965-1966 so that San Juan-Chama Project releases from Heron Reservoir could be passed unimpeded through El Vado Reservoir. The capacity of the outlet works is 6,600 cubic feet per second.

Pojoaque Tributary Unit

The Pojoaque Tributary Unit, a component of the project authorized under PL 87-483, provides 1,030 acre-feet of supplemental water for approximately 2,800 acres of irrigated land. Indian lands comprise about 34 percent of this total irrigated acreage. Nambe Falls Dam and Reservoir provide storage for this unit.

Nambe Falls Dam

Pojoaque Irrigation Unit, made up of Nambe Falls Dam and storage reservoir, provides supplemental irrigation water for about 2,800 acres in the Pojoaque Valley. It serves the Pojoaque Valley Irrigation District and Indian pueblos of San Ildefonso, Nambe, and Pojoaque. The dam is a concrete and earth embankment structure 150 feet high which forms a reservoir with a capacity of 2,023 acre-feet.

Diversion Dams

Blanco Diversion Dam
Little Oso Diversion Dam
Oso Diversion Dam

Operating agencies

Reclamation operates Heron Dam as described above in the Heron Dam section. Operation and maintenance of Nambe Falls Dam and Reservoir is performed by the Pojoaque Valley Irrigation District, but Reclamation maintains oversight responsibilities.

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Development

History

Through prehistoric Indian activity at Sandia Cave northeast of Albuquerque, pueblo communities established before 600 A.D., Spanish settlement in 1598, and the homesteading development in the late 1840's, the Rio Grande Valley has accommodated and nurtured man. The waters provided by the San Juan-Chama Project flow to the descendants of these cultures, helping to continue the varied lifestyles represented.

Along the upper San Juan River drainage, the project's water source, a similar settlement pattern, with variations, developed. A desert culture base underlay the Anasazi development, but climatic conditions and the influx of the ancestors of the modern Navajo and Ute Indians limited pueblo development. Spanish exploration in the area is known as early as the search for gold in 1765, with settlement later in the century. Reports by trappers in the 1820's brought prospectors and miners, and eventually permanent settlers.

Investigation

Studies of the possibility of diverting San Juan River Basin waters into the Rio Chama, a tributary of the Rio Grande, began immediately following the first World War, but surveys of the features involved began in 1933, with the Bunger Survey. This survey was resumed in 1936, as a part of the Rio Grande Joint Investigations, to determine the need for the project.

The investigations established the basis for recognizing, in the Rio Grande Compact, the possibility of a transmountain diversion to bring water from the San Juan River into the Rio Grande Basin. The Colorado River Basin report, issued by the Bureau of Reclamation in 1946, established the quantity of water that was considered for the transmountain diversion during

the negotiation of the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact.

In 1950, in the interest of coordination, the Secretary of the Interior appointed a committee known as the San Juan River Technical Committee. A summary report was prepared in May 1950, and the committee presented progress reports in 1951 and 1952.

Field work on the San Juan-Chama Project was resumed at the beginning of 1951, and interim reports were prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation through 1955, when a feasibility study was prepared. This study was supplemented in 1957 and was followed by authorization of the project. Volume I of the definite plan report, covering the diversion and regulation elements of this project, was approved on August 10, 1964.

Authorization

The San Juan-Chama Project was authorized by Congress in 1962 through PL 87-483, which amended the Colorado River Storage Act of 1956 (PL 84-485) to allow diversion of Colorado River basin water into the Rio Grande basin of New Mexico. The original planning projections were for an ultimate diversion of 235,000 acre-feet per year, with an initial phase development for an average annual diversion of up to 110,000 acre-feet. Only the initial phase was authorized and subsequently constructed by Reclamation.

Construction

Construction of Azotea Tunnel began on April 22, 1964, and was completed on November 11, 1970. Other construction included Blanco Diversion Dam and Tunnel, awarded on May 11, 1965, and completed May 22, 1969; Little Oso and Oso Diversion Dams and Oso Tunnel awarded on February 1, 1966, and completed on November 11, 1970; Azotea Creek Channelization, awarded on August 14, 1967, and completed on December 6, 1968; Willow Creek Channelization, awarded on March 20, 1969, and completed on August 2, 1970; Heron Dam and relocation of State Highway 95, awarded August 8, 1967, and completed June 9, 1971.

Construction also included the enlargement of the outlet of existing El Vado Dam so Heron Reservoir releases could be bypassed through El Vado Reservoir. The contract was awarded on July 22, 1965, and completed December 29, 1966.

Construction of Nambe Falls Dam, part of the Pojoaque tributary irrigation unit, was awarded on June 13, 1974, and completed June 28, 1976.

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Benefits

Municipal, Domestic and Industrial Supplies	Acre-feet Provided
City of Albuquerque	48,200
Jicarilla Apache	6,500
City and County of Santa Fe	5,605
County of Los Alamos	1,200

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City of Espanola	1,000	
Town of Belen	500	
Village of Los Lunas	400	
Village of Taos	400	
Town of Bernalillo	400	
Town of Red River	60	
Twining Water & Sanitation District	15	
Irrigation Supplies		
Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District	20,900	Fish and Wildlife
Pojoaque Valley Irrigation District	1,030	and Recreation

The project provides a supplemental water supply for various communities, supplemental supply for irrigation, and substantial fish and wildlife and recreation benefits have been created at El Vado Reservoir, Heron Reservoir, Nambe Falls Reservoir, and Elephant Butte Reservoir and at Cochiti Reservoir an associated Corps of Engineers facility.

Last updated: May 17, 2011