

# Land Grant – Merced del pueblo de Santa Cruz de la Cañada



Ca. 1872

# Agenda

---

Board and Committees overview – Don Bustos

---

Capital Outlay – Don Bustos

---

Goals and Strategic Plan – Don Bustos

---

Administration – Brian Martinez

---

History and the People– Miguel A. Tórréz

---

Testimony of living within the Grant – Christine Bustos

---

Heir Empowerment and Growth– Joseluis Ortiz y Muniz

# Board & Committees

## ○ Board

- President: Don Bustos
- Vice President: Christine Bustos
- Secretary: Brian Martinez
- Corresponding Secretary: Joseluis Ortiz y Muniz
- Treasurer: Vacant (Bernadette Gallegos April 2023 – July 2024)

## ○ Committee Chairs

- Heirship Committee Chair: Miguel A. Tórriz
  - Members – Brian Martinez, Eric Martinez, Al Duran
- Finance Committee Chair: Vacant



# Mission Statement

The Mission of the Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant is to:

- Provide living heirs, their families, and neighbors with an organized mechanism for exercising their communal, economic, and traditional sovereignty.
- Support and enable a means for expressing their economic and ecological self-determination and political will, as promised to our ancestors through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.
- Continue the deeply rooted indigenous land-based way of life embedded in our land, acequias, spirituality, rituals, and community.

# Goals

1

Strengthen the community to preserve the traditions of land-based people.

2

Honor our ancestors to ensure our land and water are viable and preserved for future generations.

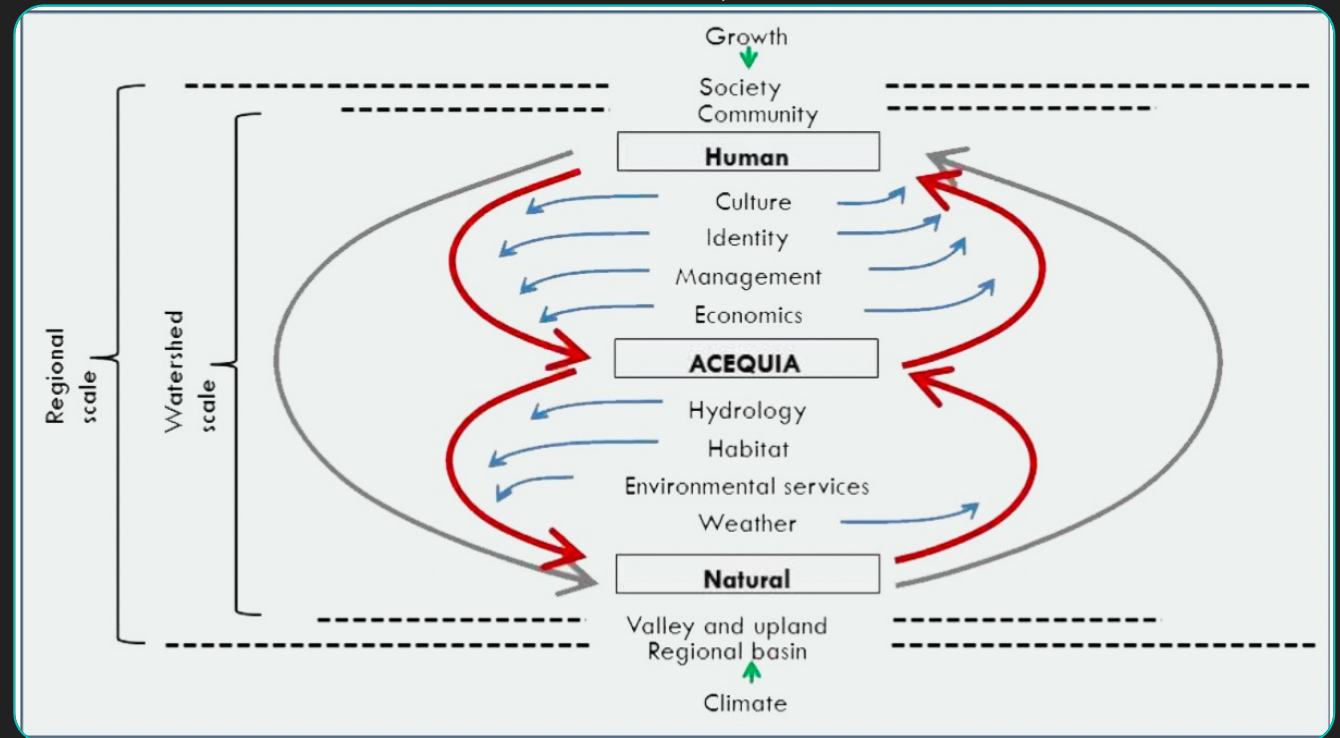
3

Collaborate with community members, stakeholders, partners, and agencies to develop a strategic plan.

# Strategic Plan

- Create a mechanism for economic viability that preserves the commons for all heirs
- Acquire assets, including buildings and land, through various venues.
- Develop and implement a land bank for farmland and water to be preserved and used by future generations.
- Develop a pipeline for young farmers to succeed in agriculture and access land and water (NNMC).
- Participate in developing new organizations (e.g., Santa Cruz Watershed Restoration Group).
- Explore other growth opportunities.

From paper:  
Linked hydrologic and social systems that support resilience of traditional irrigation communities  
Fernald et al., 2012



Acequia irrigation centered connections of human and natural systems (Fernald et al., 2012).

# Finances and Resource Development

- Acquire state political designation and leverage state support.
- Comply with all state and local regulations.
- Previous efforts to steward the land.



# Administration

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND GRANT

- The Land Grant sought to reorganize in 2020 and received guidance from the NMLGC
- The Land Grant had an election of officers in 2022 and submitted the names of said officers to the NMLGC Land Grant Registry
- The Land Grant has had its by-laws amended in approved in 2024 and submitted them to the NMLGC Land Grant Registry
- The Land Grant has been complying with applicable NM statutory requirements
- The Land Grant has submitted two Fiscal Year Annual Reports to the NMLGC Land Grant Registry





# Administration continued

## **Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant-Merced**



## **Annual Report**

**Fiscal Year 2022**

**Santa Cruz de la Cañada, New Mexico**

## **Land Grant-Merced Del Pueblo de Santa Cruz de la Cañada**

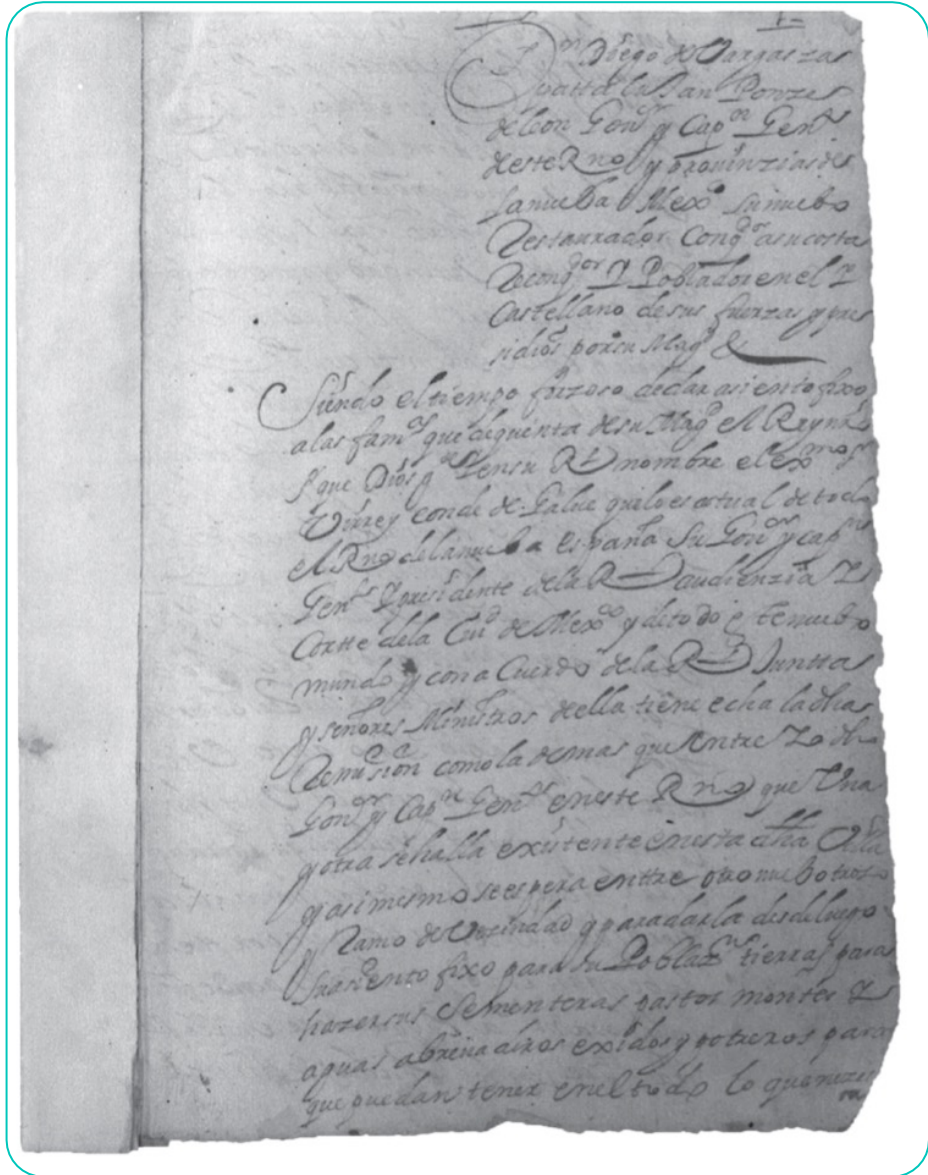


## **Annual Report**

**Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

**P.O. Box 592, Santa Cruz, New Mexico 87567-0592  
sclandgrant@gmail.com**

# History and the People



The first page of document placing settlers in possession of Villa de Santa Cruz de la Cañada, 1695. (SANMI, #882).

## La Merced del pueblo de Santa Cruz de la Cañada

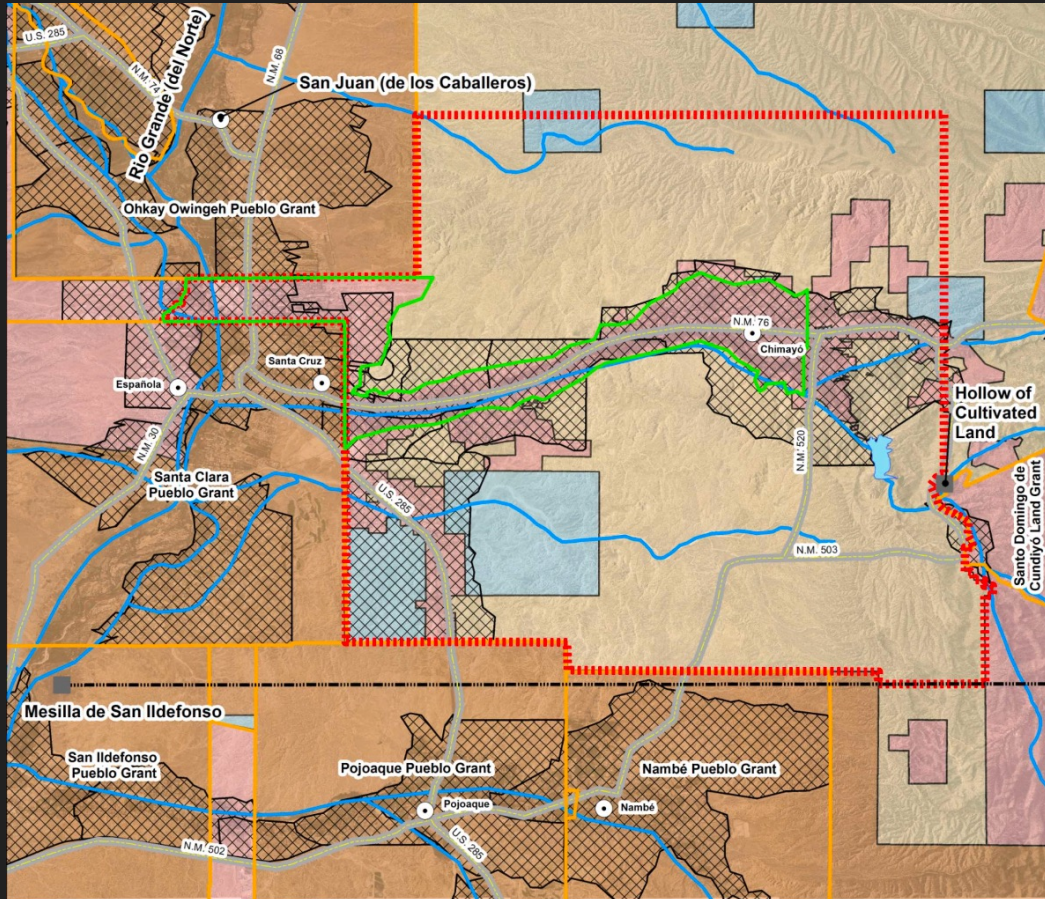
- The official name of the Land Grant-Merced is "Land Grant-Merced del Pueblo de Santa Cruz de La Cañada," also known as "The Santa Cruz de La Cañada Land Grant," "Land Grant-Merced," "Land Grant," or "Merced."
- Historically, it was the second officially designated villa in the Spanish province of New Mexico, initially called La Villa Nueva de Santa Cruz del Rey Nuestro Señor Carlos Segundo de los Mexicanos Españoles, later referred to as Villa Nueva de Santa Cruz, and now known as Santa Cruz de la Cañada.

# History and the People

**Observations** of Don Diego de Vargas Zapata Luján Ponce de León Marqués de la Nava de Bazinas Governor of New Mexico, 1691-1697 and 1703-1704 -Founder of the Villa Nueva de Santa Cruz de los Mexicanos Españoles de Rey Don Carlos Segundo

- I am indicating for them lands cleared and plowed, known for their great fertility, with their ditches, acequias, and dams in working order, with irrigation water ensured, as well as new houses. They need nothing more than to enter immediately to live in them and prepare their lands, which I shall designate for them.  
Edict, April 19, 1695
- At said Villa Nueva [de Santa Cruz] I found Don José Manuel de Galdámes [Giltoméy], naked, turned into a living image of Lazarus, clubbed and badly wounded, whom the said Indians of Nambé, thinking that he was dead, had thrown into the estufa [kiva] and who, feigning that he was dead, escaped from the said pueblo to the said villa.

# Original boundaries vs patented boundaries



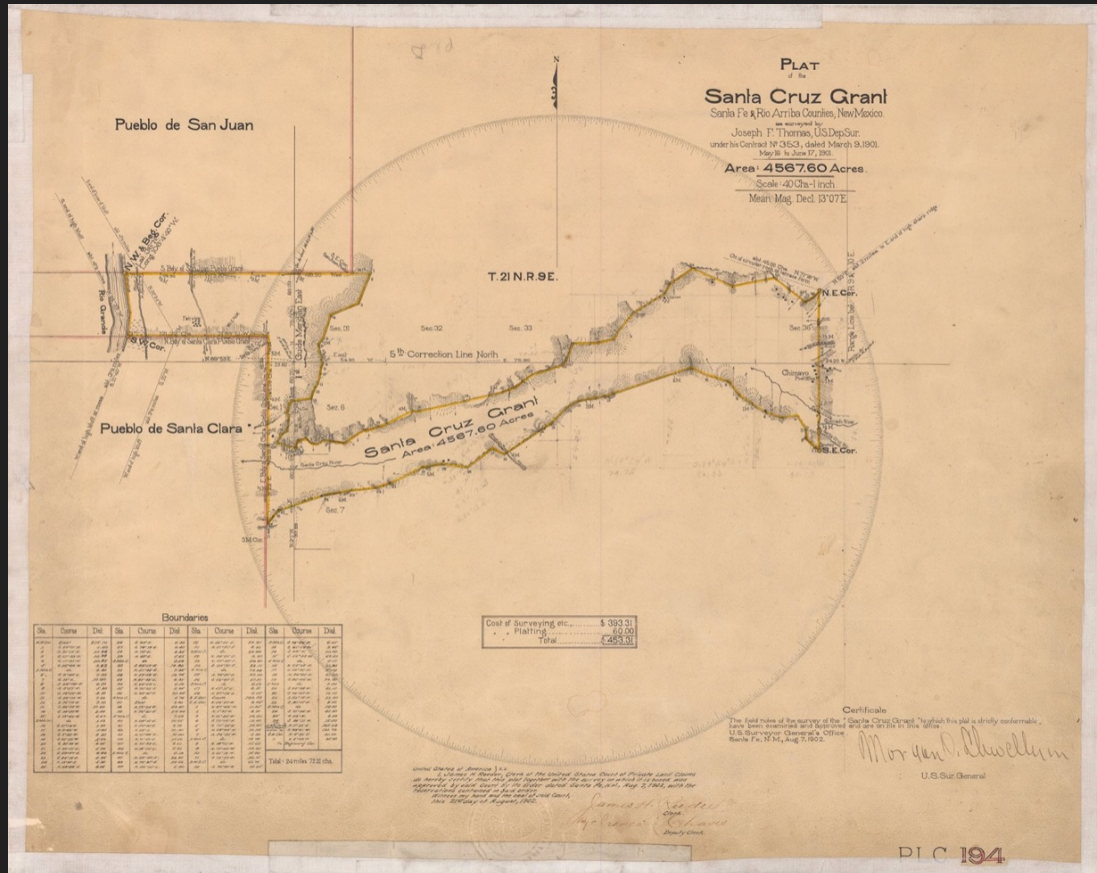
## Original

Reproduction of historical surveys, sketches, and verbal descriptions.  
UNM LGSP 4/23/2012

The historic boundaries of the Land Grant-Merced as per the original Spanish/Mexican documentation are as follows:

- Stretching west to east from the junction of the Santa Cruz River at the Rio del Norte (Río Grande) to the tributaries of the Santa Cruz River coming from the mountains in the east and to the “lands of the Indians of San Cristóbal,” near modern day Córdoba, New Mexico.
- The jurisdiction also extends from the sovereign boundaries of Ohkay Owingue Pueblo in the north along the west bank of the Rio Del Norte (Río Grande) to the Mesilla de San Ildefonso Pueblo in the South.
- East from the Rio Del Norte (Río Grande) along the Ohkay Owingue Pueblos southern boundary and from the Rio Del Norte (Río Grande) along the boundary of the sovereign Pueblos of San Ildefonso, Jacona, Pojoaque and Nambé.

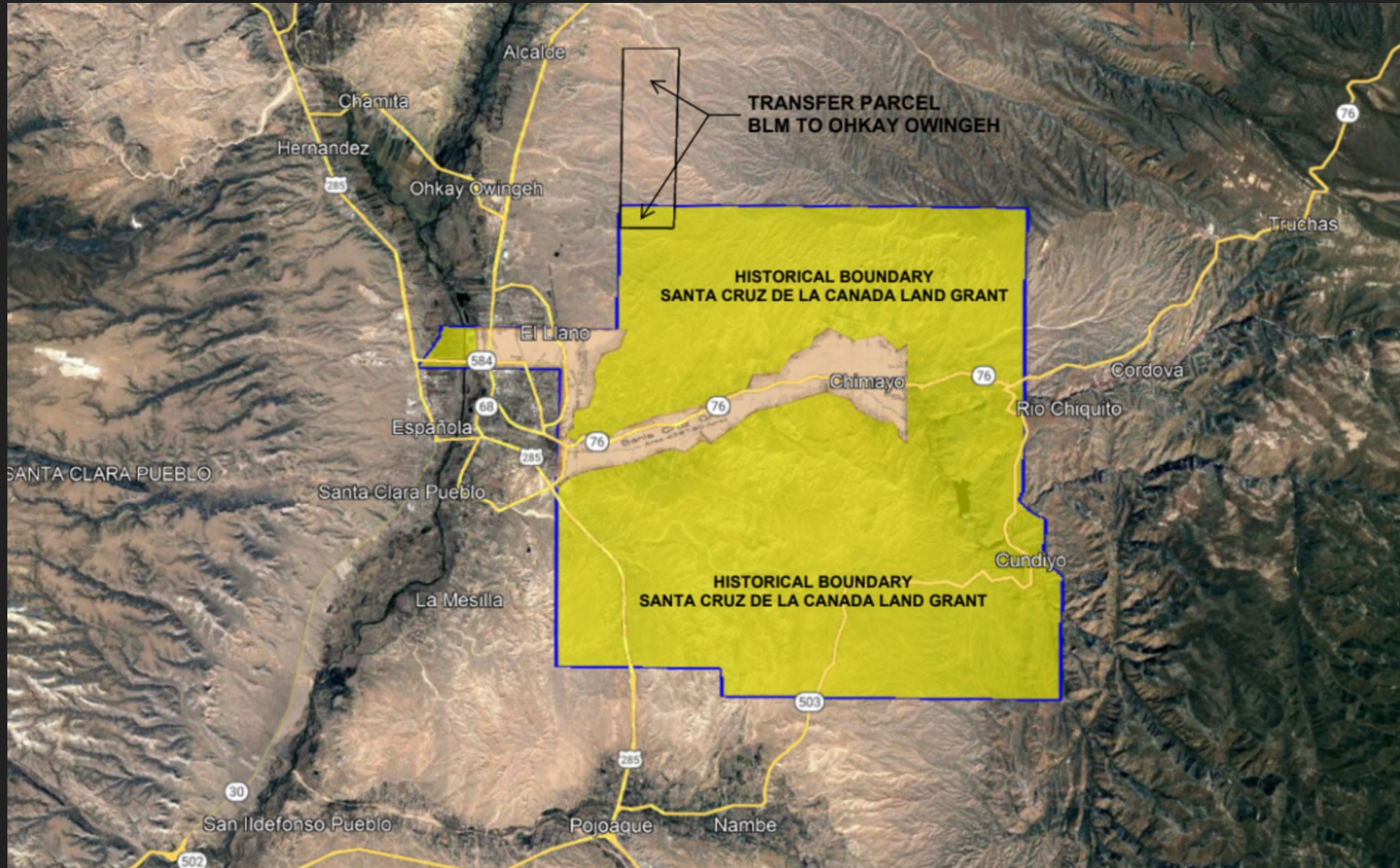
# Original boundaries vs patented boundaries



**Patented**

- The Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant was one of the first land grants in Rio Arriba.
- Established on April 22, 1695, by Governor de Vargas with sixty-six settlers and their families.
- Named Santa Cruz de Los Españoles Mexicanos del Rey Nuestro Señor Don Carlos Segundo.
- Nearly all non-Pueblo settlements in the 1700s grew from the Santa Cruz Grant.
- An 1899 U.S. Courts of Private Land Claims decision stripped the grant's common lands.
- The grant was reduced from over 43,000 acres to 4,567.6 acres.
- The United States patented it on July 7, 1910.

# Original boundaries vs patented boundaries




# The Original List Settlers

*“Although there is no surviving list of the names of the individuals and families that constituted the first settlers, there are two important records that confirm the presence of several men on the day of the founding of the new villa. It is presumed that the wives of these men were also present. The initial list is that of the first officials of the Villa Nueva de Santa Cruz”.*

## **Pre-Pueblo Revolt families that returned:**

- Apodaca
- Archuleta
- Durán
- Herrera
- Luján
- Madrid
- Martín Serrano
- Moraga
- Márquez,
- Mondragón
- Montoya
- Salazar
- Serna
- Torres
- Trujillo

- 
- Sargento Mayor Antonio Jorge, alcalde mayor and war captain, and his wife, Catalina de Espíndola.
  - Sargento Nicolás Ortiz, lieutenant alcalde mayor, and his wife, doña Mariana Barba Coronado, and their children.
  - Alférez José Ruiz de Valdes, militia captain, and his wife, María de Medina Cabrera, and their son.
  - Sargento Manuel Vallejos and his wife, Mariana Hurtado.
  - Antonio Godines, alguacil (sheriff) of war, a widower, with a daughter.
  - Don José del Valle, squadron leader, and his wife, Ana de Ribera, with a foster son, Bernardino de Sena.
  - Sebastián de Salas, squadron leader, and his wife, María García.
  - Miguel Fajardo, squadron leader.
  - Miguel Ladrón de Guevara.
  - Juan de Paz Bustillos, squadron leader, and his wife, Antonia de Alanís, and a goddaughter, Josefa de Pas Bustillos.

# The 1697 List of Residents

- Nicolás Ortiz (known to have been an early alcalde mayor of Santa Cruz), with his wife, doña Mariana [Barba Coronado] and the following dependents: Manuela, Nicolás, Antonio, Luis Francisco, and José.
- Juan de Sandoval and Gertrudis [de Herrera] with one dependent, María.
- Juan de Bustos (Pas Bustillos) and Antonia [de Alanís] with one dependent, Josefa [de Pas Bustillos y Ontiveros].
- José de Atienza, the elder, with Gertrudis [Sevillano de Mancilla] and two dependents, Cayetano and José.
- Juan de Atienza, widower, and his daughter, Ignacia.
- José de Atienza, the younger, and Estefanía [Moreno de Trujillo], with two dependents, María and Francisco.
- José Rodríguez and María [de Samano] with four dependents, Gertrudis, Juan, Juana, and Antonio.
- Ignacio de Aragón and Sebastiana [Ortiz] with three dependents, María Antonio and Francisco.
- Tomas Palomino and Gertrudis [Bautista de Ulibarrí].
- Diego Jirón de Tejeda and María [de Leyva y Mendoza] with two dependents, José and Gertrudis.
- Nicolás Jirón de Tejeda and Josefa [Sedano].
- Tomás Jirón de Tejeda and Antonia [Domínguez de Mendoza] with two dependents, Dimas and María.
- Captain Antonio Domínguez's orphan children: Teresa, Leonor, Francisca, and Antonio.
- Antonio de Moya and Francisca [Morales de Guijosa] with two dependents, María and Francisco.
- Teresa Fernández [widow of Juan Fernández de Atienza] and her children, Diego and María.
- Miguel Gerónimo del Aguila and Gerónima [de Florido] with one dependent, Josefa.
- Tomás de Herrera Sandoval and Pascuala [de la Concepción Ribera] and two dependents, Antonio and Teresa.
- Miguel de Quintana and Gertrudis [Moreno de Trujillo] and one dependent, María.
- Juan [Lorenzo] de Medina, the short one, and Antonia [Sedano].



# The 1697 List of Residents continued

- Juan de Medina, the tall one, and Juana, with one dependent, Juana [Márquez].
- Gabriel de Ansués and doña Felipa [de Villavicencio Lechuga] and one dependent, María.
- Juan Antonio de Esquibel and María [de San Nicolás Rangel] with two dependents, Magdalena and Teresa.
- Manuel de Cervantes and Francisca Rodríguez.
- Cristóbal Marcelino [Ladrón de Guevara] and Juana [de Góngora] with his son, Cayetano.
- Josefa Durán, widow of Agustín Griego, and their children, Antonia and Juan.
- Salvador Durán's orphan sons, Lázaro and Baltasar.
- Diego Márquez [de Ayala] and María [de Palacios Bolívar] with two dependents, Diego and Juan.
- Juan Chirinos [aka Martínez de Cervantes] and María de Porras.
- José Jaramillo [Negrete] and María [de Sotomayor Barusa] with three dependents, Pedro, José, and Roque.
- José Cortés and María [de Carvajal] with three dependents, Rafaela, Dionisia and José.
- Antonio de Silva and Gregoria [Ruiz] with three dependents, Gertrudis, José and Juan.
- Andrés de Cárdenas and Juana [de Ávalos] with two dependents, Petrona and Teresa.
- José Vásquez [aka Velásquez] and Juana [de Caras] with two dependents, María and Lorenzo.
- Juan Ruiz Cordero and María [Nicolasa de Carrillo].
- Felipa Martín, her husband, Agustín de Carvajal, absent, with five dependents, Juana, María, Pedro, Miguel and Antonio.
- [Francisco] Xavier Romero and María and one dependent, Francisco.
- Miguel Ladrón de Guevara and Felipa [Guerrero].
- María de Mora [wife of Diego Sayago] and her son, Diego [González de la Rosa].

# The 1707 List of Residents

- Alcalde Mayor Roque Madrid md. with Juana de Alvarez [Arbizu?] has 8 persons
- Cristóbal Cerna [de la Serna] md. with Josefa Madrid has 8 persons
- Matías Madrid md. with Antonia [de la Serna] has 7 persons
- José Madrid md. with Juana [no surname given] has 5 persons
- Lázaro Durán md. with Gregoria [de la Serna] has 5 persons
- Juan Alonso [Mondragón] md. with Sebastiana Trujillo has 7 persons
- Miguel Carrillo md. with María [de Mondragón] has 5 persons
- Josefa Griego, widow, has a family of 11
- Sebastian Durán md. with Ana [Martín] has 6 persons
- Tomás Núñez md. with Juana [Durán] has 3 persons
- Juan Chirinos, widower [of María Guadalupe Navarro] has 4 persons
- José Trujillo md. with Antonia [Luján] has 11 persons
- Pedro Sánchez [de Iñigo] md. with María [Luján] has 9 persons
- Francisca Romero, widow [of Matías Luján] has a family of 10
- Félix Luján md. with Francisca [Gómez de Torres] has 5 persons
- José Naranjo md. with Catalina [Luján] has 7 persons
- Cristóbal [no surname], an Indian, md. with María [no surname] has 6 persons [?/?]
- Sebastián [no surname], an Indian, md. with Magdalena [no surname] has 6 persons
- Isidro [no surname], an Indian, md. with María [no surname] has 5 persons
- Agustina [no surname], Indian widow has 6 persons
- José de Atienza md. with Gertrudis [Sevillano de Mancilla] has 6 persons
- José de Atienza, his son, md. with Estefanía [Moreno de Trujillo] has 8 persons
- Joaquín de Atienza md. with María [Ansures] has 2 persons
- Miguel Fajardo md. with Felipa [no surname] has 5 persons
- Sebastián Martín md. with María [Luján] has 8 persons
- Pedro Ávila md. with María [Rosa Montañó] has 6 persons
- Blas Martín md. with Ángela [no surname] has 3 persons
- Juan de Medina md. with María [no surname] has 5 persons
- Isabel González, widow [of Captain Juan Archuleta] has 8 persons
- Gabriel Ansures md. with Felipa [de Villavicencio] has 3 persons
- Cristóbal Tafoya md. with María [Isabel de Herrera] has 12 persons
- Catalina Griego, widow [of Diego Trujillo], has 5 persons
- Cristóbal Gamboa md. with Antonia [López, a Tiwa of Sandía] has
  - 2 persons
- Diego Gamboa md. with Josefa [no surname] has 6 persons
- Agustín de Salazar md. with Felipa [de Gamboa] has 8 persons
- Diego Martín md. with Rosa [de Atienza] has 7 persons
- Domingo Martín md. with Josefa [de Herrera] has 9 persons
- Juan Lorenzo de Medina md. with Antonia [Sedano] has 3 persons
- Diego Márquez md. with Juana [Martín Serrano] has 3 persons
- María de Valdes, widow [of Tomás de Cabrera?], has 9 persons
- Miguel de Quintana md. with Antonia [sic Gertrudis Moreno de Trujillo]
- Roque Jaramillo [Negrete] md. with Petrona [Cárdenas] has 6 persons
- Bartolomé Lobato md. with Gertrudis [no surname] has 12 persons
- Antonio Molinar md. with Teresa [no surname] has 6 persons
- Juan de Guido, Indian, md. with Antonia [no surname] has 3 persons
- Baltasar Rodarte md. with Sebastiana [de la Vega] has 2 persons

*Early Settlers of Santa Cruz de la Cañada 1695-1715 J A Esquibel 2015*

&

*La Iglesia de Santa Cruz de la Cañada 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (1695-2015) –*

*Celebrating 320 Years of Parish History*

# The 1707 List of Residents

- Baltasar Rodarte md. with Sebastiana [de la Vega] has 2 persons
- Diego Jirón [de Tejada] md. with Isabel [no surname] has 7 persons
- Antonio de Moya md. with Josefa [sic Francisca de Guijosa] has 5 persons
- Miguel Martín md. with María [Archuleta] has 3 persons
- Tomás de Herrera md. with Pascuala [de la Concepción] has 8 persons
- Gabriel Romero md. with María [no surname] has 7 persons
- Ambrosio Fresqui md. with Francisca [no surname] has 10 persons
- Juan de Aragón md. with Margarita [Varela] has 8 persons
- Juan de Dios [Sandoval] md. with Gertrudis [de Herrera] has 6 persons
- Francisco [Afán] de Rivera, single, has 4 persons
- María de Benavides, widow [of Diego González Bernal], has 9 persons
- Alexo Martín md. with María [de la Rocha] has 7 persons
- Antonio Martín md. with Ana María [Gómez] has 5 persons
- Francisco Martín md. with Casilda [Contreras] has 3 persons
- José Sosa md. with Rosa [Martín] has 4 persons
- Martín Fernández md. with María [Montoya] has 4 persons
- Salvador Romero, widower [of María López de Ocanto], has 9 person
- Miguel Tenorio md. with Agustina [Romero] has 4 persons
- Melchora de los Reyes, widow [of Luis Martín Serrano], has 13 persons
- Alonso Fernández md. with Catalina [Martín de Salazar] has 8 persons
- Antonio Bernal md. with Rosa [Romero de Pedraza] has 4 persons
- Hernando Martín [Serrano] md. with Josefa [González] has 6 persons
- Antonio Martín md. with María [de Carvajal] has 11 persons
- Cristóbal Martín [Serrano] md. with Antonia [Moraga] has 9 persons
- Cristóbal Martín, son of the above, md. with Antonia [Montoya] has 8 persons
- Francisco Martín [Serrano] md. with Juana [García] has 6 persons
- Clemente Montoya md. with Josefa [de Herrera] has 4 persons



*Exterior of the Santa Cruz Church, ca. 1885*

*Early Settlers of Santa Cruz de la Cañada 1695-1715 J A Esquibel 2015*

*&*

*La Iglesia de Santa Cruz de la Cañada 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (1695-2015) –  
Celebrating 320 Years of Parish History*

# Living within the Grant

## Ancestral Background

- Juan Jose Bustos, born around 1722 in Santa Fe, Nuevo Mexico, New Spain
- Died in 1808, lived in Santa Cruz de La Cañada
- Wife: Antonia Maria Teresa Sanchez, born in Santa Cruz de La Cañada in 1738

## Family Dynamics

- Juan was 9th of 13 siblings
- Families intermarried with other settlers and local Indians
- Cultural traditions and innovations were passed down through generations

## Jobs and Economy

- Early Spanish settlers were primarily farmers and stockmen
- Bustos brothers were merchants who traveled and sold goods

## Settlement Expansion

- Santa Cruz de la Cañada established as a villa in 1695
- Settlements expanded up the Santa Cruz valley, Rio Grande valley, and Chama valley
- Small landholdings, or ranchos, were common

## Land Use and Agriculture

- Landholdings included irrigable farmland (long lots), grazing, and hunting lands
- Community grants included common lands (ejidos) for communal use



Working on the railroad (D&RGWR) circa 1916  
Manuel de Atocha Rodríguez, at far right.

From the book *Española* by Camilla Trujillo



<https://www.farmfreshjourney.com/el-valle-de-chimayo>

# Living within the Grant continued

## Land Use and Agriculture

- Landholdings included irrigable farmland (long lots), grazing, and hunting lands
- Community grants included common lands (ejidos) for communal use

## Historical Development

- Prosperity increased over two centuries with farming and cattle keeping
- 20th century brought advancements with the "engine" for transportation and productivity
- Education and job opportunities expanded, especially post-1940s Los Alamos project

## Modern-Day Life

- Residents work in diverse occupations: Los Alamos, government, education, retail
- Traditions of land ownership, gardening, and family gatherings continue
- Community values its traditions and maintains them through generations- 1900 – Present:
- Residents had the opportunity to attend school and become educated.
- Job opportunities became readily available, especially after the project in Los Alamos in the 1940s.
- Currently, the population of the Santa Cruz area works in a variety of occupations:
  - Los Alamos
  - City, County, and State Government
  - Teaching in schools
  - Working in local retail establishments
- Traditions remain the same:
  - They hold fast to their land, much of which has been passed down from generation to generation.
  - Many plant gardens to grow vegetables and harvest fruit from their trees.



# Heir Empowerment & Growth

- Natural resource conservation programming
- Housing and homelessness
- Acequia and SCID collaboration
- Youth Leadership Development
- Partnerships and collaborations with local nonprofits, organizations, municipalities, governments, colleges, and Pueblos.
- Training and community development.
- Creating meaningful opportunities for heirs.
- Mapping
- Common land restoration (cemeteries, traditional use easements, etc.)



# Contact

○ Website: <https://sclandgrant.wixsite.com/santacruzlandgrant>

○ Email: [sclandgrant@gmail.com](mailto:sclandgrant@gmail.com)

This site was designed with the **WIX**.com website builder. Create your website today.

[Start Now](#)

## Santa Cruz de la Cañada Land Grant



[Click for Meeting Information Page >](#)

[Meeting Minutes >](#)

[Register as an Heir Click here >](#)