

Fact sheet: The 12 Taos area MDWCAs and benefits from the *Abeyta* settlement

- The twelve Mutual Domestic Water Consumer Associations (“MDWCAs”) are public water systems and political subdivisions of the State of New Mexico.
- Each MDWCA is responsible for providing water for domestic purposes to its community.
- MDWCA communities have been in existence since the arrival of Hispanic settlers in the eighteenth century; priority dates coincide with that of the local acequia.
- Together, the 12 MDWCAs serve over five thousand people in the Valley.
- MDWCAs are required to meter water for quantity and monitor water for quality.
- The adjudication court (through its Special Master) conducted a two week trial on the water rights claims of the 12 MDWCAs in 2001. Because it was likely that any decision of the court would be the basis for further appeals and continued costs, the State of New Mexico and the MDWCAs attempted to negotiate a settlement of the claims prior to a ruling by the court. The settlement agreement between the State of New Mexico and the 12 MDWCAs regarding water quantities is incorporated in Section 6.4 of the Taos Pueblo Water Rights Settlement Agreement, which provides that the State of New Mexico will provide up to \$2.9 million dollars for water rights acquisition as shown:

MDWCA	# Connections/	Adjudicated/Permit Water Rights	Water Rights to be Acquired
Arroyo Seco	140	120.00 AFY	0.00 AFY
Cañon	191	58.34	21.81 AFY
El Salto	73	25.66	14.24 AFY
Llano Quemado	240	58.31	40.39 AFY
Lower Arroyo Hondo	70	24.30	4.75 AFY
Lower Des Montes	94	23.02	8.13 AFY
Ranchos de Taos	275	105	3.50 AFY
Talpa	250	64.48	28.62 AFY
Upper Arroyo Hondo	70	26.60	2.02 AFY
Upper Des Montes	75	17.76	11.64 AFY
Upper Ranchitos	80	18.15	7.40 AFY
Valdez	28	11.50	2.50 AFY
Totals	1,586 connections— approx. 5000 people and several businesses	553.12	145.00 AFY

- Three of the mitigation wells may be used as supply/production wells by local MDWCA.
- Waiver of protests for “footprint transfers” as provided in Section 6.5.2.