

Project Cost Agreements signed for two Section 593 projects

by Frank Martin and Joan Mier

The District recently signed two Project Cost Agreements (PCA's) for Section 593 projects – one to alleviate flooding in Albuquerque's South Valley and one to provide much needed improvements to water and sewer lines in Belen.

The PCA for a project that will alleviate flood damage in the South Valley area of Albuquerque between Gun Club Rd. and I-25 was signed by the Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA), and Bernalillo County. The \$7.69 million Black Mesa Project is in the first stages of the design phase with a scheduled start date of May 2005, according to Pete Doles, project manager. The Project Management Plan (PMP) estimates that construction will be completed 16 months after the start date. \$1 million of the money allocated has been received to complete planning and design for the project.

New construction will consolidate and convey storm drainage from existing AMAFCA dams, Don Felipe, Raymac, and McCoy, to a new pump station to be located in the vicinity of the I-25 bridge over the Rio Grande. The Los Padillas Drain will be rebuilt to accommodate increased storm drainage, and a new outlet to release floodwaters to the Rio Grande will also be built downstream of the pump station.

"This project will help alleviate the ponding that occurs in the South Valley due to the inadequate storm drain

facilities," Doles said. More efficient conveyance of the storm drainage will reduce the instances of contamination of the wells and increase the quality of waters reentering the Rio Grande from the valley.

All new construction will be done on existing easements, right of ways, and properties owned by The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, Bernalillo County, and the City of Albuquerque.

The PCA for the Belen Utility Infrastructure Upgrade Project was signed by the Corps and the city of Belen. The work will include the removal, replacement, and installation of water and sewer lines, storm water drains, and pavement on Acoma, Laguna, Torres, Velta, and Vivian streets. The estimated project cost is \$1.7 million.

"We have had this issue on hold a long time because we didn't have the funds to address the problem," said Acting City Manager Mildred Garley. "The city of Belen has been very fortunate to receive the assistance of the Army Corps of Engineers with the infrastructure project."

Section 593 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 authorizes the Corps funds earmarked for project improvements in New Mexico communities to design and build water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects in Central New Mexico. This includes projects for wastewater treatment and related facilities, remediation, environmental restoration, and surface water resource protection and development. □

Safety Corner

Keep your pets safe from summer's heat

by Jim Jaffe
Safety Manager

Leaving your pet in a parked vehicle in the summer can be a serious hazard. On a sunny summer day, the temperature inside a parked vehicle can rise to 160 degrees F in a matter of minutes, even with the windows slightly cracked. With only hot air to breathe and no source of shade from sunlight, your pet can quickly suffer brain damage or die from heatstroke. As a concerned pet owner you should be aware of the following signs of heat stress:

- Intense panting
- Glassy eyes
- Rapid pulse
- Vertigo
- Nausea
- Deep red or purple tongue

If your pet becomes overheated, you must lower its body temperature without delay! Get your pet in the shade and apply cool (not cold) water

all over its body. Apply ice packs or cold towels only to the head, neck and chest. Give your pet small amounts of cool water to drink or let it lick ice cubes. Take your pet to the veterinarian immediately; it can save your pet's life. Remember, on hot summer days don't leave your pet in a parked vehicle for any length of time; it is safer at home. If you see an animal in a car having signs of heat stress, call your local animal control agency or the police department. □