

## US Army Corps of Engineers Acequia Restoration and Rehabilitation Program FAQs

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**Q:** How can acequia projects be planned in advance so that USACE can allow them to be included in CDS requests by our Senators and Representatives?

**Answer:** *The non-federal partner for the USACE Acequia Program is the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (ISC). Early coordination with the NM ISC and USACE is key to allowing USACE to use programmatic funds to perform an initial assessment. The initial assessment will identify issues and develop recommendations including a Scope of Work and cost estimate which can be used for design and construction funding requests.*

**Q:** How much recurring funding does USACE have for the 1113 acequia program?

**Answer:** *USACE does not receive consistent annual programmatic funds for the Sec 1113 Acequia Program. USACE requests funds based upon the need and capacity to perform work in a given year. Congress provides funding to USACE based upon that capacity through an annual appropriations act.*

**Q:** Are there other funds available to acequias other than 1113? (In past years 815 funds were available to acequias through the ISC)

**Answer:** *USACE funding for the acequia program is only through Sec 1113.*

**Q:** What acequia projects are currently in the pipeline in the USACE 1113 program?

**Answer:** *Acequia projects are prioritized in coordination with the non-federal partner and the NM ISC.*

**Q:** How can our acequia get assistance from the program or whom do we contact?

**Answer:** *Assistance to acequia associations in the form of projects is collaborated on with the NM Interstate Stream Commission. There are many factors that play a role in determining which community gets assistance and when ranging from need to funding. Reaching out to the NM ISC or the USACE Acequia Program Manager (contact info on main page) is a good first step. Additionally, the Acequia Program sheet (main page) has further information on the program and a template Request for Assistance letter.*

**Q:** How long does it take for an acequia project to be completed through USACE from start to finish?

**Answer:** *This can be varied based upon the complexity of the project and the availability of funding. The acequia program is funded through an annual appropriations act (usually early in the calendar year). Typically a project can be designed and constructed within one to two years after receipt of project funds, however, construction is often delayed until after irrigation season, which can add an additional year.*

**Q:** What ways do the NMAA and USACE work to assist acequias?

**Answer:** *The primary ways that the NMAA can assist is through coordination and outreach with USACE. In addition, there may be opportunities for the NMAA to partner with USACE through the Planning Assistance to States program to provide technical assistance to conduct a statewide assessment of acequia needs, as well as conduct outreach.*

**Q:** What type of coordination is in place with ISC to ensure that there is a state match available?

**Answer:** *USACE and the ISC hold monthly program and project status meetings in which we work to streamline processes and align federal and non-federal funding streams.*

*Additionally, an updated Project Partnership Agreement is under final review at USACE HQ. This agreement will incorporate legislature as defined in WRDA 2022 that establishes a new cost share structure for communities that benefit from an Acequia restoration and rehabilitation project that are deemed economically disadvantaged to a federal share of 90% (from 75%) and a non-federal sponsor (NFS) share to 10% (from 25%). The resulting effect would translate to great savings for the ISC, which in turn would stretch their funding allowing for greater inclusion of acequia communities and execution of projects.*

**Q:** What other resources are available to help our acequia association and community?

**Answer:** *There are quite a few resources available to Acequia Associations that can provide assistance to local acequia communities in a multitude of ways. On the Acequia Program homepage, under additional resources are just some of the outlets communities can reach out to.*

**Q:** Can USACE assist our acequia in the case of an emergency or a disaster?

**Answer:** *Typically the Acequia Program is not involved in these efforts as our partnership with the Interstate Stream Commission is project based. The most impactful resources and entities to reach out to in these situations would be local relief offices and/or FEMA. FEMA has an Acequia Task Force that works with other agencies (to include the Office of the State Engineer and NRCS) in times of need for disaster relief, most recently the Hermits Peak – Calf Canyon wildfire.*