

# **South Valley Regional Association of Acequias**

## **By-laws**

---

### **Article I - Name**

The name of this corporation shall be South Valley Regional Association of Acequias Inc., hereafter referred to as "South Valley Regional Association of Acequias" or "SVRAA" or the "Region".

### **Article II - Principal Place of Business**

The principal office of the Region shall be located at 5734 Evans Rd., SW, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87105.

### **Article III - Duration**

The period of duration of the Region shall be perpetual.

### **Article IV - Purpose and Objectives**

The purpose of the South Valley Regional Association is to maintain and strengthen the connection between land, water and community in the South Valley by protecting the water and acequias of our communities and by ensuring the continued survival of our agricultural traditions and land-based way of life. Our objectives include the following:

1. Provide education about the significance and value of acequias through their traditional importance in the ritual, culture, and economy of New Mexico.
2. Provide training and technical assistance to satisfy the needs of rural water users.
3. Provide educational resources informing everyone interested in and affected by the role of acequias in water management, law, regulation, and planning.
4. Provide support for acequia users involved in disputes over water access or water rights.
5. Promote governmental policies which protect the acequia system, address issues of water quality, and govern decisions about the use of agricultural land.
6. Advocate for legislation which affects economic development that directly supports agricultural use of land.

### **Article V - Membership**

Any private or community acequia in the South Valley is eligible to become a member of the South Valley Regional Association of Acequias and may join by signing a membership agreement in accordance with policies established by the Board of Directors. Each member or parciante of a private or comunity acequia is entitled to one vote in general membership meetings

## **Article VI - Membership meetings**

Section 1: The Region shall have regular membership meetings at least twice per year in the Fall and Spring at a place and time determined by the Board.

Section 2: Special meetings to address a specific issue may be called at any time by the Board of Directors or upon written petition to the Board of Directors signed by at least 10 percent (10%) of voting parciantes. Only the specific stated issue may be deliberated upon at a special meeting.

Section 3: Notification of any meeting, including starting time, place, and agenda, shall be given by mail or phone to all parciantes at least ten days prior to the meeting.

Section 4. A quorum for conducting business shall be fifty one percent <sup>Amended 2008</sup> ~~(51%)~~ <sup>15%</sup> of the parciantes except as otherwise stated in this section. A quorum, once established for that specific meeting, shall remain in effect to transact all business set on the agenda even though parciantes shall voluntarily leave the meeting. In the event that a quorum is not established at a meeting duly called, those assembled shall recess for a period of not more than seven (7) days. All parciantes shall be notified of the rescheduled meeting time, wherein the meeting shall resume at the time and place specified at the end of the previous meeting and all business listed on the agenda shall be transacted whether or not the prescribed number of parciantes are present.

## **Article VII - Board of Directors**

Section 1: The business and affairs of the Region shall be managed by a Board of Directors. The Board shall consist of one (1) representative from each of the member acequias of this Region. That representative will be selected by the local acequia.

Section 2: Board members will serve on the Board for a term of two (2) years. If a board member cannot finish a term, the local acequia will appoint another board member to fulfill that term.

Section 3: Officers of the Board shall consist of a President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each officer shall serve a term of one (1) year. The Board will elect officers at the Spring meeting. Should an officer be unable to finish his/her term, a special meeting of the Board shall be called and a board member will be elected to finish that term.

Section 4: The Board shall meet at least quarterly and a quorum shall consist of at least fifty one percent (51%) of board members. Notice of meetings which include date, time, and agenda shall be given to all board members by mail or phone at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

Section 5: Any Board member may be removed from office by a majority vote of not less than fifty one percent (51%) of the board. A special meeting must be called by the President after informing all board members and designated acequia of the charges. The accused member will have right to present a defense to the Board before any vote is conducted.

Section 6: The functions of the Board of Directors shall include:

1. Election or appointment of the officers of the board.
2. Creation of management policies.
3. Informing members of Region business and financial transactions.
4. Creation of budgets and distribution of Region monies.
5. Responsibility for the daily operation of the Region.
6. Responsibility for audits and oversight of the Region.
7. Attend all meetings and fully participate in Region business.

Section 7: The President will have the responsibility of presiding at all meetings of the Region and the Board. The President will call special meetings. The President will sign all contracts approved by the Board of Directors and other instruments on behalf of the Region. The President will have such powers and shall perform such other duties as may be properly required by the Board of Directors or the Region.

Section 8. The Vice-president will carry out the responsibilities of President if the President is absent, and shall have such other powers and duties as assigned by the President.

Section 9: The Secretary will record minutes and maintain complete records of all meetings of the Region and the Board of Directors. The Secretary will have responsibility for signing Region business documents in the absence of the President. The Secretary shall notify members of all meetings of the Region or the Board of Directors and is responsible for all membership records. The Secretary is responsible for all reports required by statute and other duties required by the Board or the Region.

Section 10: The Treasurer is the chief fiscal officer of the Region and will serve as custodian of the Region's accounts and property. The Treasurer shall prepare reports of the Region's business and is responsible for signing and recording all Region expenditures. All checks must carry signature of both the Treasurer and the President. The Treasurer shall carry such other responsibilities as required by the Region or the Board of Directors.

#### **Article VIII - Fiscal Matters**

Section 1: The fiscal year of the region shall be January 1 through December 31.

Section 2: The Board of Directors may set membership dues.

Section 3: Any contributions, bequests, grants, or gifts made to the Region shall be accepted or collected as authorized by the Board of Directors.

Section 4: All funds of the Region shall be deposited to the credit of the Region under such conditions and in such financial institutions as shall be designated by the Board of Directors.

Section 5: All contracts, checks and orders for payment, receipt, or deposit of money and access to securities of the Region shall be executed and delivered as provided by the Board of Directors.

Section 6: The annual budget of estimated income and expenditures for each fiscal year shall be approved by the Board of Directors. No expense shall be incurred in excess of budgetary appropriations and the availability of funds.

Section 7: Periodic financial reports shall be submitted to any governmental authorities and funding entities in accordance with their legal requirements, and copies provided to each member aequia.

Section 8: Directors shall not receive any salary for their services as such; except that by Resolution of the Board of Directors actual, necessary, and reasonable expenses may be allowed for attendance by the Directors at meetings of the Board, provided that funds are available. However, board members qualified to perform staff or consulting functions for the Region may be contracted to do so, provided that they shall not be allowed to vote on any matter that affects such a contract or the compensation to be paid for performing such duties.

Section 9: All persons having access to or major responsibilities for the handling of monies and securities of the Region may be required to be bonded as provided by Resolution of the Board of Directors.

Section 10: The Board shall develop policies that prohibit nepotism or conflict of interest.

**Article IX - Property Interest, Non-Liability and Prohibitions of Certain Loans**

Section 1: No Director of the Region shall have any right, title, or interest on or to any property or assets of the Region, either prior to or at any time of any liquidation or dissolution of the Region: all of which properties and assets shall at the time of any liquidation or dissolution be transferred to a charitable, scientific or educational institution within the region, selected by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: The private property of the Directors shall be exempt from execution or other liability for any debts of the Region and no Director shall be liable or responsible for any debts or liabilities of the Region.

Section 3: No loan will be made by the Region to any Director, Officer, Employee, Contractor, Member, or Parciantes.

**Article X - Amendments**

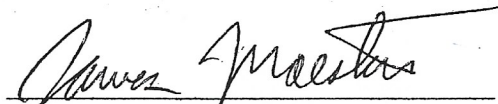
These By-laws may be repealed or amended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Parciantes voting at an annual meeting of the Region or at any special meeting of the Region called for that purpose.

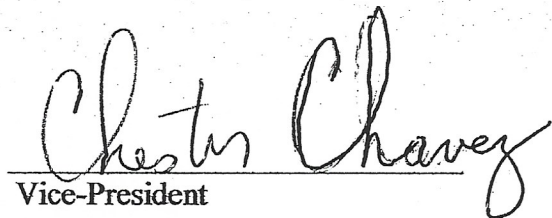
By-laws of the South Valley Regional Association of Acequias

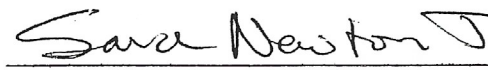
Certification

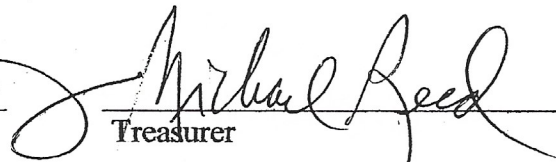
---

We, the undersigned, being the duly elected Officers of the South Valley Regional Association of Acequias do hereby certify that these Bylaws were approved by a majority vote of eligible members and duly adopted by the Board of Directors on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June month, 2007.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice-President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer