

WRRDA 7001 Submissions Package
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Proposal Name: Reauthorization for Abiquiu Reservoir, New Mexico

Submission Date: 09/14/2016

Proposal ID Number: 76ecca5c-6a20-4101-834c-c87f78c61e38

Purpose of Proposal: The purpose of these revisions to the authorizing legislation is to provide more flexibility in managing the water resources in the Middle Rio Grande in New Mexico. There are many water resources facing the Middle Rio Grande including ongoing Endangered Species Act Compliance, drought, and climate change. The proposed modification allows for more flexibility for storage of San Juan-Chama and Rio Grande system water in Abiquiu Reservoir, New Mexico. Abiquiu Dam was authorized as a flood control facility in northern New Mexico on the Rio Chama. Public Law 97-140 authorized storage of San Juan-Chama water in Abiquiu reservoir in the mid-1980's. Public Law 100-522 further authorized the storage of Rio Grande system water in lieu of San Juan-Chama water when space is available.

In addition to allowing for storage of either San Juan-Chama or Rio Grande system water, the modification increases the amount of available storage from 200,000 acre-feet to 230,000 acre-feet. The additional space would be exclusive the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (Water Authority) who is a regional water and wastewater utility that provides service to the largest population in the State of New Mexico. The additional space is set aside for the Water Authority who is the entity responsible for obtaining the necessary real property interests to allow for additional storage.

Finally, the modification defines that currently allotted space (29,100 acre-feet) shall remain the same into the future reassuring existing agreement holders that nothing is going to change for them.

This modification would not increase the existing authorized storage elevation, but would allow for temporary storage within space that was planned for sediment inflow until that space diminishes over time.

1. Administrative Details

Proposal Name: Reauthorization for Abiquiu Reservoir, New Mexico

by Agency: Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority

Locations: NM

Date Submitted: 09/14/2016

Confirmation Number: 76ecca5c-6a20-4101-834c-c87f78c61e38

Supporting Documents

File Name	Date Uploaded
Water Storage in Abiquiu Reservoir - September 12 2016.pdf	09/14/2016

2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.

Sponsor	Letter of Support
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority(Primary)	The purpose of the revised authorization is to provide more flexibility to manage the water resources in the Middle Rio Grande including dealing with critical Endangered Species Act Biological Opinions. Specifically, the proposed language allows for Rio Grande system water to be stored in conjunction with and not in lieu of San Juan-Chama water in Abiquiu Reservoir. This additional flexibility allows for opportunities to manage the system more efficiently by storing and releasing water to meet ESA requirements or Rio Grande Compact compliance. This language has been reviewed and supported by the Corps, Reclamation and the Fish & Wildlife Service in conjunction with the revised Biological Assessment for water operations in the Middle Rio Grande.

3. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study, a modification to an authorized USACE feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project. If it is a proposal for a modification, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.

[x] Modification to an Authorized USACE Project : No Data

4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.

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5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation (if necessary)

The modification is to provide additional authorization for storage and other modifications. There is no study or construction related to the language. Prior to implementation of the new storage, the non-federal entities will need to complete the necessary environmental studies (NEPA) and obtain the required permits from the NM State Engineer’s office. All of the funding to implement this authorization will be provided by the non-federal interests.

6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.

The proposed modification has significant nonmonetary benefits including the following:

1. Allows for storage of native water and San Juan-Chama water in Abiquiu reservoir. This provides additional flexibility to manage the storage and release of water for municipal and industrial, environmental and Rio Grande compact compliance. Currently, El Vado reservoir has the ability to store Rio Grande system water along with San Juan-Chama water, but is primarily used for agricultural purposes.
2. The Water Authority set aside 30,000 acre-feet of space in Abiquiu reservoir as an environmental pool to store and release water for instream flow purposes to provide habitat for endangered species. This language would allow for storage of Rio Grande system water to support other opportunities for filling and releasing water within the environmental pool.
3. The Water Authority has agreements with other entities including the City and County of Santa Fe and Bureau of Reclamation to name a couple to use the space as a regional asset. This new language supports that effort to bolster future economic opportunities for municipal and other interests in the MRG.
4. The Rio Grande system water already in transit could be captured in Abiquiu reservoir when it rains in the MRG saving over releases which is critical during droughts.

7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.

Yes

Local Support Description

The Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service along with the Corps supports this effort. There is also support from the City and County of Santa Fe along with members of the ESA Collaborative Program. It is also supported by the State Engineer and Interstate Stream Commission in New Mexico who are responsible for managing water resources in the State.

8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?

Yes