

**TIER-1 APPLICATION TO THE NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE
STREAM COMMISSION
FOR NEW MEXICO UNIT OR WATER UTILIZATION ALTERNATIVE
UNDER THE ARIZONA WATER SETTLEMENTS ACT**

APPLICANT INFORMATION

DATE: 4/18/2011

<p>1. Legal Name: 1892 Luna Irrigation Ditch Association</p>	<p>2. Organization: Acequia, Irrigation Ditch Association</p>										
<p>3. Address (street, city, county, state, and zip code): PO Box 1 Luna, NM 87824</p>	<p>4. Name, email, and phone number of contract person: Janice Kiehne janlee23@gilanet.com 575-547-2711</p>										
<p>5. TYPE OF APPLICATION (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Final <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary for review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revised</p>	<p>6. TYPE OF APPLICANT (CHECK BOX): <input type="checkbox"/> local governments or municipalities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> soil and water conservation districts, irrigation districts or commissions, acequias, or other political subdivision of the State of New Mexico <input type="checkbox"/> institutions of higher education or a consortium of such institutions <input type="checkbox"/> non-profit organizations or associations <input type="checkbox"/> private individual/s <input type="checkbox"/> federal agency (ies) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)</p>										
<p>7. BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The goal of the 1892 Luna Irrigation Ditch Association is to improve our present irrigation system to the point that we can deliver water to the point of beneficial use with more efficiency and with minimal water loss.</p>											
<p>8. AREAS AFFECTED (describe by county, municipality, township, etc. as applicable): The 1892 Luna Irrigation Ditch Association serves individuals in Luna, Catron County, New Mexico. The point of diversion from the San Francisco Riverbed is the North Bank of the San Francisco River in the NE1/4, NE1/4, NE1/4 Sec. 3, T.6S. R. 21W as shown in Gila River Hydrographic Survey Report, 1966, NM S.E.O., Vol. 7.</p>											
<p>9. TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED (in \$1,000):</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">2012: \$640,000</td> <td style="width: 20%;">2013: \$298,000</td> <td style="width: 20%;">2014: \$167,000</td> <td style="width: 20%;">2015: \$208,000</td> <td style="width: 20%;">2016: \$50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017:</td> <td>2018:</td> <td>2019:</td> <td>2020:</td> <td>2021:</td> </tr> </table>		2012: \$640,000	2013: \$298,000	2014: \$167,000	2015: \$208,000	2016: \$50,000	2017:	2018:	2019:	2020:	2021:
2012: \$640,000	2013: \$298,000	2014: \$167,000	2015: \$208,000	2016: \$50,000							
2017:	2018:	2019:	2020:	2021:							

10. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT, THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED REQUIREMENTS AND ASSURANCES IF THE PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED.		
9. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: Janice Kiehne	10. TITLE: Secretary/Treasurer	11. PHONE NUMBER: 575-547-2711
13. SIGNATURE:		DATE: 4/18/2011

Total Funding requested is based on all five phases of project being approved. Project can be completed in phases as follows:

Phase I

Construct a permanent diversion structure a short distance upstream from our existing diversion point. Install pipeline replacing the North Side Irrigation Ditch complete with valves at existing exit points, air relief and pressure reducing stations as needed.

Phase II

Install pipeline for all multi-use laterals complete with necessary valves and other appurtenances as needed and connect to North Side Irrigation Ditch pipeline.

Phase III

Install pipeline from diversion structure to replace South Side Irrigation Ditch as far as last user west of Luna complete with necessary valves and other appurtenances as needed.

Phase IV

Construct permanent diversion structure at point of diversion for Phillip Swapp Ditch.

Phase V

Construct permanent diversion structure at point of diversion for North Side J.H. Beaver Ditch (Only those proposals that qualified in Tier-1 evaluations will be considered in Tier-2 evaluations. No additional application is required for Tier-2.)

TIER-2 CRITERIA FOR A NM UNIT OR A WATER UTILIZATION ALTERNATIVE [1010 total points possible]

1. [570] If the proposal would extend the water supply through conservation, or increase the supply through development of new water,
 - a. Describe the location and verify the ownership of and legal access to lands related to the proposal. [0 to 30 points]

The 1892 Luna Irrigation Ditch Association was established while this area was Arizona Territory. It is unique in that when New Mexico gained statehood in January, 1912, the lands watered and the approximately one-half of the delivery ditch were located in New Mexico. Arizona gained statehood in February, 1912 and the dam, reservoir and the

other one-half of the delivery ditch are located in Arizona. Our dam is located at Luna Lake in Apache County, AZ (T5N, R, 31 E, Sections 16 and 17). The dam is located on what is National Forest System Lands of the Apache National Forest, Alpine Ranger District. The dam is owned and operated by the Luna Irrigation Ditch Association. Stored water is released from the reservoir to flow down the San Francisco River to the diversion point when irrigation water is needed in Luna. Water is utilized in Luna, Catron County, NM. Point of diversion (see map) is the North Bank of the San Francisco River in the NE1/4, NE1/4, NE1/4 Sec. 3, T.6 S. R. 21 W NMPM (as shown in Gila River Hydrographic Survey Report, 1966, NM S.E.O., Vol. 7). This diversion point is located on National Forest System Lands of the Apache National Forest (administered by the Gila National Forest, Quemado Ranger District. In February 1893, the By-Laws of the Ditch Company were drawn up and recorded. The Company filed to appropriate the waters of the San Francisco River on May 5, 1893. It was recorded on January 27, 1896. (Book 2 N.A.R.E. pg. 196 Records of Apache County, AZ).

Access to the diversion point will be through the Head of the Ditch campground. Quemado Ranger District supports the project (see letter attached) and will permit needed access to the diversion point and ditch. Reasonable access on private and public lands to maintain and improve irrigation ditches and associated structures is assured through New Mexico ditch law.

b. Identify the source of the water to be put to use. [0 to 10 points]

The 1892 Luna Irrigation Ditch Association utilizes water from the San Francisco River. In 1893, a declaration of ownership was filed on all of the un-appropriated water in the San Francisco River (from the diversion point at Head of the Ditch upstream to the source) and its upstream tributaries. This declaration was filed by the founders of the irrigation ditch.

c. Describe and quantify whether and how the proposal would extend the water supply through conservation, or increase the supply through development of new water in the Southwest Planning Region. [4 points for each 10 AF up to 500 points]

Currently, diversion of water is accomplished by annually entering the active river channel of the San Francisco River with heavy equipment, pushing up a dam of rock and sediment and diverting the water into the head of the ditch. These temporary diversion structures lose significant quantities of water through seepage into the sandy soil. Quantity of loss through the diversion structure has not been estimated here. This data would be collected during the diversion structure design phase.

The ditch system is unlined earthen ditch with the exception of an approximately one tenth mile adjacent to US Highway 180 west of Luna.

- These unlined ditches are estimated to lose **1** acre foot per mile of ditch per day of use (November 2004 BMP Guide; Cost Effectiveness for Agricultural Water Users).
- There are 7 miles of unlined earthen ditch in the Luna system with approximately 1/3 of the ditch under irrigation on any given day (**2.33** miles).
- Irrigation water is supplied to approximately 400 acres for up to **180** days per year.

Loss per mile 1 ac/ft/day X 2.33 miles of ditch X 180 days/year irrigation = 419 ac/ft per year total loss.

The maximum annual flow through the unlined ditch system results in an estimated loss of 419 acre feet of water per year. Hard lining ditches and installing pipelines would

result in conservation of water through minimizing seepage to non-cropland areas and reduction of evaporation loss. A portion of the seepage loss returns to the San Francisco River but much of the loss is absorbed by non crop fields, yards and roads.

Changing the diversion method to a more permanent, partial diversion of the river channel would eliminate the need to disturb the river channel bottom and improve the efficiency of the diversion of water into the ditch. Converting the currently unlined ditch to a lined ditch or pipeline would improve efficiency of water capture and use by 50-95% (See References). Loss of water from seepage through the unlined ditch banks to land that is not under irrigation would be eliminated. Delivery of water to the users would be improved. Due to the increased efficiency of diversion and use of the water, there would be up to an estimated 419 acre feet of water per year available in the San Francisco River for downstream water users to utilize.

- d. Demonstrate how the proposal would meet AWSA and CUFA requirements. [up to 30 points] (see www.AWSAplanning.com for AWSA and CUFA documents)

The 1892 Luna Irrigation Company Project proposal meets AWSA, Consumptive Use and Forbearance Agreement, and other applicable federal, state and local laws. It includes treatments to capture and conserve water for local consumption.

These water conservation treatments will add to the minimum flow supply, allowing for more water to reach the river systems to offset the consumption of 14,000 acre feet (4,000 acre-feet per year from the San Francisco River) and thereby contribute to the CUFA-required volume of Stored Water in each given year. (CUFA 12.4.1.2: “*stream flow increases in Arizona resulting from watershed improvements or other water flow enhancement activities funded by the State of New Mexico, and the percentage of such increases that may be added to the Secretary’s ten-year permissible Consumptive Use pursuant to this Agreement*”)

Stream flow measurements used to monitor this project will use flow measurement of the gauge station located on diversion ditch at Head of the Ditch on the San Francisco near Luna, New Mexico, and other US Geological Survey or approved designated entity’s flow measurement in compliance with CUFA (CUFA 12.1: *For purposes of the measurement of stream flows, real-time readings by the U.S. Geological Survey, or such other entity as designated by the technical committee for such purpose, shall be used for purposes of determining compliance with Exhibit 2.47 (Terms of New Mexico Diversions)*).

Furthermore, all work of this proposal will comply with NEPA (AWSA SEC. 212. (h) (1) ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.-*Upon execution of the New Mexico Consumptive Use and Forbearance Agreement and the New Mexico Unit Agreement, the Secretary shall promptly comply with all aspects of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and all other applicable environmental Acts and regulations.*)

2. [40] Describe the proposal and its technical viability.

Proposed treatment would:

- Develop diversion structures for the north and south ditches that would be more efficient in diverting water without requiring annual disturbance of the river with heavy equipment. Design would incorporate features to minimize or mitigate impact to fish and the hydrology of the river. The intent is to develop a diversion design that will provide adequate water to the irrigation system while minimizing damage to the river ecosystem at the diversion point.

- Reduce loss of water from the ditch system by a combination of lining ditches and installing pipelines. This would increase the efficiency of irrigation and reduce the need to divert water currently lost to seepage onto non-croplands.
- a. Include any (or reference publically-available) technical and engineering studies completed and demonstrate how these studies support the proposal. [up to 20 points]
 - NRCS study conducted in August, 2005 assessed feasibility and cost of lining ditches or installing pipelines.
 - Colorado High Plains Irrigation Practices Guide, Water Saving Options for Irrigators. 2004 – Comparison of water loss from unlined ditches, lined ditches and pipeline systems.
 - Utah State University Cooperative Extension. How Well Does Your Irrigation Canal Hold Water, Does It Need Lining? 2000. Comparison of water delivery through unlined and various types of lining and piping systems for irrigation water delivery. Provides design examples and compared effectiveness and costs of the various methods available for lining ditches.
 - November 2004 Best Management Practices Guide (Cost Effectiveness for Agricultural Water Users) Compares water loss from unlined ditch and pipeline system.
 - b. Include any (or reference publicly-available) hydrologic, ecologic, or geotechnical studies completed and demonstrate how information included in these studies specifically supports or detracts from the proposal. [up to 20 points]
 - Gila River Hydrographic Survey Report, Volume 7, Luna area, 1966. Provides baseline data for irrigation system as it currently exists.
 - Gila National Forest Watershed Restoration Strategy. 2000. Provides Forest wide framework for preventing and correcting watershed problems.
 - Gila National Forest Watershed Condition Assessment. 2011. Analysis of current watershed condition and identification of factors that could be addressed to correct unsatisfactory conditions. Describes current water quality, riparian habitat, and various factors affecting watershed condition.
 - Gila National Forest Allotment Management Plans for Luna, Dillman Creek, and Trout Creek grazing allotments. The diversion points are within the Luna Allotment, parts of the ditch lie within all three allotments. Allotment Management Plans direct grazing strategies and range developments. They are based on Environmental Assessments and Biological Assessments that describe current and predicted conditions on the allotments.
3. [40] Quantify estimated costs.
 - a. Quantify the proposal's estimated costs, including planning, design, and/or construction, and administration or oversight. [up to 10 points]

See attached spreadsheet in Calculations Folder

Planning:

Cultural Resource survey. \$5000 (Contract or FS)

Biological Assessment: \$20,000 (Forest Service or contractor)

NEPA analysis and decision: \$50,000 (Forest Service or contractor)

Design:

Survey/staking (NRCS contribution or contract) \$10000
Design (NRCS or contract Engineering) \$90,000
Layout (Contract) \$5000
Contract administration (NRCS contribution) \$5000

Construction

Diversion structure –

- Phase I -\$452,500,
- Phase IV -\$180,500,
- Phase V- \$30,000

Ditch lining/pipelines

- Phase II – 278,000\$,
- Phase III -\$147,000

Administration: \$10,000 first year, \$5000 subsequent years.

- b. If applicable, quantify the proposed project's on-going administrative, operational, and maintenance costs. [up to 10 points]

Operation and Maintenance

- Donated time, (value estimated at \$10,000/year) Cleaning ditches, repairing/cleaning pipelines, operating water diversion, dam maintenance and operation.
- Contract Heavy equipment - \$1500/year. Dam repair and cleaning/repairing spillway.

Administration

- Donated time, value estimated at \$5000/year) Contract administration, inspections
- Legal fees \$1000/year (contract prep and review).

- c. Describe environmental compliance activities, and quantify the costs for environmental mitigation and restoration related to the proposal. [up to 10 points]

Change in diversion structure will require a Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit and a 401 permit from New Mexico Environment Department. Estimated cost to apply and obtain \$7500 for Phases I-III, \$7500 for Phases IV and V.

Diversion structure will include design features to minimize impact to the riparian ecosystem. Mitigation costs would be limited to replanting vegetation on disturbed areas. Estimated cost less than \$500, donated materials and labor by Irrigation Company. (Included on spreadsheet under design)

- d. Quantify the AWSA funding sought for the proposal and for the pendency of the proposed activity's or project's duration. [up to 10 points]

- First Year: Phase I - \$640,000
- Second Year: Phase II – \$298,000
- Third Year: Phase III –\$167,000
- Fourth Year: Phase IV – \$208,000
- Fifth Year: Phase V - \$50,000

Total AWSA funding request \$1,363,000 over 5 year time span.

4. [40] If proposal impacts, beneficially or adversely, the environment of the Southwest Planning Region, the Gila River, its tributaries or associated riparian corridors, use the best available science to:
- a. Describe and quantify how the proposal might impact the project site and environment, particularly state and federally-listed species. [up to 10 points]

There would be a short term adverse effect on the stream channel due to construction of diversion structures. Since the new, more permanent structure would obviate the need to perform annual disturbance of the channel bottom, the long term effect would be beneficial to the river substrate. Construction of a more permanent structure would change the hydrologic function of the immediate area and downstream for about one mile. This effect will be minimized and mitigated by design features that incorporate best management practices to avoid non-point pollution and to minimize impact to the river flow while still providing adequate diversion of water to meet the irrigation needs. Some vegetation associated with the diversion points and the ditch banks would be removed. This may include minor amounts of willow and small cottonwoods. Herbaceous and woody species that have become established due to leaks in the earthen ditches would be eliminated. To re-establish the south ditch, removal of some ponderosa pine (less than 12" DBH) may be required. There would be no long term change to natural (as opposed to artificially established habitat due to ditch leaks) riparian habitat.

- The riparian habitat between the point of diversion (Head of the Ditch) and private land classifies as restricted habitat for Mexican spotted owl. There are no Protected Activity Centers within the project effect area. Constituent elements of critical habitat would be maintained through design criteria incorporated into project implementation.
 - The area does not currently meet southwestern willow flycatcher suitable habitat characteristics. There may be some potential near the diversion point to develop sufficient vertical diversity, vegetative density and the associated pools with or without the proposed changes.
 - There are no wolf denning sites within one mile of the project area. Incidental wolf presence would not be markedly affected by the construction activities or the minor effects on the riparian habitat. The project area is located within one-half mile of occupied private land in Luna Valley.
 - There are no loach minnow, spike dace or Chiricahua leopard frogs in the project area. The San Francisco River is heavily infested with crayfish and would not provide suitable recovery sites for native fish or frogs. Additional water flow in the river anticipated due to increased efficiency of the system would benefit downstream populations of loach minnow and spikedace.
- b. Describe and quantify the proposal's efforts to mitigate possible adverse impacts on the environment, particularly riparian areas and state and federally-listed species in the Gila Basin and at the specific location of the proposal. [up to 10 points]

There are no Federally listed Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive species present within the project effect area. Habitat capability for Mexican spotted owl, southwestern willow flycatcher, Chiricahua leopard frog, loach minnow and Mexican gray wolf would not be altered significantly. Long term habitat capability would not change.

Design criteria will be incorporated into implementation actions to minimize effects downstream by controlling sediment loss and minimizing the long term impact to hydrologic function of the river. Corps of Engineers and New Mexico Environment permits would be obtained. Natural Resource Conservation Service personnel will

work with Forest personnel to develop a design for diversion structures that will minimize adverse impacts to riparian habitat and stream hydrologic function. Restoration of areas of disturbed soil would be accomplished by re-seeding, and if necessary re-planting native plants. This cost would be contributed by the 1892 Luna Irrigation Ditch Association.

- c. Describe and quantify how the proposal may benefit the environment, particularly riparian areas and state and federally-listed species in the Gila Basin and at the specific location of the proposal. [up to 10 points]

Converting the diversion method from annual heavy equipment alteration of the stream channel with its corresponding disturbance of the channel substrate and consequent sediment release downstream to a permanent moderate impact structure will eliminate the annual damage to the channel and the sediment release. Increased efficiency of the irrigation delivery system will conserve water (estimated 419 acre feet per year) and provide for increased flow downstream within the river. This will benefit fish, amphibians and riparian dependent species within the natural riparian area downstream.

- d. List any environmental statutes, rules, or regulations that may apply to the proposal, and demonstrate how the proposal implementation will comply with such laws, rules or regulations. [up to 10 points]
- NEPA – In coordination with US Forest Service, complete EA for project
 - Archeological Resource Protection Act. Cultural Resource Clearance – Contract or deposit funds for Forest Service personnel to complete.
 - Endangered Species Act – A biological assessment will be prepared. Consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service will be conducted if appropriate. (contract or deposit funds with Forest Service)
 - Clean Water Act - US Army, Corps of Engineers 404 Permit will be obtained for diversion structures.
 - Clean Water Act - New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau 401 Permit will be obtained concurrent with 404 permit.

5. [70] Describe any economic or cost analysis information and data for the proposal:
- a. Quantify estimated economic benefits including environmental, recreation, value of water itself, value of the water to the regional economy, increased economic growth, protection against loss of jobs, agriculture, ranching, local economic sustainability or growth, or other. [up to 10 points]
- Current open market price in the San Francisco Basin ranges from \$10,000 - \$30,000 per acre foot (Zeno Kiehne personal conversation). Estimated value of water conserved (419 ac ft/yr X \$10,000 ac/ft) is 4.19 million dollars per year
 - Decreased maintenance costs to Luna Irrigation Ditch Association for unlined ditch (\$1500/mile X 7 miles of ditch) \$10,500/year
 - Decreased maintenance costs to Luna Irrigation Ditch Association for re-establishing diversions points after each high water flow (3 per year X \$500/treatment) \$1500
- b. Quantify estimated costs including planning, design, and/or construction, environmental compliance, operation, maintenance, repair, and administrative costs or other. [10]
- Planning: (See attached spreadsheet)
 - Cultural Resource survey. \$5000 (Contract or FS)
 - Biological Assessment: \$10,000 (Forest Service or contractor)

- NEPA analysis and decision: \$30,000 (Forest Service or contractor)
 - Design:
 - Survey/staking (NRCS contribution or contract) \$20,000
 - Design (NRCS or contract Engineering) \$50,000
 - Layout/Contract admin (NRCS contribution) \$30,000
 - Operation and Maintenance \$10,000/year
 - Administrative costs \$5,000/year
- c. Identify the source of local contributions and demonstrate the commitment and ability to pay any local cost-share for project proposal, including any applicable exchange costs [1 point for every % of project cost to be borne by local sponsor up to 50 points]

The 1892 Luna Irrigation Ditch Association can contribute \$40,000 toward construction costs in phase 1. The Ditch Association will also contribute a total of \$55,000 over the five year duration of the project in administrative costs, direct labor participating in the NEPA process and design, and \$2,500 per year in Phases 2-5 in additional construction funding. This represents 5.8% of the total project funding.

6. [120] Describe how the proposal addresses the needs of a particular group or groups or interests on the issues of
- a. Historic uses, traditions, cultures, and customs. [up to 10 points]

The settlers of the Luna Valley realized that water was their life blood if they were to survive in the area they chose to settle. According to history, the first people arrived in Luna on February 28, 1883 and on the next day, March 1, 1883 they drew up an application for a water right and began work on a ditch to bring irrigation water into the town site. They realized as the members of Luna Ditch Association do today, that we must conserve the limited amount of water we have and use it wisely. The agricultural tradition and culture of the Luna Valley is dependent on a reliable source of irrigation water for crops and subsistence gardens.

- b. Current and future demands for water in the Southwest Planning Region. [up to 20 points]

Conservation of up to 419 acre feet/year by Luna Irrigation Ditch Association in the San Francisco River Basin will help meet current downstream demands for irrigation water.

San Francisco River Basin is a closed basin with more water allocated to users than actually exists in the basin. Demand for water currently exceeds the available supply. As population growth increases in Grant and Catron Counties each acre foot of water within the basin will increase in value.

- c. Flood control.[up to 20 points]

Project would not affect flood control to any measurable degree. Diversion structure would not be designed to impound water, only to divert sufficient flow to charge the irrigation system. Ditches do not now nor would they after improvement provide any flood control in the local community or downstream.

d. Fire protection, prevention, or suppression. [up to 20 points]

1892 Luna Irrigation Ditch Association has provided water for fire protection both to local volunteer fire departments for structural and wildland firefighting and to the Forest Service for wildland fire suppression. Luna Irrigation Ditch Association provided nearly 3,000,000 gallon for suppression activities on the recent Wallow Fire. Holding ponds and head gates are convenient sources of water for the local firefighters. Proposal would continue to make these sources available for fire suppression use.

e. Recreation. [up to 20 points]

The Head of the Ditch Campground is a favorite camping area of visitors to our area seeking relief from the summer heat. Our point of diversion is located in the campground. Interpretation of the diversion point will provide an educational, historic highlight for visitors. Conservation of water through more efficient use of diverted water will result in additional water in the river, to the enjoyment of campers.

f. Environmental protection and/or enhancement. [up to 20 points]

- Design features (cross vane, partial diversion, fish friendly as determined in NEPA process, use of best management practices to address clean water act concerns, construction limited to low flow periods, use of sediment traps in river during construction) incorporated into diversion structures will minimize and mitigate adverse hydrologic effects to the downstream portion of the river.
- Eliminating the need for annual heavy equipment work in the river channel will reduce turbidity, stabilize channel substrate, and prevent loss of riparian vegetation at and near the diversion sites.
- Design features in diversion structures will mitigate potential adverse effects on fish passage by providing alternate fish movement opportunities. Diversion point head gates will be screened to prevent loss of fish into irrigation ditches.
- There are no Federally listed Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive aquatic species in the reach upstream from Luna.
- Potential effects to Mexican spotted owl and southwestern willow flycatcher habitat can be mitigated by timing of construction activities and rehabilitation of the site after construction.

g. Any others. [up to 10 points]

7. [40] List those supporting the application, including federal, state, and local government entities; Indian nations, tribes or pueblos; irrigation or conservation districts; non-profit organizations; and other entities. Provide letters or resolutions of support for the application. [up to 40 points]

- Luna Volunteer Fire Department
- Luna Pioneer Rodeo Association (a non-profit),
- Gila National Forest, Quemado Ranger District
- Catron County Commission
- San Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District
- Grant Soil and Water Conservation District
- Gila / San Francisco Water Commission

8. [30] Describe whether the proposal would benefit one or more than one of the counties in the Southwest New Mexico Planning Region – Catron, Grant, Hidalgo, and/or Luna Counties.

[10 points/county up to 40 points]

Portions of both Catron and Grant Counties lie downstream on the San Francisco River from the Luna Irrigation District. Conservation of up to 419 acre feet per year near the headwaters of the San Francisco River provides an opportunity for these downstream users to gain from the conserved water.

9. [50] Describe whether the proposal would support economic growth or benefit one or more than one of the following interests in the Southwest New Mexico Planning Region – agricultural, ranching, municipal, recreational, or other (specify). [10 points/interest up to 50 points]

Agricultural - Primary beneficiary of the proposal would be the Luna irrigators who use the water to grow crops for commercial and personal use. It would provide a more stable and reliable source of irrigation water in dry years that would allow additional crops.

Recreation – Elimination of use of heavy equipment in the Head of the Ditch campground would improve recreational experience of public campground users.