

Los Alamos County

New Mexico

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Board Celebrates San Juan/Chama Contract Conversion

Friday, September 22, 2006 at 1:25 PM



Utilities Board member Ralph Phelps (front) and Utilities Board Chair Robert Gibson (back) partake in the celebration.

Los Alamos, NM – Utilities Board members held a small celebration Wednesday evening at the regularly scheduled Board meeting. Over sandwiches and cake, members congratulated Utilities Manager Robert Monday and staff for their hard work in securing 1,200 acre-feet of water for Los Alamos under the San Juan/Chama Project.

Seven of the San Juan/Chama Project contractors, one of which is Los Alamos County, witnessed Governor Richardson executing the Repayment Contracts on Tuesday, Sept. 19 at a contract signing ceremony in Santa Fe. (Story ran in the Monitor on September 20

http://www.lamonitor.com/articles/2006/09/20/headline_news/news03.txt).

Other contractors included Santa Fe City, Santa Fe County, Town of Taos, Village of Taos Ski Valley, Village of Los Lunas, and Española.

The Repayment Contract replaces Los Alamos' Purchase Form Contract with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to divert 1,200 acre-feet from the headwaters of the Colorado River to the Rio Grande. Unlike the Purchase Form Contract, the Repayment Contract has no termination date, giving the County perpetual rights and thus negating the need to renegotiate and renew contracts. The

County will have permanent use of the water as long as it meets the terms of the contract.

Annual costs for the water are approximately \$50,000. Once the remaining capital balance of \$300,000 is paid to the BOR, annual costs will drop to around \$25,000 to cover operation and maintenance expenses.

County officials stated that with the perpetual rights of the new contract, the county can now safely invest in a project to divert the water from the Rio Grande to the White Rock Mesa to be used. According to Monday, "This water, coupled with water conservation measures, will provide Los Alamos County confidence that the future water needs of the County can be met."



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