



April 30, 2026

Amber Pacheco, Deputy General Manager
Rio Grande Water Conservation District
8805 Independence Way
Alamosa, CO 81101

**RE: 2026 ANNUAL REPLACEMENT PLAN APPROVAL: SPECIAL
IMPROVEMENT SUBDISTRICT NO. 3 OF THE RIO GRANDE
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Dear Ms. Pacheco:

Thank you for your April 14, 2026 submission of the Special Improvement District No. 3's proposed Annual Replacement Plan (ARP) for the 2026 Plan Year (**May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027**).

My staff and I have reviewed the proposed ARP and its appendices, and it is hereby approved. A copy of this approval will be available on the DWR website at:

<https://dwr.colorado.gov/division-offices/division-3-office>

All information and data related to this approved ARP will be available on our website.

Enclosed, please find my approval of the 2026 ARP.

Very Sincerely,

Jason T. Ullmann, P.E.
Acting State Engineer
Director of Division of Water Resources

cc: Division 3



Subdistrict No. 3 ARP Approval: Plan Year 2026

Review, Findings, and Approval of Subdistrict No. 3's 2026 Annual Replacement Plan

Background

Special Improvement District No. 3 (“Subdistrict”), a political subdistrict of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (“RGWCD”), formed through Conejos County District Court in Case 2016CV30021, timely submitted its proposed Annual Replacement Plan (“ARP”) pursuant to its Plan of Water Management (“PWM”) approved by the State Engineer and noticed through Division No. 3 Water Court in Case No. 2018CW3013.

The 2026 Plan Year ARP and its appendices were available for download through a link on the RGWCD website. The ARP, its appendices, and resolutions were provided to the State and Division Engineers on April 14, 2026. Copies of the ARP were made available for viewing at the State and Division Engineers’ offices. This letter will be posted on DWR’s website. My staff and I have conducted this review of the ARP and comments thereon in accordance with the operational timelines specified in the Court approved Rules Governing the Withdrawal of Groundwater in Water Division No. 3 (the Rio Grande Basin) and Establishing Criteria for the Beginning and End of the Irrigation Season in Water Division No. 3 for all Irrigation Water Rights (“Rules”), Case 2015CW3024.

DWR Review

As set forth in the Rules, I must determine whether the ARP presents “sufficient evidence and engineering analysis to predict where and when Stream Depletions will occur and how the Subdistrict will replace or Remedy Injurious Stream Depletions to avoid injury to senior surface water rights.” (Rules 11.3). Also, “The ARP will include: a database of Subdistrict and Contract Wells that will be covered by the ARP; a projection of the groundwater withdrawals from Subdistrict and Contract Wells during the current Water Administration Year; a calculation of the projected stream depletions resulting from groundwater withdrawals from Subdistrict and Contract Wells; a forecast of the flows for Division No. 3 streams; detailed information regarding the methods that will be utilized to replace or remedy injurious stream depletions during the ARP Year, including any contractual agreements used for replacement or remedy of injurious stream depletions that will be in place; any information regarding the fallowing of Subdistrict Lands; information to document progress towards achieving and maintaining a Sustainable Water Supply; and, documentation that sufficient funds are or will be available to carry out the operation of the ARP.” (Subdistrict PWM, Section 6.1.2). Finally, I must review the ARP pursuant to the statutory mandates, constitutional requirements, rules and regulations adopted in Division No. 3, and any letters, comments, or other objections submitted by water users regarding the adequacy of the ARP. There were no letters, comments, or other objections submitted regarding the 2026 ARP.

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With the foregoing in mind, I turn to a review of the ARP. It would be unwieldy to include in my review every detail of the thorough ARP, so for the purpose of this letter, I incorporate it and its supplements by reference.

11.1.1 Database of All Wells to be Covered by the ARP

Structure Identification Number (WDID) (Section 1 of 11.1.1 of the ARP)

A comprehensive list of wells included in the ARP is necessary in order to allow DWR to verify which wells are authorized to operate in accordance with the ARP. To that end, the Subdistrict submitted the most current tabulation of the structure identification number (WDID) of each well included in the Subdistrict (see Appendix A of the ARP). The Subdistrict also supplied a spreadsheet to DWR of the list of Subdistrict Wells as a supplement to the 2026 ARP. Appendix A lists 166 wells. No additional wells were added to the ARP Well List for 2026.

Other Well Identification Information (Section 2 of 11.1.1 of the ARP)

The requirement to provide the database of wells the Subdistrict has accepted as part of this ARP was satisfied under 11.1.1.1.

Subdistrict Wells with Plans for Augmentation (Section 3 of 11.1.1 of the ARP)

The ARP Well List includes some wells that are either fully or partially augmented by an approved plan for augmentation which is administered separately from the Subdistrict's PWM. These plans for augmentation associate surface rights with these Subdistrict Wells and other non-Subdistrict wells to remedy some portion or all of each well's injurious stream depletions. These wells are included in the Subdistrict's ARP Well List, and if any portion of their legally decreed groundwater withdrawals is not remedied by an individual plan for augmentation, it is subject to Subdistrict fees and the Subdistrict will remedy injurious stream depletions and post-plan injurious stream depletions attributable to the non-augmented portion of a well's total groundwater withdrawals as part of this ARP. "The Subdistrict and this Plan of Water Management or ARP cannot be used as a source of water for new or expanded consumptive use of groundwater which is not within the terms and conditions of a valid permit or decree which was in effect as of October 4, 2018, or for new or expanded plans for augmentation or other replacement plans without the approval of both the Court and the Subdistrict's Board of Managers." (PWM at 2.4.6)

Conejos Water Conservancy District (CWCD) Augmentation Certificate No. Com0020

The Subdistrict accepted a contract for a well, WDID 2205184, whose depletions are covered under an augmentation certificate through the CWCD's augmentation plan, 90CW0024. The well lies outside the RGDSS Model boundary, along the Conejos River near the community of Fox Creek. The Subdistrict will transfer augmentation water annually from one of its pools of water in storage to the CWCD under this contract, then the CWCD will pay depletions according to its plan. This well is considered a non-benefitted Subdistrict Well as defined in

Subdistrict No. 3 ARP Approval: Plan Year 2026

the Subdistrict’s PWM and the pumping is not included in the Application Workbook calculations for the 2026 ARP.

I have reviewed Appendix A, Appendix B, and Appendix C of the ARP and consulted with staff and find it to be an accurate inventory of Subdistrict Wells that meets the requirements of Rule 11.1.1.

Total Combined Projected Annual Diversion for All Subdistrict Wells (Section 4 of 11.1.1 of the ARP)

The Subdistrict compared past years and considered operational changes anticipated from Subdistrict members for 2026. The Subdistrict determined the streamflow forecast on the Rio Grande was most comparable to the 2018 actual flows, on the Alamosa most comparable to the 2014 actual flows and on the Conejos most comparable to the 2002 actual flows. Based on review of the various streamflows and on the pumping from those years, the Subdistrict determined groundwater withdrawals would increase over the 2025 levels. The ARP Well groundwater withdrawals in 2026 are projected to be **33,200 acre-feet**.

Subdistrict Well Metered Total Pumping (acre-feet)

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
31,232	40,698	42,762	33,286	25,743	25,240	21,273	35,761	16,230	34,610
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
25,910	25,126	27,050	23,848	26,643					

Note: Data for 2021 - 2025 was taken from Table 2.1 of the ARP

Subdistrict Projected Pumping (acre-feet)

Input to Application Workbook	Predicted	Percent	Consumptive Use Ratio
Sprinkler Irrigation	23,000	69	0.85
Leveled Flood Irrigation	2,500	8	0.60
Wild Flood Irrigation	700	2	0.40
Other Pumping	7,000	21	0.51
Total Groundwater Withdrawals	33,200		

Expected Methods of Irrigation, the Combined Projected Number of Acres Irrigated and the Total Projected Acreage by Each Irrigation Method (Section 5 of 11.1.1 of the ARP)

Subdistrict ARP wells are projected to irrigate approximately 23,800 acres during the Plan Year, including 15,550 acres irrigated by center pivot sprinklers and 8,250 acres irrigated by flood application. The Subdistrict made this projection based on a review of the breakdown of acres within the Conejos Response Area under each irrigation type prepared by DWR for inclusion in the RGDSS Groundwater Model.

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Non-Irrigation Subdistrict Wells - Calculation of All Projected Withdrawals and Projected Net Groundwater Consumptive Use (Section 6 of 11.1.1 of the ARP)

Included in the ARP Well List are a number of wells with beneficial uses other than irrigation. The Subdistrict utilized information provided by DWR to calculate the consumptive use rates used in the RGDSS Model to calculate stream impacts and returns. Beneficial uses include potato washing, commercial, domestic (subdivision), lawn irrigation and aquaculture. A spreadsheet was prepared by the Subdistrict to calculate the composite Consumptive Use Ratio that is a necessary input in the Application Workbook. A spreadsheet of the calculation prepared for use in the 2026 ARP was submitted as supplement to this ARP.

Other Data Necessary to Support the Projected Stream Depletions (Section 7 of 11.1.1 of the ARP)

No other data was provided.

Other Information Required by the State and Division Engineers and Reasonably Necessary to Evaluate the Proposed ARP (Section 8 of 11.1.1 of the ARP)

The supplemental information needed to evaluate the 2026 ARP and provided to the State Engineer included:

1. A resolution from RGWCD approving the Subdistrict 2026 ARP.
2. An electronic copy of the Application Workbook used to prepare the tables included in this ARP.
3. The list of Subdistrict Wells included in the 2026 ARP in spreadsheet format matching the list presented in Appendix A. The spreadsheet should identify each WDID as sprinkler, levelled flood, wild flood, other, according to the Subdistrict's designation for the depletion calculation.
4. A spreadsheet describing the pumping and consumptive use percentage for each of the Subdistrict wells that are classified as "Other Pumping" in the Application Workbook calculations.
5. A resolution from RGWCD to allow the Subdistrict to allocate Closed Basin Project water in the 2026 ARP.
6. A Forbearance Yield Analysis. This is a description of the Subdistrict's approach to estimate the probable yield of replacement sources for the various forbearance contracts with ditches under forbearance agreements.
7. Operational Requests to the Division Engineer for the 2026 ARP
 - The Subdistrict requests to aggregate depletions between Stream Reaches as part of the anticipated operation in 2026.
 - The Subdistrict requests to aggregate depletions with other Subdistricts during the 2026 ARP year.
 - The Subdistrict requests the Division Engineer allow a portion of the Closed Basin Project (CBP) production that is generated during the irrigation season to be used to offset the Subdistrict's non-irrigation season depletions,

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though not to exceed the allocation approved by the CBP Operating Committee. This becomes necessary when the depletions owed for all RGWCD Subdistricts combined in any one or more months during the non-irrigation season are greater than the production of the Closed Basin Project production in those months.

- The Subdistrict requests the Division Engineer allow aggregation of overpayment and underpayment of depletions among Subdistricts as determined by Application Workbook calculations made prior to March 1, 2027, using actual stream flows and actual metered groundwater withdrawals for the prior Water Administration Year.

11.1.2 Projected Stream Depletions from the Wells Covered by the ARP based on the Applicable Response Function or Approved Alternative Method

The Response Function Application Workbook (or “Application Workbook”) outputs identify total projected stream depletions for the Plan Year, a breakdown of the monthly stream depletions for the Alamosa, two reaches on the Conejos, La Jara Creek and three reaches on the Rio Grande, and a projection of the Post-Plan Stream Depletions calculated as a result of the predicted Plan Year groundwater withdrawals from Subdistrict ARP Wells. The Subdistrict used the current 7P101 Application Workbook to calculate projected stream depletions for this ARP.

The April through September streamflow forecasts made by the Division Engineer are based upon guidance given by forecasts from the United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (“NRCS”), the National Weather Service NWS), and the Airborne Snow Observatories, Inc (ASO).

The NRCS streamflow statistics are calculated over a 30-year period and updated each decade, in agreement with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) standards. This 30-year reference period was chosen to characterize the current hydro climatology at each station. The current medians and averages have been updated to include data for the water years 1991-2020. The current year streamflow projection is compared to the 30-year reference period to determine the percent of “normal” streamflow. The NRCS forecasts were reported as percent of the median in this report.

The annual streamflow forecasts the Subdistrict referenced in the ARP include the NRCS April 1, 2026 forecasts (issued April 7), the April 6, 2026 Division Engineer’s Rio Grande Compact Ten Day Report for the Rio Grande.

2026 Stream Flow Forecast - Conejos River (Section 1 of 11.1.2 of the ARP)

There were some differences between the NRCS and the Division Engineer’s forecasts as shown in the following table. The April - September flow the Subdistrict chose for use in the

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Application Workbook for 2026 is the NRCS forecast (projected 50% exceedance) as shown in the table below.

Stream Flow Forecast - Conejos River System, Rio Grande, Alamosa

Conejos Stream Flow Analysis	Apr-Sep Forecast (acre-feet)	% of median	Estimated Additional (acre-feet)	Jan - Dec Forecast (acre-feet)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	
NRCS, "April 1st Forecast"				
Conejos River near Mogote	44,000	26		
San Antonio River at Ortiz	1,600	17		
Los Pinos River near Ortiz	11,000	18		
TOTAL	56,600			
Division Engineer, Ten Day, 4/6/2026				
Conejos River near Mogote	59,000	35		
Los Pinos River near Ortiz	14,000	22		
San Antonio River at Ortiz	2,500	26		
TOTAL	75,500		34,500	110,000
Rio Grande Stream Flow Analysis				
NRCS, "April 1 st Forecast"	172,000	29		
Division Engineer, Ten Day, 3/31/2026	172,000	29	98,000	270,000
Alamosa River Stream Flow Analysis				
NRCS, "April 1 st Forecast"	17,000	28		
La Jara Creek Stream Flow Analysis				
NRCS, "April 1 st Forecast" Apr-July	2,000	29		

(1) projected 50% exceedance streamflow at the gaging station

(2) NRCS 30-yr Median Flow: Conejos-168,000, Los Pinos-61,000, San Antonio-9,600, Rio Grande-480,000, Alamosa-61,000, Saguache- 28,000, La Jara-6,800

(3) January through March and October through December

Projected Plan Year Stream Depletions (Section 2 of 11.1.2 of the ARP)

Subdistrict staff predicted stream depletions caused by Subdistrict ARP Wells utilizing the Application Workbook, 7P101, developed for the Conejos Response Area under the RGDSS Groundwater Model Phase 7.

The Application Workbook was built to be used for the whole Response Area. Instruction sheets were prepared by DWR for additional inputs to the Application Workbook when there is a need to use it for individual or groups of wells. The instruction sheet, "Adjusting the Application Workbook for use with a Subset (individual/group) of Wells" (9/23/2015), describes how to adjust the spreadsheet inputs for historical Net Groundwater Consumptive Use and for stream reaches that have been identified with point source returns to streams.

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The Subdistrict has elected to use the Application Workbook for the subset of wells represented by the Subdistrict ARP Wells. The Conejos Response Area identifies adjustments for point source return flows, as listed below.

- Conejos Response Area - Reach 7 (San Antonio River) from the Town of Antonito.

Adjustments are made on appropriate tabs of the Application Workbook spreadsheet. The Subdistrict ARP Wells do include the Town of Antonito well(s) associated with the point source return flow.

Historical groundwater withdrawals for 2021 - 2025 with consumptive use ratios are entered into Table 1 of the 7P101 Application Workbook. The categories are sprinkler irrigation, leveled flood irrigation, wild flood irrigation, and “Other” pumping. Projected ARP Well groundwater withdrawal values were used for 2026. The consumptive use ratio for “Other” wells is specific to the uses of those wells and can vary widely. The “Other Consumptive Use Ratio” in Table 1 is a composite derived from the individual well withdrawals and consumptive uses.

The Subdistrict provided a spreadsheet of “Other” wells included in the Subdistrict ARP Well list as a supplement to the ARP. The spreadsheet shows the individual well groundwater withdrawals and consumptive use factors to explain how the composite ratios were determined for the subset wells represented in the ARP.

No adjustments were made in the Application Workbook by the Subdistrict for groundwater withdrawals of the subset wells for any years prior to 2021. The Subdistrict has no Recharge that Offsets Groundwater for calculation of the Net Groundwater Consumptive Use. The projected Net Groundwater Consumptive Use for the Plan Year is **24,900 acre-feet**.

Following determination of the Net Groundwater Consumptive Use, the stream depletions are calculated for the Plan Year and projected into the future. The locations of the stream depletions and monthly quantities are also tabulated in the ARP. The total stream depletions are **4,101 acre feet** for Subdistrict wells.

Subdistrict Projected Depletions (acre-feet)

Stream Reach	May-Oct, Apr	Nov-Mar	Total	Stream Total	Post Plan
Conejos 1 above Seledonia/Garcia	276	149	425		1,999
Conejos 2 below Seledonia/Garcia	1,982	1,309	3,291	3,716	5,916
Rio Grande 1 Del Norte- Excelsior	34	25	59		389
Rio Grande 2 Excelsior- Chicago	61	46	107		506
Rio Grande 3 Chicago- State Line	133	116	249	414	911
Alamosa River	56	4	60		315
La Jara Creek	198	-154	44		18
San Antonio River	-82	-52	-134		0
Total Depletions	2,658	1,443	4,101		10,054

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Post-Plan Stream Depletions are estimated to accrue to impacted streams for approximately 19 years. Based on predictions from the Application Workbook, there would be a total of **10,054 acre-feet** of Post-Plan Stream Depletions as shown in the table above.

11.1.3 Description of How Injurious Stream Depletions from Groundwater Withdrawals by Wells Included in the ARP will be Replaced or Remedied

Amounts and Sources of Replacement Water for 2026 Plan Year (Section 1 of 11.1.3 of the ARP)

The Subdistrict has assembled a portfolio of water supplies for the replacement of Injurious Stream Depletions and remedies other than water. The ARP identifies the water rights, their availability and their amounts in the ARP.

The adequacy of replacement sources for the ARP Year is dependent upon contracted amounts the Subdistrict has acquired as well as the availability of the source to pay depletions in place and time. For purposes of review of adequacy of replacement sources, there are three categories defined below, with examples described for each.

In Storage: Reservoir water in storage under the control of the Subdistrict. This water is available for release at the direction of the Subdistrict.

In Season: Ditch water that will become available to the Subdistrict when in priority during the irrigation season in the amount of depletion owed to streams daily by the Subdistrict. For some sources, water not used to pay daily depletions may be stored for Subdistrict use later.

On Call: Remedies, such as forbearance, that are available in the amount of depletion owed to streams daily by the Subdistrict, limited to when the forbearance ditch is the calling water right. I note that forbearance depends on climate and actual days when a ditch is the calling water right and the exact yield per year is indeterminate. It is also noted that the amount of forbearance water usable by the Subdistrict is limited by their depletions owed daily to streams. In addition, several Subdistricts are seeking forbearance agreements with the same ditches. DWR considers these potential competing agreements when evaluating forbearance as a replacement source.

This replacement water or remedy will be available to replace Injurious Stream Depletions as directed by the Division Engineer. A summary of the portfolio items is shown in the Replacement Sources tables on the following pages. I will approve up to the full amount itemized in the Replacement Sources tables and stated in the following sections for use in the 2026 ARP.

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Subdistrict No. 3 Replacement Sources Conejos River (acre-feet)

	Water Right Name	Submitted in ARP 4/15/2026	Approved in SWSP's	Remaining 4/15/2026 & Approved for 2026 ARP
SWSP	In Storage			
6061	SLVWCD 84CW16 & 94CW62	721.5	1046.2	764.6
6056	BLM Lovato Ditch Augmentation Credits (02CW0038A) Stored in 2019	14.12		0
6074	Taos Valley No 3	42.12		110.44
6093	Taos Valley No 3 (Stored in 2019 & 2023)	86.26		
9364	Alpha Hay Farms (Stored in 2023)	1,089.29		1,089.42
TBD	CWCD Heads Mill Project Water	28.99		0
	Total In Storage	1,982		1,964
	In Season	Limit	Expected Yield	DWR Expected Yield
SWSP	In Season			
6093	Taos Valley No. 3	1,000	250	0
9364	Alpha Hay Farms*	522.9	522.9	50
6056	BLM Lovato Ditch Augmentation Credits (02CW0038A)	900.0	900.0	0
9528	Los Sauces Ditch Shareholders			0
	Total In Season	2,422.9	1,672.9	50
<i>*Note:</i>	<i>Alpha Hay Farms CU includes 433.9 af surface water (May - July) & 89 af groundwater</i>			
	On Call	Limit	Expected Yield	DWR Expected Yield
WDID	Forbearance			
	Conejos River			
2200500	AD Archuleta (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6	No limit		
2200501	Alamo Ditch - BLM (5 yr. 2028) 3, 6	No limit		
2200501	Alamo Ditch - Willett Cattle (10 yr. 2033) 3	No limit		
2200502	An Con Ditch w/Quinlan (3 yr. 2027) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200502	An Con Ditch w/Martinez (3 yr. 2029) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200503	Angustura Ditch (3yr. 2027) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200504	Antonito Ditch (3 yr. 2027) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200505	Archuleta Trogillio No 1 - (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200506	Archuleta Trogillio No 2 - (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200509	Ball Bros Overflow No 1 - (10 yr. 2033) 3	No limit		
2200510	Ball Bros Overflow No 2 - (10 yr. 2033) 3	No limit		
2200513	Bernardo Romero (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2200518	Branch Ditch (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6	No limit		
2200519	Brazos Del Norte (5 yr. 2028) 3, 6	No limit		
2200524	Canon Irrigating Ditch (3 yr. 2027) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200531	Cordova Ditch - Espinoza and Sons (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200534	Del Puerticito (5 yr. 2028) 3, 6	No limit		

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2200535	East Bend Ditch - BLM (5 yr. 2028) 3, 6	No limit		
2200539	El Serrito aka Cerrito (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200541	Ephraim Canal (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2200542	Espinosa Ditch (10 yr. 2035) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200547	Fuerticitios - Espinoza and Sons (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200548	Gabriel Martinez Ditch (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200553	Guadalupe Main - (5 yr. 2028) 3, 6	No limit		
2200554	Heads Mill & Irrigation Ditch w/Quinlan (3 yr. 2027) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200555	Home Ditch (10 yr. 2035) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200561	J. F. Chacon No. 2 - the district (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6, 7	No limit		Not Accepted
2200562	J. F. Chacon No. 3 - Quinlan (3 yr. 2027) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200576	La Del Rio Ditch (3 yr. 2027) 3, 6	No limit		
2200583	Lopez - Espinoza and Sons (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200584	Los Ojos 1- BLM (5 yr. 2028) 3, 6	No limit		
2200585	Los Ojos 2- BLM (5 yr. 2028) 3, 6	No limit		
2200587	Los Sauces Ditch (10 yr. 2033) 3	No limit		
2200595	Manassa Ditch (Eastfield) (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2200593	Manassa No 3 (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2200596	Manassa Westfield - (10 yr. 2033) 3,6	No limit		
2200598	Martinez - Espinoza and Sons (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200600	McCarroll D (3 yr. 2028) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200604	Mecitos Ditch aka Las Mesitas Ditch (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2200605	Mill Ditch (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200591	Mogote Ditch (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200608	New JB Romero D (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2200609	Northeastern Consolidated Ditch (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200611	Overflow Ditch (10 yr. 2035) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200616	Richfield Canal (5 yr. 2028) 3, 6	No limit		
2200619	Romero Ditch (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200620	Sabine School Section Ditch (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200621	Salazar Ditch (5 yr. 2028) 3, 6	No limit		
2200624	San Juan San Rafael Ditch (3 yr. 2027) 3, 6	No limit		
2200625	San Rafael Conejos Ditch (10 yr. 2035) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200627	Sanford Canal (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2200631	Servietta Ditch (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200636	Stover Ditch (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6	No limit		
2200644	Trogillio D (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200651	Williams Stuart Co Irrigation D (10 yr. 2033) 3	No limit		
	Rio San Antonio			
2200664	Broyles Overflow No. 4 Ditch (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2200537	Eight Mile Ditch (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6	No limit		

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2200543	Florida Ditch (5 yr. 2028) 3, 6	1000		
2200549	Galvis Ditch (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2200570	Jaramillo Overflow No 2 Ditch (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2200589	Lovato Irrigation Ditch - BLM (5 yr. 2028) 3, 6	No limit		
	Lovato Irrigation Ditch - Los Coyotes Lucero (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2200590	Maes Ditch (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6, 7	1,000		
2200597	Martinez Ditch (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2200615	Punche Ditch (5 yr. 2028) 3, 6	No limit		
2200617	Riedel Ditch (5 yr. 2028) 3, 6	No limit		
2200618	Rincones Ditch (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200632	Sinecero Ditch (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200633	Sisneros Ditch (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2200635	Star Ditch (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200639	Taos Valley Canal No. 3 / SLVIWO (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2200640	Teodoro No 1 Ditch (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
	Rio Los Pinos			
2200586	Los Pinos Ditch (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2200580	El Llano Ditch (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
	Total On Call- Forbearance		1,811	Up to 1,860*
	CBP Allocation- April 2026	2,600	1,458	
	Total On-Call Non-Irrigation Season		1,458	Up to 1,458

*Note: DWR Analysis

Subdistrict No. 3 Replacement Sources Rio Grande (acre-feet)

	Water Right Name	Submitted in ARP 4/15/2026	Approved in SWSP's	Remaining 4/15/2026 & Approved for 2026 ARP
SWSP	In Storage			
13CW3002	SMRC- Monte Vista Canal (2011 165 shares @ 0.9233 af/share)	152.34		200
n/a	SMRC- Rio Grande Canal purchased from SD 1	47.66		
6094	City of Creede 94CW31 & 07CW60- excess augmentation credits	4.45		0
6182	SLVWCD 84CW16 & 94CW62 (from RGWCD)	40.9		62.4
9535	Pine River-Weminuche- Weaver	21.5		
6074	Taos Valley No 3 (stored in 2019 & 2023)	26.64 + 307.81		27.01 + 307.81
9528	Los Sauces Ditch Total HCU = 897.76. SD3 portion = 299.25 af.	124.36		124.36
	Total In Storage	725.66		721.58
SWSP	In Season			
9528	Los Sauces Ditch Shareholders	299.25	299.25	30
	Total In Season	299.25	299.25	30

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	On Call	Limit	Expected Yield	DWR Expected Yield
WDID	Forbearance			
2000566	Centennial (10 yr. 2033) 2, 3, 6	No limit		
2000575	Chicago (10 yr. 2036) 1, 2, 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2000623	Commonwealth-Empire (10 yr. 2034) 2, 3, 6	500		
2000627	Excelsior Ditch (1 yr. 2027) 2, 3, 6	No limit		
2000753	Monte Vista Canal (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	300		
2000812	Rio Grande Canal (1 yr. 2027) 3	150		
2000662	Rio Grande Canal- Hermanthal Ditch (1 yr. 2027) priority no. 176			
2001094	Rio Grande Canal- Scotch Ditch (1 yr. 2027) priority no. 178			
2001007	Rio Grande Canal- Biedel D (1 yr. 2027) priority no. 197			
2000624	Rio Grande Canal- Enterprise D (1 yr. 2027) priority no. 198			
2001094	Scotch Ditch (carried in Rio Grande Canal) - (10 yr. 2033 w/Kruse) 2, 3, 6	No limit		
2001094	Scotch Ditch (carried in Rio Grande Canal) - (10 yr. 2036 w/Ponderosa) 2, 3, 6	No limit		
2000624	Enterprise D (carried in Rio Grande Canal) - (10 yr. 2033 w/Kruse) 2, 3, 6	No limit		
2000624	Enterprise D (carried in Rio Grande Canal) - (10 yr. 2033 w/Toews) 2, 3, 6	No limit		
2000624	Enterprise D (carried in Rio Grande Canal) - (10 yr. 2036 w/Ponderosa) 2, 3, 6	No limit		
2000631	SLV Irrigation District - Farmers Union (1 yr. 2027) 3	525		
2000773	New Ditch (10 yr. 2036) 1, 2, 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2000816	Rio Grande Lariat Ditch (10 yr. 2033) 2, 3, 6	500		
2000811	Rio Grande Piedra Valley Ditch (5 yr. 2028) 2, 3, 6	No limit		
2000817	Rio Grande San Luis Ditch (10 yr. 2035) 2, 3, 6	No limit		
	Total On Call- Forbearance		105	Up to 170.0*
	CBP Allocation- April 2026	3,900	187	
	Total On Call- Non-Irrigation Season		187	Up to 187

*Note: DWR Analysis

Subdistrict No. 3 Replacement Sources Alamosa River (acre-feet)

	Water Right Name	Submitted in ARP 4/15/2026	Approved in SWSP's	Remaining 4/15/2026 & Approved for 2026 ARP
SWSP	In Storage			
6066	Expo, LLC	32.42		51.89

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9526	Terrace Irrigation Company / Jasper (Case 82CW97)	47.7		
	Total In Storage	80.12		51.89
	On Call	Limit	Expected Yield	DWR Expected Yield
WDID	Forbearance			
2100503	Alamosa Creek Canal (Terrace Irrig) ** (5 year ending 2030) 3, 6	No limit		
2100505	Alamosa Spring Creek Ditch (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2100506	Arroya Ditch (5 yr. 2028) 3, 6	No limit		
2100510	Capulin Ditch (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2100511	Clark Ditch (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6	No limit		
2100513	Cottonwood Ditch (5 yr. 2028) 3, 6	No limit		
2100514	Cristobal Rivera Ditch (5 yr. 2029) 3, 6	No limit		
2100520	El Viejo D (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6	No limit		
2100522	Empire Canal (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6	No limit		
2100525	Flintham Ditch (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6	No limit		
2100529	Gallegos Ditch 3 - (10 yr. 2033)	No limit		
2100526	Gabino Gallegos Ditch (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2100532	Garcia No 2 Ditch (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2100539	Head Overflow No 5 Ditch - (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2100558	Lowland Overflow Ditch - (3 yr. 2027) 3, 6	No limit		
2100561	Miller Ditch - Alamosa (10 yr. 2033) priority no. 70 & 75 w/Peterson SD 3, 6	No limit		
2100561	Miller Ditch - Alamosa (3 yr. 2027) priority no. 17 & 24 w/Mortensen owns 75% SD 3, 6	No limit		
2100561	Miller Ditch - Alamosa (10 yr. 2034) priority no. 17 & 24 w/Hunter owns 25% SD 3, 6	no limit		
2100564	Morganville (3 yr. 2026) 3, 6	No limit		
2100570	Norland (10 yr. 2033) w/Muniz owns 30% SD3,6	No limit		
2100570	Norland (10 yr. 2034) w/Faucette owns 70% 3,6	No limit		
2100571	North Alamosa Ditch - (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2100572	Ortiz Ditch (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2100581	Ramona Ditch (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2100591	San Jose Ditch No 1 - (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2100593	Scandinavian Canal - (10 yr. 2034) 3, 6	No limit		
2100601	Terrace Main (Terrace Irrigation ** (5 yr. 2030) 3, 6	No limit		
2100600	TK Walsh Ditch (10 yr. 2033) 3, 6	No limit		
2100602	Union Ditch (5 yr. 2028) 3, 6	No limit		
2100604	Valdez D w/Porco (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6			
2100606	Weist Ditch (3 yr. 2026) 3, 6	No limit		
	Total On Call- Forbearance		55	Up to 50*

*Note: DWR Analysis

**Note: All ditch rights of Terrace Irrigation Company are allowed to participate in a forbearance, however, Priority 110 for storage in Terrace Reservoir is excluded from participation. See Section 3.1 of this Approval Letter.

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Subdistrict No. 3 Replacement Sources La Jara Creek (acre-feet)

	Water Right Name	Submitted in ARP 5/1/2026	Approved in SWSP's	Remaining 4/15/2026 & Approved for 2026 ARP
	In Storage - None			
	In Season	Limit	Expected Yield	DWR Expected Yield
SWSP	In Season			
10577	Gonzales Well (Trinchera Subdistrict)** (42.9 af)	14.3	14.3	14.3
10596	Canty Well (Trinchera Subdistrict)** (69.0 af)	23.2	23.2	23.0
	**Yield to be shared among SD3, SD6, SDT			
	Total In Season	37.5	37.5	37.3
	On Call	Limit	Expected Yield	DWR Expected Yield
WDID	Forbearance			
	La Jara Creek			
2100502	Alamos D (1 yr. 2027) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100512	Coddington D w/Reynolds (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100512	Coddington D w/ Mestas (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100521	Empire Canal- La Jara (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100523	Eskridge Garrett D w/Chavez & Garcia (3 yr. 2029) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100631	Eskridge Garrett D w/Rivera, Gallegos, & Peterson (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100528	Gallegos D No. 2 (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100531	Garcia D No. 1 (5 yr. 2031) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100535	H Louise Shawcroft D (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100536	Hansen La Jara Ovfl D 3 w/P. Mestas (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100536	Hansen La Jara Ovfl D 3 w/J. Mestas (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100537	Hardtack D NB (5 yr. 2031) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100538	Hardtack D SB (5 yr. 2031) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100546	Keystone D (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100549	L E Shawcroft Sons Irr D (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100552	Le Mita D 1 (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100553	Le Mita D 2 (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100712	Louise Shawcroft D (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100557	Lower La Jara D (1 yr. 2027) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100559	Mc Cunniff D (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100560	Miller D-La Jara (5 yr. 2031) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100565	Murphy Crowther D (1 yr. 2027) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100566	Nate Garrett D (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100569	Newcomb Bros D (5 yr. 2031) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100579	Pino Real D (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		

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2100582	Reed D 1 (1 yr. 2027) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100612	Reed D 2 (1 yr. 2027) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100584	Reynolds D (1 yr. 2027) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100583	Reynolds Reed D (1 yr. 2027) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100587	Romero D (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100590	Sanco D (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100599	Swamp D w/J. Mestas (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100699	Swamp D w/P. Mestas (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100603	Valley D (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
	Hot Creek			
2100527	Gallegos D 1 (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100530	Gallegos D 4 (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
2100543	Jose E. Atencio D (10 yr. 2036) 3, 6, 7	No limit		
	Total On Call- Forbearance		198	Up to 190

**Note: DWR Analysis*

After Acquired Sources of Remedy (Section 2 of 11.1.3 of the ARP)

DWR recognizes the Subdistrict will continue to work to acquire additional sources of remedy and may, with approval from the Division Engineer, use those sources to remedy injury under this ARP.

Operation of the 2026 Annual Replacement Plan (Section 3 of 11.1.3 of the ARP)

The ARP states that the Subdistrict's replacement water will be released, including transit losses, from Platoro Reservoir, located in the Upper Conejos; Terrace Reservoir, located on the Alamosa River; and Rio Grande, Santa Maria, Continental, and Beaver Park Reservoirs, located in the Upper Rio Grande, at the direction of the Division 3 Engineer, to offset injurious stream depletions on the respective rivers during the Plan Year. All Plan Year injurious stream depletions will be replaced in the time, location and amount that they occur, beginning May 1, 2026. The reaches, amounts and time that stream depletions are projected to occur are shown in the ARP. These releases of water from storage will be performed under the provisions contained in section 37-87-103, C.R.S.

The ARP notes that Sections 37-80-120, 37-83-104, and 37-83-106, C.R.S., allow for exchanges to occur between reservoirs without a decree and if recognized by the Division Engineer. Appropriate accounting between the Division Engineer's Office and Subdistrict No. 3 will occur on a regular and routine basis if these exchanges do occur. Any reservoir exchanges done in the Plan Year will be documented and reported in the 2026 Annual Report. The Division Engineer's Office will be notified in advance of any reservoir exchanges, and the exchanges must be documented and approved by the Division Engineer prior to them occurring.

The ARP provides documentation that the Subdistrict has implemented Forbearance Agreements with a number of ditches located on the Conejos River, the San Antonio River,

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the Los Pinos River, the Alamosa River, La Jara Creek, and the Rio Grande for the Plan Year. At times when the Conejos, the San Antonio and the Los Pinos are connected, the calling right can be on the San Antonio or the Los Pinos. The majority of the forbearance agreements allow the Subdistrict to exercise these agreements in its sole discretion.

The ARP provides an agreement with the Centennial Ditch in the Appendix. The resolution suggests an alternative for when replacement water needs to be carried below the Excelsior Ditch, but when the Rio Grande can be dry below the headgate. Instead, replacement water will be carried around that dry reach through the Centennial Ditch. The water will be measured and delivered directly to the Rio Grande at the point the Centennial Ditch can return water directly to the Rio Grande. That point is above any water right that may be injured while in priority. The Centennial Ditch must be adequate to efficiently deliver water around the dry stretch of river to the satisfaction of the Division Engineer prior to this being considered a viable option. The Centennial Ditch Company's water rights are senior enough to accomplish this carriage in most foreseeable situation (Priority Nos. 32 and 173).

The Phase 7 Model did not predict stream depletions to streams other than the Conejos River, Alamosa River, La Jara Creek, and the Rio Grande in amounts above the minimum threshold to reliably predict injury. Therefore, no replacements to any stream other than the Conejos, Alamosa, La Jara Creek, and Rio Grande will be made.

In virtually all conditions, including 0% Compact Curtailment, replacement of injurious depletions is required to be made to the lower reach of the Rio Grande for replacement of Injurious Stream Depletions to the Rio Grande Compact as well as any ditches in the reach.

The Rules require remedies sufficient to also remedy total Post-Plan Stream Depletions caused by current and past years' ARP Wells groundwater withdrawals that deplete the streams after the term of this ARP. Section 4.1.5 of the Subdistrict's PWM includes the provision, "the Subdistrict may continue to assess fees until all Post-Plan Injurious Stream Depletions caused by past groundwater withdrawals from Subdistrict Wells have been remedied." This allows the Subdistrict to provide a financial guarantee to assure that all Post-Plan Injurious Stream Depletions will be replaced or otherwise remedied if the Subdistrict were to fail or otherwise not be allowed to continue groundwater withdrawals.

If the Subdistrict were to fail, the individual well owners in the Subdistrict would have to obtain plans for augmentation or take other measures to comply with the Rules. Presumably, those plans would be required to replace Post-Plan Injurious Stream Depletions into the future. In the interim, the Subdistrict or the Rio Grande Water Conservation District will remedy Post-Plan Injurious Stream Depletions by supplying water or through agreements pursuant to which injury to water rights is remedied by means other than providing water to replace stream depletions.

Anticipated Funding for Plan Year (Section 4 of 11.1.3 of the ARP)

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The Subdistrict submitted sufficient financial information to document the purchase and leases of replacement water for the 2026 Plan Year.

11.1.4 Contractual Arrangements among Water Users, Water User Associations, Water Conservancy Districts, Subdistricts, and/or the Rio Grande Water Conservation District

Lease of Los Sauces Ditch Shares from Los Sauces Ditch Shareholders and the Fallow of Historically Irrigated Acres (Section 1 of 11.1.4 of the ARP)

SWSP 9528 describes the Subdistrict, in conjunction with Subdistrict No. 6 and the Trinchera Subdistrict, have leased Los Sauces Ditch shares and entered into Lease Fallow agreements for the purpose of drying up historically irrigated lands west of Highway 28, from the Los Sauces Ditch. The Subdistricts will use the historical consumptive use credits from this dry-up under their respective approved ARPs to supply water to remedy injurious depletions in time, location, or amount, through an administrative exchange, either directly or after storage in a reservoir for release later in the same irrigation season or in a subsequent irrigation season, and/or lease said credits to another subdistrict for the same purpose.

The subdistricts have acquired various leases with different shareholders each SWSP approval year, resulting in various amounts of HCU. The actual amount of consumptive use may vary based on the hydrological conditions but the intent of the Subdistricts is to split the total consumptive use equally amongst themselves.

Lease of Gonzales and Canty Wells for Augmentation Use on La Jara Creek (Section 1 of 11.1.4 of the ARP)

SWSP 10577 Gonzales Well and SWSP 10596 Canty Well were submitted for approval by the Trinchera Subdistrict for use in conjunction with Subdistrict No. 3 and Subdistrict No. 6. The Subdistricts will use the historical consumptive use credits from the dry-up of the historically irrigated lands under their respective approved ARPs to supply water to remedy injurious depletions on La Jara Creek in time, location, or amount, through an administrative exchange, either directly or after storage in a reservoir for release later in the same irrigation season or in a subsequent irrigation season. The Gonzales well will be used to deliver augmentation water to La Jara Creek. HCU will be transferred from the Canty well to the Gonzales well for this purpose.

Forbearance Agreements (Section 3 of 11.1.4 of the ARP)

Pursuant to section 37-92-501(4)(b)(I)(B), C.R.S., the Subdistrict has reached agreement with a multitude of ditches whereby they accept that, subject to the specific provisions of the forbearance agreement, injury to their water rights resulting from the use of groundwater by ARP Wells may be remedied by means other than providing water to replace stream depletions, when they are the calling right on the Conejos River system, Alamosa River, La Jara Creek or Rio Grande. The majority of these contracts with individual ditches were made for multiple year terms.

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The Subdistrict reviewed stream flows on the Rio Grande, Conejos and Alamosa Rivers and La Jara Creek for the current and past years and used the peak and average flows during April and October to calculate the percent of priorities that have agreed to forbearance for the Plan Year within those stream flow ranges to determine the anticipated acre-feet that will be remedied by forbearance agreements on each river.

Subdistrict Analysis: The Rio Grande will have multiple dry up points that will change throughout the Irrigation Season causing the forbearance projections to change as well. The Subdistrict reviewed the calls in 2018 because the stream flows most closely matched the projected stream flows for 2026. Reach 1 and 2 are projected to stay connected throughout the month of May and the call will probably be the same for both reaches. Beginning around early June, it is projected Reach 1 and 2 will disconnect and there will be a separate call in each reach individually. For Reach 1, it is projected approximately 75% of the calls will be covered by forbearance all Irrigation Season. For Reach 2, it is projected there will be 75% forbearance for the month of May and then 50% forbearance beginning on June 1st through to the end of the Irrigation Season. For Reach 3, it is projected there will be 50% forbearance all Irrigation Season.

Subdistrict Analysis: For the Conejos River, the Subdistrict reviewed the calls for 2002 for this analysis because the stream flows in this year most closely match to the forecast for 2026. It is projected the river will stay connected for the month of May. During May, the calls will be the same for Reach 1 and 2. Beginning in June, it is projected the reaches will have a dry up point and there will be a separate call in each reach. For the entire Irrigation Season, it is projected only a large portion of the Reach 1 depletions will be remedied by forbearance. For Reach 2, it is projected a large percentage of the depletions will be remedied by forbearance as well. because there are 100% multiple forbearance agreements for the calling rights which are expected to be calling during most of the Irrigation Season for the Conejos River.

Subdistrict Analysis: For the Alamosa River, the Subdistrict reviewed both 2018 and 2020 calls to project the amount of forbearance for the Irrigation Season. Based on the analysis, it is projected 50 acre-feet will be remedied by forbearance during the Irrigation Season.

Subdistrict Analysis: For La Jara Creek, the Subdistrict reviewed both 2018 and 2020 calls to project forbearance for the Irrigation Season. Based on this analysis, it is projected there could be up to 198 acre-feet of depletions remedied by forbearance.

It is noted that the majority of these agreements allow the Subdistrict to remedy injurious stream depletions under the agreement or by providing water at the Subdistrict's sole discretion.

The Subdistrict made an agreement with the Guadalupe and Brazos Del Norte Ditches to store in Platoro Reservoir the amount of depletion owed daily when the Ditches are the calling priority. The stored water is to be released later by the Conejos Water Conservancy District at the discretion of the Ditches and must be released within the same calendar year

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as it was stored. Exercise of this agreement is at the sole discretion of the Subdistrict. As stated in the agreement, any releases of this water will be in compliance with the legal and physical restrictions on such releases.

Closed Basin Project Production (Section 5 of 11.1.4 of the ARP)

According to the information provided in the ARP, the projected production of the Closed Basin Project delivered to the Rio Grande is 6,500 acre-feet during calendar year 2026. The 2026 allocation of the Closed Basin Project production will be 60% to the Rio Grande and 40% to the Conejos River.

Per a letter from the Rio Grande Water Users Association dated April 10, 2026, the Board of Directors passed a motion to specifically allocate 3,900 acre-feet (1,700 in 2026 and 2,200 acre-feet in 2027) of the Rio Grande's share of the usable yield of the Closed Basin Project to replace the stream depletions of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Subdistricts. Similarly, the Board of Directors of the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District agreed to the allocation as stated in their letter to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District on April 7, 2026.

Further, the Water Users understand that there may be circumstances during the irrigation season when the Subdistricts cannot deliver water to the Rio Grande below the Chicago Ditch due to intervening dry stream reaches or excessive losses in deliveries. In those circumstances, the Water Users believe Project Water is an appropriate replacement source but intend that the use of the allocation described be minimized during the irrigation season.

The Conejos Water Conservancy District Board notified RGWCD by letter dated April 7, 2026 to specifically allocate the Conejos River's share of the usable yield of the Closed Basin Project to replace the injurious stream depletions for the 2026 ARP for Subdistrict No. 3 & Subdistrict 6. The usable yield is estimated to be 2,600 acre-feet for 2026.

A copy of each letter reporting the approval was provided with the ARP. The resolution from RGWCD allowing the Subdistrict to use Closed Basin Project water in the 2026 ARP was provided as supplemental information.

11.1.5 *Documentation of Progress towards Achieving and Maintaining a Sustainable Water Supply*

Water Levels, Pressure Levels, and/or Groundwater Withdrawals (Section 1 of 11.1.5 the ARP)

Rule 8.1.7 of the Groundwater Rules includes provisions for meeting the requirements for achieving and maintaining a Sustainable Water Supply in the confined aquifer. Per the State Engineer's approval letter for the PWM, dated August 27, 2018, the Conejos Response Area

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five-year running average groundwater withdrawals are currently below the 1978-2000 average groundwater withdrawals for the Conejos Response Area of 33,400 acre feet. Without the stipulation, the average is 30,400 acre-feet.

The current five-year running average groundwater withdrawals for ARP Wells for the period 2021-2025 is **25,715 acre-feet** using the pumping figures reported in Table 1 of the Application Workbook. The previous five-year running average for ARP wells was 27,309 acre-feet, decreasing by ±1,590 acre-feet for 2025. The total pumping over the last four years has varied between 24,000-27,000 but was 34,610 acre-feet in 2020.

Subdistrict Average Groundwater Withdrawals (acre-feet)

ARP Year	5-Year Average	2011 to-date Average
Average GW Withdrawal (1978-2000) = 30,400		
Projected - 2026	27,173	29,288
Actual - 2025 (2021-2025)	25,715	29,028
Actual - 2024 (2020-2024)	27,309	29,198
Actual - 2023 (2019-2023)	25,785	29,609
Actual - 2022 (2018-2022)	27,527	29,823
Actual - 2021 (2017-2021)	26,757	30,250

For comparison, the longer-term average 2011-2025 (15 years) of metered pumping for ARP wells is ±29,028 acre-feet. As additional years are added to the period of metered pumping in Division 3, this average can be compared to the 1978-2000 (23 years) estimated groundwater withdrawals reported in the State Engineer’s annual memorandum, “Five year Average Groundwater Withdrawals in Confined Aquifer Response Areas”, published July 1, 2025.

The Subdistrict anticipates groundwater withdrawals of ±33,200 acre-feet in 2026 due to similar pumping in similar stream flow forecast years. This would produce an average (2022-2026) of **27,173 acre-feet, within the sustainability metric.**

Based on the trends of both the Conejos Response Area and the Subdistrict’s five-year average, the Subdistrict will remain in compliance with the Sustainable Water Supply Requirement of the Rules.

Included in Appendix J is the State Engineer’s memo dated July 1, 2025, regarding the Composite Water Head for Confined Aquifer Response Area in Division 3: July 2025 Requirement of Division 3 Groundwater Rules Section 8.1.4. The Composite Water Head for Response Area No. 3 for 2025 was -1.25 feet, dropping back to the 2023 level, but still higher than 2022, the lowest year.

2025 Composite Water Head by Response Area

Response Area	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Conejos	0.00	-0.11	0.25	1.62	-0.38	1.21	-0.82	-1.40	-1.27	-0.83	-1.25

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The Conejos River System Water Users Association has been collecting hydrostatic pressure data in the Subdistrict No. 3 Response Area and will provide the data to the DWR to continue to improve the understanding of sustainability.

Listing of Irrigated Acres Proposed to be Temporarily or Permanently Fallowed and Associated Water Rights (Section 1 of 11.1.5 the ARP)

The Board of Managers assessed a portion of their fees to build up revenues that can be used, if necessary, to fund current and future programs to meet sustainability requirements. For 2026, the Board of Managers elected to implement a voluntary Pumping Reduction Program, paying members to reduce their groundwater use.

Listing of Water Rights Proposed to be Temporarily or Permanently Retired and Historical Operations of Each Water Right (Section 3 of 11.1.5 the ARP)

The Subdistrict has purchased several wells for the purpose of inactivating the wells and ceasing all of the groundwater withdrawals in order to aid the Subdistrict's efforts in meeting the sustainable requirements. The wells purchased and proposed to be purchased are shown in the table below. The Subdistrict plans to keep the wells inactive for the foreseeable future.

Year	Wells Purchased		Historical Pumping (acre-ft)
	Owner	WDID	
2024	Sowards	2205076	
2009-2020*	(irrigation)		152
2020-2023*	(fish)		861
2025	Cordova	2205067	
2009-2021*	(irrigation)		24
2026	proposed	2105383	
2009-2025	(irrigation)		1,413

**Years of historical pumping averaged*

Other Proposed Actions to be Taken as Applicable (Section 4 of 11.1.5 the ARP)

The Subdistrict is implementing a Pumping Reduction Program (PRP) for the 2026 irrigation season. The goal of the PRP is to compensate Subdistrict Members that reduce their groundwater withdrawals on a Farm Unit basis. During the 2025 Plan Year, the PRP planned to reduce groundwater withdrawals within the Subdistrict by 356.8 acre-feet. For the 2026 Plan Year, participating Subdistrict Members have committed to reducing their overall pumping by approximately 1,337 acre-feet.

In addition to the PRP, the Subdistrict has had several meetings and has developed ideas, through Subdistrict Member input and contracted engineering work, on what actions would

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be most effective and also least intrusive in order to achieve its sustainability goals. The Subdistrict plans on implementing aquifer sustainability measures if a voluntary reduction in pumping by Subdistrict Members and the PRP does not lead to a positive sustainability trend, including the possible implementation of a groundwater allocation program.

The Subdistrict has also approved a resolution to incentive the RGWCD's Senate Bill 22-028 well purchase program by adding an additional \$500 per acre-foot payment to Subdistrict Members whose program applications are approved.

Findings:

Based on the information provided in the ARP and discussed above, I make the following findings:

1. The projected groundwater withdrawals are based upon the inventoried Subdistrict Wells, their historical pumping, and projected stream flows. The inventory of wells is consistent with the information in DWR's databases. The historical pumping associated with the Wells is based on diversion records on file with the DWR. The method implemented by the Subdistrict to project groundwater withdrawals for the ARP Wells for 2026 is consistent with historical pumping information and streamflow forecast from the Division Engineer's projection and the NRCS Forecast.
2. Overall, the Subdistrict inputs to the Application Workbook produced a calculation of depletions that DWR considers conservative such that the depletions are covered and no injury will occur.
3. Projected stream depletions are calculated based on Application Workbooks generated from RGDSS Groundwater Model runs. The Application Workbooks are based on the RGDSS Model Phase 7, which was approved by the PRT. The Subdistrict used the 7P101 Application Workbook in determining stream depletions for the Subdistrict. The ARP Year depletion schedule is included as an Exhibit to this letter.
4. The yield of the CBP and timing of deliveries is not adequate to cover all subdistrict non-irrigation season depletions. CBP delivers water to Stream Reach 3 of the Rio Grande. Under certain conditions, including 0% curtailment, there is no exchange potential available to the upper reaches. The Subdistrict must provide enough replacement water to remedy any shortage of CBP deliveries allocated to the Subdistrict.
5. The ARP identifies the sources, availability, and amounts of replacement water and remedies that the Subdistrict will use to remedy Injurious Stream Depletions during the coming year and demonstrates the sufficiency of such water to remedy such Injurious Stream Depletions:

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Conejos River

The Subdistrict depletions for the Conejos River system for this ARP are 2,258 acre-feet during the irrigation season and 1,458 acre-feet during the non-irrigation season for a total of 3,716 acre-feet.

- Irrigation Season: The Subdistrict has 1,964 acre-feet in storage in Platoro Reservoir. Alpha Hay Farms SWSP total HCU is 523 acre-feet, but DWR analysis shows it may only generate 50 acre-feet in 2026. The Subdistrict indicates a yield \pm 1,811 acre-feet from forbearance agreements during the irrigation season and in April 2027.

The submitted portfolio of water from storage and the adjusted Alpha Hay HCU in the 2026 ARP Year, totaling 2,014 acre-feet, indicates there would be a deficit of 244 acre-feet of firm water to cover Injurious Stream Depletions in the unlikely event that no forbearance is available. My staff reviewed the historical calls on the Conejos for the ditches expected to generate forbearance during the ARP Year. A copy of the analysis is included as an Exhibit. The portfolio of water from storage and potentially 1,860 acre-feet from DWR forbearance analysis totals 3,866 acre-feet and **indicates sufficient water** to cover Injurious Stream Depletions for the Plan Year.

Accretions of from the San Antonio can reduce the depletions owed on the Conejos, but only when the live streams are connected and other criteria are met as noted above. The credit from this source is unreliable to the Subdistrict and therefore it is not considered for this irrigation season analysis.

- Non-Irrigation Season. The Subdistrict has 1,458 acre-feet of Closed Basin Project water available to pay non-irrigation season depletions and will likely use most of the San Antonio non-irrigation season accretions, 52 acre-feet.

Rio Grande

The Subdistrict depletions are 227 acre-feet during the irrigation season and 187 acre-feet during the non-irrigation season for a total of 414 acre-feet.

- Irrigation Season: The Subdistrict has 722 acre-feet in storage in WD20 Reservoirs and indicates a yield of 300 acre-feet from the Los Sauces SWSP, but DWR analysis shows it may only generate 30 acre-feet in 2026. The Subdistrict expects a yield of 105 acre-feet from forbearance agreements during the 2026 irrigation season and in April 2027.

The confirmed portfolio of water from storage in the 2026 ARP Year totals 722 acre-feet and indicates sufficient firm water to cover Injurious Stream Depletions in the unlikely event that no forbearance is available.

- Non-Irrigation Season: The Subdistrict has 187 acre-feet of Closed Basin Project water and additional water in storage available to pay non-irrigation season depletions.

Alamosa River

The Subdistrict depletions are 56 acre-feet during the irrigation season and 4 acre-feet during the non-irrigation season for a total of 60 acre-feet.

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- Irrigation Season: The Subdistrict has 52 acre-feet in storage in Terrace Reservoir and indicates a yield of 55 acre-feet from forbearance agreements during the 2026 irrigation season and in April 2027.

The confirmed portfolio of water from storage in the 2026 ARP Year indicates there would be a deficit of 4 acre-feet of firm water to cover Injurious Stream Depletions in the unlikely event that no forbearance is available. My staff reviewed the historical calls on the Alamosa for the ditches expected to generate forbearance during the ARP Year. A copy of the analysis is included as an Exhibit. The portfolio of water from storage and potentially 50 acre-feet from DWR forbearance analysis totals 102 acre-feet and **indicates sufficient water** to cover Injurious Stream Depletions for the Plan.

Non-Irrigation Season: The Subdistrict is not obligated to pay depletions on the Alamosa during the non-irrigation season at this time.

La Jara Creek

The Subdistrict depletions on La Jara Creek are 198 acre-feet during the irrigation season and -154 acre-feet during the non-irrigation season for a total of 44 acre-feet.

- Irrigation Season: The Subdistrict has no water in storage in La Jara Reservoir, an in-season yield of 37 acre-feet, and indicates a yield of 198 acre-feet from forbearance agreements during the 2026 irrigation season and in April 2027.

My staff reviewed the historical calls on La Jara Creek for the ditches expected to generate estimated forbearance during the ARP Year. A copy of the analysis is included as an Exhibit. The portfolio of water from in-season yield with potentially ± 190 acre-feet from DWR forbearance analysis totals ± 227 acre-feet and **indicates sufficient replacement sources** to cover Injurious Stream Depletions for the Plan Year.

- Non-Irrigation Season: The Subdistrict is not obligated to pay depletions on La Jara Creek during the non-irrigation season at this time.

6. Section 4.1.5 of the Subdistrict's PWM includes the provision, "the Subdistrict may continue to assess fees until all Post-Plan Injurious Stream Depletions caused by past groundwater withdrawals from Subdistrict Wells have been remedied." This allows the Subdistrict to provide a financial guarantee to assure that all Post-Plan Injurious Stream Depletions will be replaced or otherwise remedied if the Subdistrict were to fail or otherwise not be allowed to continue groundwater withdrawals.

7. Upon approval of the Subdistrict's PWM, it was concluded the Subdistrict is already operating within the 5-year 1978-2000 average as amended by the CAS stipulation. In all future years the five-year running average of metered total withdrawals must not exceed the average annual withdrawals for the period of 1978 through 2000. The Subdistrict is in compliance with this metric.

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The Subdistrict has presented sufficient evidence and engineering analysis to predict where and when Injurious Stream Depletions will occur and how they will replace those Injurious Stream Depletions to avoid injury to senior surface water rights under the following Terms and Conditions.

This ARP is hereby approved pursuant to the following Terms and Conditions:

1. This ARP shall be valid for the period of **May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027**, unless otherwise revoked, modified, or superseded by me, a decree, or order of the court.
2. The Subdistrict must replace or remedy the Injurious Stream Depletions resulting from Subdistrict ARP Well groundwater withdrawals.
3. **In virtually all conditions, including 0% Compact Curtailment, replacement of injurious depletions is required to be made to the lower reach of the Rio Grande for replacement of Injurious Stream Depletions to the Rio Grande Compact as well as any ditches in the reach.**
4. Contract wells will be covered to the extent of their permitted/decreed uses.
5. Deliveries (including transit losses) of stored water made available for the replacement of Injurious Stream Depletions shall be determined by the Division Engineer pursuant to this ARP and associated decrees, policies and statutes. An MOU describing any exchange must be submitted and signed by all parties prior to operating the exchange.
6. If the limit is reached for any particular forbearance agreement, then the Subdistrict will need to remedy Injurious Stream Depletions to that particular ditch or canal with another remedy. Storage under the forbearance agreement with the Guadalupe and Brazos Del Norte Ditches is only allowed upon prior approval of the Division Engineer.
7. The Division Engineer shall determine on an ongoing basis whether he can administer the operations under each forbearance agreement. If the Division Engineer cannot, then that operation shall cease. General Forbearance Protocols for the Conejos River System for 2026 were prepared by the Division Engineer. A copy of the protocols is included with this letter.
8. The Subdistrict shall provide daily replacement water accounting (including, but not limited to diversions, depletions, replacement sources, and river calls) on a monthly basis. The accounting must be emailed to the Division Engineer (Craig.Cotten@state.co.us), the Water Commissioners (sam.riggenbach@state.co.us), rachel.rilling@state.co.us, tom.stewart@state.co.us, aaron.holman@state.co.us, travis.robinson@state.co.us and the Subdistrict Coordinator (deborah.sarason@state.co.us), Water Accounting Operations Specialist (michelle.lanzoni@state.co.us) within 10 days after the end of the month for which the accounting applies. Accounting and reporting procedures are subject to approval and modification by the Division Engineer.

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9. The Subdistrict must adhere to the terms and conditions of the SWSP(s) incorporated as part of the ARP. The use and inclusion of any new replacement water within the ARP is subject to SWSP approval or approved by the Water Division No. 3 Water Court for a change of water right. Prior to the use of any new replacement water, the State Engineer will evaluate for use as an amendment under this ARP.
10. Regarding the Subdistrict's request to aggregate depletions owed between stream reaches, the negative depletion amounts that the Application Workbook output generated on the San Antonio reflect the point-source return flow attributed to the Town of Antonito in the RGDSS Model. This negative depletion represented on the San Antonio affects the Conejos River depletions when both streams are live to their confluence. Should the stream systems become disconnected hydraulically during the ARP Year, aggregation of these negative depletion amounts for purposes of determining depletions owed on the Conejos will not be allowed. Further, aggregation will only be allowed when the San Antonio is a live stream from the sewer treatment discharge to the confluence of the Conejos, when there is flow from the bottom of Stream Reach 1 on the Conejos to the San Antonio confluence, and on days when actual water is being delivered to a ditch that is the calling right that day.
11. Regarding the Subdistrict's request to aggregate depletions with other subdistricts, the Subdistrict may make requests for these types of changes formally to the Division Engineer, providing details of the request and documentation supporting the need to make a change to the approved ARP depletion schedule. The Division Engineer will consider such a request when it is made, under the protocol of DWR and in light of the conditions on the particular stream at the time and, if deemed appropriate, approve the request. The Subdistrict will not adopt any change until after approval by the Division Engineer.
12. CBP deliveries may only be credited against irrigation and non-irrigation season depletions that occur during the same calendar year and during the same ARP Year. **For 2026 and going forward, only the CBP deliveries generated during the non-irrigation season may be used to remedy Subdistrict non-irrigation season depletions.** The Subdistrict must provide replacement water to remedy any shortage of CBP deliveries allocated to the Subdistrict. It is noted the Rio Grande Water Users offered to make CBP water available to pay depletions during the irrigation season should the current dry conditions persist such that replacement water cannot be delivered to Rio Grande Stream Reach 3. This will only be allowed after approval of the Division Engineer.
13. The Subdistrict is relying progressively less upon forbearance agreements to meet the requirements for mitigation of injurious stream depletions. The Subdistrict is actively pursuing permanent replacement sources to cover depletions in the event that the forbearance agreements are not sufficient. In the unlikely event that the forbearance yields are less than needed, the Subdistrict will invoke its "After Acquired Sources of Remedy" clause in the ARP and will acquire sufficient additional sources to satisfy the

Subdistrict No. 3 ARP Approval: Plan Year 2026

depletion schedule approved under this ARP. If the Subdistrict is unable to acquire sufficient additional sources, the Subdistrict will not be able to continue operation under this ARP.

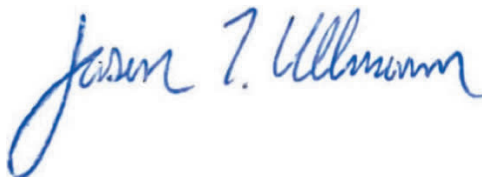
14. All deliveries of replacement water shall be measured in a manner acceptable to the Division Engineer. The Subdistrict shall install and maintain measuring devices as required by the Division Engineer for operation of this approved ARP.
15. The Subdistrict must submit an Annual Review of its ARP pursuant to Rule 12.
16. The Subdistrict must replace or remedy all Injurious Stream Depletions caused by non-augmented pumping associated with Subdistrict ARP Wells.
17. The Subdistrict must comply with the Rules, the Subdistrict PWM, and this ARP.

Approval of this ARP does not authorize any change, increase, or expanded use of any water right or permit. Any change, increase, or expansion of a water right or permit will need to comply with existing decrees and or permits, the Confined Aquifer New Use Rules, the Measurement Rules, the Rio Grande Basin Groundwater Use Rules, and may require approval of the Water Court.

The approval of this ARP is made with the understanding that if the ARP proves insufficient to remedy Injurious Stream Depletions, the State Engineer has the authority to invoke the retained jurisdiction of the Division No. 3 Water Court.

I want to thank you for your cooperation and compliance with this approved ARP and for your continued cooperation and compliance in the future. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact any of my staff in Denver or Alamosa.

Sincerely,



Jason T. Ullmann, P.E.
State Engineer
Director of the Division of Water Resources

Subdistrict No. 3 ARP Approval: Plan Year 2026

Exhibits:

- A: Subdistrict No. 3 Application Workbook Table 2.6 for 2026 ARP Year
- B: General Forbearance Protocols for the San Luis Valley River Systems for 2026
- C: DWR analysis of Forbearance Yield

ec: Craig Cotten, Division Engineer
Chad Wallace, Second Assistant Attorney General
David W. Robbins, Hill & Robbins
Peter Ampe, Hill & Robbins
Clinton Phillips, Davis Engineering Service, Inc.
DWR electronic notification lists
Division 3 Water Court

Table 2.6
Conejos Response Area Monthly Net Stream Depletions for Plan Year
(units of ac-ft)

Conejos Response Area Total													
Stream Reach	2026								2027				Total
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	
Conejos above Seledonia/Garcia	53.26	50.07	38.95	33.73	32.06	30.78	34.84	37.98	27.24	23.58	25.77	36.76	425.02
Conejos below Seledonia/Garcia	239.80	281.37	319.83	321.83	300.64	282.53	269.45	272.76	265.82	236.70	263.57	236.73	3291.03
Rio Grande Del Norte-Excelsior	5.18	4.91	4.90	4.73	4.52	4.72	4.66	5.00	5.06	4.70	5.19	4.92	58.51
Rio Grande Excelsior-Chicago	9.44	8.96	8.76	7.88	7.72	8.17	8.27	9.21	9.58	9.08	10.14	9.48	106.70
Rio Grande Chicago-State Line	22.07	23.88	14.06	9.06	19.81	20.23	25.57	27.93	25.20	15.25	22.06	24.15	249.29
Alamosa River	29.40	12.06	2.49	0.16	1.47	0.10	0.01	0.02	0.96	1.10	2.16	10.05	59.97
La Jara Creek	26.16	17.30	37.04	43.63	29.66	33.35	-4.62	-25.19	-33.94	-39.28	-50.93	10.76	43.94
San Antonio River	-12.00	-11.20	-13.40	-13.40	-10.00	-9.40	-10.70	-10.10	-10.10	-10.10	-10.70	-12.50	-133.60
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	373.32	387.35	412.63	407.62	385.88	370.48	327.49	317.61	289.82	241.04	267.26	320.35	4100.87

Table 2.6
Conejos Response Area Monthly Net Stream Depletions for Plan Year
(units of ac-ft)

Stream Reach	Conejos Response Area Total												Total
	2026						2027						
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)

Notes for columns:

- (1) Stream reach
- (2)-(13) Monthly Net Stream Depletions in acre-feet
- (14) Total Plan Year Net Stream Depletions in acre-feet

General Forbearance Protocols for San Luis Valley River Systems

Subdistricts No. 1, No. 2 (Rio Grande Alluvium), No. 3 (Conejos), No. 4 (San Luis Creek), No. 5 (Saguache), No. 6 (Alamosa La Jara), and Trinchera Subdistrict will be operating under ARPs and will replace depletions to their affected streams on May 1st, the beginning of the **2026** ARP year. Along with the replacement of stream depletions, the State and Division Engineer may allow the owners of the calling ditch(es) to forbear or choose to not take the water that otherwise would have been allocated to that ditch in exchange for receiving payment in some other form. This forbearance is authorized under Colorado Revised Statute 37-92-501 (4)(b)(1)(B), which states that the State Engineer shall “Recognize contractual arrangements among water users, water user associations, water conservancy districts, ground water management subdistricts, and the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, pursuant to which... injury to senior surface water rights resulting from the use of underground water is remedied by means other than providing water to replace stream depletions.”

In order to assist the Subdistricts, water users, and Water Commissioners in determining whether a forbearance contract will be allowed, the following are general guidelines regarding those forbearance contracts for the **2026** ARP year:

- A water right must be the calling water right in order to forbear. In other words, the ditch must be legally and physically entitled and able to receive and divert all of the replacement water that would have been placed into the river or stream reach and made available for that ditch, and the ditch owner(s) could have decided to take the replacement water available instead of forbearing.
- The owner(s) of a ditch that cannot physically divert all of the water under its priorities due to an inadequate ditch size or other physical restrictions cannot forbear for the amount that the ditch is not able to divert. However, this ditch may be able to forbear up to the amount that it is physically and legally able to divert.
- The owner(s) of a ditch that physically is not able to divert the replacement water entitled to it at certain times of the year (for instance during low flow periods), due to an inadequate diversion dam or headgate, or other reasons, cannot forbear during that time of year unless and until the ditch or associated structures are repaired and are physically able to take water. Under certain circumstances this could require the complete drying up of the river or stream.
- If it is certain that the owner(s) of a ditch would have declined to take water in their ditch on a given day that they were in priority to take water, for instance, if that owner cannot take their full priority due to a break in the ditch bank, or if the owner has not called for that water right in the ditch, etc., the ditch owner cannot forbear for that water right on that day.

- Forbearance will be allowed on water rights that are not large enough to cover the entire daily replacement amount. A ditch may be forbearing only a portion of the total daily replacement amount due to the size of the water right. In such cases, there may be several water rights in various ditches that are forbearing at the same time in order to meet the entire replacement obligation of the Subdistrict(s).
- A ditch may operate under a partial forbearance contract, i.e. a situation in which select owners of ditch rights choose to participate in the forbearance agreement. This is allowed with the understanding that the ditch company, Subdistrict, or other appropriate party will manage the partial flow and partial forbearance throughout the ditch system to the satisfaction of all water rights owners in that priority. Prior to operation, the manager of the ditch with partial forbearance must inform the Water Commissioner how they will operate the ditch in order to be in compliance. Without this communication, forbearance is not allowed.
- During times when the river reaches become disconnected, each stretch will be treated as its own calling system. This is true even when non-native water, such as augmentation, storage and transmountain, is delivered across reaches that would otherwise be disconnected. Only RGDSS modelled stream reaches and their connected tributaries may have ditches eligible for forbearance.
- If replacement water delivery could not make it physically to a calling ditch in any particular RGDSS reach, then no forbearance is allowed, and water delivery will be required at the top of the reach. On a day when water could be placed into the river system for replacement of injurious depletions, and a section(s) of the stream is dry between the replacement source and the calling priority ditch(es), forbearance by that ditch(es) will not be allowed unless the stream was live at the time the forbearance began or the delivery would generate a live stream to the point of the call. The determination of the physical properties controlling these situations shall be at the discretion of the Division Engineer and his staff.
- A forbearance that results in a section of the river drying up cannot be used to create a futile call. The river must be administered to replicate what conditions would have taken place had a continuous deliverance of water occurred.
- Ditches with a forbearance contract must have accurate, reliable, and operational measurement devices, headgates and diversion structures for the ditch.

Plan Year 2026

DWR Analysis of Forbearance Yield

Last updated 4/30/2026

This analysis is done by DWR for Subdistricts that rely on forbearance amounts during the irrigation season. This includes those subdistricts with depletion obligations on the Conejos River, Alamosa River, San Luis Creek, La Jara Creek, and Sangre De Cristo Creek. While subdistricts also have valid forbearance agreements on the Rio Grande and Saguache Creek, DWR did not prepare forbearance yield estimates on these systems because adequate wet water sources are available to cover all depletion obligations.

Conejos River

- DWR staff prepared an analysis using the current streamflow numbers and forecast flows for the irrigation season, which is projected to end on November 1st, 2026. The focus of the analysis was to determine which ditches might be the calling priorities throughout this period. A similar analysis was completed for the irrigation month of April 2027 using average conditions because a reliable 2026-2027 winter forecast is not yet available. The Subdistrict has secured forbearance contracts with numerous ditches ranging from the three No. 1 priority ditches through very junior water rights.
- These agreements for ditches that are likely to be the calling rights on the Conejos for the 2026 irrigation season and April of 2027 could possibly account for the values shown in the table below. The table shows the estimated forbearance amounts, the estimated percent of forbearance to cover irrigation season depletions and the total irrigation season depletions owed by each subdistrict on the Conejos System.

	Forbearance Estimate	Irrigation Season % of Depletions	Irrigation Season Depletions
SD 3	1,860 AF	82 %	2,258 AF
SD 6	2,800 AF	82 %	3,419 AF
SD T	130 AF	66 %	196 AF

Alamosa River

- DWR staff prepared an analysis using the current streamflow numbers and forecasted flows for the irrigation season, which presumptively ends on November 1st, 2026. The focus of the analysis was to determine which ditches might be the calling priorities throughout this period. A similar analysis was completed for the irrigation month of April 2027, using average conditions because a reliable 2026-2027 winter forecast is not yet available. The Subdistrict has secured forbearance contracts with numerous ditches ranging from the No. 1 priorities through very junior rights on the Alamosa River.

Plan Year 2026

- These agreements for ditches that are likely to be the calling rights on the Alamosa for the 2026 irrigation season and April of 2027 could possibly account for the values shown in the table below. The table shows the estimated forbearance amount, the estimated percent of forbearance to cover the irrigation season depletions and the total irrigation season depletions owed by each subdistrict.

	Forbearance Estimate	Irrigation Season % of Depletions	Irrigation Season Depletions
SD 3	49 AF	88 %	56 AF
SD 6	125 AF	84 %	149 AF

San Luis Creek

- DWR staff prepared an analysis using the current streamflow numbers and forecasted flows for the irrigation season, which presumptively ends on November 1st, 2026. The focus of the analysis was to determine which ditches would be the calling priorities on all streams where the Subdistrict owes depletions. The Subdistrict secured numerous forbearance contracts for priorities senior and junior to the projected call(s). Based on current snowpack and streamflow's estimated peak, the call on San Luis Creek will in all probability not be junior to the Priority No. 35, and a majority of the irrigation season will be dominated by more senior calling water rights. Even if the streamflows are underestimated, the Subdistrict has contracts with all owners of water rights senior to Priority No. 50 that can divert water, which would reinforce the analysis of forbearance being a valid replacement source. From the first day of the 2026 irrigation season to the end of April 2027, the call on San Luis Creek will, in all probability, not be junior to Priority No. 50 on the river system allowing for forbearance coverage until the end of the ARP year.

La Jara Creek

- DWR staff prepared an analysis using the current streamflow numbers and forecasted flows for the irrigation season, which presumptively ends on November 1st, 2026. The focus of the analysis was to determine which ditches might be the calling priorities throughout this period. A similar analysis was completed for the irrigation month of April 2027, using average conditions because a reliable 2026-2027 winter forecast is not yet available. The Subdistrict has secured forbearance contracts with numerous ditches ranging from the No. 1 priorities through very junior rights on La Jara Creek.

Plan Year 2026

- These agreements for ditches that are likely to be the calling rights on La Jara for the 2026 irrigation season and April of 2027 could possibly account for the values shown in the table below. The table shows the estimated forbearance amount, the estimated percent of forbearance to cover irrigation season depletions and the total irrigation season depletions owed by each subdistrict.

	Forbearance Estimate	Irrigation Season % of Depletions	Irrigation Season Depletions
SD 3	190 AF	96 %	198 AF
SD 6	30 AF	96 %	31 AF
SD T	25 AF	96 %	26 AF

Sangre De Cristo Creek

- DWR staff prepared an analysis using the current streamflow numbers and forecasted flows for the irrigation season, which presumptively ends on November 1st, 2026. The focus of the analysis was to determine which ditches would be the calling priorities on Sangre De Cristo where the Subdistrict owes depletions. The Subdistrict secured numerous forbearance contracts for all priorities projected to be the calling rights. Based on current snowpack and streamflow's estimated peak, the call on Sangre De Cristo Creek will in all probability not be junior to the Priority No. 32 and a majority of the irrigation season is estimated to be a Priority No. 3. Even if the streamflows are underestimated, the Subdistrict has contracts with all owners of water rights senior to Priority No. 86 that can divert water, which would reinforce the analysis of forbearance being a valid replacement source. From the first day of the 2026 irrigation season to the end of April 2027, the call on Sangre De Cristo will, in all probability, not be junior to Priority No. 39 on the river system allowing for full forbearance coverage until the end of the ARP year.