

March 10, 2018

Honorable Senator Peter Campos
418 Reynolds Avenue
Las Vegas, NM 87701

Dear Senator Campos:

The Acequia de La San Jose and Acequia de La Isla would like to thank you for your support and guidance in obtaining funding for renovation of Morphy Lake Dam. The request you made of \$2 Million to the legislature will help us complete the project. This funding will be added to the \$1.2 Million grant/loan received from the Water Trust Board.

This funding is very timely and critical to address the High Hazard Potential the dam poses to people and property of the Ledoux Valley and visitors to Morphy Lake State Park. The Office of the State Engineer Classified Morphy Lake Dam a High Hazard Potential dam on February 4, 2015. This funding will allow us to complete this project in one phase saving over \$400,000 in construction costs and reducing disturbance to the park and visitors. It also allows us to finish construction in 8 months from August 2018 to March 2019 instead of 2 years in 2 phases.

Fishing and hunting provides great economic benefit to residents and businesses in Mora County. According to a 2013 study by Southwick Associates, fishing created 50 jobs and nearly \$1 Million in labor income in Mora County. Over 100,000 visitors from Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Las Vegas and other parts of the state enjoyed the lake last year.

Morphy Lake Dam was originally built by farmers (parciantes) to irrigate their farms in the late 1800's in the Ledoux Valley and is owned by the Acequia de la Isla and Acequia de La San Jose. The Lake is leased to the NM Department of Game and Fish Department and New Mexico State Parks. The farmers have committed to maintaining a minimum of 150 Acre-feet of water in the lake for over 50 years for the benefit of visitors to the park.

We also appreciate your support over the past 10 years in requesting funding for all the studies and design costs of the project.

Sincerely:

ACEQUIA DE LA ISLA

ACEQUIA DE LA SAN JOSE

Harold Trujillo, President,

Joe Pacheco, President

Jerry Quintana, Secretary,

Darrell Herrera, Secretary

Steve Diamond, Treasurer

Jacquee Gillespie, Treasurer