



# Sandoval Farmers/Irrigators Informational Meeting

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024



## '23 Season & What's Ahead

- Irrigators and water managers faced challenges in 2023 including higher-than-usual temperatures, lack of rainfall and MRGCD's inability to store water at El Vado Dam. Farmers within Middle Rio Grande Valley should prepare for similar supply limitations with planning for the 2024 irrigation season.
- MRGCD will unlikely be able to store native Rio Grande (native) water for middle valley irrigation in 2024.
- Limitations on native storage are largely due to the Bureau of Reclamation rehab project on El Vado Dam that will prevent storage there through at least 2026.
- MRGCD is coordinating with water management partners to secure space for native storage in Abiquiu Dam but Rio Grande Compact restrictions will likely prevent any native storage in Abiquiu for 2024.

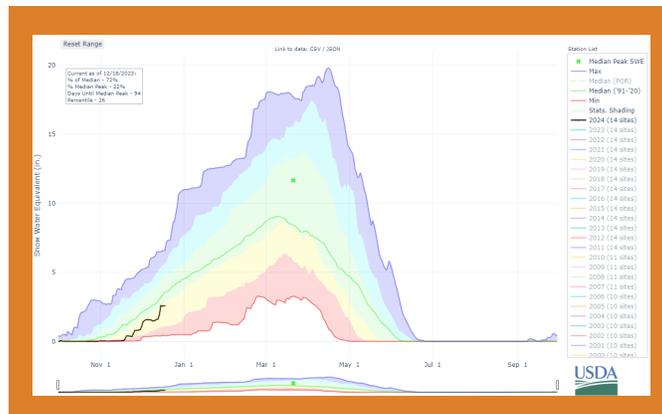
## Corrales Siphon

The Corrales Siphon Replacement Project funded by the Water Trust Board, will replace the damaged 100-year-old wooden pipe running under the River. The temporary electric pumps will be in place to provide irrigation to Corrales farmers in 2024 and the design of the new siphon is currently underway. Once design is complete, a contractor will be selected to move forward with construction.

## Rio Grande Compact Update

At the end of 2022, New Mexico's Rio Grande Compact (an interstate and international water sharing agreement between New Mexico, Colorado, Texas and Mexico) debt to Texas was approximately 93,000 acre-feet. Official Rio Grande Compact accounting is reported at the Rio Grande Compact Commission Meeting in the spring, so we do not know what the official Rio Grande Compact debt will be for 2023, but current estimates indicate New Mexico likely grew its Rio Grande Compact debt.

## Current Snow Pack Conditions



- Snow water equivalent is a measure of how much moisture is currently locked up as snow in the basin. This parameter is tracked by water managers during the winter and early spring to help forecast spring runoff conditions.

- It is too early in the winter season to know what water supply conditions will be for the 2024 irrigation season but current National Resource Conservation Service snow water equivalent data from the Upper Rio Grande indicates the conditions in that basin are about 98% of median for this time of year but only 46% of peak median conditions.