

Agenda Item # 20



Alamosa River

**CWCB Meeting
May 18-19, 2010**

**Proposed Water
Acquisition**

2nd meeting

**Gabino Gallegos Ditch
Alamosa River**

Water Division 3

ACQUISITION PROPOSAL

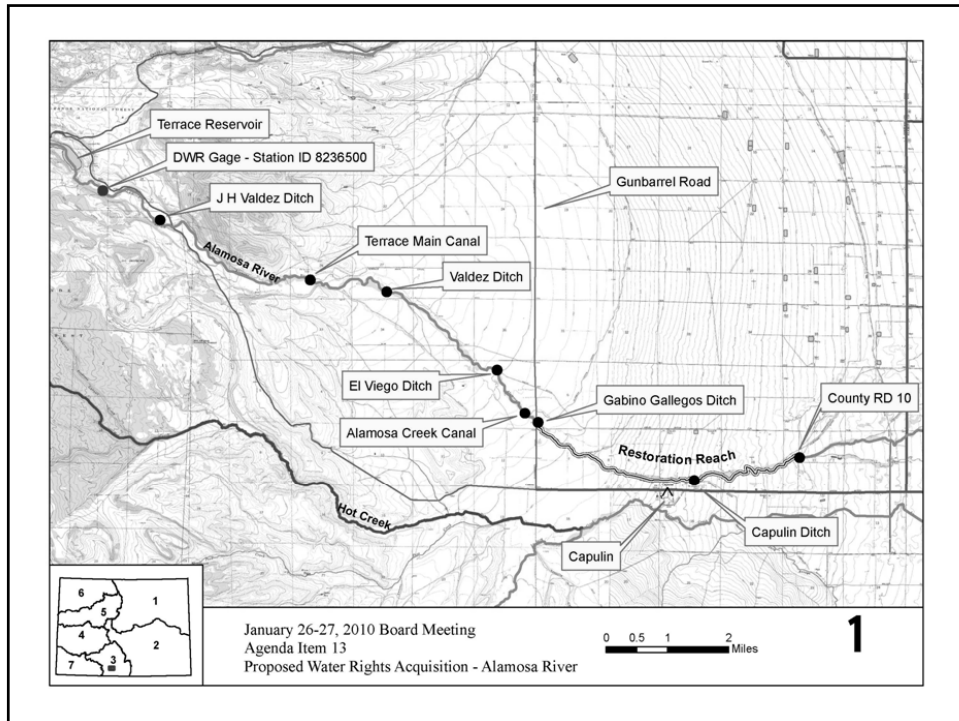
- Proposal was brought to Board in January, 2010.
- Purpose is to restore the natural environment of Alamosa River
- Offer for donation
 - 2.5 cfs from Alamosa Riverkeepers ("ARK")
 - 2,000 af from Terrace Irrigation Company
- Part of larger Alamosa River Instream Flow Project to restore flows and replace degraded natural resources

ACQUISITION PROPOSAL

- Ultimately, water will be stored in Terrace Reservoir for ISF release when it is most needed
- Spillway reconstruction is required before storage
- Until spillway is reconstructed, the water right may be either
 - Leased back to the seller for irrigation, or
 - Bypassed at the headgate for direct ISF use d/s of headgate on Alamosa River

METHOD OF ACQUISITION

- The Valle Del Sol Community Center/ARK will donate 2.5 cfs in the Gabino Gallegos water right to CWCB
- CWCB will file with the water court to change the water use from irrigation to instream flow by storage or direct use
- Ultimate ISF use will be from the outlet of Terrace Reservoir to County Road 10, approx 16 miles



Gabino Gallegos Ditch Water Right

- Diverts from Alamosa River 8 miles d/s of Terrace Res, near the town of Capulin, Conejos County.
- Decreed for 16 cfs, 1870 appropriation date
- Donation is 2.5 cfs, which historically irrigated 180 acres
- Senior d/s calling right is Capulin Ditch decreed for 31.37 cfs
- Diversions are fully consumptive to Alamosa River because return flows all accrue to groundwater



*Alamosa River u/s
from irrigation ditch*



*Alamosa River d/s
from irrigation ditch*



Historical Use and Return Flows

- Diversions generally from April – August
- Average diversions estimated at 427 af/yr, with an HCU of 130 af/yr
- No surface water return flows
- Return flows accrued to groundwater, therefore diversions are 100% consumptive to Alamosa River

Benefits Provided by Acquisition

- Increase stream flow during late summer, fall and winter during Terrace Reservoir releases for ISF use
- Segments of Alamosa River will remain a live stream longer in the season
- Adds historical consumptive use to the aquifer system, thus raising groundwater levels, which ultimately may provide base flow to the river
- Contributes to a more sustainable aquifer system
- Additional public benefits in Terrace Reservoir and Alamosa River recreational and fishing opportunities

Staff Recommendation

- Conclude that the proposed acquisition by donation of 2.5 cfs of the Gabino Gallegos Ditch water right is appropriate to preserve and improve the natural environment of the Alamosa River to a reasonable degree
- Determine that the acquired Gabino Gallegos Ditch water right would be best utilized by
 - storing in Terrace Reservoir up to 427 acre feet of water historically diverted by the Gabino Gallegos Ditch water right, and
 - releasing such water to the Alamosa River during the late summer, fall, and early winter
 - to preserve and improve the natural environment by establishing more sustainable surface stream flows in the river segment between Terrace Res and Co Rd 10

Staff Recommendation (continued)

Accept the donation of 2.5 cfs of the Gabino Gallegos Ditch from ARK

Approve the Donation and Acquisition Agreement that now includes a provision for ARK to retain an interest in the water for leasing back to seller and allows CWCB to bypass water right at headgate for direct ISF use

Approve the Storage Agreement with Terrace Irrigation Company and ARK

Authorize the Director to execute the final Donation and Acquisition Agreement and the Storage Agreement

Direct staff to work with the Attorney General's Office to file the necessary change of water right application with the Water Court



Questions?