

**COALITION OF RIO GRANDE WATER USERS  
2023 INAUGURAL CONFERENCE: “The Value of Collaboration”**

Hotel Santa Fe, The Hacienda & Spa

1501 Paseo de Peralta

Santa Fe, NM 87501

October 3–5, 2023

**(DRAFT September 6, 2023)**

**IRRIGATION LEADER** magazine is sponsoring the Coalition of Rio Grande Water Users (CRGWU) inaugural conference. Modeled after the highly successful annual Colorado River Water Users Association conference, the CRGWU conference is intended to bring together as many irrigation districts, conservancy districts, municipalities, groups, and other entities dependent on the Rio Grande to share their perspectives and ideas. The theme of this first meeting is “The Value of Collaboration,” and we will focus on addressing challenges together. Policy and technology solutions from other river systems and countries will be featured. The main purpose of the meeting is to build communications and working relationships from the headwaters to the mouth of the Rio Grande. **(NOTE: The below DRAFT agenda is subject to change.)**

**TUESDAY, October 3**

5:00–7:00 p.m.     **Welcome Reception by International Water Screens**

**WEDNESDAY, October 4**

7:00 a.m.

**Networking Continental Breakfast and Coffee Sponsored by Concrete Canvas**

8:00 a.m.

Welcome

The Honorable Melanie Stansbury  
U.S. House of Representatives

8:30 a.m.

Michael Brain, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science  
U.S. Department of the Interior

9:00 a.m.

David Palumbo, Deputy Commissioner  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

9:30 a.m.

William Finn, Chief, Water Accounting Division  
U.S. Section, International Boundary & Water Commission

10:00 a.m.

**Networking Break**

10:30 a.m.

Rio Grande Compact Commission  
—State Engineer Mike Hamman, New Mexico  
—State Engineer Kevin Rein, Colorado (invited)

12:00–1:00 p.m.

**Sponsored Lunch**

1:30 p.m.

Traditional, Current, and Future River Floodplain Management

3:00 p.m.

**Ice Cream Sundae Break Sponsored by Huesker**

3:30 p.m.

The Future of Urban Water Conservation

4:30 p.m.

Conservation Technology Presentations

—Huesker

—Rubicon

—International Water Screens

—Emrgy

—Concrete Canvas

5:30–7:30 p.m.

**Reception Sponsored by Rubicon**

## THURSDAY, October 5

- 7:00 a.m.      **Networking Continental Breakfast and Coffee**
- 8:00 a.m.      Acequias: History and Culture of Collaboration
- 10:00 a.m.     **Networking Break**
- 10:30 a.m.     Case Study: The Yakima River Basin Integrated Plan  
—Wendy Christensen, P.E., YRBWEP Manager  
Columbia-Cascades Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation
- 12:00 p.m.     **Sponsored Lunch by Jacobs Engineering**
- 1:30 p.m.     Drought Project and Funding Programs
- 3:00 p.m.     **Networking Break**
- 3:30 p.m.     Global Response to Drought:  
—Australian Millennium Drought Recovery  
—Creating an Abundance of Water in Israel
- 4:30 p.m.     Santa Fe River Restoration Project  
Morika Vorenberg Hensley, Executive Director  
Santa Fe Watershed Association
- 5:00–7:00 p.m. **Reception**

**ONLINE REGISTRATION:** You can register for the CRGWU conference at <https://irrigationleadermagazine.com/>. Please complete and submit the online form as soon as possible, as space will be limited. Updates to the agenda will be provided as registrations are received.

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS:** We have reserved a block of rooms at the Hotel Santa Fe, The Hacienda & Spa, 1501 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501. The rate is \$309.00 per night plus 15.43% tax.

To make or confirm your reservations at the prearranged CRGWU rate, please go to [stay@hotelsantafe.com](mailto:stay@hotelsantafe.com) or call (877) 259-3409 and identify yourself as being with the *Coalition of Rio Grande Water Users* no later than **Friday, September 8, 2023**.

For personalized hotel registration assistance, please phone Paula Currie at (916) 616-0286 or [paula@pcevents.net](mailto:paula@pcevents.net).

**QUESTIONS:** Please contact Kris Polly at (703) 517-3962 or [kris.polly@waterstrategies.com](mailto:kris.polly@waterstrategies.com).

*Thank you for your time. We hope to see you in Santa Fe.*