



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Scoping Meeting for the San Juan-Chama Return Flow Pipeline Environmental Assessment

**Closed captioning is
available by selecting the
Closed Caption icon at the
bottom of your Zoom screen*

**Please join using
computer audio*

Welcome!

*The meeting will begin momentarily.
Thank you for your patience as
we wait for others to join.*

November 2nd and 3rd, 2021

Meeting Agenda

- Meeting Logistics and Objectives
- Project Overview - City of Santa Fe
- The Environmental Assessment Process
- Verbal Public Commenting
- Closing Remarks



Meeting Logistics

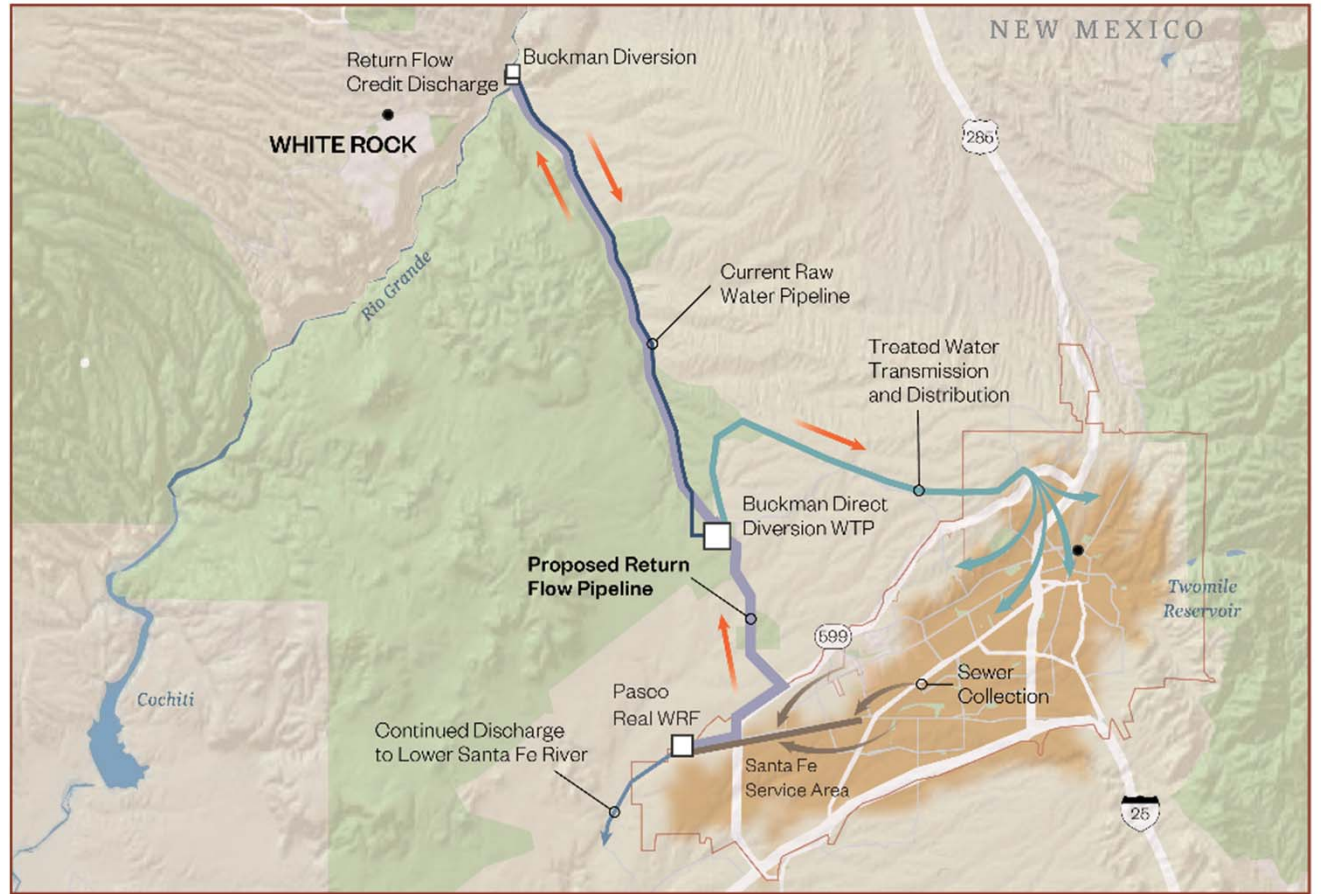
1. The meeting is being recorded; and will be posted to the project website.
2. Microphones and videos of participants will be automatically muted for the duration of the meeting unless the moderator unmutes you during the verbal public comment portion.
3. Verbal public comments can be provided after the PowerPoint presentation. Written comments can also be submitted by email to SJCReturnFlowProject@emp.si.com or by mail to Bureau of Reclamation, c/o EMPSi, 54½ Lincoln St., Santa Fe, NM 87501.



Meeting Objectives

- Get your input to help us determine the scope and important issues for analysis in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document
- Provide you with information about:
 - Project background
 - The NEPA process
 - How you can be involved and informed





San Juan Chama Return Flow Project

Overview

November, 2021

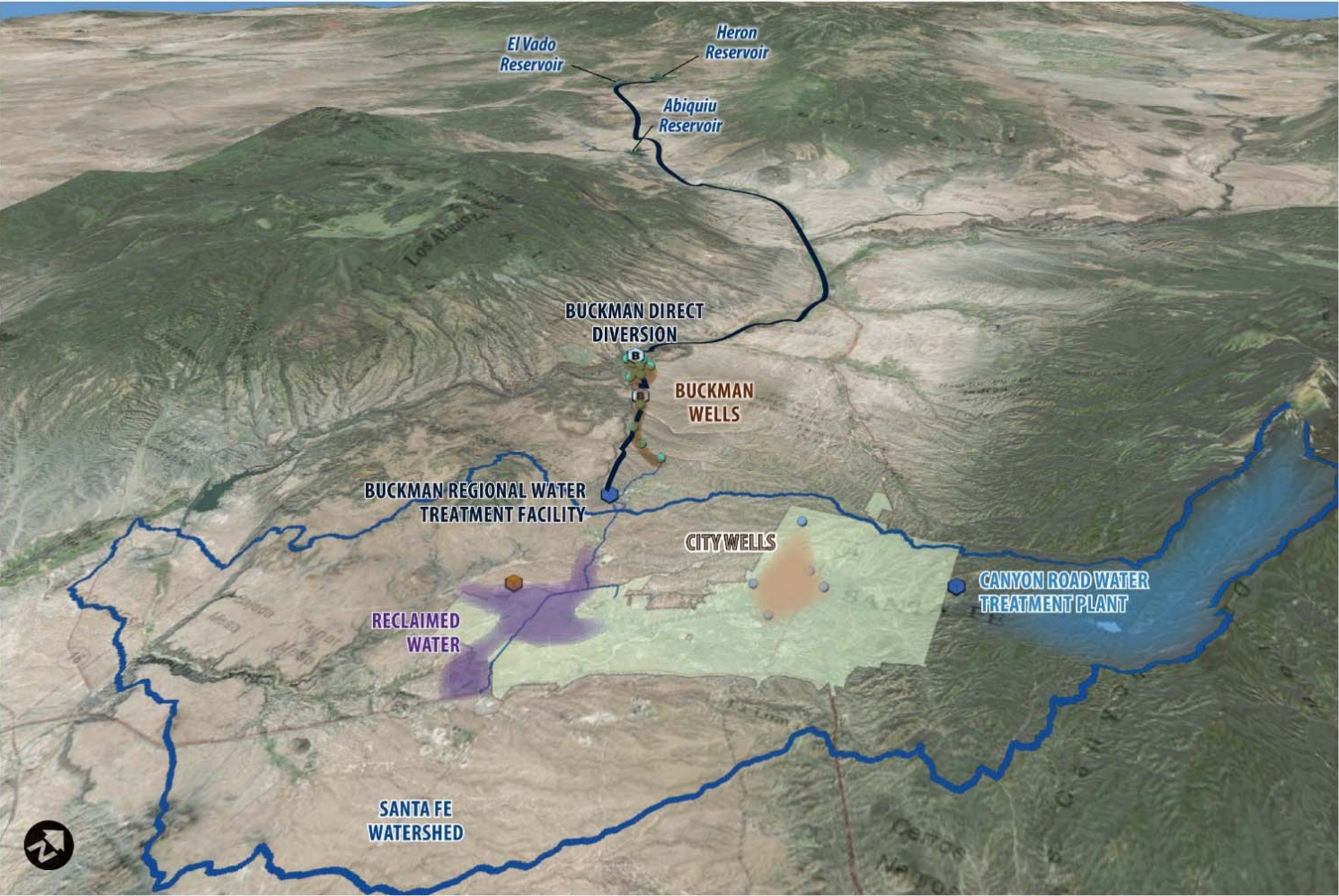
Background: City and County Water Resources

City Water Utility:

- Four potable sources
 - ✓ SF River
 - ✓ City Wells
 - ✓ Buckman Wells
 - ✓ BDD
- One non potable source
 - ✓ PRWRF

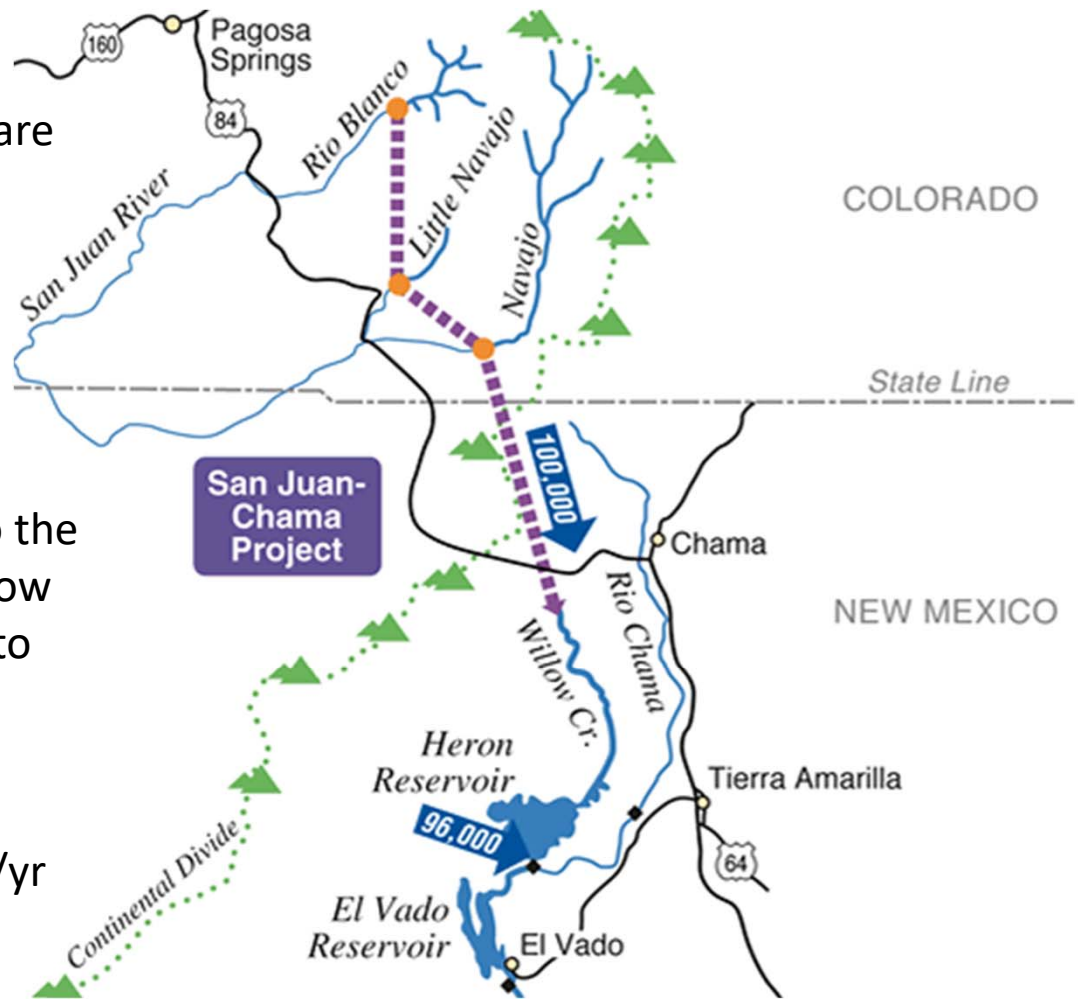
County Water Utility:

- Two potable sources
 - ✓ BDD
 - ✓ City backup



San Juan Chama (SJC) Project Water

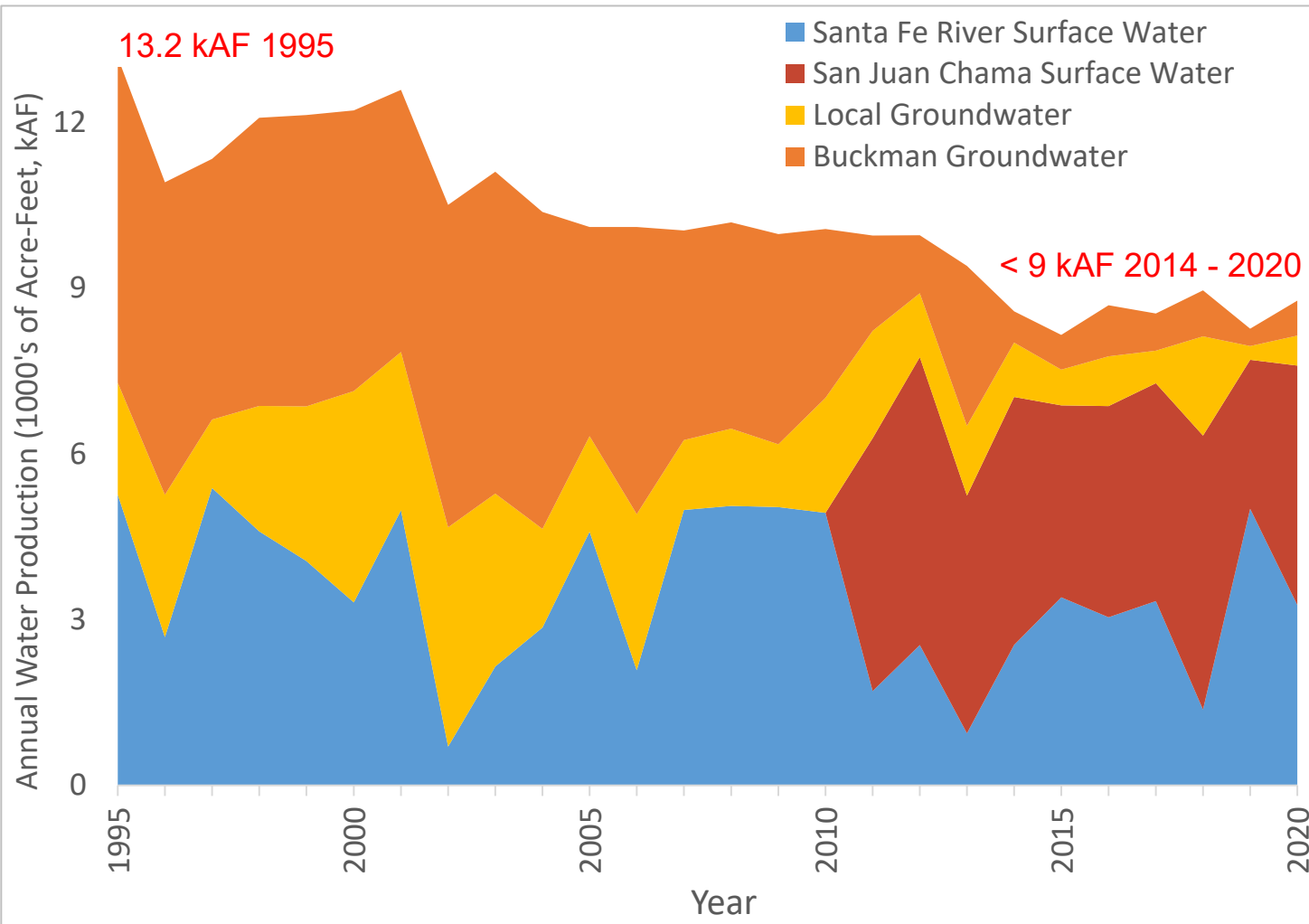
- Portion of NM's share of Colorado River water under the Upper Colorado River Compact
- Diversion from three tributaries to the San Juan, gravity flow through tunnels into Chama system.
- City & County full allocation 5605 AF/yr



Key	
	Diversion Point
	Tunnel
	Gage
	River
	Continental Divide
	Pump station
	Raw Water Pipeline
	Approx Ave Annual Flow (acre feet per year)



City of Santa Fe Water Supply by Source 1995-2020



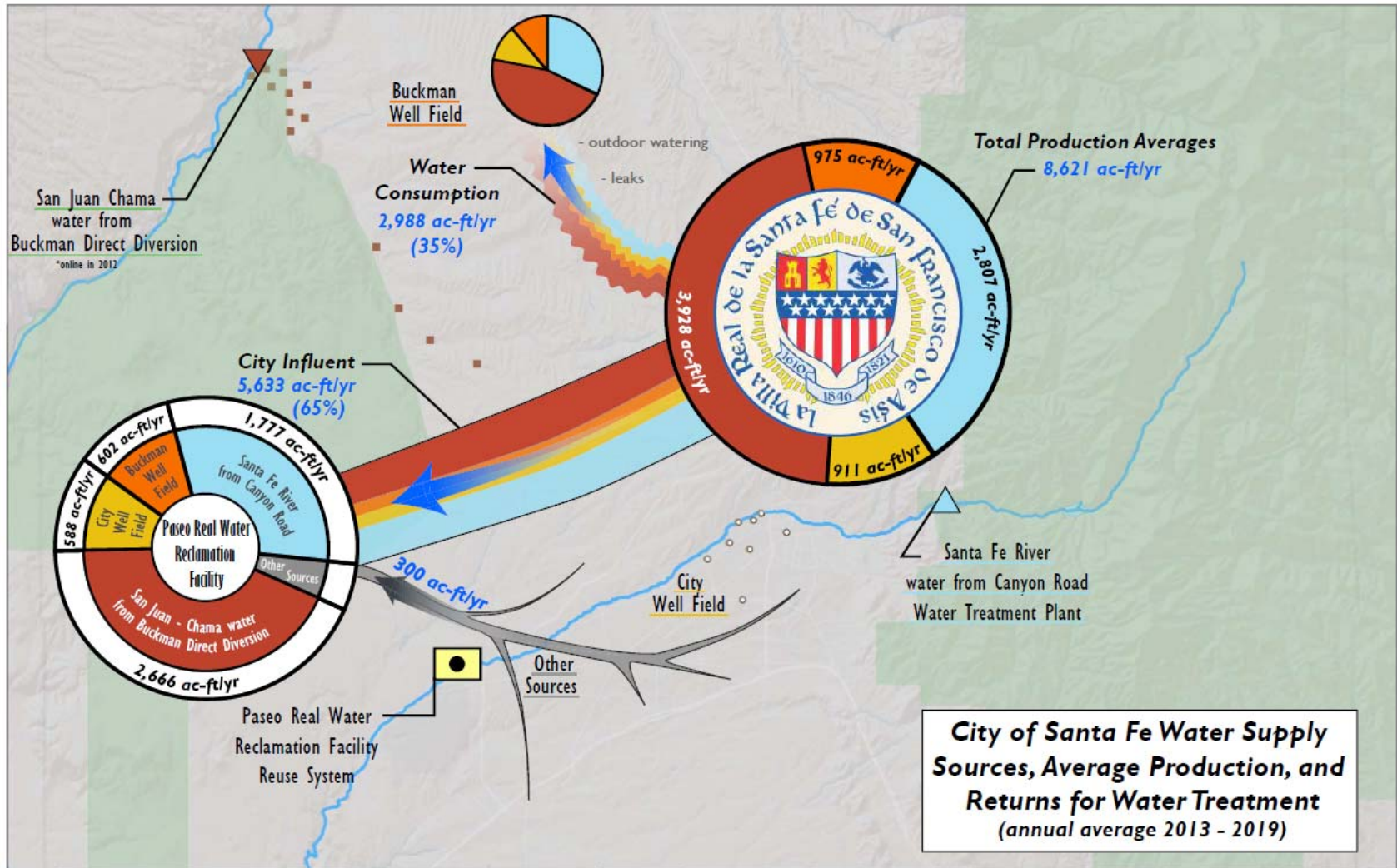
SJC Water:

- Direct access to SJC water from BDD starting 2011

Successful Conservation:

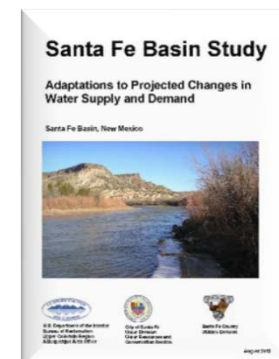
- 13.2 kAF in 1995 (68,000 served)
- <9 kAF since 2014k 33% reduction in demand (> 80,000 served)
- 25% increase in population

~2/3rds of City water supply reaches Paseo Real Water Reclamation Facility

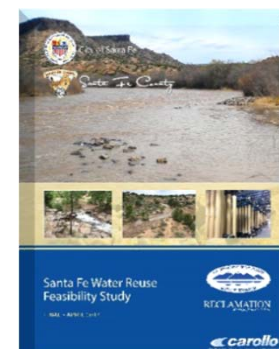


San Juan Chama Return Flow Project Purpose and Need

- Purpose is Full Utilization of San Juan Chama (SJC) Project Water
 - Allow for continued prioritization of renewable surface water
 - Allow for continued conservation of groundwater
 - Allow for reduced Rio Grande water rights acquisition
 - Increase long-term water supply and resilience
- 2015 Santa Fe Basin Study Identified the Need
 - Incorporation of potential climate change impacts to future supply
 - Water shortages by 2050s if no action taken
 - Effluent utilization identified as a key adaptation strategy
- 2017 Effluent Reuse Feasibility Study Identified the Project
 - Analyzed 7 different effluent use scenarios for technical and financial feasibility
 - Using a triple bottom line approach, the SJC Return Flow Project was the most effective way to maximize the value of effluent and supplement water supply

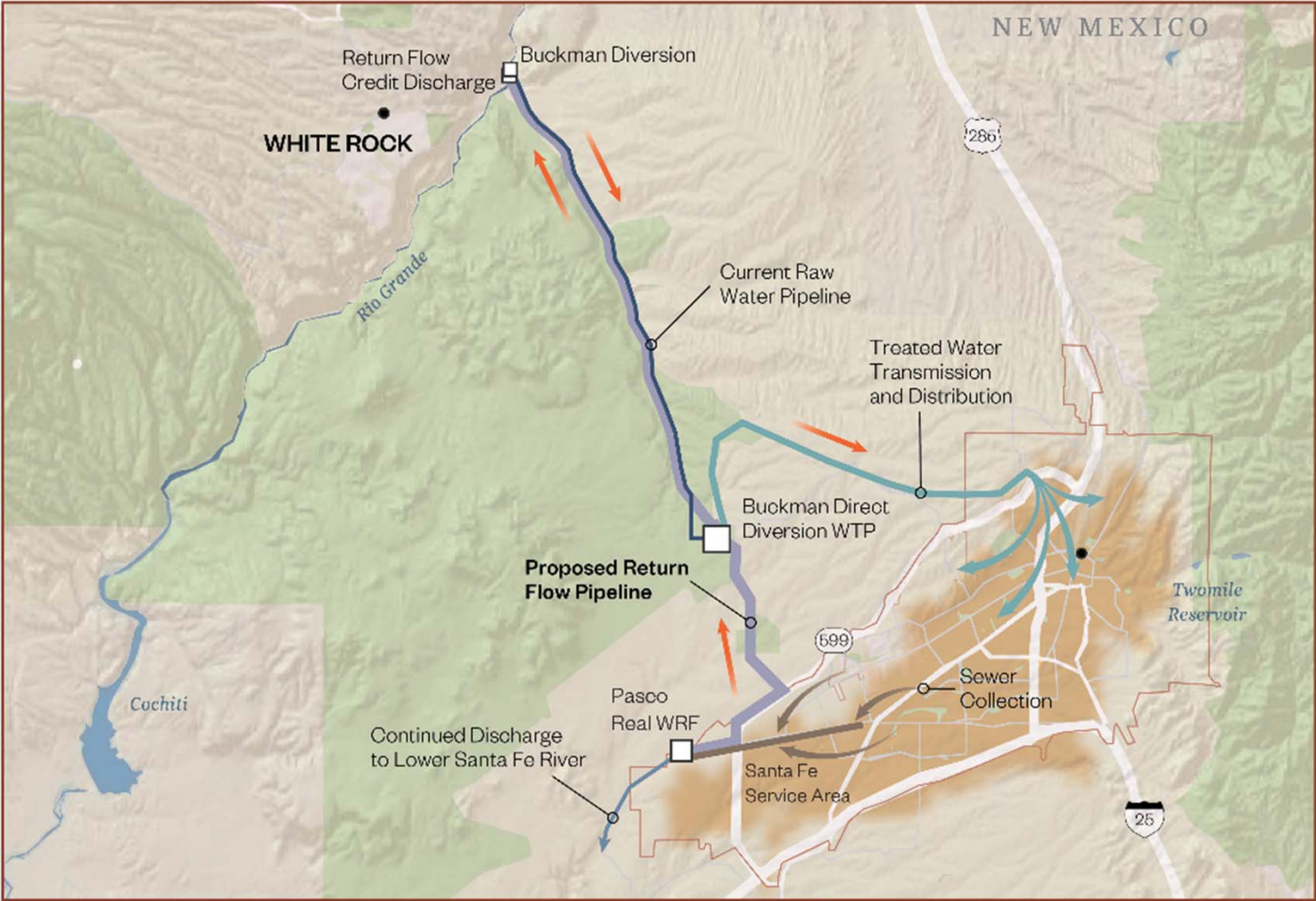


2015

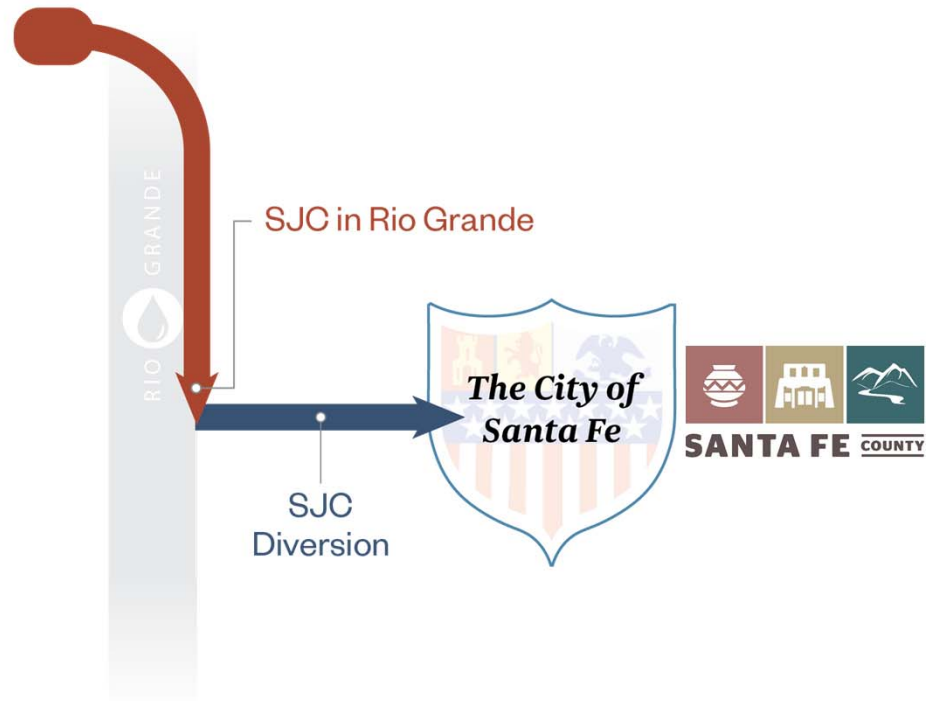


2017

Project Location

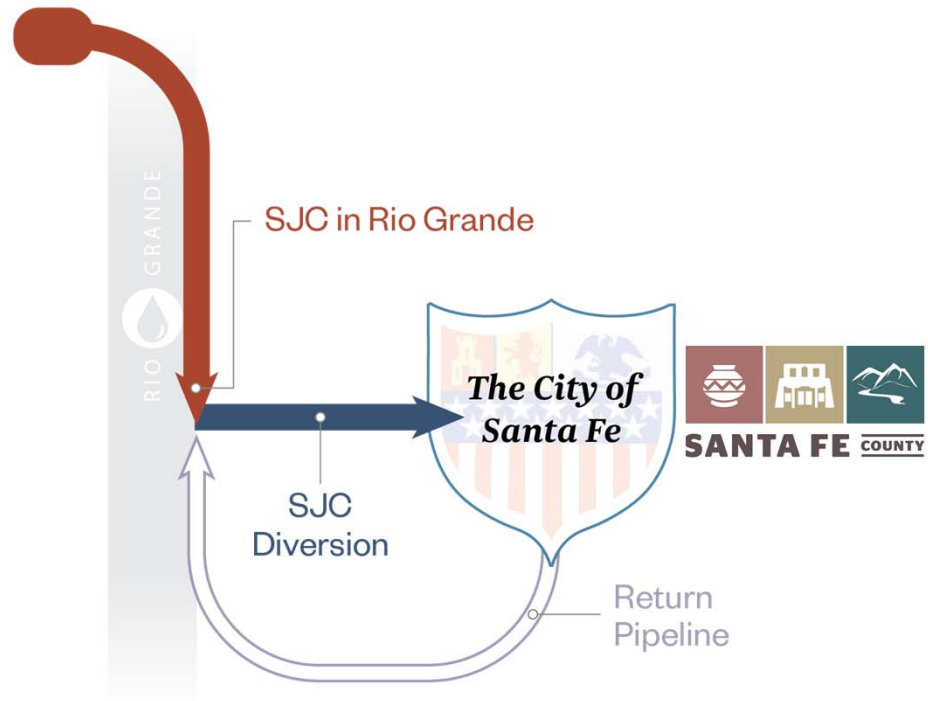


Current SJC Diversions at BDD



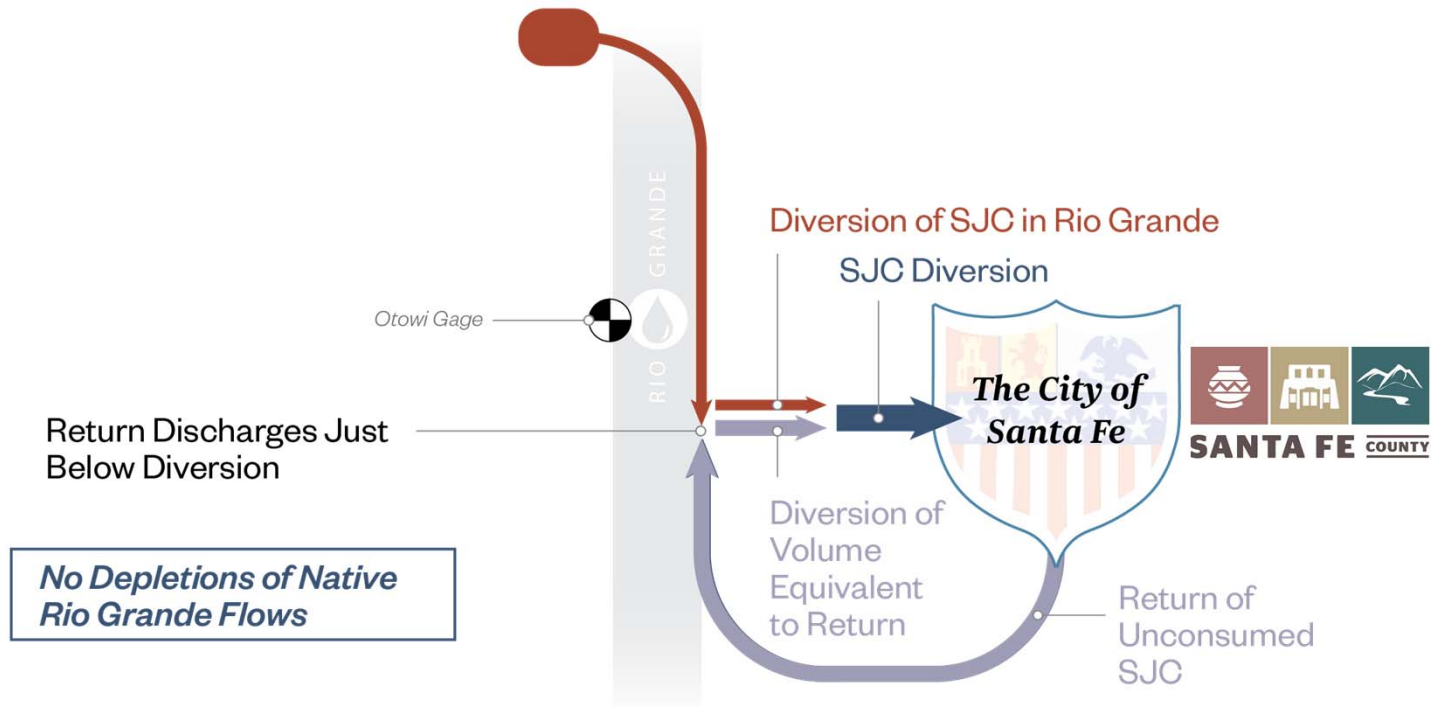
SJC in Rio Grande = SJC Diversion

Project Concept, Startup



SJC in Rio Grande = **SJC Diversion**

Project Concept, Stabilized

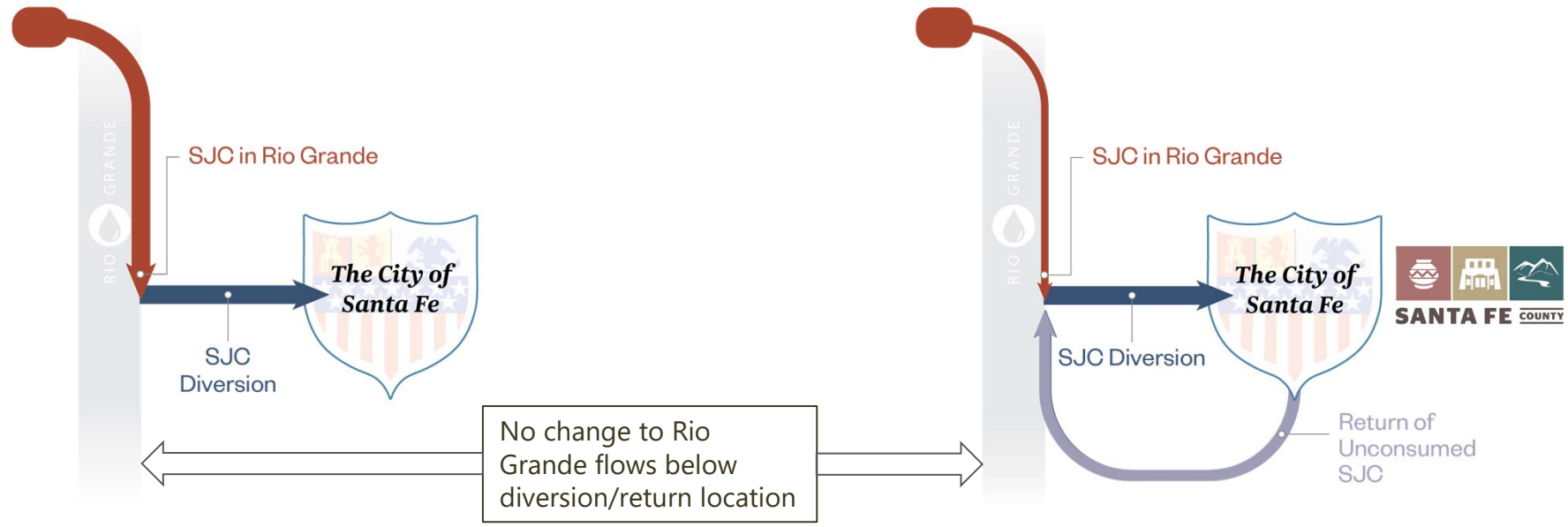


$$\text{SJC in Rio Grande} + \text{Return of Unconsumed SJC} = \text{SJC Diversion}$$

San Juan Chama Return Flow Project

Full consumption of SJC water

- Goal: Achieve full consumption of San Juan Chama (SJC) water by getting credit for returning unconsumed SJC water to the Rio Grande.



Current: all diversions at BDD from upstream reservoir releases

With project: same diversions at BDD with less release from upstream reservoirs. River "made whole" with effluent return.

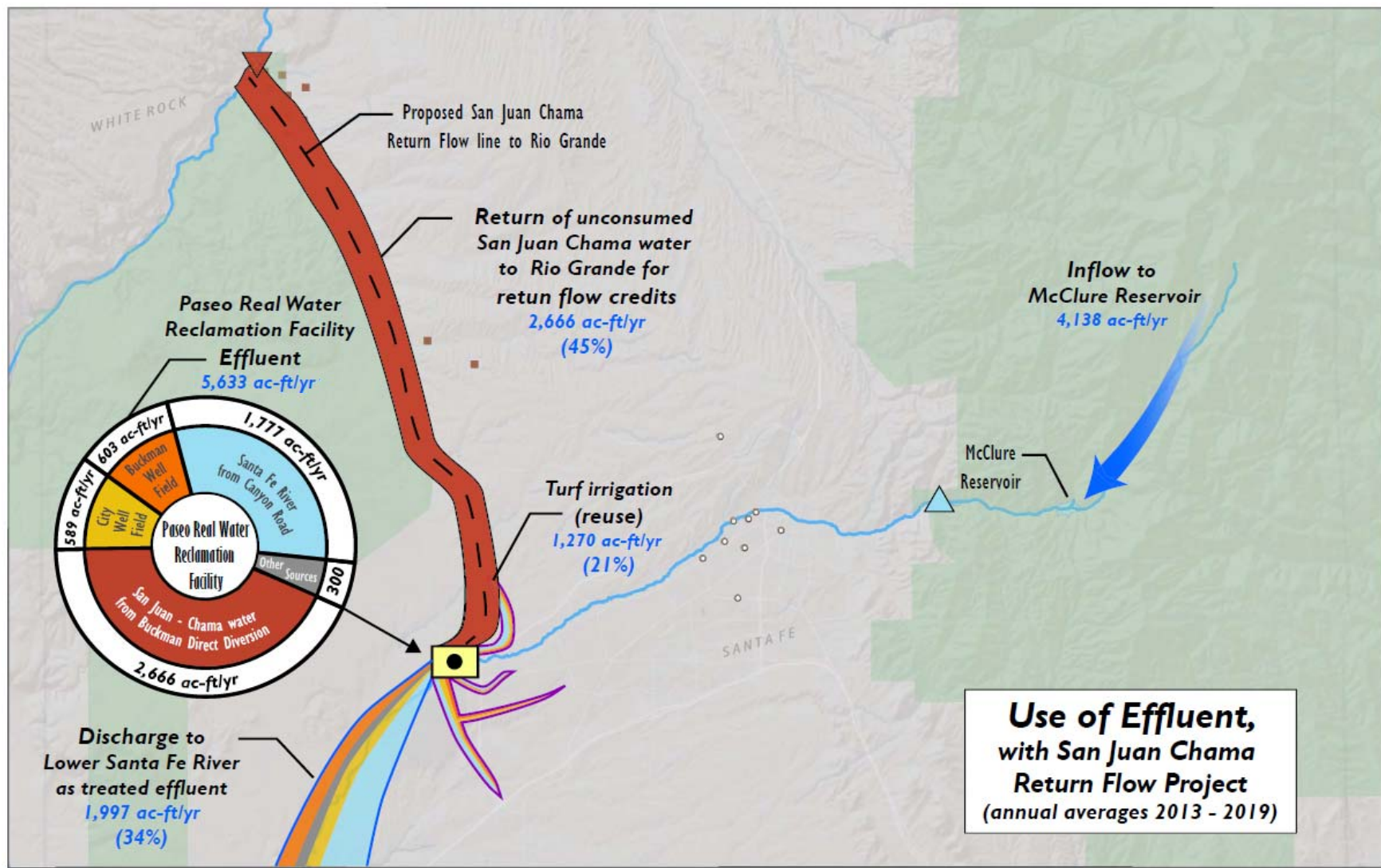
Operations Changes at Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD)

- Under the proposed action there would eventually be increased diversions of SJCP water at the BDD.
- The proposed action would not involve or affect native Rio Grande flows, and no improvements to the BDD intake structure, the BDD right-of-way and easements, or the BDD Regional Water Treatment Plant would be required.
- Consistent with the BDD Project EIS, there would be no impacts to the Rio Grande from the increased SJCP diversions under this proposed action.



Buckman Direct Diversion Structure Under Construction

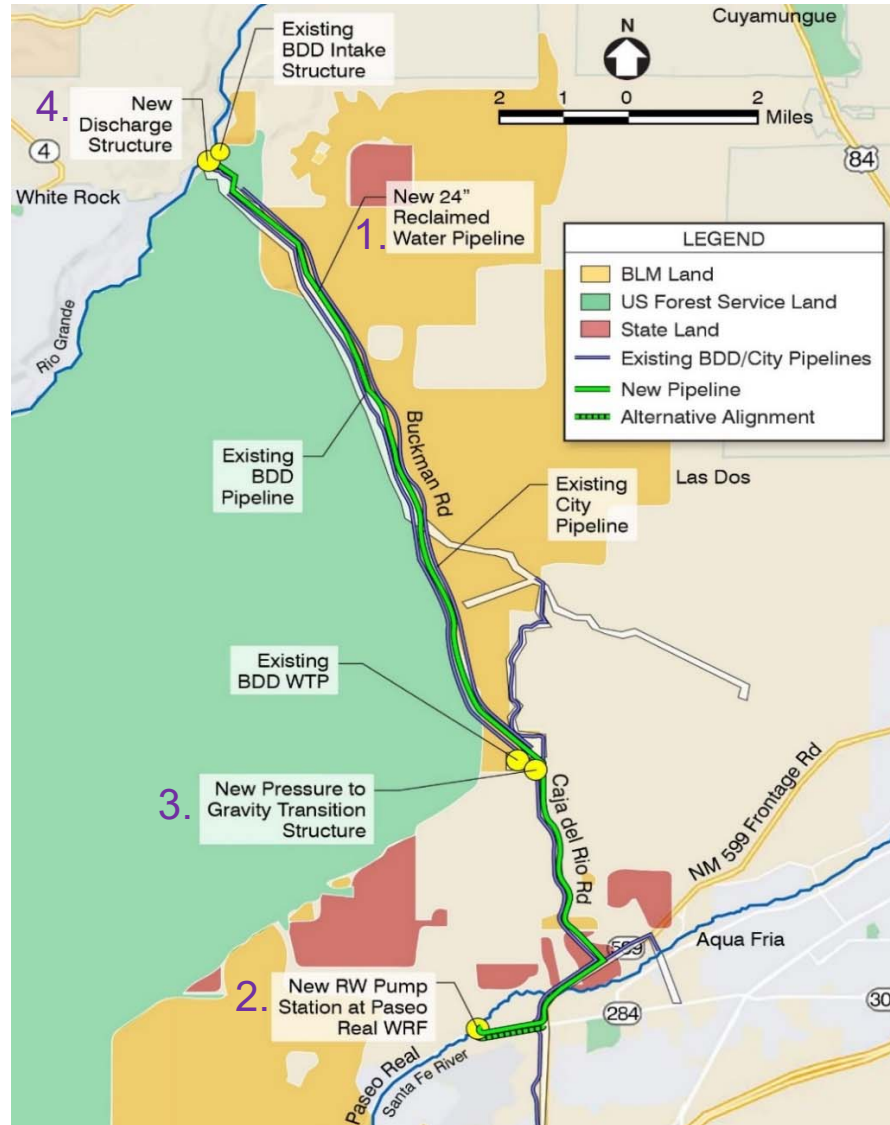
2013 – 2019 w Project



**Use of Effluent,
with San Juan Chama
Return Flow Project
(annual averages 2013 - 2019)**

Project Details

1. Approximately 18 miles of up to 24-inch-diameter pipeline for reclaimed water;
2. A new pump station with up to 15 million gallons per day capacity located at the City's Paseo Real Water Reclamation Facility (PRWRF);
3. A pressure to gravity transition structure located at the high point in the pipeline near the intersection of Caja del Rio Road and the road to the existing Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD) Water Treatment Plant;
4. A discharge facility on the eastern bank of the Rio Grande approximately 350 feet downstream of the existing BDD intake diversion structure.



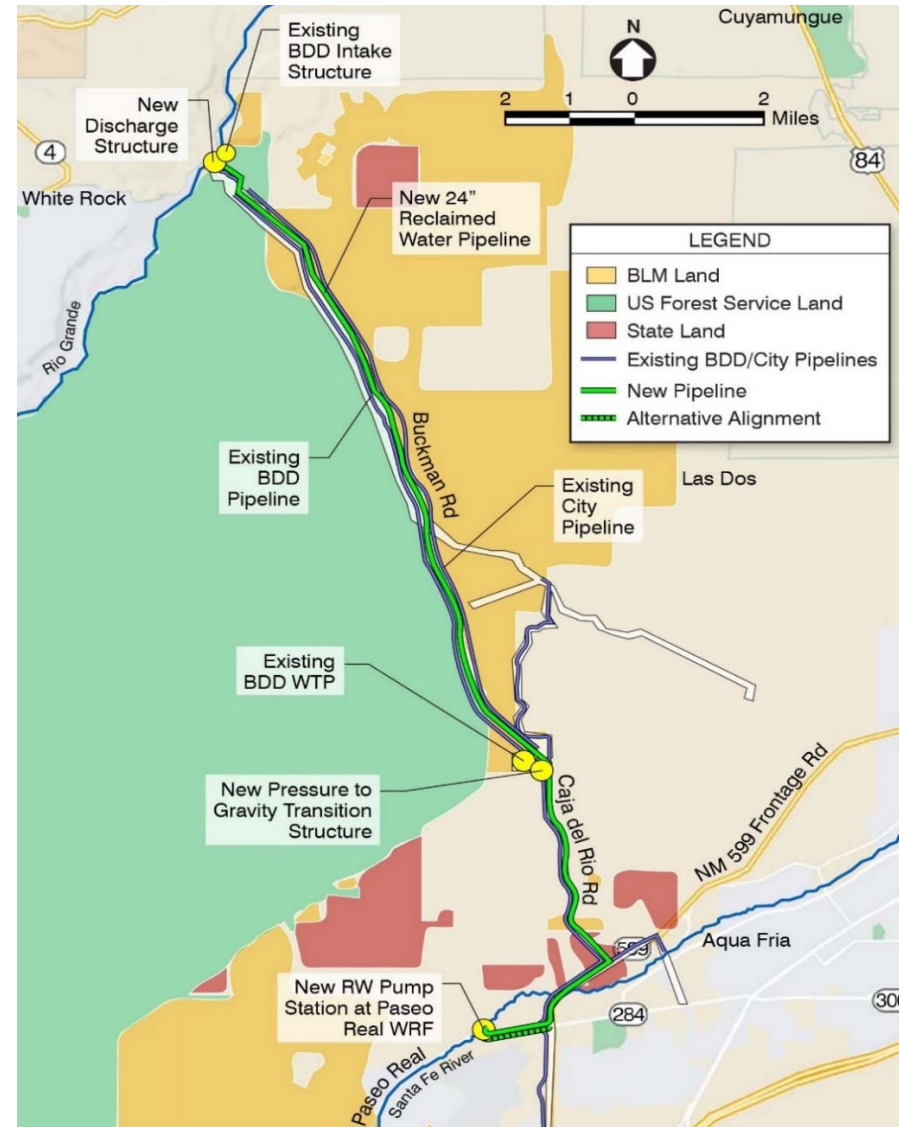
Pipeline Route

Land Ownership Along Pipeline Route:

- US Bureau of Land Management 63%
- US Forest Service 6%
- State of New Mexico 7%
- City of Santa Fe 6%
- Private Land 18%

Existing Utility Infrastructure Along Pipeline Route:

- Effluent pipelines
- Water pipelines
- Electricity
- Natural Gas
- Fiber Optic



Tentative Schedule

Permitting (2021 – 2022)

- **NEPA Public Scoping (October 20, 2021 – November 19, 2021)**
 - *Public Scoping Meetings (November 2nd 3rd, 2021)*
 - *Scoping Report (December 2021)*
- **Submit Office of the State Engineer (OSE) Return Flow Application (November 2021)**
- **NEPA Draft Analysis (Winter/Spring 2022)**
- **NEPA Final Analysis (Summer/Fall 2022)**
- **OSE Return Flow Permit (Late 2022?)**

Construction (2023 – 2024)

Return Flows Begin (2025)



Environmental Assessment Process

- Federal actions require an environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- The Environmental Assessment will document the following:
 - ✓ The problem being addressed by the project
 - ✓ The goals and objectives of the project
 - ✓ The proposed action and any alternatives
 - ✓ Environmental and socioeconomic conditions
 - ✓ Potential impacts from the proposed action and alternatives



Federal Actions and Decisions

1. Bureau of Reclamation:

- Potential \$6M project funding - WaterSMART Title XVI Grant
- Contracting for San Juan Chama Project water

2. Bureau of Land Management

- Right of way / Temporary use permit

3. US Forest Service

- Right of way / Temporary use permit



Federal Actions and Decisions

- Reclamation is leading NEPA effort with support from BLM and Forest Service
- Each agency will issue their own decision based on the analysis
- Project will require other permits and approvals separate from the NEPA process, including:
 - ✓ Office of the State Engineer: Divert surface water
 - ✓ New Mexico State Land Office: Right of way
 - ✓ EPA: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit
 - ✓ NM Environmental Department: Water quality and discharge



Timeline & Public Involvement



Public Scoping and Data Collection (Oct. 20 - Nov. 19, 2021)



Describe and Analyze Effects of Alternatives



Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) (Winter 2021 – Winter 2022)



Public Review and Comment Period on Draft EA (Winter 2022)



Final EA/Draft FONSI if no significant impacts found (Spring 2022)



Forest Service Objection and BLM Protest Period (Summer 2022)



Implement decision, issue permits as appropriate

Tribal Consultation



Providing helpful comments

- What topics are of greatest concern to you?
- Are there additional topics that should be considered?
- What measures do you think would help reduce or avoid impacts?
- Can you suggest any information resources?



We want your input!

- The scoping comment period closes **November 19, 2021**
- To provide comments after the meetings:

Email: SJCReturnFlowProject@emp.si.com

Mail: Bureau of Reclamation
c/o EMPSi
54½ Lincoln St.
Santa Fe, NM 87501

- Stay up to date:

<https://www.virtualpublicmeeting.com/sjc-return-flow-project>



Verbal Public Comment Portion: Ground Rules

- Reclamation wants to hear from all members of the public. We will be using the following guidelines:
 - *Be mindful of the length of your comment, so that everyone can speak*
 - *Please be respectful of others*
 - *Refrain from profanity*
- If guidelines are not followed, your microphone will be muted, and we will move to the next person.

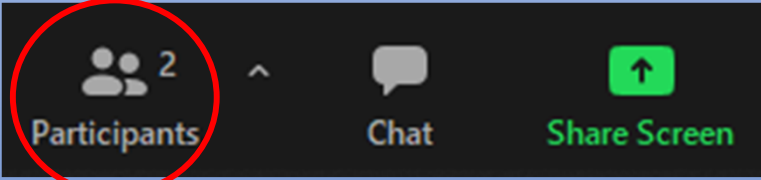


Verbal Public Comment Portion: Instructions for Commenters

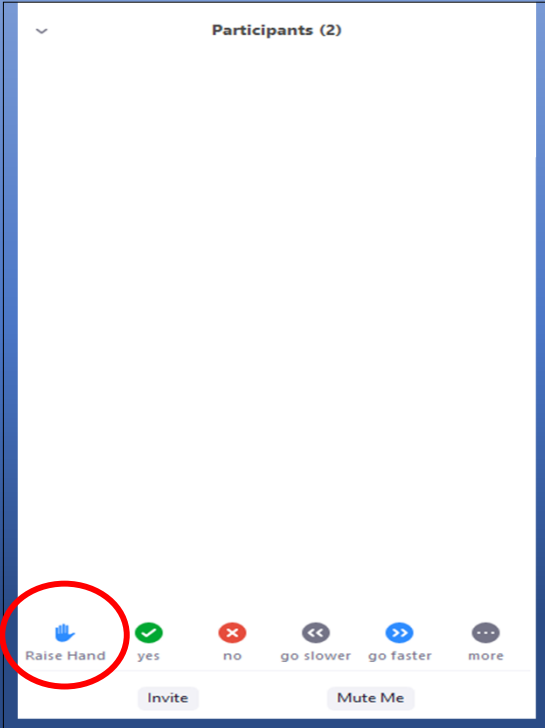
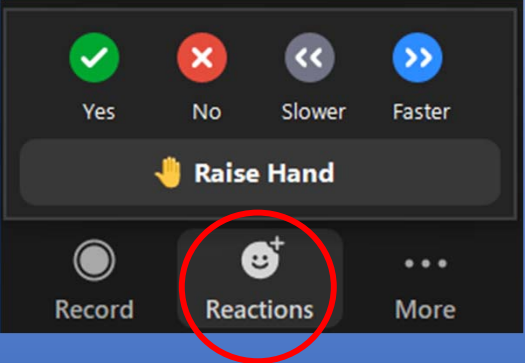
- Verbal public comments will be accepted in order of registration.
- When it is your turn, the moderator will call out your name and display your name on the screen.
- Use the “raise hand” feature at the bottom of your participants list or, if you are calling in through the phone, press *9 to “raise your hand.”
- The moderator will then unmute you.
- Please spell out your full first and last name for the record before you provide your comment.
- Your comment will be included in the project record



Zoom Participants Icon



Zoom Reactions Icon



*To access the raise hand feature, click on the participants list icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen, then click on the raise hand button at the bottom of your participants list. If you are calling in using your phone, press *9 on your keypad.*

If you are having issues with your computer microphone, please dial in to the meeting: Phone: 720 707 2699; Meeting ID: 846 8658 7333

Current Commenter:

Next Commenter:

**If you are unable to offer or complete your verbal public comment during the meeting today, the Bureau of Reclamation encourages you to submit your comment in writing.*



Thank you!

The Bureau of Reclamation is available to accept verbal public comments until 12:00pm Mountain Time.

*If you would like to offer a verbal public comment, please let us know by accessing the raise hand feature at the bottom of your participants list, in your Zoom reactions icon, or by pressing *9 on your phone keypad. You can also chat directly to Megan Stone.*

Written comments can also be submitted by email to SJCReturnFlowProject@emp.si.com or by mail to Bureau of Reclamation, c/o EMPSi, 54½ Lincoln St., Santa Fe, NM 87501.

