



**Albuquerque Metropolitan
Arroyo Flood Control Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2008**

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1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Hernandez called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., Thursday, December 18, 2008. Roll was noted as follows:

Directors present:	Chairman Danny Hernandez Director Janet Saiers Director Tim Eichenberg Director Ronald D. Brown Director Daniel Lyon
Directors excused:	None
Others present:	John Kelly, Executive Engineer Marcus Rael, Jr., Attorney Staff Other attendees on file at AMAFCA

A quorum was present.

2. Approval of Agenda

Director Saiers made a motion to approve the agenda. Director Brown seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (5-0).

3. Meetings Scheduled

The proposed meeting schedule was:

- a. January 2, 2009, 10:00 a.m. – Special Meeting to Swear in Directors
- b. January 22, 2009, 2:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting
- c. February 26, 2009, 2:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

In response to a question from Director Lyon about the start time of the January 22, 2009, Chairman Hernandez stated he had set it at 2:00 p.m. under his prerogative as Chairman.

Director Lyon made a motion to change the start time of the January 22, 2009 meeting back to 10:00 a.m. Director Saiers seconded the motion.

After discussion, the motion passed (3-2). Directors Lyon, Saiers, and Eichenberg voted for the motion, and Chairman Hernandez and Director Brown voted against it. After the vote, Director



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Brown stated he was ok with the meeting time either way. He suggested the Board try to find a compromise meeting time that would allow Chairman Hernandez to attend meetings.

The revised meeting schedule was as follows:

- a. January 2, 2009, 10:00 a.m. – Special Meeting to Swear in Directors**
- b. January 22, 2009, 10:00 a.m. – Regular Meeting**
- c. February 26, 2009, 2:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting**

There were no other changes to the meeting schedule.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. November 20, 2008**

Director Saiers made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2008 Regular Board Meeting. Director Brown seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (5-0).

5. Financial Matters

- a. Approval of November 2008 Expenditures**

Irene Jeffries, AMAFCA Business Manager, presented the November 2008 Expenditure Report. There were no questions regarding the Expenditure Report.

Director Brown made a motion to approve the November 2008 Expenditure Report. Director Lyon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (5-0).

- b. Investment Report for November 2008**

For information. Ms. Jeffries stated that the Investment Report showed that the Building and Yard Improvement Fund had been established with \$175,000. There were no questions regarding the Investment Report.

- c. Financial Recap November 16, 2008, through December 11, 2008**

For information. There were no questions regarding the Financial Recap.

- d. Financial Forecast December 12, 2008, through January 15, 2009**

Ms. Jeffries presented the Financial Forecast for the period December 12, 2008, through January 15, 2009. She noted that the forecast for the Operating Fund includes four payroll payments to the



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City. The \$1.58 million in payments from the Construction Fund include payments on City, County, and Village of Los Ranchos projects.

Mr. Kelly added that the majority of the \$1.58 million is the payment to the City for participation in the construction of the Post Office Interim Pond and acquisition of right of way.

Director Brown made a motion to approve the Financial Forecast. Director Saiers seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (5-0).

6. Legal

a. Status Report

Attorney Marcus Rael briefed the Board on the status of various legal matters. There were no questions on his report.

Director Lyon noted that the Bar Association is considering forming a "New Mexico Water Lawyers Association" (an ad hoc committee of the Bar Association). He stated he and Mr. Rael will keep AMAFCA and the Board informed. Mr. Kelly added that if the committee is formed, he will ask the Board if Mr. Rael or Director Lyon should attend meetings on AMAFCA's behalf.

Mr. Kelly stated that Attorney Sam Bregman had provided the Board with a memo briefing them on the condemnation matter which is being handled by the Bregman Law Firm.

7. Notification of On-Call Services Task Orders

Mr. Kelly stated that in the past month, on-call services task orders had been issued to the following:

- Bohannon Huston for Category Two professional engineering services for AMAFCA Miscellaneous Projects 2009, design through award of contract, Task No. 4, November 17, 2008, on a time and materials basis, not to exceed \$30,897.50;
- Wilson and Company for Category Two professional engineering services for Westgate Dam & Powerline Channel initial scoping meetings and cost estimates, Task No. 4, November 20, 2008, lump sum of \$1,710.00;
- Bohannon Huston for surveying services for the Calabacillas Arroyo Topographic Survey, Task No. 13, December 9, 2008, lump sum of \$1,850.00; and
- Mussetter Engineering, Inc., for Category Three professional engineering services for Montano Levee Gap Incremental Flow Analysis, Task No. 3, December 11, 2008, on a time and materials basis, not to exceed \$10,000.00.



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Consent Agenda (items 8-12):

Mr. Kelly noted there was a late mailout memo on agenda item 9, as the bid opening was on Monday. In response to a question from Director Eichenberg, he stated the procurement code for construction bids states that the unit price prevails. In this case, a mathematical error was made in computing the amount. Part of the bid tabulation is to correct those mathematical errors.

8. North Diversion Channel Gatewell – Award of Construction Contract to Salls Brothers Construction

The memo from Kurt Wagener, AMAFCA Field Engineer, stated six contractors had submitted bids by the deadline. One was deemed non-responsive for failure to complete the Subcontractors Fair Practices Act Required Listing form, and for failure to list the proposal guarantee. Boyle Engineering tabulated the bids and found one minor mathematical error which did not change the ranking of the bidders. The low bidder was Salls Brothers Construction, Inc.

The memo stated that Boyle Engineering recommended award of the construction contract to Salls Brothers Construction in the amount of \$186,080.00, not including New Mexico Gross Receipts Tax. Staff concurred with the recommendation. A copy of the required AMAFCA Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form was provided to the Board.

9. La Cueva Arroyo Storm Water Quality Facility – Award of Construction Contract to David Montoya Construction

The memo from Mr. Wagener stated seven contractors had submitted bids by the deadline. The bid by Salls Brothers Construction was considered non-responsive and was not read because they did not acknowledge receipt of the five addenda.

Larkin Group NM tabulated the bids and found one mathematical error which changed the bid by David Montoya Construction, Inc., from \$1,252,500.00 to \$1,266,500.00. This did not change the ranking of the bidders. The bid forms were checked and the Contractors License and classifications were verified. The low bidder was David Montoya Construction.

The memo stated that Larkin Group NM recommended award of the construction contract to David Montoya Construction in the amount of \$1,266,500.00, not including New Mexico Gross Receipts Tax. Staff concurred with the recommendation. A copy of the required AMAFCA Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form was provided to the Board.



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10. Storm Water Quality Education Coordinator Services – Consideration of Agreement with Cooney Watson and Associates

The memo from Lynn Mazur, AMAFCA Development Review Engineer, stated that a contract had been negotiated with Cooney Watson and Associates for professional services for the Storm Water Quality Education Coordinator, as authorized by the Board at the November 20, 2008 Board meeting. The total fee of \$67,000 had been allocated as approximately half for hourly services and half for special services billings, which includes advertising and printed materials. The agreement had been reviewed by attorney Marcus Rael. Staff recommended approval of the agreement.

A copy of the required AMAFCA Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form was provided to the Board.

11. Consideration of First Extension of Agreement for General Counsel Services Agreement with Robles, Rael & Anaya, P.C.

The memo from Mr. Kelly stated that the agreement with Robles, Rael & Anaya, P.C., to provide general counsel services expires on January 24, 2009. The agreement specifies it may be renewed annually for three additional years, upon mutual consent. Mr. Marcus Rael has agreed to renewal of the contract for an additional year at the same rates. A copy of the required AMAFCA Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form was provided to the Board.

Mr. Kelly recommended that the Board approve extension of the contract.

12. AMAFCA GIS System Development and Implementation – Selection Advisory Committee Recommendation

The memo from Loren Hines, AMAFCA Real Estate Manager, stated the Selection Advisory Committee for the AMAFCA GIS System Development and Implementation project met and scored proposals from five firms. AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc., was ranked first by all five of the voting committee members. The Selection Advisory Committee recommends AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc., as the top-ranked firm for the GIS Development and Implementation.

Copies of the required AMAFCA Campaign Contribution Disclosure Forms were provided to the Board.



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There being no further items on the Consent Agenda, and there being no other questions, Director Brown made a motion that the Board take the following actions on agenda items 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12:

- Accept Salls Brothers Construction, Inc., as the lowest responsible bidder and authorize the Chairman to execute the contract with Salls Brothers Construction for construction of the North Diversion Channel Gatewell Project;
- Accept David Montoya Construction as the lowest responsible bidder and authorize the Chairman to execute the contract with David Montoya Construction for construction of the La Cueva Arroyo Storm Water Quality Facility Project;
- Approve the Professional Services Agreement for Storm Water Quality Education Coordinator with Cooney Watson and Associates, Inc., in the amount of \$67,000.00, excluding New Mexico Gross Receipts Tax;
- Approve the contract extension with Robles, Rael & Anaya, P.C., to provide general counsel services for an additional year at the same rates; and
- Accept the recommendation of the Selection Advisory Committee and authorize the Executive Engineer to commence negotiations with AMEC per the New Mexico Procurement Code.

Director Eichenberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (5-0).

Regular Agenda:

13. Canvassing of 2008 AMAFCA Elections

a. Approval of Resolution 2008-14, 2008 Bond Question Canvass Resolution

The memo from Ms. Jeffries stated that the AMAFCA Bond Question passed on a vote of 158,242 for and 77,840 against. The Bernalillo County Commission, serving as the Board of Canvass, certified the election results on November 14, 2008. Official election results were signed by the State Canvassing Board on November 25, 2008. Official election results were downloaded from the Secretary of State's website and had been provided to the Board.

The memo stated that Resolution 2008-14, *2008 Bond Question Canvass Resolution*, was the same as was used in the past, but with updated information. The resolution had been reviewed by legal counsel.

Director Brown made a motion that the Board adopt Resolution 2008-14, *2008 Bond Question Canvass Resolution*. Director Eichenberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (5-0), on a roll-call vote.



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b. Approval of Resolution 2008-15, 2008 Directors Election Canvass

The memo from Ms. Jeffries stated that the Directors Election results were as follows:

District 1

Danny Hernandez	19,027
Jeffrey Rich	9,946

District 2

Daniel F. Lyon	26,707
Kris L. McNeil	15,522

The Bernalillo County Commission, serving as the Board of Canvass, certified the election results on November 14, 2008. Official election results were signed by the State Canvassing Board on November 25, 2008. Official election results were downloaded from the Secretary of State's website and had been provided to the Board.

The memo stated that Resolution 2008-15, *2008 Directors Election*, was the same as was used in the past, but with updated information. The resolution had been reviewed by legal counsel.

Director Eichenberg made a motion that the Board adopt Resolution 2008-15, *2008 Directors Election*. Director Brown seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (5-0), on a roll-call vote.

14. East Amole Surge Pond: Proposal to Take Portion of Excess Earth to Bernalillo County Landfill – Briefing by Roger Paul, Technical Services Director, Bernalillo County

Jerry Lovato, AMAFCA Drainage Engineer, introduced Roger Paul, Technical Services Director for Bernalillo County, and Dan McGregor, of Bernalillo County Public Works.

Mr. Paul stated that Bernalillo County has need for some fill material on the old county landfill near the East Amole Surge Pond. There are sections of eroded cover areas and several washouts. Excess dirt from the construction of the East Amole Surge Pond could be used to repair these sections.

In response to a question from Director Brown, Mr. Paul stated there is minimal documentation on the original contours of the landfill area.

Mr. Lovato stated that, based on the nearby observation well, the top of the 100 year water elevation in the planned East Amole Dam is at least 75 feet below the landfill. By using some of



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the excess earth from the East Amole Surge Pond to repair the erosion on the landfill, large earthmoving equipment can be used to redistribute the earth. Trucks will not be needed, making roadway detours unnecessary. This will reduce AMAFCA's haul costs on the contract.

He added that the County will pay for the cost of placing the material on the landfill, and re-seeding afterwards. This is still far cheaper than AMAFCA paying the construction contractor to haul the dirt a longer distance for disposal. Using the dirt in this manner is also looked upon favorably by the Environment Department.

Mr. Kelly commented that the County will pay for the full amount of the hauling, grading, and revegetation costs.

Chairman Hernandez noted that allowing the County to use the dirt on the landfill will not cost AMAFCA any more money, and may reduce the project's construction cost somewhat. He expressed support for the idea.

Director Brown made a motion that the Board authorize the Executive Engineer to draft a cost share agreement with Bernalillo County to fund the placement of excess material at the 9-Mile Hill Landfill as part of the construction of the East Amole Surge Pond. Director Lyon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (5-0).

15. Coal Avenue Phase I Storm Drain – Consideration of Cost Sharing Agreement with City of Albuquerque

Mr. Kelly introduced John Castillo, Director of the Department of Municipal Development, and the people at the City working on the project: Melissa Lazoya, John Curtin, and Roland Penttila.

Mr. Kelly stated that, pursuant to direction from the Board at the November 20, 2008 meeting, an agreement had been negotiated with the City for construction of the Coal Avenue Phase I Storm Drain. The agreement has been reviewed by City and AMAFCA legal counsel, and the City has agreed to the final changes Attorney Marcus Rael had requested.

He stated that the proposed agreement is that AMAFCA will make a \$1 million lump sum contribution towards the \$2.9 million project. The City will own, operate, and maintain the completed storm drain, and will submit a FEMA Letter of Map Revision for the floodplain modified by Phase I of the project.

He added that Phase II will be addressed as AMAFCA prepares the FY-10 Project Schedule, and as the City prepares its next bond program.



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Mr. Castillo stated that he appreciated the Board's cooperation on this project and others. He noted that the Tingley Park Surge Pond and the Paseo del Norte Extension projects won awards.

In response to a question from Director Saiers, Mr. Castillo stated that the City planned to start construction on Phase I of the Coal Avenue Storm Drain in the spring. Responding to a question about funding, Mr. Castillo stated that as federal or state capital funds become available, they move forward on planned City projects.

Director Saiers made a motion that the Board approve the *Agreement for Construction of the Coal Avenue Phase I Storm Drain*, substantially the same as attached, and authorize the Chair to execute the same. Director Brown seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (5-0).

16. Montano Levee Gap: Potential of Federal Funding for Design and Construction and for Project Acceleration – Briefing by Fritz Blake, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Mr. Kelly introduced Fritz Blake, Senior Water Resources Project Manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who briefed the Board on the Albuquerque levee situation and on the potential of federal funding for design and construction of the project.

Mr. Blake stated that, following Hurricane Katrina, the Corps of Engineers changed the rules for levee certification and began studying levees nationwide to discover their condition.

He stated the good news is that Albuquerque's levees built by the Corps were certified for flood insurance purposes before the inspections were done and before the rules changed. However, he also stated that there are approximately 40 miles of levee along the Rio Grande in Albuquerque (both sides of a twenty-mile stretch of river) which will need work. As the levee sections are approximately 50 years old, they will need rehabilitation in the coming years.

He added that it will cost about \$120 million to rebuild all 40 miles of levee. The Corps is working with the congressional delegation to obtain the funds to begin the design and environmental studies necessary to rebuild the levees.

He stated that there are two immediate problem areas. The first is that the "Albuquerque West Levee" south of I-25 is not an engineered levee. This spoil bank levee protects approximately 1500 homes. During the recent FEMA floodplain remapping it was discovered it needs to be rebuilt as an engineered levee. This project has begun, and costs will be partially reimbursed through the Corps of Engineers Section 593 Program.

The second area with a problem is the "Montaño Gap" on the west side of the Rio Grande. From a mile north of Montaño south to the bluffs, there is a section of river without a levee. At the time the upstream levees were built, there was no development in the area so the Corrales levee project



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terminated at La Orilla Road, one mile north of Montañó. The FEMA maps showed this area out of the floodplain, so development was allowed over the years.

In response to a question from Director Saiers, John Castillo, Director of the City of Albuquerque Department of Municipal Development, stated that building permits were issued for these structures because the properties were not shown in a floodplain when the clerk looked at the floodplain map.

Mr. Blake stated that with the next FEMA remapping effort, the entire levee system will not be certifiable due to the new federal levee standards. That will place large portions of Albuquerque into floodplain, including downtown Albuquerque. Property owners in these areas will have to pay flood insurance.

Mr. Lovato stated that FEMA will probably seek funding for their next floodplain remapping effort in 2010, with money available in about 2015. Mr. Blake added that, after the levees are not certified and new floodplain maps are issued, flood insurance will be required on these properties beginning about 2020.

Mr. Blake stated that the Albuquerque West Levee in the South Valley is already under reconstruction. Money for a 75% reimbursement under the Section 593 Program has been authorized but not yet appropriated. The 593 Program has a \$50 million limit, and after the Albuquerque West Levee project, there is only \$800,000 left of the \$50 million limit. The \$800,000 could be used for design work, and a request could be put in asking for a \$25 million cap increase to cover the Montañó Levee Gap.

Mr. Kelly stated that the City, AMAFCA, and the County are potential partners on an agreement for the Montañó Levee Gap. The Conservancy District has no benefitted property in the area. He stated that the deadline for asking for a cap increase on the 593 Program is March 2009. He asked for input from the Board as to the course of action to take: (1) begin design work on the Montañó Levee Gap now, and seek federal reimbursement later (as is being done on the Albuquerque West Levee), or (2) wait for money to be appropriated?

Mr. Kelly noted that new topography has been obtained and is being combined with field surveys to determine critical flow levels and resulting inundation in this area.

In response to a question from Director Saiers, Mr. Blake stated that the Corps will ask for stimulus funding for the project, but did not anticipate it will be granted as priority will be given to those projects ready to begin construction within 120 days.

Replying to another question from Director Saiers, Mr. Blake stated that the dams upstream control snow melt, but there are hundreds of square miles of watershed between the last dam and



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Albuquerque. Between that area and the area drained by the North Diversion Channel, summer storms can increase flow.

Mr. Kelly stated that snow melt increases the river's flow to about 8,000 cfs, at which point it begins to break out of its banks. The North Diversion Channel 100-year event is 28,000 cfs. The Calabacillas Arroyo 100-year event is 16,000 cfs. Much of this will be retained within the levees. The peak potential is a thunderstorm event, rather than snow melt.

Responding to a question from Director Eichenberg, Mr. Blake stated that the break-through point would probably be in Bernalillo. He added that the Corrales levees were rebuilt in 1997, so they are in good shape. The levees in the worst shape are in the south end of town. However, it is hard to predict where a breakthrough might occur. An example is where debris backs up behind a bridge, and the nearby levees may break through.

Director Lyon asked if New Mexico's mostly freshman congressional delegation will need help at the federal level, asked if this project was in the City of Albuquerque's stimulus package request, and asked a question about the related memo from Lynn Mazur which had been included in the Board's mailout. He also noted that Mr. Blake would be retiring soon, and thanked him for his years of service to the Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Blake stated that the Corps of Engineers could use some help in lobbying congress for this project, as they are not allowed to lobby. Chairman Hernandez noted that Representative Heather Wilson and Congressman-elect Martin Heinrich are both aware of the need for the project. Mr. Blake added that Senator Bingaman is also well-versed in the issue.

John Castillo, of the City of Albuquerque, stated that the levee repairs were not in the City's stimulus request package. Mr. Blake added that the project will be in the Corps' request. However, he stated it will probably not be funded through the stimulus package as it will take longer than 120 days to get the project into construction.

Responding to a question from Director Brown, Mr. Blake stated it would cost about \$2 million a mile to rebuild the Montaño Levee Gap, plus \$500,000-600,000 for design, permitting, and the like, for a total of \$5-6 million.

Lynn Mazur, AMAFCA Development Review Engineer, stated that her memo regarded the southwest valley and the Albuquerque West Levee. HUD will no longer approve mortgages in areas of the southwest valley protected by the Albuquerque West Levee, until the area has been removed from the flood maps again.



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17. Embudo East I-40 Channel: Acceleration of Project Implementation – Briefing by Larry Velasquez, District 3 Engineer, NMDOT

Mr. Kelly introduced Larry Velasquez, District 3 Engineer with the New Mexico Department of Transportation. Mr. Kelly noted that Terry Doyle briefed the Board about a year ago about rebuilding the Embudo East I-40 Channel, down the middle of the I-40 interstate.

Mr. Velasquez briefed the Board on the proposed acceleration of the Embudo East I-40 Channel Project, noting that a section had blown out about two or three years ago. As a result of this, NMDOT has entered into an agreement for the Agency and Area Wide Maintenance Project whereby AMAFCA helps them manage some of their channel maintenance needs.

Mr. Velasquez stated that rebuilding the Embudo East I-40 Channel is of high priority, as the chance of disruption of commerce if it were to fail is high. As the project is not yet designed, it cannot be a part of a stimulus package request. The New Mexico Department of Transportation has identified \$1 million a year beginning in FY 2010 that it can allocate to this project.

Mr. Velasquez stated that the NMDOT would like to start planning the Embudo East I-40 Channel as four or five phased \$20-25 million projects. At this point, they do not know if it will be an enclosed box or an open channel. He stated that NMDOT would also be looking to AMAFCA for their expertise in drainage projects.

Mr. Kelly noted that the AMAFCA Project Schedule had identified \$6 million in AMAFCA funds in FY 2013 for this project. With the NMDOT having funding available in FY 2010, he suggested moving some of those funds forward to help with design of this project. Various design options are possible, with the concept analysis, phasing analysis, traffic impact analysis, and design of the first phase estimated to cost about \$4 million. Access for maintenance is a key consideration. He suggested a 50-50 split of design costs.

Responding to questions from Director Saiers, Mr. Kelly stated that there will be Board workshops in March, April, and May to discuss the Project Schedule. The Technical Team will begin meeting in February. This project is anticipated to be on the schedule, which will be adopted in June or July. The \$6 million previously listed in the Project Schedule was anticipated as the 10% local match on a federally-funded project.

In response to a question from Director Lyon asking if the purpose of the work is to improve the channel or increase the number of lanes, Mr. Velasquez stated the NMDOT's goal is to protect the interstate and protect the channel. The NMDOT will consider options that will make it possible to put lanes over the channel in the future, since future transportation needs cannot be met by expanding the freeway to the sides. The cost of putting lanes over the channel may be cost-



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prohibitive, however. The NMDOT would like AMAFCA's assistance with drainage design, as this is beyond the NMDOT's area of expertise.

Director Brown stated the money has not been committed yet, but the expectation is that AMAFCA will commit some money to help with design after the scope of the project has been defined. He added that he is in favor of moving forward in planning.

Chairman Hernandez stated that the channel will eventually fail if nothing is done. The question is whether it should be redesigned exactly as it is, or in a different way. To get that answer, a study must be done to see what the options cost. Also, he agreed with Director Lyon that future transportation needs may be very different and additional lanes may not be required.

18. New Mexico Rail Runner Express Connection to Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta Park – Briefing by Lawrence Rael, Executive Director, Mid Region Council of Governments

Mr. Kelly introduced Chris Blewett, of the Mid Region Council of Governments, who briefed the Board on a proposed New Mexico Rail Runner Express connection to the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Park.

Mr. Blewett stated that the MRCOG would like to increase rail access to the Balloon Fiesta Park to increase utilization of the rail service to attend events at the park. Current car and bus access is at near peak capacity. Train riders are currently shuttled via bus service to and from the Los Ranchos station.

Using an aerial photo, Mr. Blewett showed the Board the proposed spur line along the North Diversion Channel.

Responding to a question about bike access, Mr. Kelly stated the North Diversion Channel Trail is on the west side of the channel at Alameda, then will cross the bridge at the La Cueva Channel and continue on the east side of the channel to the Balloon Fiesta Park.

Responding to a question from Chairman Hernandez, Mr. Kelly stated that the MRCOG would have to secure right of way through the turn at Edith. They plan to set the rail tracks as far from the channel as is possible within the North Diversion Channel right of way. A conceptual engineering analysis will show how far from the wall the tracks will have to be.

In response to a question from Director Eichenberg regarding the vibration effects of a train on the channel wall, Mr. Blewett stated this will be studied as a part of the conceptual engineering analysis. Mr. Kelly stated that the study will also look at access via the east side right of way. The analysis will address both static and dynamic structural loading.



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Responding to a question from Director Lyon, Mr. Blewett stated that the rail extension would probably cost \$4-5 million. A number of funding sources are being looked at, including the state legislature.

Director Lyon stated that he would like to go into the field and look at this area of the North Diversion Channel.

Paul Smith, of the Balloon Fiesta Park, stated that he had met with the MRCOG about the rail extension and was in favor of it. There are only so many roads into the park and they are at maximum capacity before and after events at the park. The bike access will help a little, and an easy rail access should help a lot.

19. Field Highlights

a. Construction Report

Mr. Kelly stated that Kurt Wagener, AMAFCA Field Engineer, had provided the Board with the written Construction Report. The Field Highlights for the year were shown following the Board meeting.

20. Unfinished Business

Mr. Kelly introduced those in the audience who were present for items on the agenda: Patti Watson of Cooney Watson & Associates, Robert Hawthorne of Boyle Engineering, David Owsley of Larkin Group NM, and Dave Kondziolka and Joseph Jaramillo of AMEC.

He also introduced new AMAFCA crew member Mark Ramirez, and the newly-hired Storm Water Quality Program Engineer, Kevin Daggett, who will start work on January 5, 2009. Kevin is a registered professional engineer and surveyor with degrees in geology and engineering.

Chairman Hernandez called a recess at 11:25 a.m. He brought the meeting back to order at 12:00 noon.

21. New Business

a. Recognition of United States Representative Heather Wilson

Chairman Hernandez recognized United States Representative Heather Wilson, briefly mentioning her background and the local flood control projects she had worked hard to obtain



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funding for. He added that she had served the residents of the First Congressional District well for ten years. Chairman Hernandez thanked her for all she had done for area drainage projects.

He then presented her with a plaque from the Board. The plaque read: "Presented to Congresswoman Heather Wilson, United States House of Representatives 1998-2008, in recognition of your exemplary public service to the citizens of New Mexico and your support of flood control projects in the greater Albuquerque area, by the AMAFCA Board of Directors, December 18, 2008."

Representative Wilson addressed the Board, thanking them for their recognition. She noted that, shortly after her election, Senator Pete Domenici had told her she'd have to learn about water. During her time in Congress, she worked with the City, County, AMAFCA, and the Pueblos to ensure regional drainage solutions. She thanked AMAFCA and the Board, and those present, for what they do to build and maintain the storm drainage system.

22. Items from the Floor/Public Comment

Director Saiers stated that she had noted in that morning's paper that local engineer Thomas Mann had passed away from cancer. She noted that she had had many opportunities to work with him over her years at the City, and that he will be missed.

23. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Hernandez adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

Danny Hernandez, Secretary-Treasurer 1/22/09

Recorded by Pam Woodruff, Secretary to the Executive Engineer