

## **NEW MEXICO ACEQUIAS IN VALENCIA:**

### **A Documentary Report**

#### ABSTRACT

In 2014 and 2019 the New Mexico Acequia Association attended events organized by the Water Tribunal of Valencia in Spain commemorating the fifth and tenth anniversaries when the acequias of Valencia and Murcia were listed by UNESCO as examples of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The documentary report provides the context for and significance of the two visits along with a series of photographs that tell the story for the benefit of the citizens of New Mexico.

### **NMAA First Visit to Valencia 2014: The World Stage**

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The impetus for the NMAA First Visit to Valencia in 2014 originated with an international symposium held at the Convention Center of Las Cruces, New Mexico, on March 2-3, 2013. The symposium itself came out of an interdisciplinary research project funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) under a program designed to investigate acequias of the upper Río Grande in terms of how they are connected and interact as human and natural systems. Sponsors of the NSF research and the symposium included New Mexico State University, the University of New Mexico, New Mexico Tech, and Sandia National Laboratories, in partnership with the New Mexico Acequia Association (NMAA). In addition to ongoing multidisciplinary research at Río Grande study sites, another important goal of the NSF project was to bring together international scholars whose perspectives on comparable social-ecological systems in other regions of the world can shed light on the particular and shared features of New Mexican acequias and the mutual challenges they face globally. Of special interest were questions about whether and how traditional irrigation associations can maintain or regain resilience under conditions of accelerating integration into a global economy and climate change.

The symposium was titled “Acequias and the Future of Resilience in Global Perspective” and included talks from the group of New Mexico investigators who reported on their findings with respect to multi-theme data acquisition in the Río Grande research, integrating the data, and modeling the interplay of social, cultural,

economic, and environmental factors in acequia communities. The international scholars presented their research conducted in Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, Bali, Morocco and Valencia, Spain. Topics ranged from case studies of self-managed irrigation organizations, the safeguarding of acequia history and values, encounters with the moral economy of water, and a discussion of whether Elinor Ostrom's principles of self-governing irrigation institutions were still relevant in the twenty-first century. After the symposium was concluded, the NFS study team and representatives of the NMAA participated in a round table Acequia Workshop to develop an agenda of future research and policy based on new insights gleaned from the proceedings of the symposium. Joining them were acequia activists from Embudo and Taos, New Mexico, and the San Luis Valley of Colorado.

While all the presentations were stimulating, the speaker from Valencia, Luis Pablo Martínez, caught the attention of representatives of the NMAA who were present. In his case, Martínez spoke about "Safeguarding Valencian Acequias: History and Values of a Millennial Water Sharing Culture." The outline of his talk covered: the Valencian Acequia Culture Historical Background; Principles and Values in the Design of the Valencian Acequia Systems; and Resistance and Resilience-Prospects for the Valencian Acequias. Included in his presentation were dozens of photo images depicting historical documents, irrigation landscapes of Valencian *huertas*, and examples of structures that divide water for a multitude of uses (for a summary of his talk, see page 8). During the next break in the program, Paula García (NMAA Executive Director) and Harold Trujillo (NMAA Vice President of the Board of Directors) were discussing the idea of visiting Valencia to get a better understanding of the acequias in Valencia and how they compare with the acequia systems in New Mexico. To figure out a way of when to go there, they consulted with José Rivera, a member of the NSF research team, who had already been in Valencia a few times.

The opportunity to visit the huerta landscapes of Valencia came up when the *Universitat Politècnica de València* (UPV) posted an announcement of an international event to be held in Valencia in September 25-27, 2014 titled *Congreso Internacional: Regadío, Sociedad y Territorio, Homenaje a Thomas F. Glick* (International Conference: Irrigation, Society and Landscape, Tribute to Thomas F. Glick.) The conference was organized by the UPV, the Funcación Assut, and the Universidad de Valencia for the purpose of honoring Professor Thomas F. Glick, the renowned author of *Irrigation and Society in Medieval Spain*, whose research has contributed to the study of irrigation history and stimulated the recognition and protection of water heritage worldwide. After José Rivera informed the NMAA about this timely event, the Board of Directors began to look at the feasibility of attending the September 2014 conference. José Rivera agreed to serve as the contact person to coordinate NMAA's first visit to Valencia along with Luis Pablo Martínez.

Later, when *Tribunal de las Aguas de la Vega de Valencia* learned that a delegation from the New Mexico Acequia Association might be present for the 2014 Thomas F. Glick Congreso in Valencia, the President, Enrique Aguilar, sent a written invitation to the NMAA proposing that the Tribunal and the New Mexico acequias

participate in an *Acto de Hermanamiento* (Ceremony of Brotherhood) in recognition of a shared heritage in a millennial culture of water that connected with and extended to the ancient Islamic world, the arid lands of India, Central Asia, and Maghreb (northwestern Africa). Further, he noted that the Tribunal intended to present the NMAA with a Medal of Honor as part of the fifth-year celebration of inscription of the *Consejo de Hombres Buenos de la Huerta de Murcia* and the *Tribunal de las Aguas de la Vega de Valencia* into the list of the UNESCO *Patrimonio Cultural Inmaterial de la Humanidad* (Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity). The medal would be presented during the session of the Tribunal's Water Court scheduled for noon on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2014. The NMAA accepted the invitation and sent three members of the Board of Directors as the official representatives, along with other delegates representing local acequias. Professors from the NSF research team also signed up, making for a total New Mexico contingent of twenty-one. The professors submitted abstracts of papers they would present during the international conference hosted by the *Universitat Politècnica de València*. All seven papers were accepted.

## **The Water Court**

The Tribunal de las Aguas is the governing body of seven major canals that divert water from the Río Turia to irrigate the huertas in the Vega de Valencia: the Rascanya, Mestalla and Tormos on the left margin of the Río Turia and the Rovella, Favara, Mislata, Quart and Benacher-Faitanar on the right margin (Sala Giner 2012). Over a period of centuries, the Tribunal has perfected a system for the sharing of water during times of scarcity. To ensure principles of equality, equity and justice, the heads of each canal, or *Síndicos*, meet as a Tribunal or Water Court every Thursday at noon to adjudicate cases when *regantes* (farmer irrigators) may have violated the *ordenanzas* or rules for water distribution. *Síndicos* are not lawyers but must be “*hombres buenos*,” meaning that they must be in good standing and well respected within their respective acequia community. The Tribunal de las Aguas in Valencia is the world's oldest continuously operating water court. According to historian Daniel Sala Giner, its origins as an irrigation system can be traced to the first Muslim *Califato de Córdoba* headed by *rey Abderramán III*. In 960 his son, *rey Alhakem II*, took advantage of a stable period in Al-Andalus (Muslim Spain) and ordered the construction of irrigation canals and reservoirs in Granada, Murcia, Valencia, and Aragón to boost agricultural production in the provinces (Sala Giner 2012).

The court sessions of the Tribunal are held every Thursday noon at the portico of the *Puerta de los Apóstoles de la Catedral de Valencia* with an audience gathered below at the *Plaza de la Virgen*. On September 25, 2014, the morning of the fifth anniversary celebration, the New Mexico delegates were at the Congreso being held at the UPV until about 11:15 am when they were summoned to a bus for transportation to the Plaza de la Virgen. When the New Mexico delegates arrived, they were escorted to the inner circle of the portico to observe the Water Court proceedings set to begin at noon. Daniel Sala Giner greeted the delegation and provided them with an orientation as to what they were about to witness. Next, the *alguacil* or bailiff of the Tribunal made

his way through the audience of more than one hundred visitors already gathered at the plaza with many of them holding video and hand-held cameras ready to film the proceedings. The alguacil was carrying a hooked bronze halberd, the famed *gancho* traditionally held in his right hand, as he parted the crowd to allow the line of eight judges clad in black robes to approach and enter the portico of the cathedral. Once inside the *corralet* (a gated circle on the left side of the portico), the judges took their seats in the leather chairs emblazoned with the names of their respective acequias (A. Lamadrid 2015). At the stroke of noon, the bells of the Miguelete Tower sounded, and the session of the Water Court was called to order by the President of the Tribunal, Enrique Aguilar. The alguacil then began calling out the names of each acequia asking if there are any *denunciados* (defendants accused of violating acequia rules) to bring before the Water Court. On this day, there were two defendants, and after the customary oral deliberations in the Valenciano language, the judges found them culpable, with penalties to be imposed according to the rules of their respective acequias. Justice in this case, and as has been the practice over centuries, was transparent, swift, efficient, and delivered on the spot without the need for lawyers or a formal trial in municipal court.

Following the resolution of the two cases, a small table was set in the middle of the corralet for a ceremony to honor the New Mexico Acequia Association. The President of the Tribunal, Enrique Aguilar, called the Secretary of the NMAA, Don Bustos, to join the ring of judges assembled around the table. Here he presented the coveted Medal of Honor to Don Bustos as a way of recognizing the successes of the NMAA after more than twenty-five years of organizing hundreds of acequia communities in New Mexico in defense of their water rights and ancestral traditions. The Tribunal was well aware of and had marveled at the work and accomplishment of the NMAA over the past quarter-century: legislation to protect against water transfers, favorable New Mexico Supreme court decisions, and acequia activism in the defense of traditional water and land management (A. Lamadrid 2015). Much of their information about New Mexico acequias had come from Luis Pablo Martínez, a close associate of the Síndicos. As part of the ceremony, Secretary Bustos was invited to enter a statement and his signature in the Tribunal's *Libro de Oro del Tribunal*, a documentary book of Tribunal history honoring special guests. Importantly, to New Mexico and its citizens, no other acequia region or institution from outside of Spain was included as participants in the fifth-year celebration of inscription into the UNESCO list of World Heritage, and no other acequia region outside of Spain has received the Medal of Honor from the Tribunal de las Aguas nor invited to sign the Libro de Oro. Honorees presented medals normally are heads of state, ambassadors, administrators of governmental agencies, distinguished academics, elected officials, military leaders, and other dignitaries.

Witnessing the presentation of the Medal of Honor were twenty others from the New Mexico contingent. To document the occasion, three members of the NMAA Board of Directors, Don Bustos, James Santiago Maestas and Martha Trujillo, were invited to stand alongside with Tribunal President Enrique Aguilar, Juan Tovar from the Junta de Hacendados de la Huerta de Murcia, and acequia authors Thomas Glick and José Rivera for a photo op in the corralet of the Puerta de los Apóstoles (Armando Lamadrid

photo, *Green Fire Times*, February 2015). After the session concluded, the Tribunal invited the New Mexico contingent to their headquarters across the plaza, the *Casa-Vestuario*, where officials of the Tribunal and some of their special guests, along with Don Bustos and José Rivera, introduced each other and gave brief remarks. To Don Bustos, as the NMAA representative who was handed the Medal of Honor to take back to New Mexico, the audience with the Tribunal, the medal ceremony, and his signing a page in the Libro de Oro del Tribunal, was “a once-in-a lifetime, life-changing experience” (Bustos article in *Green Fire Times*, February 2015).

### **Acto de Hermanamiento**

On the evening prior to the Water Court, the Tribunal along with the Real Acequia de Moncada and the Acequia Real del Júcar met with the New Mexico delegation at the *Jardín Botánico* of the University of Valencia to participate in an *Acto de Hermanamiento* (Ceremony of Brotherhood). The purpose of the event was to recognize the importance of the rich and historic links that unite *labradores* (farmers) of the Iberian Peninsula with the *parciantes* (irrigators) from the Americas. Speakers at the event included Enrique Aguilar, President of the Tribunal de las Aguas de la Vega de Valencia, Don Bustos, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Acequia Association, José Manuel García de la Cuadra, President of the Acequia Real del Júcar, Rafael Ordeig Orero, Secretary of the Real Acequia de Moncada, and José Rivera, acequia scholar from the University of New Mexico. The Acto included the reading of an *acuerdo de hermanamiento* (brotherhood agreement) prepared in both Spanish and English and was read aloud by Rafael Ordeig Orero and Don Bustos, respectively. The officers of the three acequias from the Vega de Valencia (Tribunal de las Aguas de la Vega de Valencia, the Real Acequia de Moncada, the Acequia Real del Júcar) and Don Bustos, NMAA Secretary then signed the agreement as cameras clicked away documenting the event. In attendance were the New Mexico contingent as well as invited colleagues, Jacinta Palerm (Mexico), Teresa Rojas Rabiela (Mexico), Ricardo Ponte (Argentina), José Luis Arumí (Chile), Carlos Ortiz (Elche), and Thomas Glick (Boston University). A news story about the evening appeared in Valencia’s newspaper, *Levante, el Mercantil Valenciano* with the byline: “*Las acequias de Nuevo México y Valencia se hermanan. Regantes de la Vega de Valencia y americanos defienden la significación cultural y ambiental de las acequias.*” [The acequias of New Mexico and Valencia unite in brotherhood. Irrigators of the Vega de Valencia and Americans defend the cultural and environmental significance of the acequias.]

Before leaving the Jardín Botánico, an original signed copy of the hermanamiento agreement was given to Don Bustos for him to take to the NMAA office when he returned to New Mexico and to be presented, along with the Medal of Honor, at the next annual meeting of the Congreso de las Acequias. In the opening sections of the document, the agreement recognizes “the cultural and environmental significance of the acequias, symbols and expressions of the profound and rich historic link that unites the peoples who live within the arid and semi-arid lands including Central Asia, Middle East, the Mediterranean riverine lands, and the Americas.” To the Valencian acequias present for the reading of the document, the New Mexican acequias and their

leaders attending the Acto de Hermanamiento at the Jardín Botánico represented a clear example of how Islamic-Iberian irrigation was diffused to the New World centuries ago, as had been written into the report to UNESCO when the Tribunal de las Aguas of Valencia and the Consejo de Hombres Buenos of Murcia submitted their candidacy files. In the agreement of September 24, 2014, the parties now committed “to strengthen our ties, promoting the exchange of experiences, the definition of solutions for the challenges we confront, and the extension of alliances with the communities of irrigators that share with us the millennial acequia culture.” Once this historic document was signed and the session at the Jardín Botánico adjourned, the Valencia acequias invited the NM delegation and their colleagues to a nearby restaurant for a private dinner to celebrate the new alliance. Conversations around the tables were lively as the groups shared and compared notes about acequias in their own countries and regions, namely Valencia, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, and New Mexico.

### **Field Trips**

On Friday, September 26, the New Mexico delegates returned to the Congreso at the UPV for one last day of panels and presentations. On Saturday morning, all conference participants had the option of two field trips: a bus ride to the lake of the Río Júcar for a “*paseo en barca por la albufera*,” a boat ride along the perimeter of the Albufera; or bicycle rides to tour the acequia systems and huertas of the Río Turia in Valencia. The NM delegation split into two groups to benefit from both experiences. The Río Turia group was taken to view compuertas and irrigated huertas of Acequia Mestalla and Acequia Tormos, stopping along the way for a closer look at the infrastructure works and crops grown. They also engaged in conversation with officials and members of these acequias who had been expecting them. At the end of the tour, they were treated to a merienda along the patio wall of the Casa Azud of the Real Acequia de Moncada.

The Río Júcar group was transported to the Albufera de Valencia by bus where New Mexico delegates and others from the UPV conference were boarded onto *barcas* (small boats) to view portions of the lake, wildlife habitats, and *barracas* (historic residences of the Valencian huerta) along the shore. The lake is also known as the *Parc Natural de L’Albufera*. The guide, Carles Sanchis-Ibor of the UPV, described features of the area, and at one point, he poured water from New Mexico acequias into the lake from a jar provided by Don Bustos who had opted for the bicycle tour. After the boat ride, all participants gathered inside the *Trilladora del Tocaio*, a museum of farm tools and other artifacts where lunch was served before returning to the bus. En route to Valencia, the bus made a stop at Algemesi to view an exhibit at the *Museu Valencia de la Festa Algemesi* featuring artwork and artifacts celebrating La Acequia Real del Júcar for its 750 years of history as well as a permanent exhibit of rituals and other cultural celebrations that form the intangible cultural patrimony of the Ajuntament D’Algemesi, under a UNESCO designation.

## Postscript

Overall, the NMAA First Visit to Valencia 2014 was hugely significant, not only for the acequia communities of New Mexico, but for all citizens of the State of New Mexico, and not to be forgotten, the important links of New Mexico's acequias to the global heritage of farmer-managed irrigation systems found throughout the world. In many respects, the Water Court and the recognition of the NMAA in the portico of the Puerta de los Apóstoles, Catedral de Valencia, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2014, put New Mexico's treasured acequias on the world stage alongside those of other ancient traditions and regions. The global acequia tradition is very old and is reflected in the terms used in Spanish, Catalan, Portuguese and Sicilian languages with the names of acequia, *séquia*, *acéquia* and *saia*, respectively, derived from the Arabic word "*al-sāqiyah*," meaning "irrigation channel." Throughout the centuries, acequias of the world have overcome profound historical conflicts and competition over water use, but they have survived because of their sustainable principles such as cooperation, water sharing, equity, transparency, internal mechanisms for conflict resolution, and above all, their autonomy in local decision-making, adaptability, and solidarity (Martínez 2020).

In New Mexico, the acequias are especially unique for their retention of gravity-flow irrigation practices utilizing *zanjas*, hand-dug ditches carved on the land. These earthen pathways in turn require the continuity of rituals such as the annual *limpia* or ditch cleaning in the springtime, a duty that bonds the irrigation community year after year and reaffirms cohesion and a deep cultural attachment to the land, *querencia*. As noted by Professor Thomas Glick (2009), the physical design of the New Mexico acequia system (the tangible features) coupled with its cooperative maintenance (the intangible features) combine to create a deep interconnectedness and the dependency between these two cultural values and natural values in the water landscapes they configure.

*El mero hecho de que las acequias de este rincón de las Américas sigan siendo zanjas de tierra constituye el fundamento de su plenitud patrimonial: la filtración del agua a lo largo de la zanja sostiene la biodiversidad y recarga los acuíferos; la zanja debe ser mantenida mediante trabajos comunitarios de limpieza y reparación, que reafirman la cohesión de la comunidad local, y se plasman en una rica cosmovisión ritual que gira en torno al agua y el calendario de riego y laboreo agrícola.*

[The mere fact that the acequias in this corner of the Americas remain earthen trenches constitutes the foundation of its patrimonial completeness: the filtration of the water along the ditch supports biodiversity and recharges the aquifer; the ditch must be maintained through community labor for cleaning and repair work that reaffirm cohesion of the local community and reflect in a rich worldview ritual that in turn revolves around water and the irrigation and agricultural labor calendar.]

The NMAA First Visit to Valencia 2014 brought new attention to the long historical connection between New Mexico and Iberia. Armando Lamadrid, along with the other twenty Nuevomexicanos, attended the historic events of September 24-27:

the Congreso in honor of Professor Thomas F. Glick; the Acto de Hermanamiento among the acequias of Valencia and New Mexico; and the Water Court held in observance of the Tribunal's fifth anniversary as a listed example of intangible cultural patrimony of humanity. Shortly after he and Enrique Lamadrid had returned from Valencia, they reached out to international activists, scholars and irrigators inviting them to submit articles to be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Green Fire Times*. Armando and Enrique served as guest editors of the February 2015 edition. The edition was themed "New Mexico Acequias: Global Heritage." In the lead article, Armando recalled the NMAA First Visit to Valencia that he had witnessed just a few months earlier and penned:

An unprecedented event in the annals of global acequia culture was celebrated in the ancient botanical gardens of Valencia, Spain, and on the steps of its great Cathedral last September—an official encounter of acequia irrigators from Spain and New Mexico, after four centuries apart. New Mexican culture is deeply influenced by Spain, despite having been separated politically for centuries and divided by half the globe. Yet, the richly hybrid Iberian legacy is still expressed under New Mexico skies through language, blood and water.... The Hermanamiento ceremony and presentation of the tribunal's Medal of Honor was a truly momentous occasion of unique significance for New Mexico's acequias and regantes, reforging the links between New Mexico's and Spain's sister traditions of water management and their communal and democratic customs.

## References

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Luis Pablo Martínez 2020. Foreword in *Acequias of the Southwestern United States: Elements of Resilience in a Coupled Natural Human System*. New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station Research Report 796, Las Cruces: New Mexico State University.

Thomas F. Glick 2009. Foreword in José A. Rivera, *La Cultura de la Acequia: Agua, tierra y comunidad en el Suroeste de los Estados Unidos de América*. Valencia, Spain: Publicacions de la Universitat de València. Traducción de Luis Pablo Martínez

**Summary of presentation by Luis Pablo Martínez at the March 2013 Global Perspectives Symposium in Las Cruces.** "Safeguarding Valencian Acequias: History and Values of a Millennial Water Sharing Culture." The outline of his talk included: the Valencian Acequia Culture Historical Background; Principles and Values in the



Design of the Valencian Acequia Systems; and Resistance and Resilience-Prospects for the Valencian Acequias. To illustrate the design and function of irrigation systems in Valencia, he included dozens of photo images on how water was distributed and shared across multiple users such as agricultural uses by huerta irrigators, artisanal uses by crafts that process raw materials, industrial uses by watermills, village uses for public baths, washing places and sanitation infrastructure, as well as for domestic uses by humans and animals. Luis Pablo explained that these objectives were achieved by the design of an adequate canal network and the use of divisors and other structures aimed at reconciling the equitable and sustainable access to water with minimal room for technical and environmental conflict. For water sharing, the norms of use were known to all users with written and oral proclamations of the right of all users to an equitable access to water, and importantly, the establishment of turns between the different groups or users. In the last section of his talk and slide images, Luis Pablo Martínez, concluded with a list of actions being taken to resist adverse impacts of urbanization and other threats as well as strategies underway to increase the prospects for resilience in the Valencian acequias. These actions include recent recognition of the acequia systems and the huerta landscape as a fundamental constituent of the Valencian cultural heritage; mobilization of local groups organized in defense of acequia heritage and culture; numerous studies on the Valencian acequia culture that have multiplied over the last few decades as part of an academic acequia activism that is spreading all over Spain; and most importantly, the rising awareness and commitment of the acequia irrigators to safeguard huerta lands. Appropriately, Luis Pablo Martínez, ended his talk with a slide saying “As a conclusion, I would only say... !!!*Que Vivan las Acequias!!!*”

[See his article that appeared in *Green Fire Times*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (February 2015) titled: “Safeguarding the Global Cultural Heritage of Community Acequias.”]

**Special recognition and credit for organizing the NMAA First Visit to Valencia 2014 goes to the following persons:**

Luis Pablo Martínez, historian, anthropologist, and inspector of Cultural Heritage for the government of the Valencia Region, resident of Alicante, Spain. He also presented a powerpoint lecture at the international symposium held at Las Cruces, March 2013, “Acequias and the Future of Resilience in Global Perspective.” He was also one of the editors who prepared and published the proceedings of the 2014 International Conference: Irrigation, Society and Landscape, Tribute to Thomas F. Glick.

Carlos Ortiz Mayordomo, retired professor of physical chemistry, and Lina Gracia i Vicente, biologist with a specialization in environmental management, both residents of Elche, Spain. They presented a powerpoint lecture at the international symposium held at Las Cruces, March 2013.

Enrique Aguilar, President of the Tribunal de las Aguas de la Vega de Valencia, with assistance from Julia Fortea, the secretary of the Tribunal.

Carles Sanchis-Ibor, Research Assistant, Valencia Center of Irrigation Studies, Universitat Politècnica de València and Coordinator, Organizing Committee of the International Conference: Irrigation, Society and Landscape, Tribute to Thomas F. Glick. He was also one of the editors who prepared and published the Conference Proceedings.

José Rivera, Professor, Community & Regional Planning and Research Scholar, Center for Regional Studies, University of New Mexico. To develop the itinerary for the NMAA First Visit 2014, he collaborated with Luis Pablo Martínez, Carles Sanchis-Ibor, and the secretary of the Tribunal de las Aguas. His own first visit to Valencia was in June 1999 when Luis Pablo Martínez, at the request of Professor Thomas Glick who put them in touch, arranged a month-long itinerary that took Rivera to Valencia, Murcia, and Granada. A high point of this journey was when he attended a session of the Water Court in Valencia, after which the Síndicos invited him to enjoy an horchata at a café patio across the way. To reciprocate, he gave the Tribunal de las Aguas a copy of his book, *Acequia Culture*, that had been published by UNM Press a year earlier.

## **New Mexico Delegation: NMAA First Visit to Valencia 2014**

### NMAA Concilio Delegates

Santiago Maestas\* and Yvonne, (\*President of South Valley Regional Association of Acequias)  
Don Bustos (Santa Cruz River Acequias), NMAA Board of Directors Secretary  
Martha Trujillo\* and Alex Trujillo\*\* (Acequia de el Rincon, Pojoaque,\* Secretary of Commission and \*\*Mayordomo)

### Local Acequias

Camilla Trujillo, La Cosecha del Norte  
Sylvia Rodríguez, San Antonio Acequia at Valdez, Secretary of Commission, and Board Member, Taos Valley Acequia Association  
Fabi Romero, San Cristobal Ditch, President of Commission  
Patricio García, García y Martínez Acequia at Medanales  
Enrique Lamadrid and Armando Lamadrid, Alamos de los Gallegos Acequia, North Valley, Albuquerque

### Professors

NMSU Sam Fernald and Katherine Howard  
NMSU Steve Guldan and Ana Martha Guldan  
UNM Moises Gonzales, Lynn Velarde y Montoya, and Rose Medina  
UNM José Rivera and Trini Rivera  
Emerson College Nejem and Carol Raheem

**Papers presented at the Congreso Internacional/International Conference:  
Regadío, Sociedad y Territorio/Irrigation, Society and Landscape, Tribute to  
Thomas F. Glick**

Sessions on:

History, Archeology of Irrigation Landscapes  
Irrigation as Cultural Landscapes  
Institutions and Irrigation Collective Action  
Hydro-Social Territories and Water Justice

Papers Presented: Approximately eighty papers from countries and regions

Italy/Jordan/plus Southern Italy, Venice  
France/Maroc and examples from France, Egypt, Marruecos, and Ecuador  
Germany/Andes and Bolivia  
United Kingdom/Lima, Peru  
Kuwait/Alhambra  
Turkey/Turkish Irrigation Practices  
Argentina/Mendoza and Valle del Tulum at San Juan  
Chile  
Colombia  
Mexico/Queretaro/Oaxaca, Baja CA, Nicaragua  
Hungary/Valencia  
Japan/Tokyo  
Norway/Central Peru  
Peru  
Amsterdam Holland/Ecuador and Colombia and Bolivia and Peru  
Netherlands/South America  
United States/New Mexico and Colorado  
Valencia/Murcia/Elche/Segura/Alicante/Barcelona/Granada/Zaragosa/Canary  
Islands

**Papers presented by New Mexico's contingent at the UPV Conference, and later  
published in the UPV Conference Proceedings**

Juan Estevan Arellano, José A. Rivera, and Enrique Lamadrid, "Las Mercedes y Las  
Acequias" \*

[\*Presentation by video at conference auditorium with Juan Estevan Arellano  
delivering paper from his residence at Embudo, New Mexico. Was not able to travel to  
Valencia.]

Alexander Fernald, José Rivera, Sylvia Rodríguez, Vince Tidwell, Carlos Ochoa, Quita  
Ortiz and Steve Guldan, "Connectivity and Coupled Hydrologic and Human Systems  
as the Basis of Resilience in Traditional Irrigation Communities in New Mexico"

Steven J. Guldan, Alexander G. Fernald and Carlos G. Ochoa, “Documenting Hydrological Benefits of Traditional Acequia Irrigation Systems: Collaborative Research in New Mexico, USA”

Moises Gonzales, “The Evolution of the Urban Acequia Landscapes of the American Southwest”

Enrique R. Lamadrid and Juan Estevan Arellano, “Oral Traditions and Legal Authority in the Trans-Mountain Acequia Systems of the Mora Valley, New Mexico”

Nejem Raheem, “Estimating Willingness to Pay to Protect Acequia Irrigation and Culture: Lessons from San Miguel County, NM”

José A. Rivera, Juan Estevan Arellano, Enrique R. Lamadrid, and Tomás Martínez Saldaña, “Irrigation and Society in the Upper Río Grande Basin, U.S.A.: A Heritage of Mutualism”

**Additional visits to acequia heritage sites organized by Luis Pablo Martínez days prior to the Congreso at the Universitat Politècnica de València, attended by Enrique and Armando Lamadrid, José and Trini Rivera, along with colleagues Teresa Rojas Rabiela (Mexico), Ricardo Ponte (Argentina), and Carlos Ortiz (Elche)**

Murcia Region, various sites from the cathedral to the *Huerta de la Vega del Río Segura*. Led by local guide, Pedro Jesús Fernández, the New Mexico contingent viewed hydraulic compuertas on the *acequia mayor*, the *azud mayor* also called the *contraparada* stretching across the Río Segura, a large water wheel known as the *Rueda de la Noria*, and exhibits at the *Museo Hidráulico Los Molinos del Río Segura*.

Valle de Ricote, an area with seven pueblos along the Río Segura, Alicante Province, each one comprising distinctive landscapes, human and natural, including some that date to the period of Islamic-Arabic occupation. Stopping points included acequias running alongside roads, compuertas dividing water into canals, vertical water wheels, azud diversion structures in streams, a historic molino (*Moli Tia Roseta*), streets inside the urbanized areas, and a former municipal laundry from 1903.

Celler la Muntanya, a winery cellar dedicated to the recovery of abandoned vineyards and the replanting of old grape varieties in attempts to promote the biodiversity of Mediterranean ecosystems. The enterprise is located in Alicante Province near the town of Muro. The proprietor, Juan Cascant, explained the concept of recovery and its importance to the local culture and rural economy of the area. He obtains grapes from about thirty micro vineyards where the producers specialize in planting autochthonous varieties compatible with the region’s sandy soils and climate and where harvesting is done manually. At the end of his powerpoint presentation, the group sat down at a table for a special meal he had prepared, wine and cheese included.

## **NMAA Revisit to Valencia 2019:**

### **Actos de Conmemoración \***

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On Thursday, September 26, 2019, the Tribunal de las Aguas de la Vega de Valencia held its tenth anniversary since UNESCO inscribed the acequia institutions of Valencia and Murcia on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. As before, during the fifth anniversary in 2014, the Tribunal de las Aguas invited the New Mexico Acequia Association to observe the *Actos de Conmemoración* (Commemorative Acts) as honored guests of the Tribunal and the Consejo de Hombres Buenos de la Huerta de Murcia. The NMAA group in 2019 consisted of ten delegates. Following tradition, the celebration was held at the *Plaza de la Virgen* in front of the *Puerta de los Apóstoles* (Portico of the Apostles, Cathedral of Valencia). According to an ancient custom, on every Thursday at 12:00 noon the *Síndicos* (Syndics) of the Tribunal convene as a water court to adjudicate alleged violations of the rules governing the use and distribution of water in the Vega de Valencia. Oral arguments and disputes are resolved quickly and definitively, with pageantry, ceremony, and closure. During the session of the water court, the members of the NMAA delegation were provided with a reserved space just behind the chairs of the *Síndicos*, allowing for a clear view of the pageantry as El Alguacil (Tribunal's Bailiff) and eight *Síndicos* left their headquarters across the way and approached the Portico of the Apostles to take their seats. The delegation remained in this space throughout the court proceedings and the series of performances that followed.

With no *delincuentes* (delinquents or violators) to adjudicate on this Thursday, the court adjourned, and attention shifted to the official opening of the *Actos de Conmemoración* conducted by the Master of Ceremonies, distinguished academic Daniel Sala Giner. He addressed the public gathered at the Plaza de la Virgen sharing his views about the significance of the tenth anniversary of UNESCO designation honoring the Tribunal de las Aguas of Valencia and the Consejo de Hombres Buenos of Murcia. Historian Giner is the author of a volume published by the Ayuntamiento de Valencia that depicts the huerta de Valencia, its acequias, and the functioning of the Tribunal de las Aguas de la Vega de Valencia. Next, he introduced a series of musical and dance performances by groups from the Comunidad de Valencia showcasing the cultural patrimony of the greater Valencia Region. After several performances, Harold Trujillo, President of the NMAA Board of Directors, and Paula García, Executive Director, were summoned to take their place along the Portico of the Apostles, an inner circle reserved for the Reina de la Festes Valencia, dignitaries, and special guests. After one more cultural performance, the Master of Ceremonies invited all guests to take photographs with the *Síndicos* of the Tribunal as personal momentos of

the celebration. Many photographs of the NMAA delegation were taken and at subsequent events.

After the commemorative acts were conducted, the New Mexico contingent was invited to a festive banquet at the Casino Restaurant hosted by the Tribunal with attendance by the *acequeros* from the Acequia Real del Júcar, the Real Acequia de la Moncada, and the Acequias de la Huerta de Murcia. Also present was the Reina de la Festes Valencia as well as the performance groups from earlier in the day. Harold and Lucille Trujillo were at the same table as the Reina. Speaking fluent English, she explained the competition involving three hundred entrants and the process of selection to be named the Reina de la Festes Valencia. The ballroom in the restaurant was at capacity with about 150 persons seated in groups of ten where the NMAA delegates were spread around different tables, making for engaging conversations. A feeling of solidarity permeated throughout the ballroom. As had been the case during the Actos de Conmemoración, the NMAA was the only institution from outside of the Valencia Region invited to the celebratory banquet, yet the *Nuevo Mexicanos* were made to feel very much part of the Comunidad. The banquet began with a prayer recited by Jeremías Martínez, Hermano Mayor of the Cofradía de Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno, Truchas, Nuevo México. Later, after the meal, Jeremías and David García entertained banquet participants with a musical performance of New Mexico acequia songs.

On the day prior to the anniversary events, the NMAA was invited to present talks at a special convocation organized by the University of Valencia and hosted by Vice Rector, Jorge Hermosilla, with a welcome address by Josep Montesinos, *Decano de la Facultad de Geografía i Historia* (Dean of the School of Geography and History). The program of the day was titled: *Jornada, "La cultura del agua en Nuevo México- Experiencias en la gestión del regadío norteamericano"* (*The Culture of Water in New Mexico: Experiences in the practice of irrigation in North America*). Community activism, sustainable, farming, scholarship, education, and a strong legislative agenda are integral components of the NMAA mission, themes covered during the Jornada. Attendees included faculty and students from the School of History and Geography, Onofre Cubells, President of the Tribunal de las Aguas, and past President Enrique Aguilar. Luis Pablo Martínez, historian and inspector of cultural heritage for the regional government of Valencia, introduced the panelists from New Mexico. President Harold Trujillo presented on the History and Mission of the New Mexico Acequia Association in celebration of 30 years of achievement; NMAA Executive Director Paula García presented on Projects of the New Mexico Acequia Association, including key legislative and NM Supreme Court victories; NMAA youth leader, Joaquín Romero, presented on the "*Sembrando Semillas* (Sowing Seeds)" Youth Project, with its focus on family, traditional culture, seed saving and sustainability. The Jornada concluded with performances by David García and Jeremías Martínez. With the room at capacity, David and Jeremías inspired everyone with the musical heritage of New Mexico acequias. After a powerful acapella rendition of the traditional hymn to San Isidro Labrador (Saint Isidore the Farmer), they next performed an activist song from New Mexico written to mobilize *acequeros* in defense of their culture and their water:

<p><i>Canción de las acequias /</i>  <i>Ya viene amaneciendo</i>  <i>yo sigo trabajando</i>  <i>para mantener</i>  <i>lo que yo quiero tanto...</i></p>	<p>Song of the Acequias  the sun is just coming up  and I am already working  to maintain that which  love so much...</p>
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Following the Jornada, the New Mexico delegation was honored again at a luncheon, this time hosted by Antonio Costa Magraner, President of the Acequia Real del Júcar, at the El Forcat Restaurante. Representatives from the Tribunal de las Aguas were also present, making for lively conversations among this mixed group of acequeros from the Comunidad de Valencia and Nuevo México. At the invitation of President Costa Magraner, the NMAA delegates walked briskly to the headquarters office of the Acequia Real del Júcar where they were greeted by the Administrative Secretary who presented a brief history along with a powerpoint depicting the diversions on the Río del Júcar, the service area of its lateral acequias, crops cultivated, and other information. After this orientation, he led the New Mexico delegation on a tour of the Presidencia (Office of the President), Secretaría (Office of the Secretary), Sala de Juntas (Meeting Hall), Salón de Actos (Ceremonial Hall), as well as the Biblioteca (Library) and Archivo (Archives). One item that caught the attention of the delegates was a historical map mounted on a wall depicting the territory irrigated by the original “Real Azequia de Alzira” founded and constructed by Conquistador Don Rey Jaime in 1239. After periods of expansion, the current service area of the Acequia Real del Júcar now comprises twenty communities and numerous acequias along the way.

For the remainder of the Revisit to Valencia, the New Mexico delegation toured the huertas in different parts of the Vega de Valencia guided by officials from the Tribunal de las Aguas and other affiliated institutions of Valencia. Over countless centuries, an intricate, gravity-fed irrigation system has watered the Vega, a vast and fertile coastal plain that supplies year-round crops to all of Spain. For the first time since arrival at the Valencia airport, the NMAA group observed the acequias at the edge of Valencia as well as the rice fields of *L'Albufera de Valencia*, south of the city. The visit to the Albufera, a lake with rice paddies drained from the Río del Júcar, was hosted by Vicent Sales Martínez, President of the Fundación Assut, and included a boat tour along the lake shore and some of its channels. The lake is also known as the *Parc Natural de L'Albufera* and is protected by the Regional Government of Valencia in partnership with the Fundación Assut. The tour included a stop at a family-owned rice plant with piles of rice on hand ready to be taken to processing sheds nearby to be sold under labels associated with S.A.T. Muceval (*Sociedad Agraria de Transformación MUCEVAL*). This enterprise designates a family business in operation for nearly one hundred years dedicated to the cultivation of traditional varieties of rice grown and harvested in fields of the Albufera. After the day's journey to the Albufera, the New Mexico delegates and Luis Pablo Martínez walked to the town of Palmar for a paella dinner at Bon Aire café before returning by bus to Valencia.

Huertas on the itinerary included the service areas irrigated by the Acequia Rascanya and the Acequia Mestalla, a special tour arranged and led by Enrique Aguilar, former President of the Tribunal and a current Síndico of the Acequia Rascanya. At one point, he led the NMAA group to a huerta of newly planted row crops currently under irrigation. Here, the acequero in charge explained how the system worked and addressed questions raised by the group. Compared to the earthen ditches of New Mexico, the infrastructure in the huertas of Valencia has been modernized over centuries using concrete and other hardened materials. The New Mexico group marveled at the extensive territory where acequias and their network of laterals distribute water to the fields sometimes in parallel with local roadways. The tour included stops at two museums featuring artifacts from early huerta irrigation and farming in the Vega de Valencia: Museu de L'Horta and the Agromuseu D Vera. The delegation was impressed with the way governmental institutions and civil society have preserved the cultural patrimony associated with acequias by way of heritage museums and archives that house old documents.

After the tour ended, the NMAA presented Enrique Aguilar with a New Mexican retablo as a gift to the Tribunal, and other retablos to be delivered to the Acequia Real del Júcar and the Real Acequia de la Moncada. Next, Paula García read a Declaration of Alliance prepared by the NMAA for the 2019 Revisit in commemoration of the hermanamiento signed in September of 2014 during the first encounter between the acequias of Valencia and the NMAA when Enrique Aguilar had been President of the Tribunal de las Aguas. This impromptu event and reading of the NMAA declaration was held at the Puerta de los Apóstoles, Catedral de Valencia, with tourists and other pedestrians in the vicinity curiously observing the exchange underway and some taking photographs. The closing statements of the declaration affirm that the NMAA supports the Actos de Conmemoración held on the 26th of September 2019 at the Plaza de la Virgen in Valencia, and furthermore, the NMAA commits to a continuation of solidarity and the mutual interchange of solutions for the “protection of our water and acequias, the cultivation of good and healthy food for our families and communities, and to honor our cultural heritage.”

*DECLARAMOS nuestro apoyo y solidaridad, acompañándoles en los actos de conmemoración en la mañana del jueves 26 de septiembre de 2019 en la plaza de la Virgen de la ciudad de Valencia.*

*COMPROMETEMOS a continuar y promover nuestro intercambio para definir y solucionar los desafíos que afrontamos y para cumplir nuestra misión "de proteger el agua y nuestras acequias, cultivar comida sana y buena para nuestras familias y comunidades y honrar nuestra herencia cultural."*

For a different experience, Luis Pablo Martínez organized a visit by train to a village outside the city in the region of La Safor, near the towns of Oliva and Gandia, called Potries. He selected this location since the irrigation system was small-scale, comparable to those of New Mexico, and it serves as a living water landscape with a distinctively Muslim-Arabic past. The Mayor of Potries, Assumpta Domínguez Medina, met the New Mexico delegation at the train station and provided vans courtesy of the Ayuntamiento de Potries to transport the group to the Town Hall. She welcomed the



group inside the Town Hall followed by a tour of “*La Ruta del Agua*,” a mapped water route for use by visitors to Potries. The excursion, led by the mayor and a guide, took the group along key elements of a historical irrigation infrastructure that diverts water from the Río Serpis, a natural landscape protected by the Valencian regional government. Along the route are remains of a water well and public laundry into a ditch, all within the town, followed later by a water divider, a water leveler, a flume and the remains of a water wheel, ending up at another divider, Patidor D’Aigua named Casa Clara, that divides water flow to *Séquia Comuna Gandia* and *Séquia Comuna Oliva*. Adjacent to the divider was a fruit orchard irrigated by a lateral called the *Fila de la Campina*.

The tour also included a stop at the Museo Etnológico Angel Domínguez, a museum displaying the history of pottery production, an important industry of the town in ancient times. The tour of the museum was extensive as the NMAA group followed a guide into several rooms and structures used in the production of ceramic pots, vases, bowls, water jugs and other household objects. While inside the museum, Luis Pablo Martínez informed the mayor about the acequia landscapes of New Mexico by showing “*Acequias del Norte*,” a DVD documentary featuring acequias affiliated with the NMAA. Interviews with Paula García and José Rivera appear in the video along with other individuals from New Mexico. After the events of the day were concluded, Mayor Assumpta Domínguez graciously hosted a dinner for the NMAA delegates at a restaurant, El Molí Canyar, formerly an ancient Aynat *molino* (water mill) dating to the fifteenth century. And as was already the custom, the dinner concluded with spirited acequia music by Jeremías Martínez on guitar and David García on his accordion. For the *despedida*, the mayor walked the group to a flowing acequia on the side and rear of the restaurant. Here, Paula and Joaquín danced as Jeremías and David played the *Canción de la Acequia* for the last time. When done, the mayor applauded and thanked the NMAA for visiting Potries before boarding the vans headed back to the train station for the return trip to Valencia.

On the last day of the itinerary, Monday September 30, the early birds of the NMAA group were taken by Luis Pablo Martínez to observe a 5:30 am opening of a special market known as *La Tira de Contar* at the installations of *Mercavalencia*, a place where huerta farmers sell their fresh produce directly to buyers from restaurants, grocery stores and other vendors every morning. The gathering also provides a forum where the growers can discuss and compare notes regarding threats against huerta agriculture in these modern times. The NMAA group was provided with neon vests designating them as official guests of La Tira de Contar. In the late morning the same day, others from the NMAA delegation traveled to the *Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingeniería Agrónoma y del Medio Natural* (Technical Graduate School of Agronomy and Environment) at the [Universitat Politècnica de València](#) (Polytechnic University of Valencia, UPV). Here they met with Gloria Bigné Baguena, coordinator and chair of the department of *Tierra Ciudadana*, who described environmental projects underway at UPV to promote sustainable uses of public spaces of Valencia. When the discussion was completed, she led the New Mexico group to a conference room to meet with Professor José María García where he explained the process he and other collaborators had followed nominating the Huerta of Valencia as a GIAHS site

(Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems). He offered this information in the event that the New Mexico acequias, through the NMAA, would like to submit a nomination file to the GIAHS. Professor García noted that the acequias of New Mexico were good prospects to receive GIAHS recognition due to the earthen ditches still in use and importantly, how the acequia canals continue to be cleaned out by use of *palas* (shovels) and community labor, features not preserved in Spain. After the session adjourned, Professors García and Bigné walked with the NMAA group to a campus café, the Tarongería, where more discussion took place at an outdoor table shaded by a tree.

\*For more information about the NMAA First Visit 2014 and the NMAA Revisit 2019 see: *Green Fire Times*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (February 2015) and *Green Fire Times*, Vol. 11, No. 8 (December 2019).

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### **Special recognition and credit for organizing the NMAA Revisit to Valencia 2019 goes to the following *Valencianos*:**

Luis Pablo Martínez from Alicante. He also coordinated the First Visit to Valencia in 2014 and presented a powerpoint lecture at an international symposium held in Las Cruces, New Mexico, March 2013, “Acequias and the Future of Resilience in Global Perspective”

Carlos Ortiz Mayordomo and Lina Gracia i Vicente from Elche. They also assisted with the First Visit to Valencia in 2014 and presented a powerpoint lecture at the international symposium held in Las Cruces, New Mexico, March 2013

Onofre Cubells Gimeno, President of the Tribunal de las Aguas de la Vega de Valencia. He hosted the September 2019 Revisit, assisted by Enrique Aguilar, past President of the Tribunal de las Aguas and host during the 2014 First Visit to Valencia

Javier Pastor Madalena, lawyer of the Tribunal de las Aguas. He planned and coordinated several events of the 2019 Revisit to Valencia along with Luis Pablo Martínez

### **NMAA delegates to the Valencia Revisit 2019**

Harold Trujillo, President, New Mexico Acequia Association; President, Acequia de la Isla; President, La Asociación de las Acequias del Valle de Mora

Paula García, Executive Director, New Mexico Acequia Association; Parciante, Acequia del Alto al Norte; Commissioner, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission

Lucille Trujillo, President, Acequia de la Joya; Treasurer, Acequia de los Lunas

Joaquín Romero, Parciante, Acequia del Alto al Norte; Member, Sembrando Semillas Youth Project

Stacey Talachy, Commissioner, Acequia de los Salazares; Tribal Member, Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo

David García Gallegos, Parciante, Acequia de los Salazares; NMAA Acequia Scholar 2016

Patricia Perea, Center for Regional Studies Associate; Visiting Lecturer, University of New Mexico

Jeremías Martínez, Hermano Mayor, Cofradía de Nuestro Padre Jesús Nazareno, Truchas, Nuevo México

Trini Baca Rivera, Office Administrator, University of New Mexico School of Engineering, Retired. She served as the volunteer photographer during the 2019 Revisit and created an archive of the itinerary downloaded to the NMAA main server

José Rivera, Professor Emeritus, Community and Regional Planning, and Research Associate, Center for Regional Studies, University of New Mexico. He served as the New Mexico contact person in setting up the itineraries for the 2014 First Visit and the 2019 Revisit to Valencia. For Valencia, the main contact person was Luis Pablo Martínez.

### **Selected Photographs**

Below are numerous photographs taken during each of the two visits, starting with those from September 2014 and followed by those taken in September 2019. The captions provide reference points as to locations, events, and other useful information. Credits are noted in each case with initials:

LPM, Luis Pablo Martínez

AL, Armando Lamadrid

SM, Santiago Maestas

TBR, Trini Baca Rivera

MG, Moises Gonzales

JR, José Rivera



**September 2014 First Visit:** Water Court in session with New Mexico delegation as special guests situated in the perimeter of the Cathedral portico. Photo by LPM.



Water Court Síndicos deliberating a case of rule violations by an acequia irrigator standing in front of them. AL Photo



NMAA Secretary Don Busto with the Medal of Honor. AL Photo



NMAA Secretary Don Bustos signs the Libro de Oro with Enric Aguilar the Tribunal President as witness. AL Photo



End of Water Court session. NMAA officers Martha Trujillo, Santiago Maestas, and Don Bustos next to Professors José Rivera and Thomas Glick, flanked by Water Court Judges. AL Photo.



Tribunal President Enric Aguilar presents José Rivera with a book about the history of the Tribunal de las Aguas at a reception held at the Tribunal conference room following the water court session. Other NM delegates also received copies.



Don Bustos reading the Hermanamiento Declaration at the University of Valencia and preparing to sign. TBR Photo



Conclusion of the Hermanamiento ceremony with signing of the Declaration by acequia officers from Valencia and New Mexico. TBR Photo



Field tour of the Albufera with end of the boat ride at the lake. LPM Photo





Bike ride tour along a Valencia acequia. MG Photo



End of bike ride with a meal hosted by the Acequia Moncada. SM Photo



**September 2019 Revisit:** Paula García and Harold Trujillo of NMAA honored as guests of the Tribunal de las Aguas. TBR Photo



Harold Trujillo, Paula García and the Alguacil of the Tribunal. TBR Photo



NMAA delegation at the Río Turia fountain of acequias. TBR Photo



NMAA Panel at the University of Valencia with moderator Luis Pablo Martínez. JR Photo



Field tour of huertas irrigated by Acequia Rascayna and hosted by regante in charge. TBR Photo



Irrigation underway during field tour of Acequia Rascanya. JR Photo



Field tour of the Albufera Natural Park and rice farms. TBR Photo



Boat ride by NMAA delegates on way to rice farms at Albufera Park. JR Photo



Rice plant with piles of rice ready for processing at a family owned enterprise on the Albufera. TBR Photo



Field tour of La Ruta del Agua (The Water Route) at Potries, a municipality a short train ride from Valencia in the region of La Safor near Gandia and Oliva. JR Photo



NMAA delegation at Casa Clara Partidor at Potries taking water to *Séquia Comuna Gandia* and *Séquia Comuna Oliva*. TBR Photo



La despedida at end of Potries tour by David García and Jeremías Martínez singing "*Canción de la Acequia*." TBR Photo