

Message from the Executive Director

Looking back on 2006, all of us at Amigos Bravos and the Coalition for the Valle Vidal are tremendously heartened by the outpouring of support from our members and allies throughout New Mexico and the nation. What a year this has been! As I write, Congressman Tom Udall's legislation granting permanent protection from oil and gas drilling in the 100,000 acre Valle Vidal has passed the U.S. Senate and awaits the President's signature.

In addition, Amigos Bravos was successful in getting approval for the reintroduction of river otters to New Mexico's rivers, filed notice of intent to sue Los Alamos National Laboratory for its history of toxic discharges, aggressively defended the Clean Water Act in the face of Bush administration rollbacks, argued forcefully for recycling mine water and early reclamation of MolyCorp's waste-rock piles, organized farmers in Albuquerque's South Valley, achieved major concessions on several local, state and national wastewater discharge permits, advocated for a strong 'public welfare' statement in the Taos Regional Water Plan, and organized several volunteer work weekends to restore the upper Red River from the impacts of motorized recreation.

Most importantly, we educated the public, media, and decision-makers regarding the importance of protecting New Mexico's rivers, while at the same time we assisted over thirty groups and individuals to protect rivers in their communities.

We move forward into 2007 with tremendous enthusiasm and hope for the future. The combination of momentum, inspiration, and community support are providing us with the will and courage to take on some of the most critical issues for the health and sustainability of New Mexico's rivers.

At a November 27th hearing before Governor Bill Richardson's transition team on environment and energy, Amigos Bravos identified the following key points that we would like the state to take on over the next four years:

Issue 1: Ensure New Mexico's water supply for future economic vitality while protecting the environment and preserving the State's diverse customs and cultures

- In New Mexico, all of our communities depend on a sustainable supply of clean water for their future economic vitality. If we are to avoid concentrating economic resources in a few metropolitan areas while sacrificing our rivers and rural communities, we must recognize that there is not enough water to keep growing as we have – *the time has come to set real limits on both growth and water use.* The Governor should set up a special inter-disciplinary task force to develop policies that will sustain, protect, and restore the state's water resources. At a minimum, the task force should include representatives of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department, New Mexico Environment Department, and the Office of the State Engineer/Interstate Stream Commission (OSE/ISC).
- Ideally, the Governor should elevate water to a Cabinet level position that will provide a check and balance on the policies and actions of state agencies that

—continued on page 6

Victory in Northern New Mexico! **Valle Vidal Permanently Protected From Oil and Gas Development**

*—Jim O'Donnell,
Outreach Coordinator,
Coalition for the Valle Vidal*

We won.

On the morning of November 17, 2006, we awoke to find the high mountain meadows, grassy slopes, phenomenal vistas, and sustainable economic opportunities afforded us by the Valle Vidal permanently protected from oil and gas development by an act of Congress.

Environmental and community victories are few and far between these days. Particularly so the past six years as the Bush Administration has supported the oil and gas industry in its assault on our land, air, and water. But we now have something to celebrate.

Representative Tom Udall's Valle Vidal Protection Act of 2005 will protect the Valle Vidal by withdrawing the area from mineral leasing. It reads:

"...the Valle Vidal Unit of the Carson National Forest in New Mexico, which consists of 101,794 acres and is identified as Management Area 21 in the land and resource management plan for the Carson National Forest, is hereby withdrawn from (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

—continued on page 8

Water Monitoring for Acequias in Bernalillo County

First-ever water sampling of *acequias* in Bernalillo County indicates the presence of *E. coli*. The most contaminated site tested, the San Jose Drain exceeded water quality standards for *E. coli* and mercury and reference dose levels for semi-organic volatile compounds found in soil samples.

The sampling was done in response to testimony provided by South Valley residents on surface water quality standards during the Triennial Review held before the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) in 2004. Residents testified that they had witnessed people swimming in the Río Grande and *acequias* that run through Bernalillo County and requested that the WQCC change the designated use of this reach of the river from secondary to primary contact. South Valley residents were also concerned about the quality of water, in the *acequias*, and possible exposure of swimmers to contaminants, especially pesticides.

Amigos Bravos assisted South Valley residents with the identification of issues and preparation of submittals for the Triennial Review. The change in designation from secondary to primary contact, to account for the true uses for the Río Grande, was subsequently approved by the WQCC the same year.

In response to these concerns, and the finding that there had been no prior sampling of *acequias* in Bernalillo County, South Valley Partners for Environmental Justice (SVPEJ) worked in collaboration with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Surface Water Quality Bureau to sample eight sites along *acequias* in the North and South Valley of Bernalillo County. The sites were selected by community residents based on their familiarity with existing and prior land uses and potential contaminants.

—continued on page 7

Welcome Back Otters!

WE WERE SUCESSFUL! The Game Commission voted on August 24th to bring river otters back to New Mexico by fall of 2007.

Thank you and congratulations to all our members and supporters for writing letters to the NM Game Commission in support of river otter restoration in New Mexico. Your efforts paid off!

Amigos Bravos is now working with New Mexico Friends of River Otters (Amigos Bravos is a founding member) and the Department of Game and Fish to raise money to purchase otters and pay for their transportation and release. If you would like to help with this effort, please send a donation to the address below.

There has been no confirmed evidence of river otters in the state since 1953. River otters historically inhabited several river systems in New Mexico, including the Gila, Upper and Middle Río Grande, Mora, San Juan, and Canadian River drainages. Over-trapping of otters for their pelts was a major factor in the disappearance of otters from the state.

The Game Commission reviewed a feasibility study on otter restoration prepared by the Department of Game and Fish with assistance from the New Mexico Friends of River Otters. The feasibility study evaluated six river reaches in detail—the Upper Río Grande, White Rock Canyon, and Middle Río Chama in the Río Grande Basin; and the Upper Gila, Lower Gila, and Lower San Francisco in the Gila Basin—and found that all six are potentially suitable for otter restoration. The feasibility study looked at 10 factors when determining whether river systems were suitable for otter restoration: potential for natural recolonization, river miles of suitable contiguous habitat, human activity and land management, water quantity, prey availability, water quality, riparian habitat, stream structure, potential for connectivity, and potential for threatened, endangered and sensitive species conflicts.

The Game Commission, after reviewing the feasibility study, directed the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to initiate two simultaneous restoration projects in the Upper Río Grande and the Upper Gila river systems with the goal of releasing otters in the Fall of 2007.

Amigos Bravos is thrilled that over five years of work has resulted in this huge step forward towards restoring the river otter to New Mexico's rivers. If all goes well, we will soon see our playful, furbearing friend once again diving and swimming in our rivers. But before that can happen, we need help paying for the otters and their transportation. If you would like to help, please send donations made out to New Mexico Friends of River Otters at:

New Mexico Friends of River Otters
c/o Amigos Bravos
P.O. Box 238, Taos, NM 87571 *



Otter Frosted Face © Diane Hargrave

Holding LANL Accountable

On May 23rd 2006, Amigos Bravos and five other community organizations took the decisive step to file a historic 60-Day Notice of Intent to Sue Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) for Clean Water Act violations. In early December, we will re-file the Notice in order to include current LANL management. The new Notice will also incorporate several more community organizations among those seeking to hold LANL accountable for six decades of toxic discharges that threaten the environment and public health.

Filing a 60-Day Notice is the first step in the Citizen Suit process of the Clean Water Act, which allows citizens to act when polluters and public agencies fail to act. If LANL does not begin to resolve the problems, we will move to the next step, which is an actual suit against LANL management (past and present). The original 60-Day Notice is available at www.nuclearactive.org; the re-filed Notice will also be available at this site.

The goal of our actions is to get a stringent cleanup plan for LANL in place, to support the Consent Order requiring “fence-to-fence” cleanup of the lab (which LANL agreed to in 2005), to strengthen the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) oversight and regulation of LANL, and to require that LANL comply with existing state and federal regulations for Best Management Practices and improve and increase its monitoring program.

Amigos Bravos and its partners seek fundamental change at LANL and the NMED regarding effective monitoring and mitigation of current and legacy waste. This is a key issue necessary to end all discharges from LANL and effect complete cleanup of the LANL site in accordance with the Consent Order.

Community Organizing

Amigos Bravos is implementing a far-reaching effort to educate and mobilize affected communities, which began in early 2006 with the formation of LANL Water Watch, an organization of community groups concerned with the impact of LANL activities on the Río Grande and our drinking water.

There have been several community meetings in 2006, culminating in a series of meetings with local Pueblo governments. Pueblos bordering LANL are concerned with health problems they feel are attributable to pollution coming from LANL. They are also concerned that toxics and radionuclides have harmed plants and waters they use for sacred purposes.

Cities along the Río Grande are beginning to use the river for drinking water and many people fish and swim in the Río Grande watershed. There is still a great deal of agricultural activity, most of it small farming, that depends on irrigation from the river through traditional *acequia* systems.

As Amigos Bravos and other members of LANL Water Watch get information about LANL’s toxic legacy out to the public, there is growing concern about the environmental and public health implications of LANL’s nuclear weapons and related work. This has increased the number of community organizations signing on to the new 60-Day Notice to hold LANL accountable and to support the

Consent Order; the groups and individuals include:

- Amigos Bravos
- Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
- Embudo Valley Environmental Monitoring Group
- Tewa Women United
- Rio Grande Restoration
- Partnership for Earth Spirituality
- Don Gabino Andrade Community Acequia Association
- New Mexico Acequia Association
- SouthWest Organizing Project

Amigos Bravos Joins Lawsuit to Stop Special Interest Clean Water Act Exemptions

In October, Amigos Bravos joined a lawsuit to challenge the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) relaxation of Clean Water Act stormwater pollution controls for oil and gas activities. Other petitioners in the lawsuit include the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the Oil and Gas Accountability Project (OGAP), and Powder River Basin Resource Council.

Across the West, pollution in the form of sediment is impacting many of our rivers and streams. Construction activities such as building roads, installing pipelines, and clearing swaths of land for drill pads disturbs the land. The exposed bare soil is subsequently in danger of being eroded through storm events, eventually ending up in our rivers and streams. Sediment smothers fish habitat, clogs irrigation structures, and increases treatment costs for downstream users.

Under EPA’s action, oil and gas companies no longer have to comply with fundamental clean water protections that everyone else must follow. The steps to control erosion and runoff of sediment from drill pads and roads are simple and inexpensive. Yet, EPA has removed the legal requirements to ensure that companies put these controls in place. Amigos Bravos hopes that this lawsuit will result in the reversal of EPA’s action. *

-
- Gilbert Sanchez
 - Kathy Sanchez

Evading the Consent Order

On June 1, 2006, a new management group took over LANL. The group, which is called Los Alamos National Security (LANS), is headed by Bechtel Corporation. It includes two other nuclear facilities contractors, BWXT and Washington Group

—continued on page 4

LANL

—continued from page 3

International, as well as the lab's original manager, the Regents of the University of California.

Bechtel is a private-sector contracting corporation with a tainted international reputation in water issues and rebuilding Iraq. Bechtel's attempt to privatize water in Bolivia created a revolution that ousted both Bechtel and the President of Bolivia. In April 2006, DOE fined Bechtel for violations of DOE nuclear safety requirements at the Hanford site, located on the Columbia River in Washington state. There is widespread concern regarding health and safety in New Mexico in the hands of the Bechtel Corporation.

Recently, Environment Secretary Curry said there were new developments that led him to believe that the new LANL management, LANS, was trying to avoid fulfilling the obligations of the Consent Order. The Order defines the relationship between NMED and LANL and determines the schedule and processes to be followed in order to get environmental cleanup of LANL.

The Environment Secretary said that Department of Energy officials in Washington DC told him that LANS had discussed the possibility of renegotiating the Consent Order, signed just last year.

Curry also said that EPA officials in the regional office in Dallas had discussed the possibility of bypassing the NMED by having EPA declare LANL a Superfund site, removing LANL from state supervision. Secretary Curry said that LANL officials denied both of these reports.

In addition, LANL has apparently stopped work on the RACER project, which the lab introduced in 2003 in order to create a common system of monitoring and reporting environmental problems and to increase public involvement in evaluating environmental risks. The project contractor confirmed Curry's statement, saying that the new LANL management has

Welcome to IT and Database Manager Kenneth Seal

Amigos Bravos is happy to welcome Kenneth Seal, our new IT (information technology) and Database Manager. Ken is responsible for managing, updating, troubleshooting, and maintaining all forms of technology used at Amigos Bravos' two offices. His focus is on ensuring that our technology allows us to communicate in the most effective ways possible within the organization as well as to our members, the media, the public, and decision-makers. Ken is also responsible for maintaining a secure document backup and retrieval system for the organization's records and he has primary responsibility for the organization's membership database, including maintenance of accurate membership and financial records, and the production of accurate reports. Ken will be further developing, cultivating, assessing, and managing an active and engaged membership base via individual and business membership solicitation, direct mail campaigns, special appeals, and web-based action alerts.

In addition to his professional experience in the area of information technology, Ken brings a science background to Amigos Bravos. He is a graduate of Texas Tech University, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and is near completion of a Masters of Science in Chemistry. He has two years experience doing field research in Big Bend National Park, where he studied nutrient cycles and how they are impacted by pollution. His most recent work was in the field of biotechnology, including biomedical research. Ken will be providing additional expertise to science-related decisions at Amigos Bravos.

Ken is a native of Dalhart, Texas, which is located in the northwest corner of the Texas Panhandle, thirty miles east of the New Mexico-Texas border. Ken describes himself as an "avid outdoor enthusiast" in the areas of cycling, backpacking, and skiing.

Of his new position he says, "I'm thrilled about the opportunity to work for Amigos Bravos because Amigos Bravos is focused on preserving nature by preserving rivers. At Amigos Bravos we are working to keep detrimental human impacts at bay." Ken is married to Starla Graham, a high school English teacher who shares his interest in protecting and supporting a vital river ecology. *

questioned the value of the project and wants to end community involvement.

Citizen Action

LANL management has a long history of ignoring the environmental consequences of its nuclear weapons work. In the first years of LANL activity, in the mid-1940s, LANL scientists warned management that dumping toxic radioactive and chemical wastes into the canyons below the lab threatened the regional aquifer and the Río Grande. Management did nothing. Now, new LANL management is seeking to avoid the Consent Order with New Mexico to clean up its mess.

Amigos Bravos' collaborative work focusing on Clean Water Act violations opens the door for New Mexicans to take an active role in securing clean water for their communities, their children, and the Río Grande watershed by holding LANL accountable for its historic and on-going toxic and radionuclide discharges and dumping:

- LANL's activities are threatening our drinking water.
- LANL's activities are threatening agricultural and cultural uses of water.
- LANL's activities are threatening public health.
- LANL has the ability to clean up its mess and be a good neighbor: "The World's Greatest Science Protecting America".

If you or your organization would like to express support for the work of LANL Water Watch, please sign onto the Shared Statement of Values. Contact Amigos Bravos at PO Box 238 / Taos NM 87571 or (505) 758-3874. *

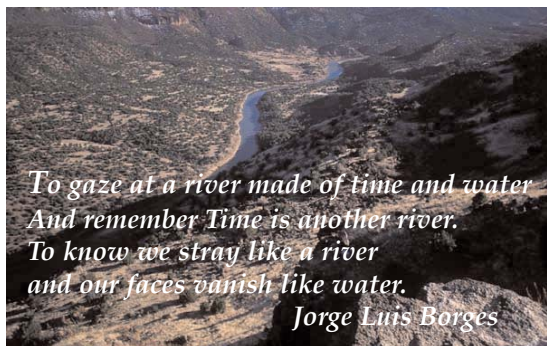
Calendar of Events:

- January 12 (Friday)** **New Mexico Water Dialogue, 13th Annual Statewide Meeting: "Water Planning - So What?"**, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Albuquerque, <http://nmwaterdialogue.org>
- January 18-20 (Thurs.-Sun.)** **The Quivira Coalition's 6th Annual Conference, *Fresh Eyes on the Land: Innovation and the Next Generation***, register at www.quiviracoalition.org
- February 1-2 (Thurs.-Fri.)** **Law of the Rio Grande: *New Perspectives in Changing Times, From the Rio de las Palmas to Today's River: How Far We've Come***, Eldorado Hotel and Spa, Santa Fe, register at www.cle.com
- June 30 (Saturday)** **Taos Land Trust's *Art in Adventures Auction***, Taos Convention Center

Amigos Bravos' Capital Reserve Fund is our insurance against hard times. The Capital Reserve Fund is money set aside to ensure that the organization can survive cash flow shortages in the annual operating budget. It can only be accessed for certain purposes, such as meeting payroll or for emergency capital outlay. There are strict guidelines on when and how money from the fund can be used. Any use of money from the Fund requires approval from the Board of Directors. This Fund is a hedge against hard times, ensuring that Amigos Bravos will stay healthy and able to pursue its mission.

Our Capital Reserve account was opened in March 1998 with a \$15,000 grant from the Ruth Mott Fund. Thanks to the many generous contributions of our members, including a recent one from Allen and Mary Anne Sanborn and Paul and Dawn Fleischer, the interest-bearing account now has a balance of \$69,688. Our goal is to have \$150,000 in the account by the end of 2007. Please consider making a contribution to the Capital Reserve Fund. *

**By including Amigos Bravos in your will...
...you could protect a river for years**



CONFIDENTIAL REPLY

To explore a bequest to Amigos Bravos, please complete this form and return it, marked confidential, to Brian Shields, Executive Director, Amigos Bravos.

- I have included Amigos Bravos in my will.
- Please send information on how to include Amigos Bravos in my will.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Telephone _____ Best time to call _____

**Help us save the Río Grande
Join Amigos Bravos!**

- \$25 General Membership \$100 River Protector
- \$35 River Steward \$125 Business Member
- \$50 River Defender \$250 River Guardian
- \$75 River Advocate \$500 River Angel

I want to make a donation to the **Amigos Bravos Capital Reserve Fund**.

Amigos Bravos is a 501 (c)(3) organization.
Your membership donation is fully tax-deductible.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Charge my credit card: VISA MasterCard

Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Mail to: Amigos Bravos, P.O. Box 238, Taos, NM 87571

505-758-3874 • Fax 505-758-7345

email: bravos@amigosbravos.org • www.amigosbravos.org

have an impact on water use.

- State-funded water infrastructure projects can have cumulative detrimental impacts on social, cultural, economic and environmental values. To fully understand and mitigate these impacts, the Governor should issue an executive order requiring state agencies to undertake a state National Environmental Policy Act-type of review prior to funding major state water projects.
- Above all we must ensure there are opportunities for full public participation in the decision-making process – especially in decisions made by the OSE/ISC (an agency notorious for working in isolation). We cannot afford to have exemptions to this principal – such as expedited marketing. Moreover, the Public Welfare criteria as defined in the individual Regional Water Plans, rather than terms set by the open market, must be what will determine the highest and best use of water. To best decide what is in the public welfare in controversial water transfers and in situations where the interests of different water planning regions conflict, we recommend that a stand-alone Public Welfare Division be established within the Office of the State Engineer.

Issue 2: Protect New Mexico's limited water resources.

- Recent decisions by the US Supreme Court have eroded the coverage of the Clean Water Act, and have placed waters on as much as 40% of the land mass of New Mexico at risk for unregulated dumping. Waters that were historically protected by the Clean Water Act are no longer receiving federal protection. To restore historical protections and to insure that all waters of the state are protected from unregulated dumping and pollution, we recommend that the

State establish a state permit program. This state permit program could take a number of forms:

1. Where federal protections are lost (such as Clean Water Act Section 402 and 404 protection in isolated waters), the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) should develop a state regulatory safety net permit program. The EPA could continue to run the NPDES (wastewater and stormwater discharge) program for waters of the US; or,
 2. The State should assert primacy over the NPDES (402) program, and ensure that the state program applies to all waters of New Mexico. Concurrently, the State should establish a safety net 404 (dredge and fill) program.
- By far the biggest and most detrimental impact to our water resources is from non-point source pollution. The State must recognize that water pollution removes huge quantities of water from the water supply. This fact is especially important given the projected impacts from Global Warming. To counter loss of water from pollution and move toward the complete cessation of non-point source impacts, we recommend the State institute a “no-net-loss-of-water” policy. To begin to achieve this we recommend five crucial actions:
 1. Institute a mandatory Best Management Practices (BMP) program to stop non-point source pollution (at the moment BMPs are voluntary and are not resulting in significant water quality improvements)
 2. Ban uranium mining and milling (as has been done by our neighbors the Navajo Nation)
 3. Develop guidelines for the conservation and recycling of water used in industrial practices (such as by the mining, oil and gas, coal and computer chip industries)
 4. Develop and implement water quality standards for pharmaceuticals and personal care products.
 5. Apply the precautionary principle in developing and applying water quality standards.
 - The state's rivers and watersheds are under unprecedented pressure from Global Warming, drought, urban and rural sprawl, mechanized recreation, municipal diversions, and increased water use, to name a few factors. We recommend that the State create several staff positions in one or more agencies to perform an ecological assessment of the state's rivers and to develop goals for their restoration and protection.
 - Pollution from the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) may be the single greatest threat to the future water supply of Santa Fe and Albuquerque. To counter this threat, the State must take several immediate steps. Those steps include: aggressive assertion of state authority over discharges from LANL (through more enforcement at LANL by NMED); the provision of adequate funding for the Hazardous Waste Bureau and NMED DOE Oversight Bureau; and, work with the New Mexico Congressional Delegation to ensure that Department Of Energy meets its clean up commitments under the March 2005 Consent Order.

In 2007, as we celebrate our nineteenth year, we will diligently advocate for these state actions while moving forward on our own core projects.

Thank you for your support. With Best Wishes for the New Year,



Victory in Northern New Mexico!

—continued from page 1

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and (3) operation of the mineral leasing and geo-thermal leasing laws and mineral materials laws.”

It is a very simple law. The Act does not effect the management of the area in any other way. As we have said for the past several years, the Forest Service has done a generally outstanding job at restoring and managing the Valle Vidal over the past twenty years. While challenges do remain, the Forest Service will now be allowed to continue that excellent work without the threat of oil and gas development hanging over their heads.

The battle over the Valle Vidal has highlighted yet more failings in our decrepit national energy policy. Communities such as ours should not be asked to needlessly sacrifice our most important landscapes (not to mention our water and air) to a failed oil and gas oligarchy. This battle has demonstrated the need for a comprehensive and responsible national energy policy that promotes aggressive development of clean energy resources and energy conservation. Such development would rapidly reduce the economic pressure to drill for natural gas, thereby slowing the rush on public lands such as the Valle Vidal, Otero Mesa, and the Roan Plateau in Colorado. Such a policy would likewise reduce air and water pollution, protect our recreation-based economies, and move our nation a step closer to energy independence.

The fossil fuel industry is standing in the way of our nation’s “Can Do” spirit and ability to solve this pressing energy problem. Its time they transform their focus to reversing global warming and developing clean and renewable energy. By doing so they will truly be working in the better interests of our nation.

Not Done Yet

We are not done yet. Our community still must work through the Forest Service amendment process to determine how the Valle Vidal will be managed into the future. The Coalition for the Valle Vidal will remain intimately involved in this process. We want to make sure that the values accorded the Valle Vidal throughout this process serve as the foundation for the Forest Service’s management plan. These values include:

- restoring and protecting the waters and watersheds of the Valle Vidal as they are the lifeblood of the land’s wildlife and our communities;
- maintaining the Valle Vidal as a vital resource in a sustainable future for northern New Mexico’s rural and agricultural communities;
- assuring that the Valle Vidal continues to provide unique recreational and sporting opportunities for families, hunters, anglers, boy scouts, and other outdoor enthusiasts;
- guaranteeing the Valle Vidal will continue to provide a home for abundant wildlife populations, and that the Valle Vidal be managed for the benefit of The People – all of the people.

It is important that the people of northern New Mexico remain involved in this process. The Forest Service will release its draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the area in early 2007. At that time you will have the opportunity to comment on that document and to tell the Forest Service how you would like to see the Valle Vidal managed. Please be sure to visit our website (www.vallevidal.org) at that time for information on how and where to submit your comments to the Forest Service. *

Water Monitoring for Acequias in Bernalillo

—continued from page 2

Three of the sites were sampled by NMED personnel, while the other sites were sampled by SVP EJ partners and *promotores* (community organizers). Separate samples were collected in spring, summer and fall.

Of the eight sites sampled, the San Jose Drain site, the Los Padillas Drain site, and the Albuquerque Riverside Drain site exceeded the New Mexico Administrative Code surface water quality standards for *E. coli* in the fall. The San Jose site also exceeded the *E. coli* standard in the spring. The San Jose for dissolved mercury in the fall.

There were no exceedances of any semi-volatile organics tested based on surface water quality standards. Soil samples from the San Jose Drain site exceeded the reference dose (RfD) levels set by EPA Integrated Risk Information System for three semi-volatile organic compounds. However, none of the soil samples collected exceeded the health-based screening levels established by NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau, the NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau Voluntary Remediation Program, and the NMED Superfund Section.

The San Jose Drain is part of the South Valley Superfund Site, which the New Mexico Environment Department has overseen since 1992. Recently, Amigos Bravos’ Albuquerque Projects Director, Lucy Sanchez, and South Valley Partners did site visits to industrial ditches feeding into the San Jose Drain and noticed apparent industrial discharges into the ditches. They will investigate this further with the NMED and Bernalillo County Environmental Health staff.

The full report of this water monitoring project can be obtained from the Bernalillo County, Office of Environmental Health at (505) 314-0310. *

Victory in NorthernNew Mexico!

THANK YOU. Without the incredible help and support of the people of Taos and Colfax Counties, the Valle Vidal would not be protected. Pat yourself on the back. You are the reason for this amazing victory. HUUUURAAAAHHHH!!!



Valle Vidal © Lea Morales

Page 8 - Fall-2006

P.O. Box 238 • Taos, NM 87571 • 505-758-3874 • FAX 758-7345 • email: bravos@amigosbravos.org • www.amigosbravos.org



*Friends of
the Wild
Rivers*

P.O. BOX 238 • TAOS, NM 87571

BULK PERMIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TAOS NM
NON-PROFIT
PERMIT NO. 70

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Board of Directors:

Mary Humphrey, *President*
Michael Coca, *Vice-President*
Jon Klingel, *Treasurer*
Tom Griego, *Secretary*
Don Bustos
Peggy Nelson
Roberto Vigil

The Staff:

Brian Shields, *Executive Director*
Rachel Conn, *Clean Water Circuit Rider
and Policy Analyst*
Linda Gomez, *Membership and Database Coordinator*
Michael Jensen, *Grants and Communications*
Kenneth Seal, *IT and Database Manager*
Lucy Sanchez, *Albuquerque Projects Director*
Betsy Wolf, *Administration and Publications*

OLIVIA OTTER

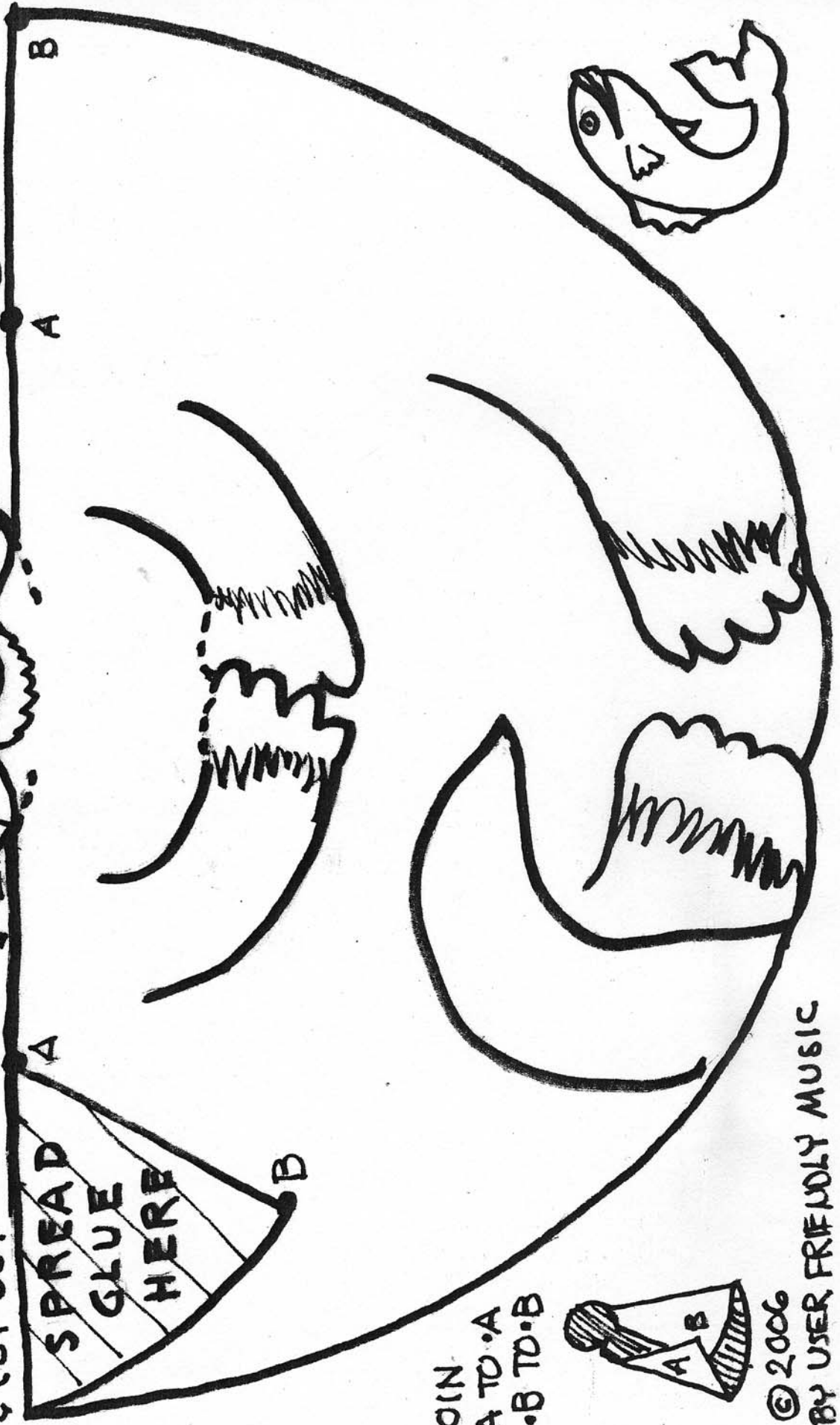


OCARINA

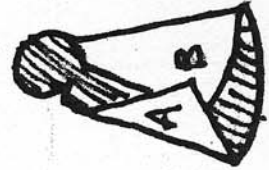
CUT
DOTTED
LINES

COLOR
& CUT OUT

SPREAD
GLUE
HERE



JOIN
•A TO •A
•B TO •B



© 2006
BY USER FRIENDLY MUSIC

PAPER DOLL PUPPETS is copyrighted by Taos composer Joanne Forman, whose idea it was from her puppeting days. Olivia Otter was drawn by Kristen Wolf.