

## **Aamodt Decision For Members of the Tesuque Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association**

- **What is the Aamodt Agreement and how does it impact the Tesuque MDWCA?**
  - The Aamodt Agreement is the outcome of a longstanding lawsuit between the Pueblos and non-Pueblo water users in the Pojoaque Basin. It establishes water rights for the Pueblo and non-Pueblo water users in the basin. It also provides for the building of a Regional Water System that is planned to serve the Pojoaque Basin. **Most importantly for Members of the Tesuque MDWCA the settlement creates an important decision by the Members on whether to remain independent or join the Regional Water System when it is available.**
- **What are the goals of the Settlement Agreement?**
  - Broadly, the goals of the Settlement Agreement are to resolve the Pueblos' water right claims while preserving existing non-Pueblo water uses. This goal is achieved by bringing more water into the Basin through the construction of a Regional water system for both Pueblos and non-Pueblo water users and protecting the surface waters and groundwater in the Basin. It also provides a timetable for an end to the Aamodt adjudication.
- **What is going on right now?**
  - The Settlement Agreement was approved by Congress and signed by the President in 2010. All the Settling Parties signed it in 2012. The Court is conducting the phase of the determination of the Pueblos' water rights in which the Court allows all other parties in the adjudication the opportunity to accept or object to the Pueblos' proposed water rights. After it hears the Objections, it will decide whether to enter the proposed Pueblos' Partial Final Decree based on the Settlement Agreement.
- **Why is a regional water system included in the Settlement?**
  - The regional water system is included in the Settlement Agreement in exchange for the Pueblos agreeing to reduce their claims to water within the Basin and to limit their priority calls against existing non-Pueblo water rights by bringing up to 4,000 acre feet per year (afy) (Pueblos 2500 afy + County Water System 1500 afy) into the Basin, the regional water system has made Settlement possible by making the "water pie" bigger. Without this additional water, dividing up the available local supplies would be very difficult and the Pueblos would not limit their in-Basin water rights claims.

This communication is part of the Board's ongoing effort to inform our Members on issues related to the potential impacts of the Aamodt Agreement.

**"Save the Date"**  
**TWA Annual Meeting, July 8, 2015 at Tesuque Elementary School 6PM.**

