



## Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service New Mexico State Office

100 Sun Avenue NE, Suite 602

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

(505) 761-4400

December 17, 2024

**SENT VIA USPS FIRST-CLASS MAIL**

**Subject:** Public Scoping Meeting Notice for the Supplemental Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment for the Upper Rio Penasco Sites 1, 2, & 3A Dam Rehabilitation Project, Otero County, New Mexico

Dear Resident,

The United States Department of Agriculture- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Otero Soil and Water Conservation District, as the project Sponsor, will be preparing a Supplemental Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (Supplemental Plan-EA) for the Upper Rio Penasco Sites 1, 2, and 3A Dam Rehabilitation Project in the Lincoln National Forest in Otero County, New Mexico (see enclosed maps). The Supplemental Plan-EA is being prepared and funded in accordance with the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL 83-566), which provides for cooperation between the Federal Government and the States and their political subdivisions to address resource concerns due to erosion, floodwater, and sediment and provide for improved utilization of the land and water resources. Presently, the NRCS and the Sponsor are initiating a scoping process to provide the community with an opportunity to comment on issues, potential impacts, or alternatives that you would like to see considered in the Supplemental Plan-EA.

This letter is to inform you that a Public Scoping Meeting will take place on **Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 6:30 PM** at the Mayhill Community Center in Mayhill, New Mexico. There will also be the option to attend virtually. Presentations will be given throughout the meeting to further describe the PL 83-566 Program, gather feedback from attendees, answer questions, and collect any written comments. Details about the Public Scoping Meeting can be found below:

**In-Person Public Scoping Meeting**

Mayhill Community Center  
15 Civic Center Drive  
Mayhill, New Mexico 88339

**Virtual Public Scoping Meeting**

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87934943843>

Meeting ID: 879 3494 3843  
Phone #: 1-719-359-4580

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**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

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Comments can be submitted in any one of the forms listed below. Comments can also be submitted even if you cannot attend the Public Scoping Meeting. However, all comments must be postmarked by **Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

- Submit written comments at the in-person Public Scoping Meeting
- Mail written comments to:  
USDA NRCS-New Mexico  
Attn: Merceidez Fabok  
100 Sun Avenue Northeast, Suite 602  
Albuquerque, NM 87109-3434
- Email your comments to: [Merceidez.Fabok@usda.gov](mailto:Merceidez.Fabok@usda.gov)

The goal of this project is to identify and evaluate alternatives to bring the dams at Sites 1, 2, and 3A into compliance with current NRCS and State of New Mexico dam safety standards. A website has been created for the project that will be used to provide updates as the Supplemental Plan-EA is being developed. The website can be found at the following link: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-and-flood-prevention-operations-wfpo-program/new-mexico/watershed> or via the QR Code below.



If you have any questions or comments, please contact Merceidez Fabok, Watershed Program Manager, by email at [Merceidez.Fabok@usda.gov](mailto:Merceidez.Fabok@usda.gov) or via phone at 505.761.4421.

Respectfully,

**ELIAS  
GNANN**

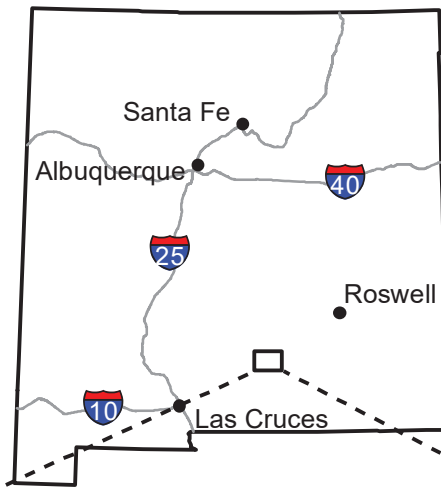
**Elias Gnann, P.E.**

*State Conservation Engineer*

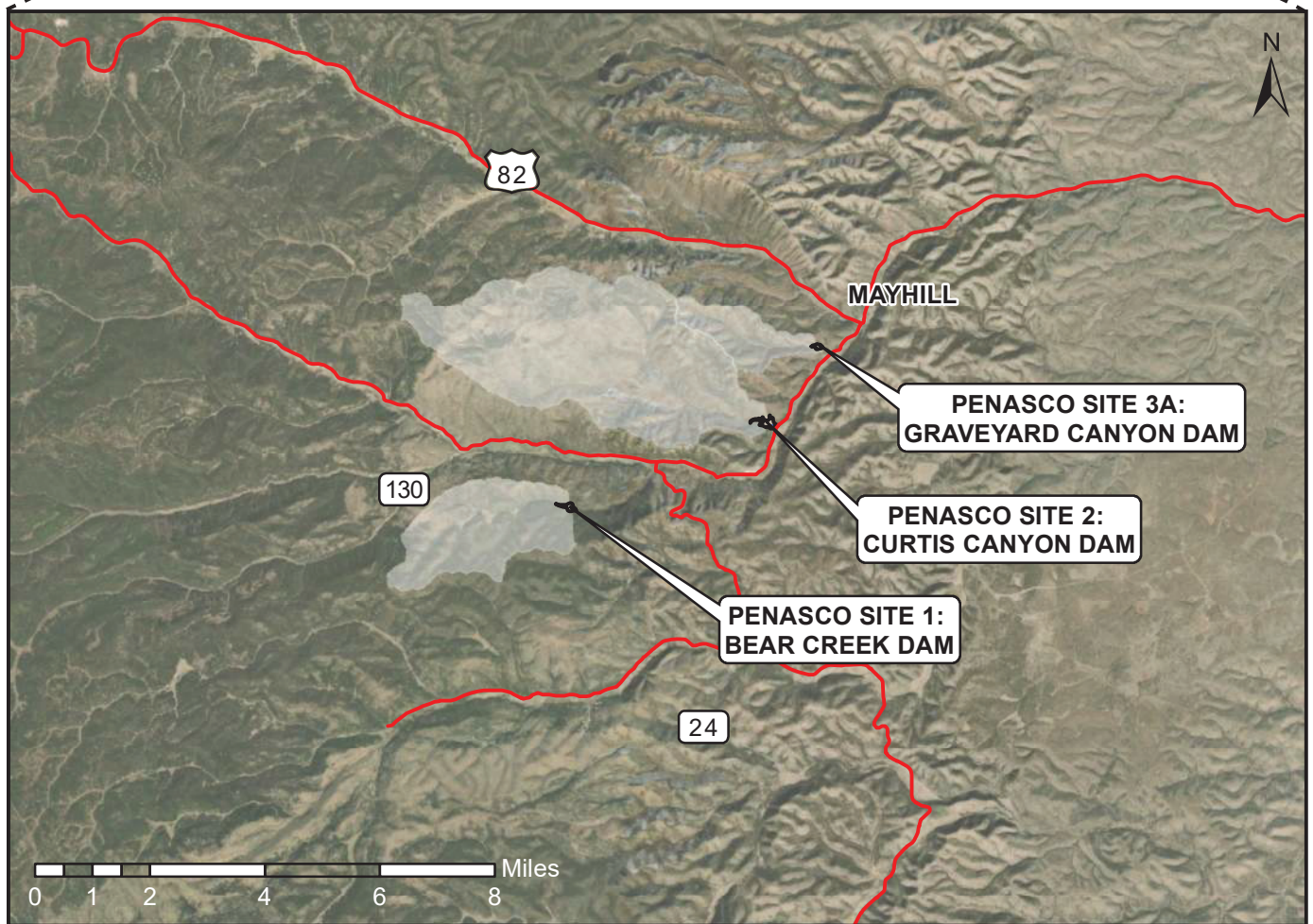
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Enclosure

- Project Map



PROJECT VICINITY MAP  
(NOT TO SCALE)



PROJECT LOCATION MAP



UPPER RIO PENASCO SITES  
1, 2, AND 3A SUPPLEMENTAL  
WATERSHED PLAN EA

PROJECT NO. 24116

SITE VICINITY MAP

Figure 1



