

Living Document and Disclaimer

The Phase IV report represents a compilation of information, data, analyses and ideas that were collection or formulated in Phases I through III of the Save Bosque Conceptual Restoration Plan for the San Acacia to San Marcial reach of the Rio Grande. Some of the concepts and analyses may have far-reaching implications with regard to difficult issues involving water depletions, State of New Mexico water delivery to Texas, upstream water reservoir operations, fire hazards, and endangered species. The report and analyses utilized the best data and information that was available; however, it is recognized that on-going research and potential political and legal decisions in the future may negate or otherwise alter the results or effect of the analyses, interpretations or conclusions reported in this document. The information contained in this report should not be construed to support a political or legal position on any of the issues discussed. There was no affirmed or asserted legal or regulatory interpretation of water and related land or biological resource issues discussed in any of the Phase I – V reports.

It is intent of the Save Our Bosque Task Force and Tetra Tech, ISG to revisit the Phase IV report and the Conceptual Restoration Plan projects in light of the future developments that may impact the implementation of the plan contingent on available resources and budget. In this sense, the Conceptual Restoration Plan Phase I thru V reports should be considered as a “living document” that may evolve over time to reflect the changing physical or political environment and thus maintain its viability to guide future restoration project implementation. It is expected that as future information becomes available, particularly groundwater data in the study reach, that the restoration plan will be revised to incorporate new research and data. It is recommended that the Phase IV Conceptual Restoration Plan be updated on an annual basis, particularly during the period of project implementation. The specific sections of the report that should be considered for updating are:

- General Plan Focus, Plan Assumptions and Limitations
- Plan Themes and Mapping
- Restoration Project Water Needs and Potential Water Depletion and Salvage
- Flood Inundation and Drought Considerations
- Additional Data Requirements

As project plans are revised and updated for a feasibility level investigation, it is anticipated that flood simulations will also be revisited. Five years have passed since a spring flood event of sufficient duration resulted in significant overbank flooding in the San Acacia to San Marcial reach. The FLO-2D model needs to be calibrated with the recent cross section survey data to both the area of inundation and discharge at the San Marcial gage. This calibration would be based on aerial videos and photos of the area of inundation while recording the discharges at the San Acacia and San Marcial gages and possibly measuring the discharge at one or two locations in the study reach. The project conceptual and feasibility level design could then be revised to reflect the updated flood model. This is the concept of a “living document” that should be applied to keep the river restoration moving forward. Available funding sources and resources should be investigated in the event of an anticipated high spring runoff year.