



## *Does my property have water rights?*

One of the first basic steps is to find out whether or not your property potentially has water rights.

We recommend that you visit the SVRAA website and follow the tab – Claim Your Water Rights in 3 Easy Steps.

[www.southvalleyacequias.org](http://www.southvalleyacequias.org)

You can also call the CESOSS office or send us an email to find out or if you are not certain. We can begin to help you with the process.

*CESOSS Mission*  
*To protect and preserve ways of life and traditions in the Valle de Atrisco.*

We are proudly a community-driven and community-supported organization.



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## Claiming Your Water Rights

A service provided by CESOSS



*"El Agua es Sagrada"*  
Initiative



## Service Fees

CESOSS can help you with the process of claiming your water rights.

\*Service Fees:

Low-Income Families & Individuals - \$40.00

Median-Income Families & Individuals - \$60.00

Business and Organizations - \$100.00

This service includes the application and membership in the South Valley Regional Association of Acequias (SVRAA) and in CESOSS.

\*\*Notarization of application must be completed by applicant\*\*

## *What is a water right?*

***"The right to water from a specific water source to be used at a specific location and for a specific beneficial purpose."***

## Importance of Water Rights

***The enormous cultural and economic value of water rights is irrefutable.***

The Valle de Atrisco, commonly referred to as the South Valley, is one of the oldest neighborhoods in the area. Over the past decades it has gone through numerous cultural and economic changes. More than 40,000 people call the South Valley home and over 80% of these residents are Hispanic/Latino. The median household income is \$36,821 and it is estimated that over 25% of persons in the South Valley live in poverty (2010 Census). Although the South Valley is considered to be one of the poorest communities in Albuquerque, many South Valley residents possess a precious and valuable resource - *water rights*. To date, there are

many residents who either lack knowledge that their properties possess water rights and/or if they do have knowledge of water rights, they are unsure of how to navigate the process of claiming their water rights.

Due to continued drought and pressure from major developments, the preservation and protection of water rights has become a crucial issue in the South Valley. The need to further engage our community in these discussions has become vital because water resources continue to face major local, national, and global challenges.