

PRESS RELEASE

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HISTORIC LAS ACEQUIAS FARM IN NAMBÉ AND OTHER CONSERVATION LANDS PROTECTED THROUGHOUT NEW MEXICO

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Today, the New Mexico Land Conservancy, a statewide land trust organization based in Santa Fe, announced the recent completion of a conservation easement over the Las Acequias Farm, located within the Village of Nambé in Santa Fe County. “Las Acequias Farm represents one of the most historically significant pieces of agricultural land in Santa Fe County. We are extremely grateful to the landowners for their commitment to conserving the property and for the donation of their conservation easement to our land trust,” said Scott Wilber, the Conservancy’s Executive Director.

Located along the Río Nambé, twenty miles north of Santa Fe in the Pojoaque Valley, Las Acequias Farm, owned by Robin and Meade Martin, helps contribute to the picturesque agricultural setting within and around the traditional Village of Nambé. The conservation easement protects 96 acres of prime, irrigated agricultural land and scenic open space surrounding a house designed by renowned architect John Gaw Meem, which recently qualified for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Historically, the property was part of a large land grant to Vicente Durán de Armijo in 1739 from the Governor and Captain General of the Kingdom of New Mexico, which was later subdivided by his heirs. In the 1920s and 30s, Cyrus McCormick III purchased much of the land that defines the present-day property. In 1949, Robert and Louise McKinney purchased the property, which was subsequently passed on to their daughter, Robin Martin, in 1990.

“We intend to pass the property on to our children, and as a family we agreed that we wanted to keep the property intact, maintain the farmland, and ensure that it would never be subdivided and

developed,” said Meade Martin. “The preservation of agricultural land and open space will benefit the community for generations to come.”

In addition to the Las Acequias Farm, NMLC also completed an easement over 65 acres of land in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains between the Village of Tesuque and Santa Fe that protects scenic open space, wildlife habitat and agricultural land adjacent to the Santa Fe National Forest. The Las Acequias Farm and Tesuque easements are just two of several land conservation projects completed by the New Mexico Land Conservancy at the end of 2007.

The Conservancy also protected 8,200 acres of ranchland and wildlife habitat along Chupadera Mesa at the Deer Canyon Preserve in Tarrant County and the 1,700-acre Bioresearch Ranch, an ecological monitoring and research site in the biologically rich Peloncillo Mountains of Hidalgo County. Since its founding in 2002, the New Mexico Land Conservancy has protected nearly 60,000 acres of high conservation-value lands throughout New Mexico through the use of conservation easements and other voluntary land protection methods.

“When placing their lands under conservation easements, landowners retain private ownership of their lands, but they voluntarily agree to accept permanent restrictions on their abilities to subdivide, develop and use the subject lands in order to preserve their wildlife, agricultural, scenic open space, historic, recreational and/or educational values,” explained the Conservancy’s Executive Director, Scott Wilber. “In exchange for donating these conservation easements, they can become eligible for certain state and federal tax benefits.” Wilber noted that as of January 1, 2008, New Mexico became the third state in the nation to implement a transferable state tax credit for land or easements donated for conservation purposes.

For more information about any of these projects, conservation easements or the New Mexico Land Conservancy, please contact Scott Wilber, Executive Director, in Santa Fe at (505) 986-3801 or at scottwilber@nmlandconservancy.org.

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*View of Las Acequias Farm
Village of Nambé, Santa Fe County, New Mexico*