

Communities for Clean Water – Water Quality Advocacy



NM Watershed Forum
September 29, 2010

Advocacy - Overview

The Trigger

Reaching Out

First Steps

Inclusion

Who Are We

Organizing

Accepting the Challenge

Where We Are

Where We Might Go

The Trigger - Cerro Grande 2000

The Cerro Grande fire began as a controlled burn in early May 2000. It ultimately became the most expensive federal fire in history and crossed into the town of Los Alamos and Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The Trigger - Cerro Grande 2000



A house in Los Alamos burns amid smoke during the Cerro Grande fire

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cerro_Grande_Fire_House_Burning_amid_Smoke.jpg

The Trigger - Cerro Grande 2000



May 15 map shows fire spreading thru the Los Alamos National Laboratory and beginning to encroach on Santa Clara Pueblo land to the north. Maps by Robert Martinez of the New Mexican <http://www.visitsantafe.com/images/santafe/businesses/2117image.jpg>

The Trigger - Cerro Grande 2000



Looking west on Arizona Ave.
composite.about.com/library/bllosalamose.htm

The Trigger - Cerro Grande 2000



The Trigger - Cerro Grande 2000



Another consequence of wildfires and subsequent rainfall is erosion. This erosion of a drainage created an incised channel after the Cerro Grande Fire near Los Alamos, NM. The maximum 30-minute rainfall intensity was about 20 mm/h. The incision seen in this photo was after the wildfire and rain storm; prior to the storm this drainage had no definite banks. Photo by John A. Moody

[http://www.brr.cr.usgs.gov/projects/Burned Watersheds/](http://www.brr.cr.usgs.gov/projects/Burned_Watersheds/)

The Trigger - Cerro Grande 2000



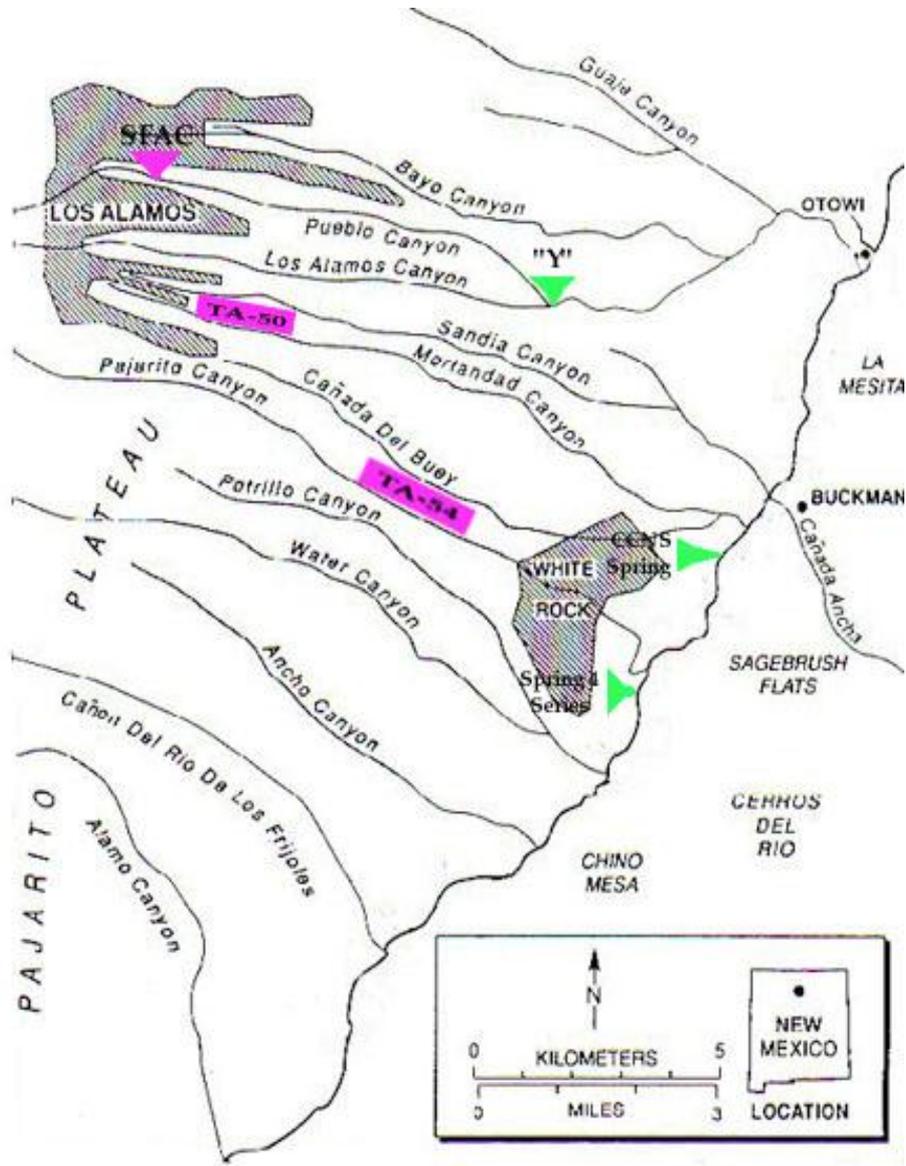
A wattle (?) constructed to prevent post-fire erosion. *Photo by Derek Honeyman*
http://walter.arizona.edu/media/images/jemez/cerro_grande.jpg

The Trigger - Cerro Grande 2000

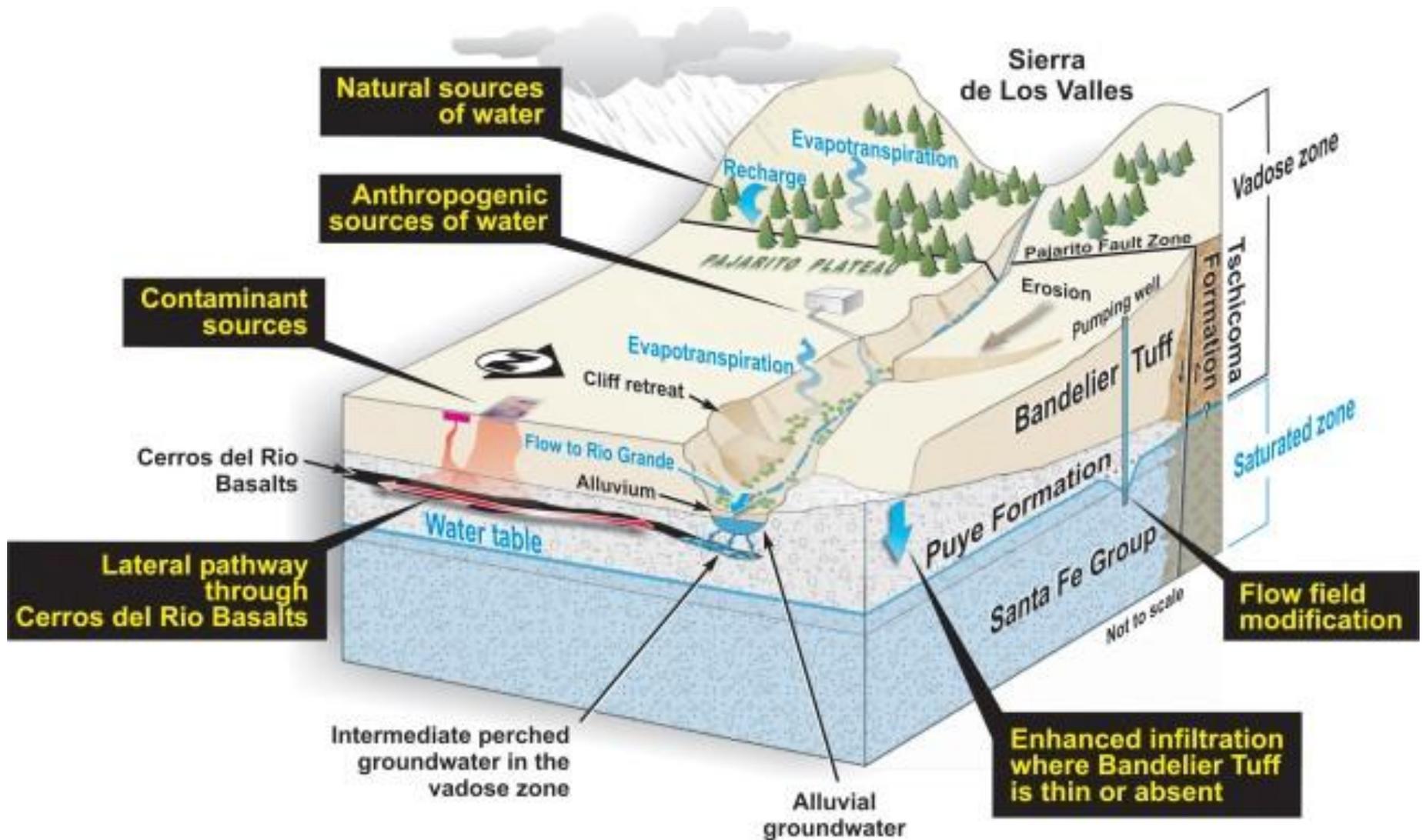
**FIRE, WATER AND THE AFTERMATH:
THE CERRO GRANDE FIRE AND ITS EFFECT ON THE RIO GRANDE/BRAVO WATERSHED
SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2000 • 9AM- 6PM
ELDORADO HOTEL BALLROOM, SANTA FE**



The Trigger - Cerro Grande 2000



The Trigger - Cerro Grande 2000



Reaching Out - 2004

In 2004, CCNS made a passionate case at Amigos Bravos' Strategic Planning Retreat for Amigos Bravos to take on the LANL work



HISTORIC AND CURRENT DISCHARGES FROM LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY: ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FINAL REPORT

Prepared by

Amigos Bravos
PO Box 238 • Taos NM 87571



Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
107 Cienega Street • Santa Fe, NM 87501



September 2006

Inclusion – 2006

By 2006, CCNS had brought two more groups into the mix through participation in the LANL-Working Group of New Mexicans for Sustainable Energy and Effective Stewardship (NMSEES):

- Embudo Valley Environmental Monitoring Group (EVEMG)
- Honor Our Pueblo Existence (HOPE)

Shortly afterward, the New Mexico Acequia Association joined the new group

Enough Is Enough – 2006

60-Day Notice to the Department of Energy and the Regents of the University of California for Violations of the Clean Water Act at Los Alamos National Laboratory

Dated May 23, 2006

I. Introduction

II. Factual Background

- A. The Los Alamos/Pueblo Canyon Watershed
- B. The Sandia Canyon Watershed
- C. The Mortandad Canyon Watershed
- D. The Pajarito Canyon Watershed
- E. The Water/Canon de Valle Watershed
- F. The Ancho Canyon Watershed
- G. The Chaquehui Watershed

III. Regulatory Background

- A. The Clean Water Act
- B. LANL's NPDES Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for the Sites
- C. The FFCA and LANL's Individual Stormwater NPDES Permit Application for the Sites

IV. Clean Water Act Violations

- A. Monitoring Violations**
- B. Reporting Violations and Exceedances**
- C. Pollution Control Violations**
- D. Unauthorized Discharges**

V. Federal Facility Compliance Agreement (FFC) Violation

VI. Conclusion

Attachment No. 1 – Areas of Concern

Who Are We – 2006 to 2008

- Initially, we called the new group: LANL Water Watch
- However, we eventually decided to change our name to Communities for Clean Water to allow for new projects in the future

Organizational Development

- Memorandum of Understanding
- Shared Values Statement
- Coordination
- Work Plan
- Funding
- Roles

Who Are We – 2006 to 2008

Draft Memorandum of Understanding

between Partners participating in the collective effort known as LANL Water Watch, including but not limited to signing on to the 60-Day Notice of Intent to Sue the Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Security, LLC for Clean Water Act violations at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)
MN revision October 10, 2006

Mission

LANL Water Watch (LANL WW) is a network of non-governmental community groups, individuals and technical experts uniting to address water contamination issues at LANL. This MOU sets forth the principals, goals, objectives, organization and operations of LANL WW.

Principles

The principles of LANL WW are to:

1. Create a strong network of active groups holding LANL accountable through diverse ethnic and cultural perspectives.
2. Build a foundation of trust, confidence and strength through cooperation and information sharing between LANL WW Partners.
3. Encourage respectful discussions to understand and explore the best possible solutions to achieve our goals.

Goals

1. Hold LANL accountable for water contamination in order to protect public health and welfare, safety and the environment.
2. Hold local, state and federal regulators accountable to use their enforcement powers to protect public health and welfare, safety and the environment.
3. Protect precious water resources from contamination now and for the benefit of future generations.

Who Are We – 2006 to 2008

-COMMUNITIES FOR CLEAN WATER – SHARED VALUES STATEMENT

All people and our communities are intricately tied to the health of rivers, acequias and other waters. Historical and on-going activities at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) threaten our cultural, spiritual and ecological survival. To ensure the good health of watersheds downstream and downwind from LANL and the good health of the Río Grande and its tributaries to provide safe drinking water, clean water for irrigation and pure natural water for sacred ceremony now and in the future, we acknowledge and assert the following:

- **All people that live downstream and downwind from LANL require and have a right to clean water for drinking, sacred ceremony, growing food, raising animals, recreating, and overall wellbeing.**
- **Traditional, indigenous cultures that live downstream and downwind from LANL require and have a right to pure natural water for sacred ceremony.**
- **Wildlife and ecosystems living downstream and downwind from LANL need and depend upon clean water for their survival.**
- **Healthy communities require clean rivers, groundwater, and watersheds to achieve a strong economy and sustainable future.**
- **Our local, state, and federal government agencies have a duty to protect the public health and welfare by setting and enforcing laws and regulations that protect water resources downwind and downstream from LANL.**
- **Healthy communities and ecosystems require clean, innovative, and life-affirming science and technology that will benefit the economy, the future, and the health of all.**
- **We recognize and respect that flowing water does not seek or uphold political, social, cultural or economical boundaries.**
- **Based on these values we assert that historic toxic waste must be cleaned up now to protect drinking water. Life-threatening pollutants that are the by-products of on-going LANL activities must be kept from contaminating our watersheds and tainting the Rio Grande. Adequate funding must be provided to clean up contamination at LANL to achieve these shared values.**

Endorsed by:

*Amigos Bravos, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, Don Gabino Andrade Community Acequia,
Embudo Valley Environmental Monitoring Group, Honor Our Pueblo Existence, New Mexico Acequia Association,
Partnership for Earth Spirituality, Rio Grande Restoration, Tewa Women United*

Join these organizations in holding LANL accountable and protecting New Mexico's water resources:

Organization or Name of Individual

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Email

Authorizing Signature

Printed Name

Please send signed forms to: CCNS, 107 Cienega Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501 OR Amigos Bravos, P.O. Box 238, Taos NM 87571

March 2007

What We've Done – 2006 to 2010

- Clean Water Act Citizen Complaint
- Individual Stormwater Permit
- Buckman Diversion
- Hydrogeology of Pajarito Plateau
- Monitoring Well Program
- Seismic Analysis
- Toxics in Surface & Groundwater

What We've Done – 2006 to 2010



What We've Done – 2006 to 2010



Sampling on the terrace above the Rio Trampas for downward migration of radionuclides compared to atmospheric deposition at 1,000 foot increments beginning at Trampas Lake down to the Rio Grande through the Rio Embudo watershed

What We've Done – 2006 to 2010



Independent air monitoring system located throughout the Rio Embudo watershed sampling for background gamma radiation. Electrets

What We've Done – 2006 to 2010



Rio Trampas in El Valle

What We've Done – 2006 to 2010



Construction of the E109.9 early warning system in March 2010

What We've Done – 2006 to 2010

WHERE WE WERE SIX YEARS AGO

1. Unknown scope of the problem
2. LANL denial of problems
3. NMED and EPA reluctance to intervene
4. Lack of public awareness
5. Lack of effective media reporting
6. High LANL credibility for information
7. LANL nuclear weapons mission intact
8. Questionable relationship with NMED
9. Declining cleanup budget at LANL
10. LANL control of permitting process

WHERE WE ARE NOW

1. Well-documented scope of the problem
2. LANL admission of problems
3. More NMED and EPA intervention
4. Raised public awareness
5. Frequent and better media reporting
6. LANL credibility questioned
7. Growing calls for new mission at LANL
8. Respect for CCW from NMED and EPA
9. Likely increase in LANL cleanup budget
10. Significant CCW impact on process

Where We're Going

- Espanola Basin Water Quality – Sole Source Aquifer
- Pharmaceuticals in Water
- Uranium Mining & Milling

And, of course, community-based independent monitoring and analysis of LANL, EPA, and State implementation of the stormwater permit, the CWA settlement, and the Consent Order

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