

BIOGRAPHY

José A. Rivera, Ph.D.

José A. Rivera is a Professor of Planning, the School of Architecture and Planning, at the University of New Mexico. His teaching fields include rural community development, public policy analysis, and water resources management. He earned a Master of Social Welfare degree from the Florence Heller Graduate School for Advanced Studies in Social Welfare at Brandeis University in 1970 and a doctorate in Social Policy also from Brandeis in 1972. His research interests include water management institutions, common property resources, rural environmental and natural resources planning, sustainable development, and the role of mutual aid organizations in social welfare.

His fieldwork on these topics includes the southern provinces of Spain, the coastal valleys of Peru, Baja California Sur in Mexico, Ilocos Norte in the Philippines, and the American Southwest. In 1991 he co-authored a book titled *Rural Environmental Planning for Sustainable Communities*, published by Island Press, followed by a sole authored book titled *Acequia Culture: Water, Land, and Community in the Southwest* published by the University of New Mexico Press in 1998. A Spanish language translation of this second book was published in 2009 by the University of Valencia in Spain. Other publications include journal articles on historical and contemporary issues related to the social organization of irrigation in traditional communities, mutual aid organizations on the upper Rio Grande of the American Southwest, and the culture of water in comparative regions of the world.

Professor Rivera has also served as an expert witness and consultant in a number of water rights transfer applications in the State of New Mexico, qualified to present testimony in the areas of public welfare, economic development, public administration and *acequia* culture. All his cases have involved applications to transfer water rights from community *acequia* irrigation systems to municipal, commercial, recreational and other uses. His testimony has centered on the social, cultural, and ecological impacts of the proposed changes in point of diversion and purpose of use. Similarly, when he is invited to present lectures, his topics include the history, evolution and contemporary values of community-based irrigation systems in the context of land tenure and economic development in New Mexico and other semi-arid Western States. Currently, he and other researchers are studying the potential effects of climate change on mountain sources of water in high desert environments.