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Member

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Juan County Public Relations, 505-334-4273

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Farmers Mutual Ditch – Kirtland approved for disaster assistance program**

*San Juan County, NM* – A large rock slide event in October of 2017 near Kirtland, New Mexico destroyed a section of the Farmers Mutual Ditch along its eastern end. The ditch provides water to local agricultural areas and is a main source of drinking water for the City of Kirtland and Lower Valley Water Users.

Repair costs of the extensive damage have been estimated at \$60,000. San Juan County Office of Emergency Management has secured a grant through the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NMDHSEM) to assist the Farmers Mutual Ditch Board in funding the repairs. The NMDHSEM grant will cover 70%, or approximately \$48,000 of the project.

Work will begin this week to create an access road to the remote area adjacent to the San Juan River. Farmers Mutual Ditch has hired local Excavation Contractor, ACE Services to complete the project. The contractor estimates the repairs will continue into March.

“The hope is that water will be able to run in time for the beginning of irrigation season”, commented Mike Mestas, San Juan County Emergency Manager.

For more information on the ditch project, please contact the Farmers Mutual Ditch office at 505-598-6159. Please direct all press and related inquires to Susan Hakanson, San Juan County Public Relations Manager, at [shakanson@sjcounty.net](mailto:shakanson@sjcounty.net) or 505-386-8325.

