

ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Irrigation Organizations—Governance Structure and Finance

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EB
 Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service [] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
USDA

Agency Contact: Kelly Maguire, kelly.b.maguire@usda.gov

Subject of Review: Irrigation organizations comprise several different governance structures. At one extreme, community organizations such as acequias in New Mexico work together to maintain ditches and deliver water. At the other extreme, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs irrigation projects maintain and operate storage and conveyance infrastructure to deliver water to users. Groundwater organizations focus on coordinating groundwater extraction and conserving water for future use. Some of these organizations are structured to allow users to have input into their operations through voting. Some organizations are structured as non-profits. The governance structures of irrigation organizations are shaped by the historical context in which they were created, and those differences are reflected in their acreage, member farm composition, infrastructure characteristics, and water use.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers
[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 5/06/2024 Completed: 12/17/2025

Number of Reviewers: [] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [] Designated Outside Organization

Opportunities for Public Comment? [] Yes [X] No
If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:
How:
When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [] Yes [X] No
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [] Yes [X] No

