NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



OMB No. 1024-0018

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#313 Ensenada Community Ditch, ills. 122, 124, 130-132; Map 12. Vic. Ensenada. 4. Owners: Ensenada Community Ditch Association, Tierra Amarilla NM 87575

7. Description: The general appearance and operation of area ditches described in the Description section above (pp. 60-1) applies to the Ensenada Community Ditch. Built in 1862 with additions in 1890 and 1917 and registered in the State Engineer's Office in file #0436, the ditch is the oldest active community ditch in the area.

It diverts from Brazos River in a single ditch also serving El Porvenir and Parkview Ditches 4.5 miles E of Ensenada; desagues (or discharge points) 0.3 miles W of US 84, 0.5 miles NE of State Fish Hatchery. Major features: concrete headgate; concrete, metal, and wood lateral gates; two major contra acequias: Cruz and Ulibarri Laterals; total length: 7.2 miles; acreage: 35 acres; irrigates: 982 acres; midway dimensions: bottom width 6', top width 9', depth 1.5'.

Since it is being nominated for its historic role in local governance and in the shaping of the cultural landscape (see Significance below) and not as an example of construction or engineering, the diversion dam, headgate and lateral gates, most of which are recent additions, are not recognized as historically significant features. (Note: this irrigation system is counted as one contributing structure.)

8. <u>Significance</u>: Like the other nominated ditches and as described above in the Significance section (pp.64-7), the Ensenada Community Ditch played a primary role in shaping the cultural landscape as the boundary between agricultural lands and the arid sage brush sand hills above and as a field and property boundary which predated all fences and most roads. Through its Ditch Association, it also provided the residents of Ensenada their most important focus for the communal obligation (see Part I, pp. 12-13), organization and decisionmaking which was central to the agrarian Hispanic villages of northern New Mexico. Since the village is not incorporated and the association continues to function, the ditch provides a vital social link with the historic cultural roots of the area.

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|-------------------------------|------|----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 10. <u>Acreage</u> : 35 acres | | | | |
| UTM References | Zone | Eastings | Northings | |
| J | 13 | 367460 | 4067000 | |
| К | 13 | 367440 | 4066000 | |
| L | 13 | 362000 | 4063230 | |

13

13

Boundary: A polygon, roughly 20' by 7.2 miles, formed by two lines parallel to and ten feet from mid-ditch, extending from the headgate to the desague. The boundary has been drawn tightly to include the ditch and its embankments.

359000

362000

4065000

4066000