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## **New Mexico Office of the State Engineer Offers New Water Conservation Brochures**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico)** – With the drought expected to continue in New Mexico through 2003 and beyond, now is a good time for homeowners and businesses to conserve water.

The New Mexico Office of the State Engineer offers three new brochures, which provide information on how to harvest rainwater and how to operate and purchase water-efficient clothes washers and evaporative coolers.

***A Waterwise Guide to Rainwater Harvesting*** educates water users about the basics of collecting rainwater for landscape irrigation. Using rainwater to water plants reduces the amount of municipally treated water required for this purpose and is usually healthier for the plants. The brochure describes how to design and build a rainwater harvesting system and uses colorful graphics to illustrate the ways in which rainwater can be collected as well as different system types and components to consider.

***A Waterwise Guide to Evaporative Coolers*** contains a descriptive diagram of an evaporative cooler for easy maintenance evaluation, along with a seasonal checklist. Evaporative coolers can be large water users (more than 3,000 gallons of water a cooling season in a typical Santa Fe home and over 12,000 gallons in Las Cruces). So, it is a good idea to buy as water-efficient a cooler as possible and to maintain it carefully to minimize water use. Suggestions are provided in this brochure.

**(MORE)**

***A Waterwise Guide to Clothes Washers*** focuses on the highest water-using appliance inside the home after the toilet – the clothes washer. A traditional clothes washer uses about 40 gallons of water per load. New, water-efficient models use only about 20 gallons – and can cut energy use in half. This brochure provides tips on buying a new clothes washer and operating both traditional and new models efficiently.

Free copies of the three new brochures – for both individual use and broad distribution – are available by calling the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer at 1-800-WATER-NM (1-800- 928-3766), or by e-mailing the office at: [waternm@seo.state.nm.us](mailto:waternm@seo.state.nm.us).

For more information on other water saving brochures available from the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, visit our web site at: [www.seo.state.nm.us/water-info/conservation](http://www.seo.state.nm.us/water-info/conservation).

The Office of the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission are separate but companion agencies charged with administering the state's water resources. The agencies have power over the supervision, measurement, appropriation and distribution of almost all surface and ground water in New Mexico, including streams and rivers that cross state boundaries. The State Engineer is also Secretary of the Interstate Stream Commission and oversees the staff of both agencies.

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