



**For immediate release:**

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## **State Engineer Selects New Water Resource Specialist for the Albuquerque District Office**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico)** – New Mexico State Engineer John D’Antonio has selected a new Water Resource Specialist for the Albuquerque District Office.

**Kathy Grassel** assumed her new responsibilities on April 21, 2003. Grassel worked for 2.5 years at the U.S. Geological Survey as a hydrologic technician and ten years at the University of New Mexico’s Institute of Public Law as a technical writer.

Grassel completed a master’s degree in water resources in May of 2002 adding to undergraduate degrees in history and journalism from the University of New Mexico.

She received 12 broadcast awards from the Associated Press for her work as a reporter for KUNM-NPR radio news.

She is actively involved in community service in Albuquerque teaching tai chi to youth offenders and the Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention Center since 1997. She also participates in the Padrino program, which is a sponsorship program for children in a large orphanage in southern Mexico.

**(MORE)**

"It is very important to have strong, professionally staffed field offices for the New Mexico State Engineer," said Governor Bill Richardson. "New Mexico needs a comprehensive statewide water policy and hiring competent qualified people is essential."

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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