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## **Employees of the Office of the State Engineer Win GIS Award at an International Conference**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico)** – Employees of New Mexico Office of the State Engineer received a first-place award at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) International "GIS-Serving Our World Conference," on July 11.

The conference hosted thousands of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) professionals from over 135 countries and was held in San Diego, California.

The winners, Christina Nofstker and Elizabeth Ayarbe, worked with Mike Recker and Jaime Bustos to create the "*Geospatial Components of a Hydrographic Survey Map*" that won the award for "Best Instructional Presentation" at the Conference.

The individuals work in the Hydrographic Survey Bureau, where technology is used to combine aerial imagery and global positioning system satellite field mapping data, with historical water right data to support the adjudication or legal identification of water rights.

"The award showcases the significant role GIS plays in the production of a hydrographic survey," said Christina Nofstker. "We were very pleased and surprised to find ourselves accepting the best instructional poster award."

**(MORE)**

This is the second mapping award the Hydrographic Survey Bureau has won at an ESRI Conference. In 2002, Hydrographic Engineer Steve Hayes and research assistant Lula Valdez, won the first-place award in the "Best in Data Integration" category for the map poster, *Active Water Resource Management In New Mexico*. Illustrated in the map were the complex data requirements needed to support the mission of the Office of the State Engineer

"This recent award draws attention to the caliber of the many qualified professionals we have working for the Office of the State Engineer in our Hydrographic Survey Bureau," said State Engineer, John D'Antonio. "The work they do every day helps us to continue to make progress in adjudicating water rights throughout the state."

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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