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## **New Mexico State Engineer Hires New Engineer for Las Cruces Office**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico)** – New Mexico State Engineer John D’Antonio has selected a new engineer to assist with the agency’s W.A.T.E.R.S. (Water Administration Technical Engineering Resource System) Program in the District IV Office in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

**Yvette Lopez** joined the agency on January 16. Prior to joining the Office of the State Engineer, she was a contractor for the agency in the Hydrographic Survey Bureau where she worked on adjudications from 2002 to 2003.

In her position, Lopez will be abstracting domestic and non-domestic well information into the W.A.T.E.R.S. database, as well as imaging all related documents for integration into a public database on the Internet. The W.A.T.E.R.S. Program was created to preserve the agency’s water rights files, relate the information to digitized hydrographic survey maps as well as other data, and make the records more readily accessible for the staff and public.

“I am very pleased to have Lopez working for our W.A.T.E.R.S. Program,” said State Engineer John D’Antonio. “Her assistance will help expedite Governor Richardson’s initiatives to automate the agency.”

(MORE)

In 2001, Lopez received a bachelor of science degree in geology from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces.

The Office of the State Engineer is charged with administering the state's water resources. The State Engineer has power over the supervision, measurement, appropriation, and distribution of all surface and groundwater in New Mexico, including streams and rivers that cross state boundaries. The State Engineer is also Secretary of the Interstate Stream Commission and oversees its staff

The Interstate Stream Commission is charged with separate duties including protecting New Mexico's right to water under eight interstate stream compacts, ensuring the state complies with each of those compacts, as well as water planning.

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