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For more information, contact:

Alice Darilek, Water Conservation Coordinator
(505) 827-6680

Karin Stangl, Public Information Officer
(505) 827-6139

State Engineer Publishes New Brochure To Help Homeowners Care for Trees

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) — With 2004 expected to be another drought year in New Mexico, conserving water in outdoor landscapes and gardens continues to be a top priority. A new brochure from the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, titled *A Waterwise Guide to Trees*, offers helpful information about how to efficiently water and care for trees—especially during drought conditions—so New Mexico’s trees can continue to provide shade and beauty while using less of our precious water resources.

A Waterwise Guide to Trees begins with basic information about the beauty and benefits of trees. A step-by-step guide is included to show how to properly plant a tree. The heart of the brochure shows a diagram of a mature tree and offers advice about how to best provide irrigation to keep a tree healthy—including a handy diagram that shows where to place emitters so that a tree can be efficiently watered using a drip irrigation system.

Common questions about trees are answered, and a short list of waterwise trees for New Mexico’s three basic climate zones (Northern/Mountain, Central, and Southern) is provided. The handy brochure ends with some interesting “Fast Facts About Watering Trees.” The back cover of the brochure even lists website sources for additional information about trees and tree care.

“Water conservation continues to be of vital interest to the health and well-being of New Mexico,” said Alice Darilek, Water Conservation Coordinator, New Mexico Office of the State Engineer. “Homeowners and landscape professionals can do their part to conserve water by taking the proper care of trees and making sure that the trees in their landscapes are irrigated efficiently. We hope that our newest brochure, *A Waterwise Guide to Trees*, will provide practical and valuable information that can help conserve water while keeping New Mexico beautiful.”

(MORE)

Free copies of the full-color *A Waterwise Guide to Trees* brochure are available by calling the Office of the State Engineer's Water Conservation Program toll-free at 1-800-WATER-NM or by sending an email to waternm@ose.state.nm.us.

The New Mexico Office of the State Engineer also offers many other free water conservation publications including *The Enchanted Xeriscape*, *Xeriscape 101*, *Don't Waste a Drop: Finding, Fixing and Preventing Indoor Water Leaks*, *A Waterwise Guide to Evaporative Coolers*, and *A Waterwise Guide to Rainwater Harvesting*. Also available are two comprehensive water manuals: *A Water Conservation Guide for Commercial, Institutional and Industrial Users* and *A Water Conservation Guide for Public Utilities*.

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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