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State Engineer Announces a New Water Master for Nambe-Pojoaque-Tesuque Region

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – New Mexico State Engineer John D’Antonio has hired a water master to administer surface and groundwater diversions within the Nambe-Pojoaque-Tesuque Region as part of the Office of the State Engineer’s Active Water Resource Management initiative.

Brian Gallegos began his position on June 7.

Prior to this position, Gallegos was a water resource specialist for the Office of the State Engineer’s Water Rights Division from 2000 to 2004. Prior to that, he was a water resource and environmental specialist for the New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau from 1994 to 2000.

The water master works in cooperation with local ditch organizations, cities, industries, and other entities that divert surface and ground water, to ensure water is diverted and distributed in accordance with applicable court decrees, permits, licenses, and approved agreements.

“Gallegos’ previous experience with our agency and the Environment Department, as well as his good rapport with the people living in the Nambe-Pojoaque-Tesuque region will be an asset to our objectives of actively managing the surface and groundwater diversions in that region,” said State Engineer John D’Antonio.

Gallegos received a bachelor of science degree in environmental science, with an emphasis in water resources, and a master of business administration from Highlands University in Las Vegas, New Mexico in 1999 and 2002 respectively.

(MORE)

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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