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State Engineer Selects New Water Master for Rio Chama Region

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – State Engineer John D’Antonio has selected an additional Water Master for the Rio Chama region.

Jonathan Martinez began his position on June 19. Martinez will actively manage and administer the diversions and use of water in the Upper Rio Chama Basin. The State Engineer currently administers the releases and delivery of the San Juan-Chama Project water in the Rio Chama Basin.

“This Water Master’s duties are extremely important to assure distribution of water for the benefit of acequia users and other senior water right owners as well as assuring that San Juan-Chama project water is conveyed to its rightful contractors,” said State Engineer John D’Antonio.

Prior to this position, he was employed by the Office of the State Engineer as a water resource specialist for the agency’s Water Rights Division from 2003 to 2004. His previous experience also includes internships with the Los Alamos National Labs as both an undergraduate student, and as a graduate research assistant. In 1995, he was a wastewater analyst for Johnson Control Incorporated, a sub-contractor of Los Alamos National Laboratories.

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Martinez received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering with an emphasis in environmental engineering from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces in 2000. He went on to complete his master's degree in environmental engineering at the university in 2002. During his tenure, he was a teacher's assistant in hydraulics, materials, and environmental science.

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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