



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 17, 2004

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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

Yvette Chavez, Public Information Office Assistant
(505) 827-4130

New Mexico Office of the State Engineer Announces Employees of the Year for 2004

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – New Mexico State Engineer John D'Antonio announced that twelve Office of the State Engineer employees have been selected as *2004 Employees of the Year* for their divisions.

Santa Fe District Office employees who were recognized include: **Paul Saavedra**, Assistant Director, Water Rights Division; **Nancy Knouse**, Bureau Chief, Information Technology and Systems Bureau; **Nic Medley**, Biologist, Interstate Stream Commission; **Mara Smith**, Water Resource Specialist, Water Use and Conservation Bureau; **Winifred Taylor**, Paralegal, Litigation and Adjudication Program (LAP); and **Mark Salazar**, Water Resource Specialist, LAP-Hydrographic Survey Bureau.

Albuquerque District Office employees acknowledged for their work include: **Eric Robinson**, Water Resource Specialist, Water Resource Allocation Program (W.R.A.P.) and **Roxanne Lucero**, Engineering Tech, WATERS.

Las Cruces District Office employees who received the award are: **Andrea Mendoza**, Water Resource Master, W.R.A.P. and **Rassool Ahadi**, Supervisor, LAP.

In the Roswell District Office, **Johnny Hernandez**, Lea County Basin Supervisor for the Water Rights Division was awarded, and in the Deming District Office, **John Mora**, Water Resource Specialist for W.R.A.P. was acknowledged.

(MORE)

"I am proud of the exceptional job these employees do here, each and every day," said State Engineer John D'Antonio. "Their hard work, commitment, and desire to help this agency achieve established goals make them very deserving of recognition for a job well done."

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 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 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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