



**For immediate release:**

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## **State Engineer Approves Desalination Plant Permit Transfer for the City of Alamogordo**

**(ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico)** – State Engineer John D’Antonio approved a permit yesterday authorizing the City of Alamogordo to divert groundwater from the Tularosa Underground Water Basin for use in their desalination project for potential municipal, industrial, and commercial purposes in New Mexico.

Under the conditional permit, the City of Alamogordo may divert up to 3,000 acre-feet per year. The diversion for any calendar year may be increased up to 4,500 acre-feet, provided that the sum of annual diversions for any consecutive five-year period does not exceed 15,000 acre-feet. The amount of water requested by the City of Alamogordo in its final application was 10,000 acre-feet a year.

Conditions provide that there must be ongoing monitoring of impacts to groundwater and surface water sources in the area. Also, there must be a monitoring plan submitted to the State Engineer for the protection of area residents before any diversion of water can begin. Conservation provisions are also included.

“New Mexico has vast reserves of brackish groundwater that may someday be converted to drinkable water for future New Mexicans,” said State Engineer John D’Antonio. “This facility will help meet growing water demands, while conditions imposed will protect existing water rights in the area.”

**(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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