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## **Governor Richardson Reappoints Interstate Stream Commissioners to a Second Term**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico)** – Governor Bill Richardson has reappointed five New Mexico Interstate Stream Commissioners to a second term.

Interstate Stream Commissioners serve six-year, staggered terms. The five commissioners, whose terms expired on December 31, 2004, began new terms on January 1, 2005, which will run through December 31, 2010.

“We have a dedicated team of Interstate Stream Commissioners, who not only tackle difficult issues related to water in our state, but who sincerely care about how their decisions affect New Mexicans,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “I know that their hard work and commitment will continue into their second terms.”

The reappointed commissioners include:

- **Jim T. Dunlap**, commission chairman, who is a businessman and rancher. The Farmington native owns the L-Bar Ranch and the Farm Center, a John Deere dealership. From 1976 to 1986, Dunlap managed the Lower Valley Water System. Also, he is a retired vocational agriculture teacher. Dunlap’s water related activities have included being president of the National Rural Water Association, director and founder of the New Mexico Rural Water Users Association, president of the Upper La Plata Water Users Association, president of the Lower Valley Water Users Association, and vice chairman of the San Juan Water Commission. Dunlap served three terms as a San Juan County commissioner, including two and a half terms as commission chairman, and was a volunteer fireman. He is vice chairman of the San Juan County Communications Authority and a member of the Lion’s Club, Secretary of Agriculture’s Water 2000 Project, New Mexico Farm Bureau, New Mexico Cattle Growers’ Association, and the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Foundation. He is also an advisor to the Kirtland Future Farmers of America and Colorado State University. He has served as the president of the Northwest Teachers Association, president of the Farmers Mutual Ditch Association, and president of the New Mexico Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association. Dunlap received a master’s degree in vocational education in 1967 and a bachelor’s degree in 1954 from New Mexico State University.

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- **Judith Espinosa**, a resident of Albuquerque, is the director of the University of New Mexico's Transportation Research Institute. From 1991 to 1994, she was secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department and for seven years before that, she was a manager in the City of Albuquerque's Environmental Health Department. A member of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council since 2002, Espinosa was a German Marshall Fund Environmental Fellow selected to participate in an international program on environment and transportation. In 1992, former President Bill Clinton appointed her to the council on Sustainable Development. She was also recognized in 1991 by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for her work on air quality. Espinosa was awarded a law degree from the University of New Mexico in 1980. She completed a master's degree in public health administration at the University of California in 1975 and received a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of New Mexico in 1972.
- **Patricio Garcia** is a native of Rio Chama whose family has lived in the Rio Chama Valley since the 1700s. A land-use planner for the past 10 years, Garcia is currently the Planning Department director for Rio Arriba County. In 2000, he was instrumental in obtaining the Western Planners Four Corners Planning Award for an environmental ordinance that protects county farmland and water rights. He has also worked as an outreach worker for mutual domestic water associations, and as a mineral exploration driller at sites including Heron Lake Dam, Cochiti Lake Dam, and Nambe Dam. Garcia belongs to the Rio Chama Acequia Association and is the secretary of the Acequia Martinez y Duranes. He also worked as a Volunteer In Service to America (VISTA). A Vietnam War veteran, Garcia served in the U.S. Navy from 1965 to 1968. Garcia attended New Mexico State University and received an associate's degree from Northern New Mexico Community College in 1975.
- **Buford Harris** is a farmer from Mesilla whose family has raised cotton and alfalfa in the Mesilla Valley for four generations. Harris studied business and agriculture at New Mexico State University from 1977 to 1981.
- **James Wilcox**, a resident of Carlsbad, is a consultant to the state potash industry. He worked for Mosaic Potash for 32 years prior to retiring in 1999. He continues to serve Mosaic as a consultant. While employed at Mosaic, he was responsible for the Human Resources, Safety, and Public Relations departments, as well as management of water resources. He also served as chairman of the National Mining Association's Safety Committee, chairman of the U.S. Labor Department's Mining Industry Committee on Substance Abuse, and chairman of the Palmer Drug Abuse Program, in Carlsbad. Wilcox has received numerous awards of recognition from his peers, the State of New Mexico, and the U.S. Department of Labor for his efforts to enhance safety in the mining industry.

Three other Commissioners whose terms were not up for reappointment at this time are: Julia Davis Stafford of Cimarron, Blane Sanchez of Isleta, and J. Phelps White III of Roswell.

At the Interstate Stream Commission meeting in January, Commissioners voted to retain Jim T. Dunlap as Chairman and J. Phelps White III as Vice-Chairman.

The nine-member Interstate Stream Commission is charged with 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.

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.

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