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Office of the State Engineer Develops New Policy for Rainwater and Snowmelt Harvesting

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – The New Mexico Office of the State Engineer has developed a rainwater/snowmelt harvesting policy that addresses rooftop harvesting of water.

The policy specifies the agency's support for the wise and efficient use of the state's water resources and encourages the harvesting, collection and use of rainwater from residential and commercial roof surfaces for on-site landscape irrigation and other on-site domestic uses.

Also, it indicates that the collection of water harvested in this manner should not reduce the amount of runoff that would have occurred from the site in its natural, pre-development state and that harvested rainwater may not be appropriated for any other uses.

"The Office of the State Engineer will continue to develop procedures that emphasize conservation to ensure resourceful water use among New Mexicans," said Water Use and Conservation Bureau Chief John Longworth.

Agency staff will next be working on the development of a policy statement on water harvesting from parking lots, streets and other impervious surfaces.

The Water Use and Conservation Bureau has a free brochure that explains the procedures for rainwater harvesting titled, *"A Waterwise Guide to Rainwater Harvesting."*

If you have any questions about the policy or would like to request a free brochure, please contact 1-800-WATER-NM (1-800-928-3766).

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