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## **House Approves Joint Memorial on the Arizona Water Settlements Act**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico)** – The State House of Representatives today approved Joint Memorial 34 by a vote of 48 to 16 to begin planning to realize the full benefits that the State of New Mexico will receive in the Arizona Water Settlements Act.

The joint memorial was sponsored by Representative Mimi Stewart, (D-Albuquerque).

In December 2004, the President of the United States signed the Arizona Water Settlements Act, which provides New Mexico 14,000 acre-feet of water a year as well as \$66 million to \$128 million for water utilization projects.

Years of negotiations took place to ensure New Mexico's right to this water. Portions of the funding will become available to the State of New Mexico beginning in the year 2012.

"This joint memorial supports a planning process by the Interstate Stream Commission to realize the full benefits of the Arizona Water Settlements Act, which must include participation by all stakeholders in southwestern New Mexico," said Representative Mimi Stewart.

The legislation now must be approved by the State Senate.

The nine-member Interstate Stream Commission is charged with duties, which include 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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