



For immediate release:

March 29, 2005

For more information, contact:

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

Alice Darilek, Conservation Education
(505) 827-6680

Office of the State Engineer Releases New Guide to Ultra-Low-Flow Toilets

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – Helpful information about the types of toilets that can save the most water can be found in a new brochure from the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer titled *A Waterwise Guide to Ultra-Low-Flow Toilets*.

The guide offers hints on what to look for when shopping for a water-efficient toilet and discusses the recent technologies that have brought toilet water use down below the 1.6 gallons-per-flush standard set by the federal government.

"Water-efficient toilets that use 1.6 gallons per flush or less have been around since the 1980s, but many homes in New Mexico still have toilets that use from three to seven gallons per flush and that can quickly add up to a lot of water use," said Water Conservation Coordinator for the Office of the State Engineer Alice Darilek. "Because we live in a semiarid state where water resources are limited, we'd like to encourage citizens to replace their old, water guzzling toilets as quickly as possible to conserve our water supplies."

Almost as important as purchasing a new toilet is to maintain it properly so that it will continue to be an efficient water user. The brochure offers tips on checking for toilet leaks, and keeping the toilet flapper in good condition. Also included is an extensive list of websites that can provide more detailed information on toilets, as well as other ways to save water.

"Toilets account for almost half of the water used inside a typical home," said Darilek. "We hope that this brochure will serve as a reliable resource that will help reduce the amount of water used in households," said Darilek.

Free copies of the guide are available by calling the Office of the State Engineer's Water Use and Conservation Bureau toll-free at 1-800-WATER-NM, or by sending an email to waternm@ose.state.nm.us. The brochure is also posted on the Office of the State Engineer website at www.ose.state.nm.us/water-info/conservation.

#