



For immediate release:

March 31, 2005

For more information, contact:

Karin Stangl, Office of the State Engineer
(505) 827-6139

Maureen Haney, Office of the State Engineer
(505) 827-6139

New Mexico State Engineer Hires Water Master For the Lower Rio Grande

(LAS CRUCES, New Mexico) – New Mexico State Engineer John D’Antonio has hired the first water master for the Lower Rio Grande District in Las Cruces.

Sheldon Dorman began his position on March 12, 2005. As a water master in the Lower Rio Grande region, Dorman is charged with regulating and controlling the groundwater in the Lower Rio Grande, Las Animas and Hot Springs Basins.

“As the first water master in the Lower Rio Grande District, Dorman has an important job,” said State Engineer John D’Antonio. “He will be working hard to protect and administer the water rights for this region.”

Dorman worked for the Office of the State Engineer as a Water Resource Specialist in Roswell from 1991 to 1998. In 1998, he began working with Parson’s Engineering preparing the Lower Rio Grande hydrographic survey. In March of 2001, Dorman joined the District IV Office of the State Engineer in Las Cruces.

Dorman earned a bachelor of science degree in geology in 1989 from Eastern New Mexico University in Portales.

Water masters actively administer the distribution of water from stream systems on a daily basis. The State Engineer has the authority to create special water districts and hire water masters as he determines is necessary for the administration of water rights.

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.