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Office of the State Engineer Educates Elementary Students About New Mexico Water Issues Through New Curriculum

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – The New Mexico Office of the State Engineer is targeting its conservation efforts at students statewide through a new elementary curriculum called, "*Rio! The Water Detective.*"

The publication, which contains a student booklet and a teacher's guide, will provide teachers with the tools to develop their students' fundamental understanding of water issues and the responsible use of water in New Mexico.

In the guide, "Rio", a kangaroo rat, leads students through graphs, games, fun facts and activities. For example, students can play the *Aquifer Game* to learn how their actions impact the water supply, or connect the dots to follow the path irrigation has taken through New Mexico's history and cultures.

The teacher's guide provides background information, demonstrations, and additional activities to assist the teachers in the classroom.

"All of the activities are correlated to the New Mexico Public Education Department's Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards," said Office of the State Engineer Water Conservation Education Specialist Cheri Vogel. "We encourage students to share the colorful booklet with their families."

Organizations that partnered with the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer to produce the publication include: Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority, City of Las Cruces, City of Santa Fe Water Division, City of Rio Rancho, and New Mexico State University Rio Grande Basin Initiative.

(MORE)

The curriculum is available for free by calling 1-800-WATERNM or e-mailing waternm@ose.state.nm.us. Also, the curriculum will be available on the agency website beginning Friday, April 29, 2005 at www.ose.state.nm.us/water-info/conservation.

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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(To obtain a digital image of the curriculum contact Yvette Chavez at (505) 827-4130)