



For immediate release:

May 5, 2005

For more information, contact:

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

Maureen Haney, Office of the State Engineer
(505) 764-3864

New Mexico State Engineer Selects Water Master for the Hondo Basin

(ROSWELL, New Mexico) – New Mexico State Engineer John D’Antonio has hired a new water master for the Hondo Basin District in Roswell.

Stuart Hanson began his position on April 9, 2005. As a water master in the Hondo Basin region, Hanson is in charge of administering and distributing surface and groundwater in the basin on a daily basis.

“Hanson has vast experience in the field and a good familiarity with the Roswell region,” said State Engineer John D’Antonio. “This will greatly assist our objective of actively managing the water in the Hondo Basin.”

Prior to joining the Office of the State Engineer, Hanson was a project manager for M&H Energy Services in Roswell, New Mexico from 2003 to 2005. He has been working in various consulting and exploration jobs in the Roswell area since 1972. Hanson began his career as a hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey in Lansing, Michigan from 1970 to 1971. He also spent four years as a Staff Sergeant in the United States Army from 1967 to 1969.

Hanson earned a bachelor of science degree in geology in 1967, and a master of science degree in geology in 1971, from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan.

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.

#