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Costilla Creek Compact Commission Meeting Reveals Efficient Operation of Stream System Under Active Water Resource Management

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – There were no conflicts or serious concerns regarding the water deliveries this past year for the parties under the Costilla Creek Compact. This was the consensus of commissioners attending the 59th annual Costilla Creek Compact Commission meeting that was held in Santa Fe, New Mexico on May 5, 2004.

The Compact Commissioners from Colorado and New Mexico heard testimonies from water users, the water waster, engineer advisors, and project managers at the meeting.

Efficient and accurate operation of the system continues to improve under the principles of Active Water Resource Management (AWRM). AWRM refers to the broad range of activities which emphasize permitting of transfers, monitoring and metering diversions, and limiting diversion of water to the amount authorized by existing water rights all within the prior appropriation system.

The New Mexico Office of the State Engineer developed Active Water Resource Management. It relies on accurate measurement and control of water and input from water users and has been in use on the Costilla system for the past five years.

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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The Interstate Stream Commission is charged with separate duties including 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.

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