



**For immediate release:**

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## **Rio Chama River Flows are to be Reduced as a Result of Upstream Storage**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico)** – Releases of water from El Vado Reservoir to the Rio Chama are expected to be curtailed considerably over the next several days due to the expiration of storage restrictions of Article VII of the Rio Grande Compact tomorrow.

Subsequent release of water for recreational rafting and kayaking will be dependent on agreements between water rights holders and water management agencies. If agreements are reached, releases from reservoirs supplying the Rio Chama are expected to be low during the week, but higher during the weekends to accommodate weekend rafting.

The Interstate Stream Commission expects that releases will be reduced to a range of 100 to 150 cubic feet per second after this weekend. Typical recreational releases on weekends in past years have been in the range of several hundred cubic feet per second.

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.

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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