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## **State Engineer Hires New Special Water Projects Coordinator**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico)** – New Mexico State Engineer John D' Antonio has hired a new Special Water Projects Coordinator to assist the Office of the State Engineer and Interstate Stream Commission with acequia programs and other water projects.

**Roberto Mondragon** began working for the agency on May 7.

Previously, he served as Lt. Governor of the State of New Mexico for two terms, from 1971 to 1974 and from 1979 to 1982. In addition, he served in the New Mexico State Legislature as a State Representative from Albuquerque from 1967 to 1970. Mondragon also held posts as Director of the New Mexico Commission on Aging from 1975 to 1978, and Director of the State Housing Authority in 1983. For 15 years he worked with non-profit and for-profit organizations developing New Mexican culturally based bilingual educational materials.

"Not only does he bring to this position a wealth of experience in state government, but because of his familiarity with people in New Mexico, he will serve as an excellent liaison for our agency to help members of the general public better understand complex water-related issues," said State Engineer John D'Antonio.

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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