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Governor Richardson Appoints State Engineer to the Upper Colorado River Basin Commission

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – Governor Bill Richardson has appointed New Mexico State Engineer John D'Antonio as the New Mexico Compact Commissioner for the Upper Colorado River Basin Commission.

His position as the New Mexico Commissioner became effective on July 8, 2005 and it will run through June 30, 2007.

"The recent drought has heightened conditions pertaining to the upper and lower regions covered by the Colorado River Basin Commission," said State Engineer John D'Antonio. "This is a critical compact since New Mexico is involved with decisions that affect upper and lower states."

The Upper Colorado River Basin Compact was signed in 1948 by Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming and approved by Congress in 1949. The compact creates the Upper Colorado River Commission to administer the rivers provisions with members representing the United States, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Arizona is not included. The Upper Colorado River Commission maintains an office and staff in Salt Lake City, Utah. Members of the Commission staff serve as engineering and legal advisers and assist D'Antonio as the New Mexico Commissioner.

D'Antonio, a native New Mexican, was appointed to the position of State Engineer by Governor Richardson in January, 2003. He also serves as chairman of the Water Trust Board, and New Mexico Commissioner to the Rio Grande Compact and the Costilla River Compact.

(MORE)

The former New Mexico Commissioner for the compact was Phil Mutz. Mutz also served briefly as State Engineer and has given more than 35 years of service to the agency, including his many years as New Mexico Commissioner for the Upper Colorado River Compact.

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 state stream compacts, ensuring the state complies with each of those compacts, as well as water planning.

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