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For more information, contact:

Maureen Haney
Planning and Communication Division
Office of the State Engineer
(505) 764-3864

New Mexico State Engineer Selects Water Master for the Santa Fe Region

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – New Mexico State Engineer John D’Antonio has hired a new water master for the Santa Fe Region.

Larry Vigil began his position on November 19, 2005. As a water master in the Santa Fe Region, Vigil is in charge of supervising and assisting with water right declarations, applications, transfers and many other issues related to both groundwater and surface water in the Santa Fe area. In addition to these duties he will be training and lending assistance to other water masters statewide to initiate measuring systems in some priority areas.

“Santa Fe area residents requested a water master due to recent water shortages in the Santa Fe River, especially during times of drought,” said Office of the State Engineer Water Resource Allocation Program Division Director John T. Romero. “Vigil’s vast experience with our agency, his bilingual skills, and his involvement with the community make him highly qualified for this position.”

Vigil’s position, although contributing to the State Engineer’s Active Water Resource Management (AWRM) initiative, was funded by the 2005 state legislature.

Vigil has worked with the Hydrographic Survey Bureau of the Office of the State Engineer for more than 26 years. He has worked in many areas of the state while helping to create different hydrographic surveys used to assist with statewide adjudications. He also provided adjudication support in the northern New Mexico areas of Chama and Taos as well as in the Carlsbad Irrigation District and in Las Vegas, New Mexico on the Rio Gallinas.

Vigil is a native of Santa Fe and completed coursework at the University of New Mexico, Northern New Mexico Community College and Santa Fe Community College. He supports the community as a certified soccer coach and referee, a Level 1 Alpine certified ski instructor, and is certified as a Level 1 Bi-Ski instructor for people with disabilities, specifically those in wheelchairs.

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.

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