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## **State Engineer Posts Proposed Aamodt Settlement Agreement for Public Review**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico)** — New Mexico State Engineer John D'Antonio today announced the posting of the **Proposed Aamodt Settlement Agreement** on the Office of the State Engineer website. The settlement agreement can be found at [www.ose.state.nm.us](http://www.ose.state.nm.us) under "Hot Topics."

The Aamodt adjudication of the Nambe-Pojoaque-Tesuque stream system (N-P-T Basin) is one of the longest running federal cases in the United States. Negotiations to settle the case have resulted in the development of a revised settlement agreement. After the original proposed settlement agreement was released and presented in public meetings in 2004, some concerns were raised by non-Pueblo water users in the basin. As a result those parties with concerns were brought into the mediation group so that their input could be better incorporated into the negotiations. Continued negotiations were designed to address concerns and objections of non-Pueblo water users. These negotiations have resulted in the formulation of this revised Proposed Aamodt Settlement Agreement.

"After many hours of negotiations we believe we have come up with an agreement that is in the best interest of all parties involved," said Ted Bagley, attorney for the Office of the State Engineer. "A settlement along these lines would resolve water issues in the basin for the foreseeable future."

Through the mechanisms outlined in the settlement agreement, the parties seek to lessen impacts to the aquifer over time while providing reliability of supply and greater certainty regarding use of water in a chronically water-short basin.

The state will be hosting two public open houses to address questions regarding the settlement agreement. There will be one in Tesuque on February 20, 2006 and one in Pojoaque on February 27, 2006. Further information on the meetings will be publicized soon on the State Engineer's website.

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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