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Order Issued Requiring Irrigation Projections from Water Right Owners in Upper Mimbres Water District

(SILVER CITY, New Mexico) — An order requiring that water right owners in the Upper Mimbres Water Master District annually inform the Office of the State Engineer of their initial irrigation plans before they begin irrigating was issued by the Upper Mimbres Water Master on January 27, 2006.

The order requires a representative of each public or private ditch to provide the water master with documentation that designates the lands to be irrigated (TBI) no less than ten days prior to the start of any irrigation. The order was issued to help the water master determine initial demands on the Upper Mimbres River Stream System each year.

“The Office of the State Engineer has the duty to ensure that water diversions during the year will not exceed the actual amount of water needed to serve the water rights in the region,” said Upper Mimbres Water Master Bryan Stevenson. “By requiring water right owners in the district to provide us with their irrigation plans, it will help me make calculations to determine what the demands will be in the district each year,” said Upper Mimbres Water Master Bryan Stevenson.

In December 2005, State Engineer John D’Antonio hired Stevenson as the water master for the region to administer and apportion the waters in the Upper Mimbres Water Master District.

“As water master for the region, Stevenson has the authority to administer the waters of the district in a way that will protect the public safety and interests of all water right owners in the district,” said State Engineer John D’Antonio. “This order will help him uphold the principles of prior appropriation and beneficial use in a fair and equitable manner.”

A copy of the order can be obtained from the Office of the State Engineer website at www.ose.state.nm.us or at the Upper Mimbres Emergency Medical Services Building. For more information regarding the order contact Bryan Stevenson, Upper Mimbres Water Master, at (505) 546-2851.

(MORE)

The Office of the State Engineer is charged with administering the state's water resources. The State Engineer has authority 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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