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2006 State Water Plan Progress Report Is Now Available

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – New Mexico State Engineer John D’Antonio announced that copies of the *2006 Progress Report on the New Mexico State Water Plan* is now available to the general public.

The *2006 Progress Report* indicates the progress that has been made to date with implementation of *New Mexico’s First State Water Plan* effort, which was completed in 2003.

“This agency has made great strides in our implementation of the 98 strategies outlined in the *State Water Plan*,” said State Engineer John D’Antonio. “Progress has been measured in terms of milestones, deliverables, and service provided. A great majority of that progress is related to our Active Water Resource Management (AWRM) initiative. Significant progress has also been made in adjudications and settlements, in protecting our state’s waters, in updating our rules, regulations and safety measures, in public outreach, as well as in wildlife, habitat, and river protection measures.”

“There are other strategies on which we still have a tremendous amount of work yet to do,” said D’Antonio. “I believe that we will continue to make progress in the next several years.”

The *State Water Plan* provides a policy framework for the state to manage water issues and prioritize funding needs around the state. Applicable portions have become the strategic planning document for the Office of the State Engineer and the Interstate Stream Commission.

The State Legislature mandated that the *State Water Plan* be updated every five years. Funding will be requested by the agency of the 2007 State Legislature for the Interstate Stream Commission to update the plan in 2008, as required. This *2006 State Water Plan Progress Report* is an interim step in the process.

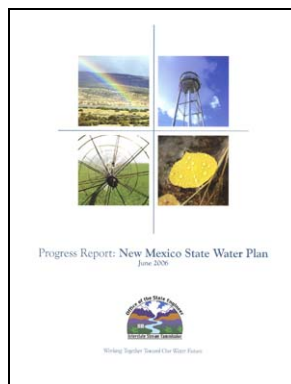
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The *State Water Plan* was completed in response to the State Legislature's enactment of the State Water Plan Act and direction from Governor Bill Richardson to the Interstate Stream Commission to have a comprehensive statewide water plan in place by the end of 2003. A key provision of the act required that the plan be developed with extensive public input.

A total of 29 public meetings were held from July to September 2003 to gather public input on how New Mexico balances future water needs with limited supplies. About 1,500 participants from 232 communities around New Mexico attended the public meetings, held across the state. There were also outreach efforts by the Interstate Stream Commission and the Office of the State Engineer at meetings facilitated by the Governor's Office with the state's 22 federally recognized Indian Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos in compliance with a provision of the act specifically requiring Native American outreach. The effort culminated in with a consensus-building New Mexico First Town Hall on Water in September of 2003. The *State Water Plan* was adopted by the Interstate Stream Commission on December 17, 2003 and was presented to Governor Bill Richardson at a news conference in January of 2004.

The 2006 State Water Plan Progress Report can be downloaded from the Office of the State Engineer's website at www.ose.state.nm.us/PDF/Publications/StateWaterPlans/swp-2006-06-progress-report.pdf

For more information on the report, or to receive a free copy in the mail, contact Julie Maas at the Office of the State Engineer at (505) 765-2011, in Albuquerque.



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 nine-member 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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