



— MEDIA ADVISORY —

(October 10, 2006)

(ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico) — Climate change is in the news almost daily, with reports of increasing temperatures, changing water cycles, rising ocean levels, and flooding and extreme drought conditions which may be linked to global warming. The Governor's Drought Task Force decided to focus this year's 4th Annual Drought Summit on "*Climate Change: What Does It Mean For New Mexico?*"

The Summit will include several speakers who are well known internationally for their work on climate change. **Dr. Jonathan Overpeck** is one of the Coordinating Lead Authors for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment, due out early next year. Overpeck will report the latest work on climate change and its worldwide impacts. **Jacques DuBois** will address the economic consequences of climate change and why he and his company have taken a lead role internationally to encourage the business community to become actively involved in solutions. Other experts from around the country will also cover the management, legal and institutional challenges of adapting to climate change, as well as examples of mitigation activities that result in new approaches to watershed management, ranching and farming, and state water planning. **Dr. Ron Ott** of California's Bay-Delta Authority will describe how California, the first state to address climate change in its state water plan, is incorporating climate change projections despite continued uncertainty. Representatives from New Mexico's two U.S. Senate offices will discuss climate change initiatives at the federal level and the water/energy nexus. [See attached agenda for specific session titles and speakers.]

State officials expected to attend include: Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish; State Engineer John D'Antonio; New Mexico Environmental Secretary Ron Curry; New Mexico Secretary of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Joanna Prukop and Interstate Stream Commission Director Estevan Lopez. Event sponsors include the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service and the New Mexico Water Conservation Alliance.

The event is free, but registration is required. To register for the summit contact Cindy Nycz at cindy.nycz@nm.usda.gov, or (505) 761-4462. Lunch will be provided.

What: 4th Annual Drought Summit: "*Climate Change: What Does It Mean For New Mexico?*"

Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2006

Time: 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Where: UNM Continuing Education Building
1634 University Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM

For more information or to arrange pre-summit interviews with the speakers, contact:
Anne Watkins, Office of the State Engineer, at (505) 764-3883

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