



**For immediate release:**

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**For more information, contact:**

Maureen Haney, Public Relations Coordinator  
Planning and Communication Division  
(505) 764-3864

Karin Stangl, Planning and Communication Director  
Planning and Communication Division  
(505) 827-6139

## **State Engineer Extends Public Comment Period for Draft Rules and Regulations**

**(LAS CRUCES, New Mexico)** State Engineer John D'Antonio announced the extension to the public comment period for the second **public review draft of the rules and regulations** for water administration of the Lower Rio Grande Water Master District. The State Engineer has given the public until **January 31, 2007** to comment on this draft of the proposed rules and regulations.

"These rules and regulations are part of my Active Water Resource Management initiative and are designed to help us effectively manage the water supply in the Lower Rio Grande Basin," said State Engineer John D'Antonio. "These are for the benefit of the water right owners in the basin, and we want to provide them ample time to comment on this draft."

The Lower Rio Grande Water Master District encompasses the Rio Grande Valley and its tributaries from Elephant Butte Dam to the Texas border. The Lower Rio Grande Basin is one of seven priority basins in New Mexico targeted by the State Engineer for Active Water Resource Management initiatives.

Public meetings to present and explain this draft of the rules and regulations were held mid-November in Las Cruces and Truth or Consequences. Public outreach materials that were handed out at these meetings, as well as a copy of the draft rules and regulations can be found on the State Engineer website at [www.ose.state.nm.us](http://www.ose.state.nm.us) by clicking on *Lower Rio Grande Draft District Specific Rules and Regulations* located on the homepage under "Hot Topics." Hard copies of the materials can also be picked up at the Office of the State Engineer district office located at 1680 Hickory Loop, Suite J in Las Cruces.

Comments on the draft rules and regulations can be sent to:

**Lower Rio Grande District Specific Regulations, Office of the State Engineer, Attn: Cynthia Stokes, PO Box 25102, Santa Fe NM 87594** or via email to [lrg.comments@state.nm.us](mailto:lrg.comments@state.nm.us).

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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