



For Immediate Release:

April 19, 2007

For more information, contact:

Karin Stangl, Planning and Communication Director
Office of the State Engineer
(505) 699-4923

Leeanne Clark Public Relations Specialist
Office of the State Engineer
(505) 765-2057

New Attorney Hired for the Office of the State Engineer

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – The New Mexico State Engineer has recently hired a new attorney to work on the Lower Rio Grande adjudication.

Laurel Knowles has previously worked as an attorney for the New Mexico Public Defender Department and for New Mexico Legal Services. Before practicing law she spent a large part of her working life in journalism, primarily as co-publisher and co-owner of the Santa Fe Reporter.

“Knowles will primarily be working with water rights issues, specifically issues affecting adjudication in the Lower Rio Grande area,” said State Engineer John D’Antonio.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Humanities in 1991 from the College of Santa Fe in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In 1994, she earned a law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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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