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**For more information, contact:**

Julie Maas, Public Relations Specialist  
Office of the State Engineer  
(505) 765-2011

Patti Bushee, Public Outreach Administrator  
Water Use and Conservation Bureau  
(505) 827-3838

## **Office of the State Engineer Receives Bureau of Reclamation Grants for Water Conservation Efforts**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico)** -- The New Mexico Office of the State Engineer is the recipient of \$50,000 in Bureau of Reclamation grant monies. The Bureau of Reclamation recently awarded the Office of the State Engineer Water Use and Conservation Bureau two \$25,000 grants to further the agency's mission of promoting conservation and the efficient use of water in all sectors.

The first \$25,000 grant provides for the development and distribution of an educational DVD series related to improving the efficiency of outdoor water uses and landscapes. Targeting the homeowner and the small commercial landscaper, this series of ten minute DVDs will touch upon topics such as: the design and installation of efficient irrigation systems; xeric landscape design, installation and plant selection; planting techniques, soil preparation, mulching, and other water saving "tricks of the trade." The production of the series will be a collaborative effort between the Water Use and Conservation Bureau of the OSE and the Water Conservation Office of the City of Santa Fe.

The second \$25,000 grant uses a combination of research and training to teach municipal water suppliers and their foodservice industry members how to better conserve water. The Office of the State Engineer will develop a water conservation training audit that focuses on restaurants, institutional cafeterias and other food servers in New Mexico. Participating facilities will review their current water use practices and receive a written cost-benefit analysis outlining ways to improve their water efficiency, along with a free low-flow pre-rinse spray nozzle for their dishwashing station. It is estimated that two cities with populations of 30,000 or less could be accommodated by this foodservice, water audit program.

**(MORE)**

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 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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