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State Engineer Hires New Water Resource Specialist

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – New Mexico State Engineer John D' Antonio has hired a new water resource specialist to work in the WATERS Bureau of the Office of the State Engineer in Albuquerque.

Sharon Kindel began working under contract to the WATERS Bureau of the District I office in Albuquerque in 2006. She continues her duties as an employee of the Office of the State Engineer as a water resource specialist, effective December 17, 2007. Her duties include abstracting of water rights in the Active Water Resource Management (AWRM) priority basins, thereby helping make the agency's extensive water rights records more readily accessible to the public and agency staff. For four years prior to joining the Office of the State Engineer she worked in Albuquerque at the environmental consulting firm ATC as a staff scientist where she did environmental surveys and technical report writing.

The Active Water Resource Management (AWRM) initiative was launched in January 2004 by the Office of the State Engineer and for which statewide rules and regulations were adopted in December 2004. AWRM refers to a broad range of activities that emphasize permitting transfers, monitoring and metering diversions, and limiting diversions and consumptive use of water to the amount authorized by existing water rights – all within the prior appropriation system.

"Kindel has valuable work experience with water rights abstracting," said State Engineer John D'Antonio. "Her knowledge and experience with water rights files and her education in the field of water resources will greatly enhance her ability to excel in her position as a water resource specialist."

(MORE)

The Water Administration Engineering Resource System (WATERS) provides information concerning water use, including comprehensive data about domestic, irrigation, commercial, and other water rights, location of rights, and owners of rights, as well as details of well construction. The system provides a historical analysis of each individual water right claim in New Mexico, court orders and decrees, hydrographic survey results, water right applications pending before the State Engineer, and electronic images of water right documents.

Kindel graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology in 2002 from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. In 2007, she earned a Master of Water Resources degree with an emphasis in hydroscience from UNM.

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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