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District Supervisor for the Office of the State Engineer's Roswell District Office Retires

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – The district supervisor for the Office of the State Engineer's District II Office in Roswell has retired after more than 15 years on the job.

Art Mason, PE began working with the Office of the State Engineer in 1981 as a water resource engineer specialist, performing field investigations and collecting hydrographic data in the field in most areas of District II. In 1983, he was promoted to Pecos River basin supervisor, responsible for water rights administration for all six groundwater basins draining into the Pecos River. This area includes the Upper Pecos, Fort Sumner, Hondo, Peñasco, Roswell and Carlsbad basins. In 1986, Mason became the field engineer, providing supervision and oversight for the district's portion of the United States Geological Survey and Office of the State Engineer cooperative field program, and other field programs performed within the Roswell district. He then assumed the duties of the assistant district supervisor in 1989, reviewing all technical documentation prior to district supervisor approval.

In 1993, Mason transferred to the State of New Mexico Environment Department to become the district engineer responsible for environmental design review for public projects located with the southeast corner of the state. After five years, he returned to the Office of the State Engineer to become the district supervisor of the Roswell District II office where he remained for nine years until his retirement on December 31, 2007.

"Mason's extensive experience working with water issues in the District II area of responsibility was of great benefit. His expertise and willingness to accept responsibility allowed him to work virtually independently on very major issues involving water rights administration and water allocation," said Director of Water Rights Jim Sizemore. "Historically, the District II Office in Roswell was the busiest office in the state with respect to processing water rights applications and Art did an exceptional job for the State Engineer and his water rights customers. He will be missed, but the professionalism he instilled in his staff will allow the office to continue to provide excellent service to the public and to the State Engineer."

(MORE)

Mason earned his Associate's Degree in pure and applied science from John Abbott College, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in agricultural engineering from McGill University, both in Quebec, Canada. In 1986, he became a registered engineer in New Mexico.

Kenneth Fresquez has been named as Acting District Manager for the District II Office in Roswell.

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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