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Office of the State Engineer Wins Two Achievement Awards For Public Relations Excellence

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – For the fifth consecutive year, the Office of the State Engineer received Cumbre Awards of excellence from the New Mexico Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (NMPRSA).

The Cumbre Awards is an annual competition in the State of New Mexico, which recognizes public relations professionals and their respective organizations for their excellence in producing effective campaigns and tactics.

The Office of the State Engineer's Planning and Communication Division received a **Second-Place Silver 2008 Cumbre Award** for the public outreach campaign "**Bucket Brigade: Strategic Water Reserve Media Event**" in the public affairs/issues management campaign. This public outreach campaign supported the Interstate Stream Commission's efforts to meet Endangered Species Act needs, thus protecting other water rights in the process. The campaign marked the completion of the first project for the Strategic Water Reserve, which was a celebration of the first splash of water from the Vaughan Pipeline, near Ft Sumner.

Also, the division won a **Third-Place Bronze 2008 Cumbre Award** for the public outreach campaign "**Silvery Minnow Refugium Groundbreaking Event**" in the special events and observances category. This campaign supported the Interstate Stream Commission's efforts to satisfy the requirements of the March 2003 biological opinion for the Rio Grande silvery minnow related to Middle Rio Grande water operations. An innovative groundbreaking ceremony took place with involvement by fourth-grade students of Katherine Gallegos Elementary School of Los Lunas, and featured a ground blessing ceremony performed by Pueblo of Isleta Governor Robert Benevides. The event was produced in cooperation with Tetra Tech of Albuquerque.

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"These awards demonstrate that the quality of work produced by the communication team here at this state agency is the norm rather than the exception," said State Engineer John D'Antonio. "I'm very proud of the exceptional job that all our agency employees do each and every day. Effective communication with the public about our goals and objectives remains one of my top priorities as State Engineer."

"These awards are significant because they reflect on our agency's efforts to clearly communicate our priorities and initiatives to the public," said Planning and Communication Division Director Karin Stangl. "Our agency strives to go above and beyond expectations when it comes to public outreach."

The Cumbre Campaign Awards recognize outstanding achievement in a comprehensive public relations campaign for writing, design production, and management of materials consisting of more than one communication tool, program or component. The campaign must also include planning and evaluation activities.

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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