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New Mexico State Engineer Hires an Additional Water Planner

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – New Mexico State Engineer John D'Antonio announced that a new water planner was hired for the agency's Planning and Communication Division.

Alison Williams and began work on March 24. She will focus on updating the New Mexico State Water Plan as well as regional water plans for the state's 16 planning regions.

The New Mexico State Water Plan provides a policy framework for the state to manage water issues and prioritize funding needs around the state. State law requires the plan to be reviewed and updated periodically. That update process is scheduled for 2008 to address changed conditions such as population growth, climate variability, drought, new and changed water laws and court decisions, and other issues that have arisen since 2003 when the plan was first put into place. Williams will help both coordinate state and regional water planning efforts.

Williams most recently worked as a contractor for Sandia National Laboratories where she developed water resource simulation models for potential water markets and water supply alternatives in the Gila and Mimbres basins of New Mexico. As part of her master's thesis, she created a simulated basin model for educating the public on making water resource decisions.

Williams also spent a summer as an intern for the *Los Angeles Times* as a reporter, writing a variety of stories on environmental and water issues.

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“Because of her strong technical and communication skills, she will be an asset to the Commission’s water planning program,” said Planning and Communication Division Director Karin Stangl.

Williams earned a Master of Science degree in hydrology from the University of Arizona in Tucson in 2006 and received her Bachelors of Science degree in recreation management with an emphasis in natural resource management from Arizona State University in Tempe. She graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2003.

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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