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## **“Duckolympics” and Ribbon Cutting Staged to Announce Completion of Seven Rivers Pipeline for the Pecos Settlement**

**(CARLSBAD, New Mexico)** – Another milestone was reached in the implementation of the Pecos River Settlement Agreement today as the Interstate Stream Commission celebrated the completion of the Seven Rivers Pipeline Project near Carlsbad, New Mexico with a ribbon cutting and “duckolympics.”

“This pipeline is an integral part of implementing the Pecos Settlement. It will help us meet our interstate compact requirements and improve the water supply outlook for the Carlsbad Irrigation District,” said New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission Director Estevan López. “The completion of this pipeline demonstrates that the money appropriated by the New Mexico State Legislature and signed by Governor Richardson is producing tangible results.”

Officials attending the event included: Interstate Stream Commissioners, as well as representatives from US Senator Jeff Bingaman’s office, the Carlsbad Irrigation District (CID), the Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District (PVACD), the US Bureau of Reclamation, State Representatives, the Mayor of Carlsbad and others.

The Pecos Settlement and its implementation would not have been possible except for the support of the New Mexico State Legislature and Gov. Bill Richardson. The cooperation of the area legislators, the settlement parties and numerous contractors has been crucial.

The pipeline stretches from the Seven Rivers area near Carlsbad to Brantley Lake on the Pecos River. It is 12 inches to 36 inches in diameter, approximately 10 miles long and has the capacity to deliver in excess of 15,750 acre-feet of water per year to the river as required under the terms of the Pecos Settlement.

Ground was broken for the Seven Rivers Pipeline Project in June of 2007.

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In 2003, the State of New Mexico, CID, PVACD, and the United States entered into a settlement, that when implemented, will put an end to 50 years of litigation and will result in the adjudication of the Carlsbad Irrigation District's Project water rights. Additionally, the settlement will help the state comply with obligations under the Pecos River Compact as decreed by the United States Supreme Court in 1988.

Augmentation pumping sites have been developed at three locations, including the primary site in the Seven Rivers area. This well field has 10 artesian wells that were drilled and tested during the period of March 2005 to June 2006. These wells and an additional three private wells have been connected by this series of pipelines that can carry approximately 20,000 gallons per minute from the wells to Brantley Reservoir.

The Bureau of Reclamation contributed \$1 million to the Seven Rivers Pipeline Project through the Department of Interior's Water 2025 Program for work related to water efficiency and supply supplementation in compliance with the Settlement Agreement. Reclamation is also cooperating through a licensing agreement allowing the project to cross Reclamation land.

"I want to commend the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission and all of our partners on the Pecos on the completion of this key piece of the Carlsbad Project Settlement Agreement. These wells and pipelines will deliver much needed water to the Pecos River," said Reclamation Albuquerque Area Manager John Poland. "I would like to emphasize the importance of the cooperation that has moved projects like this and the Vaughan Pipeline forward."

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 nine-member 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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