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## **Report on Water Use in New Mexico is Now Available**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico)** – A statewide report on water use in the State of New Mexico is now available from the Office of the State Engineer’s Water Use and Conservation Bureau. The report, titled *New Mexico Water Use by Categories*, is the latest water use inventory. The first inventory was prepared for water use in 1975 and additional inventories have been completed every five-years since.

Data from this report can be used for regional water planning and to track changes in water use in various sectors over time.

“Over time communities in the state may notice marked increases or decreases in the amount of irrigated acreage in production or the growth or reduction in livestock as well as changes in the public supplies,” said Water Use and Conservation Bureau Chief John Longworth. “Making this type of data available to citizens throughout the state will help insure that informed decisions can be made with regard to our limited water resources.”

Some of the highlights of the report include:

- New Mexico is one of the fastest growing western states.
- Growth is expected to increase along with demand for water, especially in the Rio Grande Basin.
- Water use in the commercial, industrial, and livestock categories has increased since 2000.
- Water use in the mining, public supply, irrigated agriculture, and reservoir categories has decreased since 2000.
- Water use in domestic and power categories are essentially unchanged.

Here are New Mexico’s water uses by categories:

- 77% irrigated agriculture
- 10% public supplies and domestic use
- 7% evaporation
- 6% livestock, commercial, industrial, mining, and power

"New Mexico's population is predicted to increase about 85 percent by the year 2050," said State Engineer John D'Antonio. "Because there is no new water, it is very important that we carefully administer water right transactions in New Mexico to insure that only the consumptive use portion is transferred from an existing use to the new use, thus holding depletions constant."

To obtain a free copy of the report, contact the Water Use and Conservation Bureau, in Santa Fe, at (505) 827-4272, or click on the following link to access the report:

<http://www.ose.state.nm.us/PDF/Publications/Library/TechnicalReports/TechReport-052.pdf>

*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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