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New Water Master Hired for the Office of the State Engineer

(ROSWELL, New Mexico) – The New Mexico State Engineer announced the selection of a new Water Master for the Rio Peñasco Basin, named Celina Alaniz.

Alaniz began her career for the Office of the State Engineer as a Water Resource Specialist for the Litigation and Adjudication Program in the Pecos Bureau in 2006. Now as a Water Master, she will be responsible for assuring that the water is fairly distributed in accordance with available water supply and priority dates.

“Alaniz has a background in land surveying. Her experience with land and water issues gives her a unique perspective as a Water Master in this area,” said State Engineer John D’Antonio.

Prior to working for the Office of the State Engineer, Alaniz was employed as a senior surveyor for KLS Engineering Services at Los Alamos National Laboratory from 2004 to 2006, a cadastral surveyor for Bureau of Land Management from 1999 to 2004, and a survey department assistant for New Mexico State University from 1998 to 1998. Previously, Alaniz spent over ten years in the software consultation and information technology field.

“The basic skills and knowledge that Alaniz possesses will help her immensely in her new position,” said Kenneth Fresquez, the District II Supervisor for the Office of the State Engineer. “She is familiar with the water rights adjudication process.”

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Alaniz received her bachelor of science degree in surveying engineering from New Mexico State University in 2001. She also has a certificate in computer science from Albuquerque Technical-Vocational Institute in 1983 and a bachelor of university studies from the University of Albuquerque in 1981.

Additionally, Alaniz passed the NCEES exam for surveyors in 2006 to become a licensed surveyor in New Mexico in 2007. She will continue to use her land surveying in her position as a Water Master.

Alaniz is a native New Mexican, born and raised in Artesia.

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 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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