



**For immediate release:**

October 8, 2008

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## **New Mexico State Engineer Announces Expansion of the Mimbres Water Master District**

**(SILVER CITY, New Mexico)** – New Mexico State Engineer John D’Antonio announced the expansion of the Upper Mimbres water master district to include the middle and lower Mimbres River.

The State Engineer declared the water master district in response to requests by water right owners in the area to actively manage and administer the diversions and use of water from the Mimbres River on a day-to-day basis.

“Recent years of drought, flooding, and climate variability in this area also prompted the expansion of the water master district,” said State Engineer John D’Antonio.

The boundaries of the Mimbres water master district now include all surface uses from the Fowler Sawmill north of San Lorenzo to the intersection of the Mimbres River and US Highway 180 in Luna County.

“Two water masters who are familiar with the area have already been hired to help actively administer water on this stream system,” said District III Supervisor Charles Jackson. “Water masters typically monitor diversions and use of the waters of a stream system, especially during the irrigation season. Water masters act as a mediator when asked by area water users to help settle any disputes. We encourage area water users to come up with a plan among themselves for sharing limited water resources in times of shortage.”

“Water masters serve an important function for the Office of the State Engineer because they are our people in the field who make sure the water is equitably distributed to water users in a particular area,” said D’Antonio.

*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.*

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