



For immediate release:

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For more information, contact:

Julie Maas, Public Relations Specialist
(505) 765-2011

Karin Stangl,
Planning and Communication Director
(505) 699-4923 cell

Public Forum on Water Use in the Rio Gallinas Scheduled in Las Vegas

(LAS VEGAS, New Mexico) – “Water Use in the Rio Gallinas” is the title of a public forum sponsored by the Office of the State Engineer/Interstate Stream Commission that will be held on Tuesday, March 31 in Las Vegas at the Luna Community College Lecture Hall from 6:00 to 8:30 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for everyone to learn of the water uses in the Rio Gallinas Basin. Information will be offered related to managing the water, wildlife management and the adjudication process, and it will be an opportunity for water users to ask about the contents of the Rio Gallinas Water Master Report for 2008.

The agenda features presenters from the Office of the State Engineer, Interstate Stream Commission, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, San Miguel County Extension Service, New Mexico Game and Fish, and the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge.

A question and answer period will follow the presentations.

For more information, please contact Julie Maas at (505) 765-2011, or visit the Office of the State Engineer website at www.ose.state.nm.us, Hot Topics, Rio Gallinas Public Outreach.

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 has broad powers to investigate, protect, conserve and develop New Mexico's water including both interstate and intrastate stream systems. It ensures the state meets its obligations under eight interstate stream compacts. The Commission was also given water planning responsibilities for the state.

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