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## **Metering Agreements Signed in the Rio Gallinas Basin**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico)** – New Mexico State Engineer John D’Antonio announced today that 14 metering agreements were signed between acequia parciantes in the Rio Gallinas and the Office of the State Engineer.

These metering agreements are important tools for the State Engineer to assess hydrologic conditions within the Rio Gallinas watershed, to assess current water use patterns, to assess efficiency of water delivery systems, and to prepare for future administration of water within the basin.

“There is a beneficial partnership between the Office of the State Engineer and the acequias in this area,” said State Engineer John D’Antonio. “We’re hoping to apply the success that has been achieved in the Gallinas Basin to the rest of the state and that the momentum gained there will carry into other areas in which metering is vitally important.”

Meetings were held by the Office of the State Engineer in recent months with all mayordomos and most of the parciantes in the area to share information on the benefits of metering and measuring and using the meters as tools for management of the river. Funding options were discussed at these meetings to assist acequias with infrastructure improvement.

The Rio Gallinas Water Master Luis Aguirre also held meetings to provide technical advice for better management of irrigated fields, as well as seepage problems, easements and water rights. Other water users were invited to attend the public forums to share information on their conservation methods, wildlife management efforts, and infrastructure improvement funding.

*The Office of the State Engineer is charged with administering the state’s water resources. The State Engineer has the responsibility to allocate, measure, administer, and oversee the 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.*

*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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