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Office of the State Engineer to Release Video at Xeriscape Conference This Weekend

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) - The New Mexico Office of the State Engineer has developed a new training video aimed at reducing outdoor water use in residential and small commercial landscapes.

The video, titled *Living on Less: A Guide to Water-Efficient Landscaping in New Mexico*, was developed through a grant with the US Bureau of Reclamation and a partnership with the City of Santa Fe.

The video covers topics such as: creating a watering schedule, designing efficient irrigation systems, water-efficient plant selection and xeric landscape design, planting techniques and soil preparation, mulching, and other water-saving tips. The target audience is the homeowner and those responsible for small commercial landscapes. To provide access to the large Spanish speaking population in New Mexico, the video will be translated into Spanish.

The decision to focus on municipal water use comes in part from the U.S. Census Bureau's projections that population growth for New Mexico will add an additional 800,000 people to the state by 2030.¹ This is an increase of 40 percent over the State's population in 2000. Outdoor water use is usually the largest part of any municipality's residential use. In New Mexico's normally hot, dry summer months, this can increase from 30 percent to 50 to 70 percent of residential usage. The increase is largely contributed to outdoor watering of lawns and landscapes.

(MORE)

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Census 2000

Appropriate watering techniques, along with plant selection, soil amendments and other water wise techniques can cut this water use by 50 percent.² The *Living on Less* video details these techniques in an easy to understand format.

The Water Use and Conservation Bureau of the Office of the State Engineer will be showing the video at their booth during the 2010 Water Conservation and Xeriscaping Expo at Expo New Mexico, 300 San Pedro NE, Albuquerque, on Saturday, February 27 from 8:30 am-5:00 pm and on Sunday, February 28 from 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

The video will be posted on the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer website at http://www.ose.state.nm.us/wucp_home_owners.html.

For more information, please contact Julie Maas, at (505) 383-4095.

The Office of the State Engineer is charged with the 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 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 investigating, conserving and protecting the waters of the State, in addition to water planning.

² Wilson, Brain C., "Water Conservation Demands and Quantification of Water Demands in Subdivisions," New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (May 1996).