



For immediate release:

March 10, 2010

For more information, contact:

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

State Engineer Commends Former Mayor Ray Nunley for Agreement to Streamline Water Rights for the Village of Ruidoso

(RUIDOSO New Mexico) – New Mexico State Engineer John D’Antonio commended Former Mayor of the Village of Ruidoso Ray Nunley for entering into a comprehensive agreement to simplify administration of Ruidoso’s water rights.

In more than a year of negotiation and collaborative effort, Village staff and the Office of the State Engineer staff were able to resolve many outstanding problems, which in the past have plagued the administration regarding the Village’s water rights.

“Water rights for the Village of Ruidoso are numerous and complicated,” said State Engineer John D’Antonio. “Because of these factors, friction was created between the agency and the Village. Ray Nunley, whose term as mayor just ended, suggested a comprehensive review of the Village’s water rights and administration, and it was agreed to attempt to resolve many of the existing issues.”

The agreement between the State Engineer and the Village of Ruidoso will simplify and streamline the process of accounting for the Village’s use of water. In the process, the Village agreed to relinquish some water rights, which had not yet been developed.

“This agreement should improve the administration of these water rights and make for a better working relationship between the Office of the State Engineer and the Village of Ruidoso,” said D’Antonio. “Mayor Nunley showed courage and foresight in pursuing this process, and I was glad that we could work together.”

“Water rights in this area are difficult,” said former Mayor Ray Nunley. “The State Engineer and his staff have helped us understand and simplify our water rights. Water issues take time to resolve, but we got it done.”

(MORE)

During the Mayor Nunley's term, the Village of Ruidoso dealt with some extremely challenging issues including two floods, a drought and a new wastewater treatment plant.

"I look forward to forging an equally good working relationship with the Village of Ruidoso's new Mayor Ray Alborn," said D'Antonio.

Alborn officially took the helm as Mayor on Monday, March 8.

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.

#