



**For immediate release:**

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## **“Protect Your Groundwater Day” is September 14**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico)** - As a means to raise awareness about how everyone can and should do something to protect groundwater, Tuesday, September 14, 2010, has been designated “Protect Your Groundwater Day” here in New Mexico.

The National Groundwater Association, in conjunction with Santa Fe County, the Office of the State Engineer/Interstate Stream Commission, the New Mexico Environment Department Ground Water Quality Bureau, and the New Mexico Water Conservation Alliance, urges the public to **ACT – Acknowledge, Consider, and Take Action**. It is important to **Acknowledge** the causes of preventable groundwater contamination. **Consider** what types of hazardous substances that may be in and around the home, and take **Action** to properly prevent groundwater contamination.

“The quality and quantity of our water sources are so important,” said Office of the State Engineer Water Use and Conservation Bureau Senior Water Resources and Conservation Coordinator Cheri Vogel. “This public awareness effort to keep groundwater clean is integral to public safety.”

### **Everyone has a stake in maintaining the quality and quantity of groundwater.**

For starters, 95 percent of all available freshwater comes from aquifers beneath the ground. Being a good steward of groundwater just makes sense.

Most surface water bodies such as rivers and lakes are connected to groundwater, so how the groundwater is impacted really matters.

**(MORE)**

Many public water systems draw all or part of their supply from groundwater basins. Therefore, protecting the resource protects the public water supply and affects treatment costs.

Groundwater protection is even more important for well owners who need water for family, farm, and business uses. Well owners are managers of their own water systems. Protecting groundwater helps reduce the risk to water supplies.

September 14 is the day set aside to begin doing your part for protecting one of our most important natural resources – groundwater.

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.*

*The New Mexico Environment Department, Ground Water Quality Bureau is charged to preserve, protect, and improve New Mexico's ground water quality for present and future generations. The Pollution Prevention Section is charged with developing and implementing statewide ground water protection efforts and pollution abatement strategies such that New Mexico's ground water resources are protected and water pollution is prevented to the maximum degree possible.*