



**For immediate release:**

October 1, 2010

**For more information, contact:**

Julie Maas, Public Relations Specialist  
(505) 383-4095

## **Rio Gallinas Flow Measuring Stations Complete**

**(LAS VEGAS, New Mexico)** – The last of the flow measuring stations planned for several of the senior Gallinas River acequias as part of the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) Active Water Resource Management (AWRM) Gallinas River Water Master District Project was recently completed.

In order for this project to be implemented, Rio Gallinas Acequia Association members, including William Gonzales, Joseph Padilla, and Curtis Sollohub, met with OSE District VI Supervisor Linda I. Gordan, Staff Manager Vince Chavez, and Water Masters Brian Gallegos and Luis P. Aguirre to work out logistics. Also, Community Liaison Richard Trujillo and Acequia Liaison Hilario Rubio worked with local water diverters to make changes to the ditch metering agreements so that they would be acceptable to everyone. Ultimately, 15 acequia agreements were signed.

Flow measuring devices were installed over the past 18 months by Sutron Corporation of Albuquerque, NM, and the following diversions are now being measured: Acequia Madre de Los Romeros, Acequia Madre de Las Vegas, Acequia Madre de Los Vigiles, Gallinas Canal, Grzelachowski Ditch, La Concepcion Ditch, Nuestra Senora de Los Dolores Ditch, Roundhouse Ditch, San Augustin Community Ditch, and West Chaperito Ditch. Additionally, a flow measuring station was installed immediately downstream of the newly constructed weir and river gate built by New Image Construction Company of Ribera, NM.

The city of Las Vegas Diversion Point and the United States Geological Survey stations at Montezuma, Lourdes, and Colonias in the Gallinas River had been the only locations that had constant flow measuring stations prior to 2009.

IC Tech of Albuquerque, NM installed the telemetry system that allows OSE staff to receive the flow data by radio signal antennas from the flume data recorders to a remote computer in Santa Fe every 15 minutes. Eventually the data will be available to the public on the Office of the State Engineer website. The estimated date of completion for that portion of the project is expected to be next spring. Gallinas Water Master Luis P. Aguirre of the OSE District VI-Santa Fe office is responsible for the record-keeping, maintenance and day-to-day administration of the metering devices.

**(MORE)**

The Gallinas River, which is the main source of drinking water for the city of Las Vegas is considered a priority basin in the AWRM program. State Engineer John D'Antonio has committed state funding and resources for the benefit of San Miguel County residents that depend on the Gallinas River for their water needs.

"We are continually striving to implement long-term, sustainable solutions for the complex water issues faced in the Rio Gallinas Basin," said D'Antonio. "Having the baseline measurements for these ditches in real-time will greatly aid in managing the river more effectively."

Funds for the project came from the 2008 State Appropriation to the Office of the State Engineer for Statewide Surface Water Measurement. The flow measurement devices and associated costs were \$406,161.

In addition to the Gallinas basin, metering is also occurring in the Rio Chama, Nambe-Pojoaque-Tesuque rivers, and San Juan River basins. Metering in the Mimbres basin is nearing completion.

For more information, please contact Julie Maas of the Planning and Communication Division of the Office of the State Engineer/Interstate Stream Commission at (505) 383-4095.

*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.*

**# # #**