



**For immediate release:**

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## **State Engineer Hires Native American Water Liaison**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico)** – New Mexico State Engineer John D’Antonio has hired a new Native American Water Liaison for the Office of the State Engineer.

**Myron Armijo**, of Santa Ana Pueblo, began his position on August 5.

“As a recent former Governor from Santa Ana Pueblo, Armijo understands the issues facing New Mexico Pueblos including Rio Grande endangered species issues,” said State Engineer John D’Antonio. “His experience will be an invaluable asset to our agency as this position is instrumental in helping to work collaboratively on water issues involving the State of New Mexico and Indian Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations.”

Armijo was the Lieutenant Governor of Santa Ana Pueblo from January 2000 to December 2000. In January 2003, he became Governor of Santa Ana Pueblo where he held that position until December 2003. During his tenure as Governor, he was the Chairman of the Ten Southern Governors Council.

His previous experience includes a position as the Chairman of Tamaya Enterprises Inc. from 1997 to 2003. Prior to that, he worked as an electronic technician at the U.S. Nuclear Testing Range in Mercury, Nevada from 1974 to 1977. He went on to have a career in the computer industry working for companies throughout the State of New Mexico which include, Control Data Corp., Cray Research Inc, Thinking Machines, and Silicon Graphics, Inc. from 1977 to 1997.

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Duties of the Native American Water Liaison include promoting a spirit of cooperation, coordination, communication, and good will between Tribal and state governments as separate sovereignties. The Native American Water Liaison deals with matters related to adjudication of Tribal and Pueblo water rights, negotiations regarding these rights, and assistance to individual Tribes and Pueblos.

“It is my goal to bring together the tribes of New Mexico and the Office of the State Engineer to work in good faith to resolve issues and differences with regard to water resources, all in accordance with Governor Richardson’s goals and initiatives,” said Armijo.

The Office of the State Engineer is charged with 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 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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Note: For photo, call (505) 827-4130, in Santa Fe.