



**For immediate release:**

November 30, 2004

**For more information, contact:**

Karin Stangl, Public Information Officer  
Office of the State Engineer/Interstate Stream Commission

## **New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission Wins a Major Victory in District Court, Clearing the Way for the Pecos Settlement**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico)** – Ninth District Judge William Bonem today dismissed all the remaining objections to the Pecos Settlement brought by the Tracy-Eddy Family and the Hope Community Ditch.

The judge dismissed the case on the grounds that the objectors did not meet the minimum standards for going to trial.

“We have maintained all along that the settlement was legal, and the judge agreed,” said Interstate Stream Commission Director Estevan Lopez. “Given the strength of this decision, we will now assess how to best promote the objectives of the settlement.”

Last December, there were five objectors to the Pecos Settlement including: the City of Alamogordo, the City of Santa Rosa, the Brantley Family, Tracy-Eddy Family, and the Hope Community Ditch. The Interstate Stream Commission staff was able to work with the City of Alamogordo, the City of Santa Rosa, and the Brantleys to have them withdraw their objections.

Commission staff requested that the judge dismiss the remaining two parties’ objections on the grounds that they will not be supported by law or fact. The court found that there was no legal basis for their objections, so they must be dismissed.

The Pecos settlement was reached in 2002, involving water rights in the Pecos Basin in southeastern New Mexico. It resolves the most contentious issues between the Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District (PVACD) and the Carlsbad Irrigation District (CID) in an area, which has taken 50 years or more to adjudicate

The nine-member Interstate Stream Commission is responsible for compact compliance, investigating, conserving, protecting, and developing the water resources and stream systems of New Mexico as well as carrying out plans and programs for beneficial uses in the state. The Commission has water planning responsibility for the state.

# # #