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Partial Final Decree Entered Allowing the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission to Proceed with the Pecos Settlement

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – A **partial final decree**, adjudicating the water rights of the United States and the Carlsbad Irrigation District (CID), was entered today by Fifth Judicial District Judge Pro Tem David W. Bonem.

“This is a major step forward in allowing the State of New Mexico to proceed with implementation of the settlement and thereby comply with its obligations under the Pecos River Compact and the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1988 amended decree,” said Interstate Stream Commission Director Estevan López. “With entry of the partial final decree, the state can begin acquiring land with funds appropriated by the legislature.”

The Carlsbad Project serves the farmer-members of the CID. The water rights of individual members are being separately adjudicated in the membership phase of the adjudication.

The decree was entered upon the dismissal of final objections to the Pecos Settlement brought by the Tracy-Eddy Family and the Hope Community Ditch. The objections were dismissed on the grounds that they did not have legal merit and that there was no evidence that the settlement would impair any water rights.

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.

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