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Office of the State Engineer Recommends Standard Measure for Calculating Water Use Over Time

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) - The New Mexico Office of the State Engineer has developed a standardized methodology for gallons per capita per day (GPCD) calculations in New Mexico, which is a standardized tool for water use reporting.

"This methodology will be used by the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer to track municipal water use over time and manage the State's water resources into the future," said State Engineer John D'Antonio, P.E. "In addition, the methodology will provide the drinking water supplier with a categorized baseline of historical and current water use, and assist both the state and the drinking water supplier in planning, tracking and reporting water uses."

Office of the State Engineer staff designed a gallons per capita per day (NMOSE GPCD) calculator to implement the methodology. It uses a Microsoft Excel™ structure to record the data and to develop the results. The NMOSE GPCD Instruction Module provides the details on how the Calculator works, to include the data to input and how to interpret the results. Both the Calculator and the Instruction Module are available on the Office of the State Engineer website at http://www.ose.state.nm.us/WUC/wuc_gcpd.php.

The GPCD methodology will be required as part of application when requesting to hold water unused (40 Year Plans), in water conservation plans, and mandated water use reporting. It may also be required as a permit condition in sensitive hydrologic basins, emergency permits, and large or excessive users. This type of data is also requested as part of the Uniform Funding Application that is used for evaluating water and wastewater loan fund requests.

"This methodology and the supporting NMOSE GPCD Calculator are designed to give the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer and drinking water suppliers within New Mexico a tool to standardize water use reporting," said Water Use and Conservation Bureau Chief, John Longworth, P.E. "These calculations aid in tracking trends and changes over time, water use programming and planning, and projecting future per capita needs."

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The methodology was developed by the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer in cooperation with leading water engineers and conservation experts in the nation. The methodology and the GPCD Calculator were reviewed within New Mexico and nationally by state agencies, municipalities, and university and water conservation experts. It was pilot tested by seven drinking water suppliers within the state.

For more information, please contact Julie Maas, at (505) 765-2011.

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.