



New Mexico Office of the State Engineer  
P. O. Box 25102  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102  
(505) 827-6091

New Mexico State Engineer  
John D'Antonio, PE

Editor  
Karin Stangl, APR

Editorial Assistant  
Julie Maas

Contributing Writers  
Jaclynn Castañón, Julie Maas

## Expansion of the Mimbres River Water Master District

Expansion of the Mimbres River Water Master District and how zero snowpack is affecting stream flows in the Mimbres River this year were two subjects covered by State Engineer John D'Antonio at a public meeting in San Lorenzo on May 12.

Prospects for little future precipitation highlighted the importance of stretching limited water supplies as far as possible and sharing shortages among area residents in dry times.

The Active Water Resource Management initiative, or how the State Engineer plans to put tools in place to manage our state's variable water supplies in future years, was also discussed. Much of the meeting focused on the benefits of metering and a request for voluntary metering by the end of 2008.

"Water can't be managed efficiently if the amount of water used isn't known, and metering ensures



State Engineer John D'Antonio delivers his message about the district expansion to the assembled audience.

everyone gets their fair share," said D'Antonio. "State Legislative funding is now available for this area to offset the cost of installing a meter. The time is now to get a meter while funding help is available."

For more information about purchasing a meter or applying for funding, call (505) 827-6120. ♦



Promoting communication among  
New Mexico's community of water users.

## "Managing Water in the Rio Gallinas" Forum Held

More than 60 people attended a public forum sponsored by the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for everyone to learn of the water needs in the Rio Gallinas Basin, as well as the engineering and funding assistance available from federal and other governmental agencies related to water management. "Managing Water on the Rio Gallinas for 2008" was held on Monday, March 31 in Las Vegas at the Luna Community College.

The agenda featured the following presenters:

- Mike Ahlm, District Wildlife Officer for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish who spoke on maintaining a balance between protecting beavers and their habitats while protecting landowners from damage.
- Hilario Rubio, Acequia Liaison for the Office of the State Engineer, welcomed the audience and presenters that attended the 6:00-8:30 pm meeting.
- Ray Acosta, Acequia Program Manager for the Interstate Stream Commission, which helps acequia associations build or restore diversion structures and ditches used for irrigation.
- Michael Jones, District Conservationist from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, which provides preliminary review, cost estimates, and project recommendations for acequias.
- Frances Martinez, District Manager, and Steve Reichert, Project Coordinator, for the Tierra & Montes Soil and Water Conservation District, who talked about several projects completed within the Gallinas watershed with respect to water management.
- George DuFour, Utilities Director of the City of Las Vegas, who discussed surface water diversions, groundwater, wells, storage capacity, and conservation for the city.
- Joseph Padilla, President, and William Gonzales, Board Member, of the Rio Gallinas Acequias Association, who talked about the importance of fostering good relationships between all participants who are working to move the adjudication forward as well as about acequia governance and bylaws.
- Luis Aguirre, Rio Gallinas Water Master for the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, who talked about temporary gages, meters, measurement, and metering agreements as well as the goals of the agency with respect to water management in 2008.

· Linda Gordan, Water Rights District VI Supervisor, guided the audience through information available to the public on the Office of the State Engineer website at [www.ose.state.nm.us](http://www.ose.state.nm.us). ♦



John Romero, Water Resource Allocation Program Director, listens to a question from the audience along with other presenters at the "Managing Water in the Rio Gallinas in 2008" forum in Las Vegas.

## New Water Planner Hired



A new water planner joined the Planning and Communication Division of the Interstate Stream Commission staff on March 24. Alison Williams will focus on updating the State Water Plan as well as regional water plans for the state's 16 planning regions.

She earned a Master of Science degree in hydrology from the University of Arizona in Tucson in 2006 and received her Bachelor of Science degree in recreation management with an emphasis in natural resource management from Arizona State University in Tempe, graduating Summa Cum Laude in 2003.

"Because of her strong technical and communication skills, she will be an asset to the water planning program," said Planning and Communication Division Director Karin Stangl. ♦

## Cimarron High School Students Create Refugeum Sign



Cimarron High School students and their teacher proudly display the sign they constructed for the new Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugeum. Pictured from left to right: Sara Hogencamp, teacher Tania Kordis, Kayla Trujillo, Jorge Esparsa, Eric Saunders, Alyssa Chavez, Estevan Ebell, Anthony Cardenas, Eddie Nelson, and Yul Acosta. Not pictured: Madison Coss, Alyssa Espinosa, Tekoah Espinosa, KC Fries, David Mestas, Andrew Sanchez, Arielle King, Chloe Andrews, Michael Chavez, Nicholas Johnson, Joseph Montoya, and BJ Romero.

Twenty-one Cimarron High School students, under the direction of art, photography and emergent technologies teacher Tania Kordis, and in cooperation with the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission staff, created a sign for the new Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugeum.

Students developed materials lists and figured cost estimates, while others then constructed the 6' x 6' sign from tongue and groove aspen. Other students used laser equipment to cut out sign details such as the Office of the State Engineer/Interstate Stream Commission logo and other graphic elements. Students painted some of the elements that were permanently adhered to the sign backing before weather-treating the sign for maximum longevity.

Aquaculturist and Manager of the Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugeum Douglas Tave and Public Relations Specialist Julie Maas visited the high school during the afternoon of March 20 to deliver a presentation to the assembled classes and to learn of the progress of the sign. They received a tour of the art, laser, and wood shop facility. Kordis' students in two emergent technologies classes range from 9th to 12th grade, and were joined by students from the science class, as well as science teacher Leigh

Hedderman, Principal Penny Coppedge, and Superintendent James Gallegos for the presentation.

Tave spoke on the history of the Rio Grande silvery minnow and the workings of the new Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugeum. Construction of this unique outdoor fish culture facility began in June, 2007 and the first batch of fish will be received later this year. Maas explained the responsibilities of the Office of the State Engineer and Interstate Stream Commission to those present.

On April 15, Interstate Stream Commission staff took delivery of the newly constructed sign that will soon be erected at the Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugeum on Main Street in Los Lunas, New Mexico. ♦

## New Water Masters Hired

New Water Masters were added to the Office of the State Engineer's team to assist in the administration of the Active Water Resource Management initiative.

"Water Masters serve an important function for the Office of the State Engineer because they work in the field and make sure that water is equitably distributed to water users in a particular area," said State Engineer John D'Antonio.

**Dave Mercer** and **Robin Pirtle** began their duties as Assistant Water Masters in the **Lower Rio Grande Basin** in the District IV Las Cruces office on February 4. The primary area they are focusing their work on is north of Radium Springs to the southern portion of Truth or Consequences.



**Jimmy Hodges** began his duties as Water Master in the **San Juan Basin** in the District V Aztec office in October, 2007. which includes that portion of northwest New Mexico that lies west of the continental divide and north of the Gallup and Grants area. The basin includes the Animas, La Plata, and San Juan Rivers, Chaco and Largo Washes, and all underground waters in these areas. The cities of Aztec, Bloomfield, and Farmington, as well as portions of the Navajo, Jicarilla Apache and Southern ute Tribes lie within the basin. ♦



## W.A.T.E.R.S. Well Location Coordination System Enhanced

Office of the State Engineer's Information Technology Bureau, the Water Rights Division and the Water Administration Technical Engineering Resource System (WATERS) Abstract Bureau are combining efforts on a new well location coordinate system. A significant portion of the effort, converting the location of water-wells contained in the WATERS database to a common coordinate system, and the

instant conversion of all location information as it is entered in the WATERS database, is substantially complete.

The major benefit of this is the ability to easily extract this data for water right impairment analyses, and for other needs.

For more information, call (505) 827-6120. ♦

## Cumbre Awards Received for Public Relations Efforts

For the fifth consecutive year, the Office of the State Engineer received Cumbre Awards of excellence from the New Mexico Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (NMPRSA).

The Cumbre Awards is an annual competition in the State of New Mexico, which recognizes public relations professionals and their respective organizations for their excellence in producing effective campaigns and tactics.

The Office of the State Engineer's Planning and Communication Division received a Second-Place Silver 2008 Cumbre Award for the public outreach campaign "Bucket Brigade: Strategic Water Reserve Media Event" in the public affairs/issues management campaign. This public outreach campaign supported the Interstate Stream Commission's efforts to meet Endangered Species Act needs, thus protecting other water rights in the process. The campaign marked the completion of the first project for the Strategic Water Reserve, which was a celebration of the first splash of water from the Vaughan Pipeline, near Ft Sumner.

Also, the division won a Third-Place Bronze 2008 Cumbre Award for the public outreach campaign "Silvery Minnow Refugeum Groundbreaking Event" in the special events and observances category. This campaign supported the Interstate Stream Commission's efforts to satisfy the requirements of the March 2003 biological opinion for the Rio Grande silvery minnow related to Middle Rio Grande water operations. An innovative groundbreaking ceremony took place with involvement by fourth-grade students of Katherine Gallegos Elementary School of Los Lunas, and featured a ground blessing ceremony performed by Pueblo of Isleta Governor Robert Benevides. The event was produced in cooperation with Tetra Tech of Albuquerque. ♦

## District Supervisor Hired For Roswell Office



Kenneth Fresquez was promoted to District Supervisor for the Office of the State Engineer Roswell District Office. Fresquez, who has been serving as Acting District Supervisor for the Roswell Office for the past several months, officially began work as District Supervisor on May 3.

"Fresquez has proven to be a strong leader for the Roswell District Office, and I am confident that district operations will continue to run efficiently under his supervision," said State Engineer John D'Antonio. "In addition, his experience and knowledge of the District II area will ensure that effective water management of the Pecos Basin will continue."

Fresquez has been employed with the Roswell District for more than 23 years. Fresquez served as the former staff manager for the district. His main responsibility was to supervise and coordinate duties of the agency personnel working within the Pecos River Drainage Area.

As District Supervisor, Fresquez will manage the Roswell District Office, Water Rights Division, and the allocation and administration of water rights for both surface and groundwater within the Roswell District. The District Supervisor also acts as the State Engineer's local representative for water and water right issues within the district.

The Roswell District administers water rights within the area of Southeastern New Mexico. This includes the Curry County Basin, Causey Lingo Basin, Lea County Basin, Jal, Capitan, Hondo Basin, Calsbad Basin, Roswell Artesian Basin, Peñasco Basin, Portales Basin, and the Ft. Sumner Basin.

Fresquez was named District II Employee of the Year in 2005 and has been involved in many agency committees throughout the years. ♦