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We thank you, in advance, for helping us keep our mailing list current by notifying us of your address and personnel changes.

Navajo Nation Hosts Celebration for Water Settlement Agreement

The Navajo Nation hosted a celebration on May 26 to commemorate the passage of authorizing legislation for the Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement in the San Juan Basin in New Mexico as part of one of the Omnibus Public Land Management Bill Act, which was signed into law by President Barack Obama on March 30, 2009.

The legislation includes the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Supply Project, which will bring water to remote areas of the Navajo Nation as well as to Gallup, New Mexico residents.

A ceremony took place at the edge of the San Juan River with remarks by US Senator Jeff Bingaman who sponsored the bill and shepherded it through the Senate. Recognition was also given to Governor Bill Richardson's office, to former US Senator



Agency staff and others display their plaques received during formal presentations at Nenahnezhad Chapter House in Fruitland, NM between State of New Mexico and Navajo Nation personnel who worked long and hard for the passage of the settlement.

Pete Domenici, and US Senator Tom Udall, as well as State Engineer John D'Antonio, Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) Chairman Jim Dunlap, ISC Director Estevan López, ISC General Counsel Tanya Trujillo and ISC Colorado River Bureau Chief John Whipple. ♦

For more information about the Office of the State Engineer and Interstate Stream Commission efforts, visit www.ose.state.nm.us.



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

New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission Held Public Meetings for the State Water Plan Update

As part of the public outreach efforts for the State Water Plan Update, the Interstate Stream Commission held 21 meetings across the state to solicit public input into how New Mexico balances its future water needs with limited supplies.

"In coming weeks, our planning team will be reviewing the public feedback we received and will be looking for common threads between the regions," said Karin Stangl, Planning and Communication Director. "This public input will be useful in shaping the direction to be taken with the State Water Plan Update document."

State statute requires that the New Mexico State Water Plan be reviewed every five years and updated according to need. New Mexico's first State Water Plan was completed in 2003. Since then, a variety of factors have emerged that have made updating the plan necessary including: New Mexico's population hitting the 2-million mark demonstrating the increasing demand for water, continued drought and climate variability, new court decisions, and the need for increased conservation, among other factors.

"New Mexico spends a fraction of what surrounding states like Texas, Colorado, and Arizona spend on water planning. Updating this plan is a way for New Mexicans to have a hand in determining their water future," said New Mexico State Engineer John D'Antonio.

"The 2003 State Water Plan was a good beginning," said Interstate Stream Commission Director Estevan López. "Planning for the future is much less expensive than reacting to crisis situations such as drought, water shortages, infrastructure failures, and other issues."

This was an opportunity to look at the regional water plans for a particular area and see how those plans can start being integrated with the State Water Plan. Regional water plans address the following concerns: what the available water supply is for a region, what the current

and projected future water demands are, and what steps a region plans to undertake to meet future demand with available supply.



A participant in Abiquiu responds to questions as a local reporter records comments.

Public forums provided an opportunity for interested citizens to help shape water policy for the State of New Mexico by including discussions of topics such as continued growth, increased demand, conservation, climate variability, and prioritizing water infrastructure projects for the region.

The regional water planning program began in 1987 in order to protect New Mexico's water resources. The Interstate Stream Commission has worked for many years with all 16 regions of the state to prepare their own regional water plans.

Meetings were held from April to June and covered each of the state's 16 planning regions. About 750 people from 95 communities attending the meetings in the following cities: Abiquiu, Alamogordo, Albuquerque, Bernalillo, Carlsbad, Cimarron, Deming, Farmington, Gallup, Hobbs, Las Cruces, Las Vegas, Los Lunas, Moriarty, Portales, Roswell, Santa Fe, Shiprock, Socorro, Taos, and Tucumcari.

Notes from the public meetings will be posted at www.ose.state.nm.us on the front page under "Current Events - "State Water Plan Update." ♦

COMMUNITY BRIEF

Grand Opening Celebration Held for New Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugium



A Grand Opening for the newly completed Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugium was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2009.

Rio Grande silvery minnow will have a new place to live in the \$1.2 million cutting-edge facility designed for raising the fish in captivity. The Interstate Stream Commission held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new facility on May 19 in Los Lunas.

Elementary students from the Pueblo of San Felipe enhanced the grand opening celebration with a butterfly dance performance and a drumming presentation. Then a science essay and a poem collaboratively written by Los Lunas Desert View Elementary School students were read by student JP Mascarenas. A ground blessing ceremony was performed by Governor Bruce Sanchez and Lt. Governor Myron Armijo of the Pueblo of Santa Ana before the ribbon was cut by officials.

"This facility is just one example of the new role the Interstate Stream Commission has taken on in Governor Bill Richardson's administration and under its responsibility, by statute, to do any and all things necessary to protect, conserve, and develop the waters of the State of New Mexico," said Interstate Stream Commission Chairman Jim Dunlap. "The Commission provided almost \$900,000 to make this new refugium a reality and has hired expert staff to oversee its operation."

"The refugium was required as part of the March 2003 biological opinion on Middle Rio Grande water operation," said State Engineer and Water Trust Board Chairman John D'Antonio. "It was made possible by state funding, which included two grants from the Water Trust Board plus additional funding from the Interstate Stream Commission."

"This facility will play a key role in ensuring that more silvery minnows are bred, raised, studied in captivity and ultimately released into the river. Reclamation is grateful to the Interstate Stream Commission for its work on this project and its partnership through the Collaborative Program to complete this and other projects that help improve the status of endangered species in the Middle Rio Grande," said Bureau of Reclamation Area Manager John Poland.

The refugium is a unique design that mimics the Rio Grande and incorporates the different types of microhabitats that are needed for different components of the Rio Grande silvery minnow's life cycle. It consists of a 458-foot-long outdoor "stream" that meanders over 300 linear feet. It is fenced to prevent predation by birds, snakes, and other animals. There are five, 3-foot-deep ponds that are fed by the stream. Total water area covered by the stream and ponds is a quarter of an acre. ♦

Joint Declaration Filed to Implement the Pecos River Settlement

A joint declaration was filed with the Fifth Judicial District Court in Chaves County among all parties to the Pecos River Settlement Agreement to agree that conditions for implementation of the Settlement have been substantially met.

Parties to the Settlement Agreement, signed March 25, 2003, include: the State of New Mexico, the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, the Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District (PVACD), the Carlsbad Irrigation District (CID), and the United States government.

Terms of the settlement required the Commission purchase a minimum of 4,500 and up to 6,000 acres of water rights in the CID, 7,500 and up to 11,000 acres of water rights in the Roswell Artesian Basin, and up to 1,000 acres of water rights in the Fort Sumner Basin.

The implementation of the Settlement Agreement helps assure long-term compliance with the Pecos River Compact, provides additional water supplies to the CID, and protects junior groundwater rights in the PVCD from the threat of a priority call. ♦

Employee Receives "Green Chile Award" for GIS Work



Gar Clarke (center) poses with Chief Information Officer Renee Martinez and State Engineer John D'Antonio

Office of the State Engineer Information Technology employee Gar Clarke received the "Green Chile Award" for outstanding service from the New Mexico Geographic Information Council (NMGIC).

Clarke is an IT Business Analyst for the Office of the State Engineer. He has been with the agency for nine years. He is responsible for the leadership and coordination of the geospatial information technology program.

The NMGIC is an organization of geospatial professionals from throughout the state who are concerned with developing and accessing geographic information for New Mexico. Their spring workshop was on April 24 at the University of New Mexico Science and Technology Park. Clarke is the first recipient of the "Green Chile Award" for outstanding service and was chosen to set the standard for future honorees in what qualifies as "outstanding service."

"I'm not surprised that Gar is being recognized with this award, as he has served as a leader in the New Mexico geospatial community for many years. He has a passion for geospatial technology and a unique ability to work with people to use it for the common good," said Office of the State Engineer Chief Information Officer Renee Martinez.

Among the geospatial endeavors Clarke has worked on for the state are leading the development of a Geospatial Strategic Plan and securing funding from numerous agencies to acquire imagery. ♦

COMMUNITY BRIEF

Publication for Water Conservation Released

The New Mexico Office of the State Engineer in cooperation with leading water engineers and conservation experts in the nation has developed a standardized methodology for computing gallons per capita per day (GPCD) in New Mexico. GPCD is a standardized measure for water use reporting.

"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."

For more information about CPCD Calculator and instructions, visit the Water Use and Conservation Bureau section of the Office of the State Engineer website at www.ose.state.nm.gov.

Amy Haas Promoted



Amy Haas was promoted to General Counsel for the Interstate Stream Commission in June. Since March 2005 she has been working on Middle Rio Grande water issues. Prior to joining the agency Haas was an associate attorney for Swaim, Schrandt & Davidson, P.C. practicing in the areas of water rights, real estate and land use law from 2003 to 2004. She worked as an associate attorney with Sheehan, Sheehan & Stelzner, P.A. practicing in the areas of water rights administration/litigation and land use from 2000 to 2003.

"General Counsel for the Interstate Stream Commission is a demanding and important job," said Director of the Interstate Stream Commission Estevan López. "Haas has proven to be highly qualified and up to the challenge during her four years with the agency."

Haas received a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude in rhetoric/communications and Spanish from the University of California, Davis, in 1991. She then earned her law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2000.

Haas replaced former General Counsel Tanya Trujillo, who left the agency to accept a position as Counsel to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for United States Senator Jeff Bingaman in Washington, DC. ♦