

Governor Bill Richardson Continues Urgent Funding for Critical Water Projects- Today Announces \$10.5 million for Southeastern/Southern New Mexico

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Contact: Billy Sparks
505.476.2299

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today continued to his efforts to guarantee all New Mexicans have safe, reliable supplies of drinking water now and into the future, allocating more than \$10.5 million for water projects for southern and southeastern New Mexico. The Governor also announced \$300,000 in funding for a low to moderate-income home improvement program in Clovis.

“There is a true sense of urgency to these efforts,” said Governor Richardson. “The severe drought has created a genuine water crisis in New Mexico. We must relentlessly attack our water problems now to ensure the well being of our citizens and our continued economic growth in the future.”

Here is a list of funding and projects announced by Governor Richardson today:

CLOVIS: \$800,000

\$500,000 will be allocated for improvements to the city’s storm drainage systems, which currently cannot handle heavy rains and create flooding problems.
\$300,000 will be directed to the city of Clovis low to moderate-income housing improvement program.

PORTALES: \$1,000,000

\$1,000,000 will be allocated for conversion of 17 wells from agricultural use to city use, and to install pipelines and connect them to the wells. This will dramatically improve the Clovis water pumping capacity and reduce strain on the system.

ARTESIA: \$600,000

\$600,000 will be allocated to the city of Artesia for the next phase of the wastewater treatment plant effluent project. This will equip the city to treat wastewater and build effluent ponds to provide a primary source of irrigation for parks and other public spaces, dramatically reducing use of potable water.

RUIDOSO/RUIDOSO DOWNS: \$1,000,000

\$1,000,000 will be allocated to expand and improve the regional wastewater treatment facility co-owned by the village of Ruidoso and the city of Ruidoso Downs (\$500,000 to each municipality). The current 21-year-old facility is operating at capacity now and cannot handle the

growth and expansion of the area. These improvements are critical to protect the public health and environment and allow for continued economic growth.

ALAMOGORDO: \$3,000,000

\$3,000,000 will be allocated to the city of Alamogordo for a desalinization project to provide an alternate source of potable water for the area. The project will provide an estimated 4-6 million gallons of water on a daily basis, with the ability to grow to 12 million gallons per day. This project is the only one of its kind in New Mexico and will serve as a pilot for the state and for the Southwest.

TULAROSA: \$442,000

\$442,500 will be allocated to the village of Tularosa for the next phase of the city's water system improvements project. This funding will allow the Village to make the necessary upgrades to meet the current water demands and plan for future expansion, as well as continue improvements to the water treatment facility.

LAS CRUCES: \$1,400,000

\$1,400,000 will be allocated to drill and connect a new well for the city's water system. The funding will also allow the city to connect two new wells that have already been drilled, but have not been connected. This project will significantly improve the water system and allowed for continued growth and economic development for the Las Cruces community.

SUNLAND PARK: \$2,300,000

\$2,300,000 will be allocated for emergency improvements to the city's water system. In March 2003, an emergency declaration was issued to the City of Sunland Park identifying the water tank and other portions of the water system as being inadequate and likely to fail. \$325,000 will go to correct this critical situation. This money will be used in conjunction with other state and local funds to bring the water system into compliance.

The remaining \$1.9 million will be used for improvements to Sunland Park's wastewater system and badly needed upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant, which will double the plant's capacity. The treatment plant and water system currently serve approximately 16,000 residents in Sunland Park and Santa Teresa.