



For Immediate Release
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**Governor Richardson Announces Appointment of Acting Secretary
of Indian Affairs Teresa C. Gomez**
Announces Departure of Secretary Benny Shendo Jr.

(Santa Fe, NM) –Today, Governor Richardson announced the appointment of Teresa C. Gomez to serve as the Acting Secretary of Indian Affairs, while a search is being conducted. Currently Ms. Gomez serves as the Deputy Cabinet Secretary for the Department.

In June 2006, Ms. Gomez was appointed by Governor Richardson to serve as the Deputy Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department. As Deputy Secretary, Ms. Gomez was appointed to serve on the Governor’s Women’s Health Advisory Council and the Governor’s State-Tribal DWI Task Force. She has also represented the Indian Affairs Department on the Children’s Cabinet, Behavioral Health Planning Council, and the Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative.

Teresa C. Gomez is a native and life-long resident of the State of New Mexico and an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Isleta. Ms. Gomez earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1993 and a Master of Arts in 1995, both in Political Science, from the University of New Mexico.

Governor Richardson also took the opportunity to thank the outgoing Secretary of Indian Affairs Benny Shendo for his tenure with the administration, which ended on Friday, December 14st.

“As the Department’s first cabinet-level secretary, which was created in 2004, as the first of its kind in the country, Benny Shendo has provided thoughtful leadership and I’m grateful for his service,” said Governor Bill Richardson.

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