

SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNORRyan Flynn, Cabinet Secretary
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Secretary Ryan C. Flynn

BIOGRAPHY

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Ryan Flynn serves as the Secretary of Environment and the Natural Resources Trustee for the State of New Mexico leading the regulatory agency that restores and protects the environment while fostering a healthy and prosperous future for the state. He was appointed to both positions in 2013 by Governor Susana Martinez, who called Secretary Flynn a “tireless advocate for common sense approaches to regulations that protect the environment while continuing to encourage economic growth.” Secretary Flynn was confirmed by the New Mexico State Senate in 2014, then unanimously reconfirmed in 2015.

As Environment Secretary, Flynn brokered several key agreements with federal and state agencies, foreign governments, and Native American tribes and pueblos to safeguard the environment and protect health, now and in the future. He successfully negotiated a landmark settlement agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Navajo Nation over regional haze regulations in the coal and power producing Four Corners region of New Mexico -- called by one environmental group, the “greatest environmental improvement in the state’s history.” Flynn initiated an historic Memorandum of Understanding between the Environment Department and the Consulate of Mexico, enabling NMED’s Occupational Health and Safety Bureau to provide information and training on OSHA standards and workers’ rights via the Consulate of Mexico for Mexican nationals. Secretary Flynn also developed with the San Ildefonso Pueblo leadership, a “first-of-its-kind” Memorandum of Understanding establishing procedures for access to Pueblo lands, data sharing and sampling, and a formalized a process for effective government-to-government relations between the Department and the Pueblo.

Secretary Flynn is also responsible for successfully negotiating and obtaining historic settlement agreements on behalf of New Mexicans. These include the largest settlement agreements in the history of New Mexico’s Environment Department Environment’s Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau (\$5.2 million), Environment’s Occupational Health and Safety Bureau (\$400,000), and the Hazardous Waste Bureau (\$74 million).

With Secretary Flynn’s leadership, the Environment Department also developed a number of critical environmental regulations, such as the first-ever water quality standards for New

Mexico's lakes and the first-ever ground water quality regulations for discharges from copper mines and dairies. Flynn also conceived and executed a number of significant non-regulatory initiatives to improve the environment, including the River Stewards Initiative and spearheading Governor Martinez's efforts to mitigate drought damage and improve New Mexico's water and wastewater infrastructure.

Secretary Flynn actively serves in leadership roles on the boards of a number of administrative and non-profit organizations including the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission, the Board of Directors for New Mexico Finance Authority, and the Colonias Infrastructure Board. He also serves on New Mexico Water Trust Board, the State Emergency Response Commission, the New Mexico Mining Commission and is a past Chair of the Western States Project.

Secretary Flynn graduated from Harvard University, where he concentrated in English and American Literature. He received his juris doctor from the University of Arizona. Flynn proudly serves our nation as an Assistant Judge Advocate General in the United States Air Force Reserve at Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

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