



SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **New Mexico Environment Department To Announce \$27,000,000 Loan To Overhaul The City of Portales Water Treatment Plant**

**Albuquerque** – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will announce on Thursday that the City of Portales has entered into a funding package through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program in the aggregate amount of \$27,000,000 (\$26,580,000 in loan funds at zero percent and \$420,000 in loan/grant subsidy) to overhaul the city’s Wastewater Treatment Plant System.

“Governor Susana Martinez and the Environment Department have committed to investing in water infrastructure,” said NMED Secretary Ryan Flynn. “This is one the largest loans the New Mexico Environment Department’s Construction Programs Bureau has ever been involved with. We are hopeful that other municipalities will consider taking advantage of similar loan programs to update their wastewater treatment systems.”

The purpose of the loan is to plan, design and construct Wastewater Treatment Plant System Improvements. The upgrade project will include improvements to a pretreatment system upstream of the main biological treatment processes of the plant, a main biological treatment system that will include nitrification and denitrification components, a new sludge handling system, and an effluent disinfection and reuse system that can facilitate effluent storage and pumping to irrigation sites.

“This substantial loan package will go a long way to aid a region that needs immediate improvements in waste water treatment and conservation,” said New Mexico Environment Constructions Bureau Chief Jim Chiasson. “I congratulate the city leaders in Portales who clearly recognized a need to conserve precious water resources. We will continue to work with the city on the implementation of these improvements.”

**Media are invited and encouraged to attend a short ceremony today to mark the approval of funding of this very important project. The ceremony will take place at 10:15 am today (October 24, 2013) at the NMED Construction Programs Bureau booth at the Infrastructure Finance Conference, currently being held at the Isleta Casino in Albuquerque, NM. Division Director Tom Blaine will be available to answer questions from the media and outline details of the project.**

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