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PETER MAGGIORE
SECRETARY

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New Mexico Environment Department Funds
\$12 Million in Wastewater System Improvements for Albuquerque

(SANTA FE, NM) – On Tuesday, June 18, the New Mexico Environment Department will be presenting \$12 million to the City of Albuquerque for improvements to the city’s wastewater system.

Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez and NMED Administrative Services Director Robert Horwitz will formally execute the multi-million-dollar loan agreement at a signing at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Albuquerque City Hall, located at One Civic Plaza, N.W.

The agreement will enable the city to begin construction to upgrade its wastewater treatment facilities at the Southside Water Reclamation Plant located in Albuquerque’s South Valley.

“The loans will fund improvement that will reduce odor caused by the plant, and assure that the plant continues to meet federally mandated effluent-discharge permit requirements,” said New Mexico Environment Secretary Peter Maggiore, who was out of town and unable to attend the signing ceremony. The project also includes improvements to the storm water drainage system, which will eliminate surface runoff from the plant to the adjacent riverside drain.

“What is good for Albuquerque’s wastewater treatment facility is good for everyone downstream on the Rio Grande,” Maggiore added.

The New Mexico Environment Department has worked closely with the city to provide technical assistance, administrative support, and to streamline federal and state requirements to provide low-cost financing that will allow the city to begin the construction.

Project funding is provided through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, a revolving loan program administered by the Environment Department for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, that provides low cost loans to New Mexico communities to protect water quality throughout the state. The City of Albuquerque qualifies for a 3 percent loan. Repayments of principal and interest to the program will be made available as new loans for other New Mexico communities.

For more information, visit the Environment Department’s Construction Programs Bureau web site at <http://www/cpb/cwsrf.html> or call (505) 827-2808.

For additional information, please contact Haywood Martin, Chief Construction Programs Bureau, NMED, at (505)827-2808, or Cathy Tyson-Foster, Communications Dir., NMED at (505)827-0314.

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