



**BILL RICHARDSON**  
GOVERNOR

*State of New Mexico*  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
*Office of the Secretary*  
*Harold Runnels Building*  
**1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110**  
**Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110**  
**Telephone (505) 827-2855**  
**Fax (505) 827-2836**



**RON CURRY**  
SECRETARY

**CINDY PADILLA**  
ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY

May 17, 2006  
Immediate Release

Contact: Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director  
Phone: (505) 827-0314

## **Environment Department to Approve \$9.5 Million Loan for Improved Wastewater Facility in Clovis**

(Santa Fe, NM) — New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Acting Deputy Secretary, Cindy Padilla, and City of Clovis Mayor, David M. Lansford, will formally execute a \$9.5 million funding agreement between the Department and the City of Clovis for improvements to the city's wastewater system.

The formal signing of the agreement will take place in Clovis, NM, at the **Clovis Industrial Development Corp. office, located on 105 East Grand Street, at 10:00 a.m. on May 19, 2006.**

“This is an important project for the City of Clovis because it means the city will have adequate wastewater treatment to meet the increased demands of the Southwest Cheese facility and to ensure groundwater quality is protected,” NMED Acting Deputy Secretary Cindy Padilla said. “The dairy industry represents an important economic development opportunity for rural New Mexico, but that opportunity will be wasted if we don't also protect our most precious resource – our water.”

The agreement will enable the City to provide wastewater treatment to the newly-constructed Southwest Cheese (SWC) facility, expand the capacity of the city's wastewater treatment plant, and purchase a pretreatment facility and other wastewater improvements, as approved by NMED. Upgrading the Clovis wastewater treatment system will ensure compliance with environmental regulations and protect public health.

NMED has worked closely with the city to provide technical assistance, administrative support, and to streamline federal and state requirements to provide a low-cost financing option that will allow the city to begin construction of the project. Funding is provided through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, a program administered by NMED 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 Clovis qualifies for a 2 percent loan that will be amortized over a 20-year term.

For more information, visit the NMED-Construction Programs Bureau web site at <http://www/cpb/cwsrf.html> or call (505) 827-2807. For media inquiries, contact Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

###