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Secretary Curry to Sign \$500,000 Loan for Additional Water Rights for Ranchos de Taos

(Santa Fe, NM) — New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Secretary Ron Curry will formally execute a \$500,000 funding agreement with the El Valle de los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District of Ranchos de Taos that will be used to acquire the water rights necessary to develop the water system infrastructure to residents in the district who do not currently have water service.

The formal signing of the agreement will take place at the **El Valle de Los Ranchos Water & Sanitation District, 209 Camino de La Merced, Taos, at 1:30 p.m. on May 24.**

“Without additional water rights El Valle de los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District won’t be able to further develop its water infrastructure and provide water to people currently lacking service,” Secretary Curry said. “This is the critical first step toward getting them clean, reliable water in their taps.”

The funding is being provided through the Rural Infrastructure Loan Program, a state loan program administered by NMED. The maximum loan allowed in any given year is \$500,000 with a base interest rate of 3 percent and a repayment schedule of up to 20 years. Any incorporated city, town, village, county, mutual domestic association, or water and sanitation district whose water supply facility serves a population of fewer than 10,000 people are eligible. Future infrastructure development plans for the El Valle de los Ranchos Water & Sanitation District include drilling an exploratory water supply well and the construction of a water storage tank.

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

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