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Environment Department Makes Funding Increase Available for Vital Los Lunas Sewer Improvements, Bringing Total to \$3.2 Million

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) today made additional funding available for wastewater system improvements in the Village of Los Lunas. The village will use this additional \$600,000, funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and administered by NMED, to install storm water improvements including piping, pumps, manholes and trenches. These devices will improve the quality of the village's storm water runoff and lessen this water's impact on the resources in the area.

"This department is taking an aggressive approach toward helping the rural areas of New Mexico," said Environment Secretary Ron Curry. "The state needs to protect every drop of water it can and nowhere is this strain on our resources felt more acutely than in growing communities like Los Lunas. NMED will continue to fund these vital projects for the people of Los Lunas and for citizens all over New Mexico."

In the last four years, Clean Water State Revolving Fund loans administered by NMED to the village have totaled \$3.2 million. With this money Los Lunas has been able to make necessary improvements to its old, cracked and corroded sewer system. 8,700 feet of sewer lines have been replaced in the

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downtown area as well as 1,700 feet of new sewer pipes installed for residents with septic tank and leach field systems.

“Faulty sewer systems pose a huge threat to human health and the environment,” said NMED’s Construction Programs Bureau Chief Richard Rose. “When they leak, they can contaminate drinking water resources and make people sick. That’s why we work so hard to help every New Mexico town that we can to improve their systems before the damage is done.”

With this funding the Los Lunas project is currently in its final phase of construction. The improvements are scheduled to be completed in January when approximately 130 households will be served with new sanitary sewer lines and storm water drainage improvements.

For further information, contact Richard Rose, CPB Chief, NMED, at (505) 827-9691, or Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED, at (505) 827-0314.

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