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Immediate Release

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Environment Department Provides \$4 Million for Needed Lovington Wastewater Improvements

(Santa Fe, NM) — New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Secretary Ron Curry and City of Lovington Mayor Troy J. Harris will formally execute a \$4.0 million funding agreement for improvements to the city's wastewater system. The formal signing of the agreement will take place in Albuquerque at the NMED Drinking Water Bureau conference room located on 4131 Montgomery Blvd. NE at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday March 16. Members of the media and the public are invited to attend.

The agreement will enable Lovington to begin to rebuild its existing wastewater treatment facilities. Upgrading these facilities will ensure compliance with environmental regulations and protect public health.

Upgrades to be made include incorporating a Sequential Batch Reactor, construction of new aeration basins, a chlorination building, contact channels, a blower building, refurbishing wastewater lift stations installing two new pivots for land application of treated effluent, and other wastewater improvements as approved by NMED.

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 the construction of the project. The funding is provided through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, a program administered by NMED for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This program provides low cost loans to New Mexico communities to protect water quality throughout the state. The City of Lovington has qualified for a 2% loan that will be amortized over a twenty-year term.

For more information, visit the NMED-Construction Programs Bureau web site at <http://www/cpb/cwsrf.html>, call (505) 827-2808 or contact Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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