



**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**



**RON CURRY**  
SECRETARY

**DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE**  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

December 11, 2006  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director  
Telephone: (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475

## **Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry Approves Loan Agreement of \$7 Million for Wastewater System Improvements for City of Espanola**

(Espanola, NM) New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry approved a \$7 million loan agreement today for the City of Espanola that will allow the city to improve and increase the capacity of its wastewater treatment system.

The funding, which is about half of the total the city will spend to increase the capacity of the system, is provided through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides money for the fund, which creates low cost loans for New Mexico communities for programs that help protect water quality.

“Wastewater management in Espanola and the valley is essential in protecting the environment, the health of residents and allowing for future economic growth,” said NMED Secretary Ron Curry. “It is a pleasure to collaborate on this important project with Espanola Mayor Joseph Maestas and the City of Espanola.”

The Environment Department’s Construction Programs Bureau worked closely with Espanola to provide assistance for the project and to streamline federal and state requirements that will allow the city to begin construction of the project soon.

In the past two years, Espanola reduced the capacity of plant to meet more stringent federal permit requirements for its federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

The agreement will allow the city to increase the wastewater treatment capacity of the city’s system from a peak of about 1.4 million gallons a day (mgd) to about twice that amount. Increasing capacity of plant will better serve Espanola and the surrounding communities by providing better sludge management at the facility. Improvements will also allow improved processing to dewater the sludge. This will improve odor at the current plant.

For more information, call Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475 or visit <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/cpb/cpbtop.html>.