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June 28, 2007  
For Immediate Release

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## **Environment Department Awards Nearly \$250,000 in Grants to Assist Communities Statewide in Recycling and Illegal Dumping Abatement Initiatives**

(Santa Fe, NM) The New Mexico Environment Department awarded nearly \$250,000 in grants for recycling and illegal dumping reduction initiatives to thirteen communities and solid waste authorities.

The department awarded grants to the City of Clovis, Isleta Pueblo, Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority, the City of Raton, Santa Fe County, Southwest Solid Waste Authority, the Village of Chama, Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority, the City of Gallup, the City of Hobbs, Sandoval County, Santa Ana Pueblo and the City of Socorro.

“We have to continue to do more to recycle and reduce the effects of illegal dumping on New Mexico’s landscape,” said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. “The Environment department has committed grant funds to help in that effort. We are awarding grant money to organizations who need the money most and where that funding can be used effectively.”

“This is good opportunity for the New Mexico Environment Department and local entities to partner in addressing issues that are of mutual concern — reducing our burden on landfills and decreasing garbage dumped illegally in our communities,” said NMED Environmental Protection Division Director Jim Norton. “Recycling efforts resulting from these grants will help protect New Mexico’s natural resources.”

Funded projects range from local illegal dumping education and cleanup programs to purchasing balers to prepare recyclables for shipment. For a complete list, see the attachment.

The grant program is authorized under new Recycling and Illegal Dumping rules, which the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board adopted in December 2006.

The purpose of the grants are to provide annual grant funding to support projects that will protect the health and welfare of residents the environment by preventing and abating illegal dump sites; promoting environmentally sound methods for reuse and recycling; and encouraging economic development, community development and collaboration that promotes efficient and sustainable use of resources, sustainable recycling and a cleaner and healthier environment.

Entities eligible for grant funds include municipalities, counties, tribes, land grant communities, cooperative associations and solid waste authorities.

Other communities can now submit applications for the grants for next cycle of awards. The next grant cycle opens July 1, 2007, with completed grant applications due to the department by October 1, 2007. Priorities for funding in 2007 include programs that eliminate or reduce illegal dump sites or prevent future illegal dumping and recycling programs

which target motor oil, lead acid batteries, cardboard or newspaper. For more information about the grant process, call Jill Holbert at (505) 827-0129 or send e-mail to [Jill.Holbert@state.nm.us](mailto:Jill.Holbert@state.nm.us) .

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