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## **Environment Secretary Elected Chairman of Water Quality Control Commission**

(Santa Fe, NM) —New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Secretary Ron Curry was today elected chair of New Mexico's Water Quality Control Commission. The chair is elected by the commission's other 11 members.

"This honor is a recognition of the vital role NMED plays in protecting our state's water quality," said Secretary Curry. "We look forward to continuing this important work both in our day-to-day actions as a department and through cooperation with the commission."

The duties and powers of the commission include adoption of a comprehensive water quality management program, the administration of loans and grants from the federal government, the adoption of water quality standards, and the adoption of regulations "to prevent or abate water pollution in the state or in any specific geographic area or watershed of the state."

The commission was established by the State Water Quality Act of 1978. In addition to the Secretary of NMED, the WQCC includes a representative of the State Game & Fish Department, the State Engineer's Office, the Oil Conservation Commission, the State Parks Division, the Department of Agriculture, the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, a local government representative and three public representatives appointed by the Governor.

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