



For Immediate Release
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Governor Bill Richardson Announces \$27.5 million in Recovery Funds for Statewide Drinking Water and Wastewater Projects

Projects Will Improve Water, Wastewater Systems, Create Jobs

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today announced that 22 drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects across the state will receive \$27.5 million in federal stimulus funding.

“These are critical projects that will help improve the quality of life, boost economic development and create jobs in these communities,” said Governor Richardson. “The New Mexico Environment Department and the New Mexico Finance Authority will work with local communities to ensure projects proceed smoothly and are completed as efficiently as possible.”

The communities of Floyd, Bernalillo, Rio Rancho Carlsbad, Farmington, and mutual domestic associations of Canjilon, Carnuel and Dona Ana are slated to receive the first 80 percent of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding of \$12.7 million to improve water quality and drinking water infrastructure under the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund.

The cities of Belen, Elephant Butte, Raton, Ruidoso Downs, Santa Rosa, Tucumcari, the villages of Eagle Nest, Logan, Questa, Ruidoso and Wagon Mound, the counties of Los Alamos and San Miguel and the Town of Silver City will receive the first 80 percent of stimulus funding of \$14.8 million to improve wastewater infrastructure and sewage treatment systems through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund.

“Our goal was to ensure the money was distributed evenly across the state while creating jobs and promoting green projects,” said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. “This process ran smoothly because of the cooperation between the New Mexico Finance Authority and our Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Development Division. The recently established Uniform Funding Application process contributed significantly.”

The following is the list of Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund projects:

Village of Floyd — Install treatment system for fluoride and arsenic — \$250,000
Town of Bernalillo — Install arsenic treatment system — \$3.27 million
Dona Ana MDWCA — Increase size of transmission lines — \$450,000

Carlsbad — Replace water lines — \$1.95 million
Farmington — Animas Street Waterline project — \$2.09 million
Canjilon MDWCA — Water supply well, water treatment — \$584,000
Carnuel MDWCA — Storage reservoir, pump station, distribution lines — \$2 million
Rio Rancho — Reverse osmosis treatment for water well — \$2 million

The Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund projects include:

City of Belen — Collection system upgrades — \$750,000
Village of Eagle Nest — Wastewater treatment plant lagoon — \$200,000
City of Elephant Butte — Sewer collection lines and interceptors — \$1.5 million
Los Alamos County — Effluent reuse line — \$150,000
Village of Logan — Wastewater treatment collection system — \$1.5 million
Village of Questa — Design and construct collection lines — \$1.2 million
City of Raton — Wastewater collection system — \$220,000
City of Ruidoso Downs — Expansion of wastewater treatment plant — \$2.9 million
Village of Ruidoso — Expansion of wastewater treatment plant — \$3.2 million
San Miguel County — Wastewater treatment and collection — \$405,000
City of Santa Rosa — Wastewater treatment facility upgrades — \$1 million
Town of Silver City — Construct new digester cell — \$600,000
City of Tucumcari — Wastewater treatment facility upgrades — \$1 million
Village of Wagon Mound — Replace lagoon liner and effluent distribution system — \$262,000

“Clean water projects will help the economy in rural New Mexico, particularly in areas like Questa and Silver City that have been hit hard by mine layoffs,” Governor Richardson added. “The money for Ruidoso will help those communities complete a badly needed wastewater treatment plant.”

Upon approval by the New Mexico Finance Authority’s Board, the list of Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund projects will be forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for final approval. It is hoped that EPA will award funding for the projects in June.

Communities that receive stimulus money must formalize loan agreements for the projects, which must be under contract for construction by Feb. 17, 2010. The American Recovery and reinvestment Act requires that at least 20 percent of the funding for the water projects be directed to green projects – or \$4 million for each fund. Those projects have not yet been awarded.

The Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund was created in 1996 to provide assistance for improvements to new or existing public water systems to meet state and federal safe drinking water standards. The New Mexico Finance Authority is the grantee for the Drinking Water loan program. The Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund was established in 1986 to provide a low-cost source of financing for wastewater or storm water drainage projects that protect surface and ground water. The Environment Department is the grantee from EPA for the Clean Water program.