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**NMED's Debra McElroy Receives Strategic Partnership Award from EPA**

(Santa Fe, N.M.) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently recognized New Mexico Environment Department's Administrative Operations Manager Debra McElroy for her outstanding work in implementing a critical enforcement program.

McElroy, with the department's Air Quality Bureau, received the EPA Region 6 Strategic Partnership Award for her role in implementing the State Review Framework.

"Debra's hard work in air quality issues for the state of New Mexico is well known," said New Mexico Environment Secretary Ron Curry. "I am proud of her work in ensuring New Mexico's air quality is protected."

"With Debra's leadership, the first review of the New Mexico Environmental Department's enforcement program under the State Review Framework was a great success," said Mark Potts of EPA's Region 6.

The Framework was developed to address critical enforcement program oversight issues raised by states and EPA at the national level. The State Review Framework was jointly developed by the Environmental Council of States and EPA in response to concerns expressed by the U.S. Congress, the Governmental Accountability Office, the Inspector General, and the public regarding consistency of state enforcement and EPA oversight.

New Mexico volunteered to be the first state in EPA's Region 6 to undergo the review, which resulted in a positive outcome and highlighted some of the states' best practices in Environmental Enforcement.

"It is an honor to be recognized by EPA for our work in implementing the review," McElroy said.

EPA recognizes six people each year for their outstanding work in state/EPA partnerships.

For more information, call Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314.

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