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Environment Secretary Ron Curry Approves \$15 Million Loan for Waste Water System Improvements for City of Hobbs

(Hobbs, NM) New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry approved a \$15 million loan agreement for the City of Hobbs that will allow the city to improve and increase the capacity of its wastewater treatment system.

The new Division of Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Development will oversee the loan. Governor Richardson established that division by executive order last year to fund water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

“The city of Hobbs continues to grow economically and lies in a region of the state that is developing rapidly as well,” said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. “The Environment Department will use the newly created division to help the city with vital infrastructure that will help Hobbs continue to grow at the same rate.”

Secretary Curry approved an initial \$20 million loan for Hobbs’ wastewater treatment system in 2006. However, because of an increase in construction and other costs, the city requested additional funding. That brings the city’s total loan to \$35 million.

The funding, which will be used 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.

The agreement will allow the city to increase the wastewater treatment capacity of the City of Hobbs Wastewater Reclamation Facility to 5.5 million gallons a day (mgd). The project, which is 45 percent complete, also includes improved treatment of wastes and biosolids that meet state Environment Department Effluent Reuse Regulations.

The agreement provides the city a two percent interest loan that will amortize over a 20-year term.

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