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**Environment Department Launches Unified Web Site for Water and Wastewater
Project Funding in New Mexico**

*Application Will Be a Breakthrough for Communities That Have Traditionally Had to Seek Funding From
a Range of Sources*

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department’s Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Development Division (WWIDD) launched a web-based application that will allow municipalities and other entities to apply for a variety of funding for water and wastewater infrastructure projects by filling out one form.

Municipalities and other small communities have traditionally been faced with the daunting task of searching for a patchwork of loans and grants for various infrastructure projects from many sources. The application, which was a collaboration between the department and other state and federal agencies, will be processed and distributed by the division to a number of funding sources.

“The development of water and wastewater projects sometimes languished in the past because local governments obtained some funding but not enough for the whole project,” said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. “This application can deliver the solution that was badly needed. Now municipal governments and other nonprofit agencies applying for funding will not have to be experts on obtaining money for badly needed projects that benefit the residents of New Mexico.”

The application link, which is intended to be user friendly, is available at <http://ufa.nmenv.state.nm.us>.

The project involved collaboration between the Environment Department, Department of Finance and Administration, New Mexico Finance Authority, Water Trust Board, New Mexico Legislature Capital Outlay Subcommittee, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Governor Richardson established an executive order last year creating within the Environment Department, the Division of Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Development.

The governor created that division to streamline the funding of water and wastewater infrastructure projects. The new division includes the Environment Department's bureaus of Drinking Water and Construction Programs.

Part of the governor's goal in creating the new division was to put an end to the days where municipalities were burdened with pursuing money from a variety of sources to fund infrastructure projects. The governor tasked the new division with developing a Uniform Funding Application that allowed cities, counties and other nonprofit entities to apply for funding in one application.

The application will eliminate the need for cities, counties and other community water systems to become experts in obtaining money for infrastructure projects.

"Some local governments through the process in the past have become experts at this funding process," Secretary Curry said. "I commend those communities but am gratified that this project will create an equal footing for all communities."

The Environment Department requests that users of the application provide feedback on the initial phase of the online tool to ensure it is easy to use. The department will be incorporating changes that may be necessary to streamline the application based on the comments that are received. To provide feedback, visit the link <http://ufa.nmenv.state.nm.us> , or call the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Development Division's Customer Service team at (877) 654-8720.

Secretary Curry envisions that with the work of the new division and through this funding process, in five years, our state's cities and counties will be self sufficient with regard to infrastructure development.

For more information, call Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475.

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