

**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**Ryan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****July 15, 2014**

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**Environment Department Secretary Ryan Flynn Joins City of Portales
To Break Ground On \$27-Million Dollar Wastewater Plant**

Department's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loans \$26.5 Million To Project

Santa Fe – New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Secretary Ryan Flynn joined leaders of the City of Portales in an official groundbreaking ceremony for a new Wastewater Treatment Plant Tuesday. The \$27-Million project represents the largest state investment in a water facility in the history of the Environment Department.

"I congratulate the City of Portales for taking advantage of funding available through the state to help bolster the water infrastructure needs of Eastern New Mexico," said Secretary Flynn. "This project is yet another example of Governor Martinez and the NMED's commitment to provide safe and clean water to all in the state. This treatment plant will have an immediate positive impact on Portales and the surrounding area once it's complete."

The Portales Wastewater Treatment Plant & Reuse Project has been under development for several years. The NMED Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan totals \$26,580,000. The City of Portales was also able to obtain an NMED Grant for \$420,000 and an EPA Grant for \$291,000. Money from the state has already gone into the planning, designing and early construction improvements at the site at 683 South Roosevelt Road Q ½ in Portales, NM.

City of Portales Mayor Sharon L. King expressed her strong support of the project during today's groundbreaking ceremony. "We are excited to partner with the New Mexico Environment Department to construct a state of the art wastewater treatment plant which will reuse water on our city parks," said Mayor King. "This project would not be possible without financing from NMED and we look forward to working with them on this and future projects."

The Wastewater Treatment Plant is in the first stages of construction. The major earth work has been finished. Concrete work is projected to begin July 21, 2014 with a 54-week projected completion date.

City of Portales Public Works Director John DeSha stated, "This new wastewater treatment plant is the first step in ensuring that the future water needs of our city will be met. It is the first of a four part plan to securing a lasting and secure water supply for Portales. The future of the city made the new wastewater plant a necessity; the partnership we have with the State of New Mexico made this project a reality."

When complete, the plant will have a primary treatment system, pre-treatment system, upgrades to main biological systems, and an effluent disinfection & reuse system that will facilitate storage and plumbing to irrigation sites.

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