



SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR

Ryan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary-Designate*

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NEWS RELEASE

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**Governor Susana Martinez and the New Mexico Environment Department
Announce Settlement Agreement with Chevron**

Santa Fe, NM -- Governor Susana Martinez, the New Mexico Environment Department and the Attorney General's Office have reached a settlement agreement with Chevron over claims related to the company's misappropriation of public funds. Under the terms of the settlement agreement, Chevron will pay \$5.2 million to reimburse the Environment Department for payments the company improperly obtained from the New Mexico Corrective Action Fund, which is a fund administered by the Environment Department's Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau to clean up sites contaminated by leaking petroleum storage tanks.

"This settlement ensures that taxpayer dollars are used properly and for important projects, such as cleaning up the environmental harm caused by leaking petroleum storage tanks," Governor Martinez said. "I applaud the efforts of the Environment Department to work with our state partners to obtain this important settlement agreement."

Governor Susana Martinez, the Environment Department, and the New Mexico Attorney General's Office engaged in extensive settlement negotiations with Chevron to recover public funds and settle a *qui tam* lawsuit, filed under the New Mexico Fraud Against Taxpayer's Act by New Mexico Cost Recovery. The lawsuit alleged that Chevron participated in a double-dipping scheme in which the company received public funds from the state's Corrective Action Fund to clean up environmental damage caused by leaking petroleum storage tanks, while at the same time collecting insurance payments from their own private insurance companies for the same clean-up work.

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