

SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNORButch Tongate, *Cabinet Secretary - Designate*J.C. Borrego, *Deputy Secretary*

Secretary - Designate Butch Tongate **BIOGRAPHY**

Butch Tongate was appointed by Governor Susana Martinez as the Cabinet Secretary - Designate of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in September 2016. Prior to accepting his current position, he served as the Deputy Secretary.

During his 23 years with NMED, Mr. Tongate has held a number of positions. He started with the Solid Waste Bureau as the State Recycling Coordinator in 1993 and later managed the bureau's permitting program. In 2000, he was promoted to Bureau Chief, where he served until 2003. After a brief stint as a Special Projects Officer in the Administrative Services Division, Mr. Tongate was asked to serve as Chief of the Occupational Health and Safety Bureau, a position he held until April 2011. Mr. Tongate was then promoted to Director of the Environmental Protection Division, overseeing the operations of four bureaus within the Department. In October 2011, Governor Martinez appointed Mr. Tongate as the Deputy Secretary.

Prior to joining NMED, Mr. Tongate worked as a legislative consultant in Washington, D.C., as Director of Marketing for Army programs at Hughes Aircraft Company and as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. Mr. Tongate received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from the U.S. Naval Academy and a Master of Science degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California.