



**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**

Ryan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary-Designate*

Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary*

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Jim Winchester  
Communications Director  
New Mexico Environment Department  
(505)231-8800 / [jim.winchester@state.nm.us](mailto:jim.winchester@state.nm.us)

### **Surface Water Quality Employees Receive Highest Honors From New Mexico Water & Wastewater Association**

**Las Cruces, NM** - Two employees of New Mexico Surface Water Quality Bureau were honored at the New Mexico Water and Wastewater Association Annual Meeting in Las Cruces last week.

Ms. Violet Miera, a Management Analyst, received the John Clark Award in recognition of her support and assistance to all the 2,500+ Association Members, including every single Water and Wastewater Operator in the State. The John Clark Award is the highest honor given by the New Mexico Water and Wastewater Association. Ms. Miera has been with the New Mexico Environment Department for 15 years serving as the Operator Certification Program Administrator in the Surface Water Quality Bureau.



Ms. Violet Miera

Ms. Barbara Cooney, an Environmental Scientist and Specialist who works on federal Clean Water Act permits and also inspects wastewater facilities received the Cynthia Hiers-Robinson Award for Outstanding Wastewater Instructor of the Year. This award was in recognition of the outstanding continuing education classes she has taught and the assistance she has given to Wastewater Operators throughout New Mexico. Ms. Cooney has taught numerous classes on monitoring, record keeping and reporting for wastewater permits as part of her job for the past 12 years. Ms. Cooney also received this award in 2006.

“This is not only an immense accomplishment, but also shows that our employees are dedicated, extremely knowledgeable, and offer excellent customer service to the community,” says NMED Resource Protection Division Director Erika Schwender. “It is an honor to have the opportunity to be on the same team as these exemplary employees. On behalf of Secretary Ryan Flynn, I congratulate these two outstanding members of our staff.”

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