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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **TURN ON YOUR TAPS--GRADUAL INTRODUCTION OF TREATED BUCKMAN DIRECT DIVERSION WATER BEGINS** *NMED Gives Green Light to Sustainable Water Supply*

**For Immediate Release**

**January 5, 2011**

**Santa Fe**\_\_The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has given a green light for the Buckman Regional Water Treatment Plant (BRWTP) to begin production and delivery of a new source of safe, sustainable and reliable drinking water.

The BRWTP will produce treated drinking water that will be better than required by all federal and state drinking water standards. The treated drinking water will be distributed throughout the City and County's water systems to all Santa Fe customers.

"After nearly a decade, the day is finally here to add a fourth source of water to meet the needs of the City and County customers for a safe, reliable, and sustainable public water supply," said Rebecca Wurzburger, BDD Board Chair and Mayor Pro Tem of City Council.

"For months, the BRWTP has had water circulating through all the treatment steps and processes to make sure the equipment treats water properly. We intend to slowly and gradually ramp-up the amount of water to be delivered to ensure our drinking water is of high-quality and tastes, smells and looks good," said Rick Carpenter, BDD Project Manager.

Extensive and on-going multi-barrier monitoring will be conducted 24/7 to ensure the water meets all stringent U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA) and NMED water quality requirements. On-line instruments provide continuous, real-time analysis of water quality at each and every stage of the treatment process, from the river intake through the conventional and advanced water treatment processes. Certified operators will conduct frequent manual observations and tests of water quality, aided by an in-plant laboratory and a full-time professional compliance officer, all under the direction of a professional and experienced water treatment plant manager. The compliance officer will frequently collect samples for testing by private sector certified laboratories and the certified State of New Mexico laboratory. The treatment plant manager and the compliance officer will submit monthly operating reports to

the NMED to demonstrate compliance with regulatory treated drinking water standards. We will post these reports on our website [bddproject.org](http://bddproject.org)

Designed specifically to purify Rio Grande water, the water treatment plant includes a set of highly effective, state-of-the-art and multi barrier advanced water treatment processes to effectively treat and remove contaminants. The water treatment plant will effectively remove or kill pathogens, which are the primary contaminants of concern. Most other potential Rio Grande contaminants are attached to particles of sediment. The water treatment plant will remove at least 99.99% of all contaminants attached to sediment particles using the most effective particle removal process available. It will effectively remove dissolved toxins such as arsenic and uranium. It includes two processes designed to break down and remove pharmaceuticals and personal care products.

“The BDD Board has built this infrastructure for the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County to improve our regional water supply under drought conditions. The water we already own from the San-Juan Chama Project and the Rio Grande are renewable, and will allow us to replace current regional groundwater pumping we can’t sustain,” said Virginia Vigil, BDD Board Vice-Chair and Chair of the Board of County Commissioners.

Beginning this spring, the BDD Project will provide more than 60 percent of the annual water supply for 100,000 customers, delivering as much as 15 million gallons per day of treated drinking water.

Monthly compliance reports will be sent to the NMED to demonstrate compliance with regulatory treated drinking water standards. The reports will be posted on the BDD website. The BDD Project will provide immediate public notice, as required by law, of any acute violations of regulatory standards. The BDD Project will annually provide a comprehensive water quality report, also required by law.

If you have questions about your water please Email questions to [buckmanwaterinfo@ci.santa-fe.nm.us](mailto:buckmanwaterinfo@ci.santa-fe.nm.us) or call (505) 955-4555

For more information and frequently asked questions, please visit [www.bddproject.org](http://www.bddproject.org)