



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON



For Immediate Release
July 2, 2008

Contact: Jim Baca
(505) 263-9995

Governor Bill Richardson Announces Projects to Restore Water Resources in Albuquerque's South Valley

SANTA FE-Governor Bill Richardson and Natural Resource Trustee Jim Baca today announced the implementation of two projects that will restore water resources in Albuquerque's South Valley. The projects will be funded from \$4.8 million in settlement funds from corporations involved in the South Valley Superfund site.

"These two projects will help sustain clean water supplies in Albuquerque's historic South Valley," Governor Bill Richardson said. "We worked closely with neighborhood representatives to come up with these solutions and we know they will make a difference in resident's safety and quality of life."

The corporations involved in the settlement are Chevron U.S.A. Inc., Chevron Pipe Line Company, Texaco Inc., and Texaco Downstream LLC, as successor to Texaco Refining and Marketing Inc.

The planned projects include the restoration of polluted water from a nitrate plume that is located in the South Valley east of the Rio Grande near the mouth of the Tijeras Arroyo. This is a site of historical nitrate contamination for which no other sources of funding for restoration are available. The contamination was first discovered in 1961 and is thought to have been caused by over fertilization of a farm. The plume occupies a volume of approximately one square mile. The New Mexico Environment Department's Ground Water Quality Bureau will oversee the restoration.

The second project will use remaining funds to pay for connections to the municipal sanitary sewer and water system for residents of the South Valley who currently use septic systems and domestic drinking water wells. The program will cover those who did not qualify for the Bernalillo County Public Work Partners in Improvement and Protection of the Environment assistance program.

"The assistance of residents of the South Valley in coming up with these projects was very important to this process," Natural Resource Trustee Jim Baca said. "They are the ones who have had to suffer the consequences of the Superfund site for decades."

#30#