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Auditor Keller Awards Financial Aid to Rural Communities

Small funds have big impact on Acequia Associations, Conservation Districts

SANTA FE, NM – Today, State Auditor Tim Keller announced publicly that the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) awarded a total of \$160,000 to small political subdivisions across New Mexico. OSA provided financial assistance to 31 small entities such as acequias and soil and water conservation districts to help achieve compliance with state audit requirements that protect public funds.

“Small funds in our rural communities have a big impact when it comes to safeguarding our taxpayer dollars. Acequia associations and conservation districts will now have assistance accounting for the public funds that flow through them and provide needed infrastructure across New Mexico,” stated Auditor Keller.

The legislature provided \$160,000 to OSA to make the awards in FY15 and has renewed the funding for FY16. The office developed an application process to provide an opportunity for entities to apply for financial assistance. The process gave priority to small political subdivisions that 1) demonstrated financial need or hardship completing their audit reports or agreed-upon procedure reports; and 2) demonstrated that their noncompliance with financial reporting requirements will adversely impact their eligibility to receive other federal or state funding.

“The State Auditor’s Office is grateful to the legislature for the appropriation and has developed a thoughtful process for awarding funds to the communities that need them most,” continued Auditor Keller.

Acequia Del Monte in Taos County and East and West Sandoval Acequia in Sandoval County are two of the award recipients. Arthur Coca is the Commissioner and Treasurer of Acequia Del Monte and Gilbert Sandoval is the Chairman of East and West Sandoval Acequia. They are both available for comment about how the funds are being put to use in their communities.

The full list of financial aid recipients can be found here:
http://www.saonm.org/media/uploads/SPS_Awards_as_of_6-24-15.pdf

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