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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 12, 2009**

**ONE YEAR AFTER GROUNDBREAKING, BDD PROJECT  
CONSTRUCTION ON BUDGET AND ON SCHEDULE**

**Santa Fe** – One year after ground was broken on the Buckman Direct Diversion (BDD) Project, the project is within budget and construction is on schedule.

“In our role of overseeing implementation and operation of one of the largest and most costly nonfederal public works project in northern New Mexico history, the BDD Project Board has ensured the project is on budget in terms of time and costs. We are pleased at the pace of construction and confident the BDD Project will be completed by the agreed upon deadline of spring 2011. We look forward to soon being able to deliver an additional reliable, sustainable source of excellent quality and safe drinking water to residents of the City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County and our limited partner, Las Campanas,” said Virginia Vigil, chair of the BDD Project Board and Santa Fe County Commissioner.

Rebecca Wurzbarger, vice chair of the BDD Project Board, Santa Fe City Councilor and Mayor Pro tem, added, “An unparalleled level of coordination and cooperation has been required to oversee this very complex project. It is to the credit of the City of Santa Fe’s Sangre de Cristo Water Division as the project manager, the design build construction team of CH2M HILL/Western Summit Constructors Joint Venture, BDD staff and consultants that we have been able to stay on schedule while meeting our commitments to minimize our impact on the environment and continuing to work to ensure the quality of the water that will be produced by the BDD Project.”

In terms of the budget, BDD Project Manager Rick Carpenter said the BDD Project is within budget because, “We have been extremely proactive in monitoring costs and addressing challenges that have occurred, including anticipating the cost of materials escalation.” As of September 1, 2009, about 54 percent of the project’s construction budget had been spent, while 54 percent of construction is complete. Carpenter also credited the BDD Project Board for its “skillful oversight” of the project. “The BDD Project Board should be commended for their diligent budget oversight and collaborative and hands-on problem solving,” Carpenter explained.

In its second construction year, Carpenter said, the BDD Project will concentrate on hiring 26 full-time positions to operate the Project when it is completed. Positions range from licensed water system operators and laborers to a BDD Facility Manager. Hiring for key positions is underway, with staffing planned to be completed by December 2010.

**(MORE)**

## **One Year After Groundbreaking, BDD Construction on Budget and On Schedule—Only Add**

As of September 2009, the BDD reported the following milestones:

- All 27 miles of pipeline, including 13 miles of 12-30 inch diameter raw water pipeline and 14 miles of 16-30 inch diameter finished water pipeline were completed ahead of schedule. Crews are currently testing the pipelines for leaks and re-vegetating areas disturbed by pipeline construction.
- Transplanting of native Piñon and other trees that were relocated to a “tree nursery” during construction has begun, with about 90 trees (45 percent of the total) transplanted so far.
- The 15-million-gallon-per-day Water Treatment Plant is more than 50 percent complete.
- Work has begun on the Raw Water Diversion Structure and Lift Station, which will divert water from the Rio Grande. Crews are currently dewatering the diversion site and building a coffer dam.
- Crews removed six roadside memorials and relocated them a safe distance from the construction zone. They plan to place them back in their original positions once construction is completed.
- The contractor successfully preserved endangered species by re-routing a pipeline to avoid a nesting site for burrowing owls and halting construction near the Rio Grande during the mating/migration season of the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.
- The process to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design) certify the Water Treatment Plant Operations Building is underway. The facility has received 16 anticipated points so far from the U.S. Green Building Council for design point submittals, with 13 additional points to be evaluated following construction. Certification requires 26 points.

“We’ve come a long way, but we’ve still got a lot to accomplish in order to complete construction and ensure the BDD Project will be operational by March 2011. We appreciate the ongoing support of the community and our partner agencies, and look forward to completing the BDD Project in about a year and a half,” Vigil said.

### **Sidebar: BDD Project by the Numbers:**

So far, BDD Project construction has:

Placed more than 5,000 cubic yards of concrete

Excavated/moved approximately 200,000 cubic yards of dirt

Placed more than 1.8 million pounds of rebar

Placed more than 60,000 pounds of structural steel

Recorded more than 160,000 person hours of labor

**About the Buckman Direct Diversion Project** - *the BDD Project will provide a sustainable way for the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County to access surface water supplies by diverting San Juan-Chama Project water and native Rio Grande water to reduce their reliance on over-taxed ground water resources. Design and construction on the BDD began in September 2008 and is expected to be completed, with the project operational, by March 2011. ###*