

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

Jennifer J. Pruet, Deputy Secretary

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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*The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.*

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### **Environment Department's Shelly Lemon to represent region on board of national Association of Clean Water Administrators**

Shelly Lemon, Chief of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau, was elected as a regional representative to the national board of the Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA).

[ACWA](#) is a national organization that supports state and territorial governments on a wide range of issues related to the federal Clean Water Act. ACWA is a trusted and reliable partner for NMED in navigating the substantial challenges that face surface water protection programs today, from funding shortfalls to tackling emerging contaminants in the environment.

"New Mexico has incredible expertise and we are proud to contribute to national conversations around important environmental concerns," said Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. "I am confident that Shelly will represent us – and our unique water issues – very well."

In this role, Shelly will also represent her counterparts at environmental agencies in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas, bringing our southwest regional perspective to important discussions about national water policy and governance.

"Shelly has always presented the New Mexico point of view on nutrients, permits and other key water quality issues with well-thought-out comments and illuminating examples from back home," said ACWA President Tom Stiles. "I am thrilled that she is taking on new challenges and will be serving on the ACWA board with me. I look forward to her help in steering ACWA in new directions."

As a committed 16-year public servant at NMED, Shelly is the Chief of the Department's Surface Water Quality Bureau. Shelly manages a professional staff of mission-driven professionals who work to protect and restore New Mexico's rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs, and wetlands. These waters not only provide great natural beauty, they supply the water necessary for drinking, recreation, industry, agriculture and aquatic life. She looks forward to representing regional stakeholders on water issues and bringing national attention to the successes and challenges of New Mexico water programs during her time on the ACWA board.

"In New Mexico, we are carefully attuned to local, state, regional and national issues that affect our ability to ensure our rivers, lakes and wetlands support the healthy ecosystems on which our economy depends," said Rebecca Roose, Director of the Water Protection Division at NMED. "Shelly's strong leadership skills and extensive experience in water science and policy, combined with a deep commitment to environmental protection, make her a perfect fit for the ACWA board."

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