



**Aubrey Dunn, State Land Commissioner  
State of New Mexico**

For Immediate Release

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**Commissioner Dunn Fills Five Vacant Positions at the State Land Office**

**Santa Fe, NM (July 22, 2016)** – State Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn today announced that five new employees have joined the State Land Office team, filling business essential roles that had been recently vacated due to retirements and other staff departures. The biographies for each new employee are below.

**Kathleen “Katie” Espinosa**

Katie is the new District Resource Manager in the Hobbs office. She is originally from Roswell and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Economics from Eastern New Mexico University in Portales. While living in Portales, she interned with Curry County 4-H. Katie has also worked in the oil and gas industry in Artesia. In August, Katie will formally receive her Master’s in human resources from the University of Denver. Katie has one child, Bronson, 3, and she is excited to be moving back to Southeast New Mexico to join the Land Office team.

**Marilyn Gruebel**

Marilyn Gruebel has joined the Oil, Gas and Minerals Division as Units Manager. She is a certified project manager with 30 years of professional experience, including 15 years in petroleum exploration and development and 15 years in environmental projects. Marilyn holds a Master of Science degree in geology from Texas A&M University and a PhD in public policy from the University of New Mexico. Early in her career, Marilyn was a staff geologist in Houston for several major and independent oil companies – including Marathon, Sohio, and Enron. After moving to Albuquerque in 1988, Marilyn worked at Sandia National Laboratories for 15 years as both a contractor and a senior member of the Sandia’s technical staff before leaving to start an oil and gas consulting company in Texas. She has happily returned to New Mexico and lives in Placitas with her husband, Ralph, and their 9-year-old border collie/blue heeler, Stormy.

**Carmen Mora**

Carmen Mora has joined the Royalty Management Division as an Auditor. She has over a decade of auditing experience. Prior to joining SLO, she worked at the New Mexico Department of Workforce

Solutions in the Tax - Field Unit where she conducted field audits for employer compliance. She enjoys cooking, gardening, music and spending time with family.

### **Melinda Quintana**

Melinda Quintana has joined the Royalty Management Division as a Royalty Revenue Accountant. She first joined state government in 2008 with the Regulation and Licensing Division as a Licensing Specialist and until recently worked with the Department of Cultural Affairs as a Financial Specialist-Advanced. Melinda was born and raised in Santa Fe and enjoys spending time with family and friends. She has a son Julian, 7, who loves to play basketball and football. She is currently working on her Bachelor's degree in business administration and has several years of financial experience.

### **Michael Smith**

Michael Smith has joined the Land Office team as an IT Developer. Michael graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney with a double major in computer science and geography. Some of his previous employment experience includes working as a professional welder, heavy equipment operator and construction supervisor while concurrently attending college and raising three daughters. After college, he worked as the IT manager for a soil and agricultural testing laboratory in Kearney for 13 years. Michael and his wife, Vivian, relocated to Santa Fe in April after he accepted his position at the Land Office. Michael's interests include woodworking, archery, bow fishing and travelling, with South Africa being one of his favorite places.

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The State Land Office is responsible for administering 9 million acres of surface and 13 million acres of subsurface estate for the beneficiaries of the State Land Trust, which includes schools, universities, hospitals and other important public institutions.

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