



Aubrey Dunn, State Land Commissioner
State of New Mexico

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 18, 2018

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SLO lease sale generates \$12.7 million

SANTA FE, NM – The New Mexico State Land Office (SLO) generated more than \$12.7 million in revenues for a trio of beneficiaries during the agency’s October Oil and Gas lease sale.

The sale, which is held online, in both open and sealed bidding formats, yielded a total of \$12,730,103. Tyler, Texas-based Mewbourne Oil Company was the high bidder in both the sealed and open bidding, purchasing a total of 440 acres for a total of \$5,139,090.

Beneficiaries of the October sale and their respective earnings are:

- Common Schools - \$4,304,083
- New Mexico Penitentiary - \$8,395,330
- Water Reservoirs - \$30,690

State Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn said he continues to have high hopes with regard to revenue generation during Fiscal Year 19.

“Although we still have a long way to go, FY19 is shaping up to be one of the best – if not the best – years in State Land Office history,” Commissioner Dunn said. “Our beneficiaries have enjoyed record distributions and that should continue as a result of our continued efforts on their behalf.”

In all, 19 tracts, totaling 4,176.99 acres in Lea, Chaves and Eddy counties were sold to eight bidders for an average per-acre price of \$3,047.67. There were 22 registered bidders from five states participating in the October sale.

“It has been an honor to work on behalf of the schoolchildren of the state and all of our other worthy beneficiaries,” Commissioner Dunn said. “Responsibly managing millions of acres of surface and subsurface estate while maximizing revenues is a challenge, but one that’s proven to be a very rewarding endeavor.

“Knowing that all of our hard work goes to more than just the agency’s bottom line is what makes this such satisfying work,” Commissioner Dunn added.

Oil, gas, and mineral production, ranching and farming, and commercial development on State Trust Lands support public schools, seven universities, New Mexico Military Institute, New Mexico School for the Deaf, New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, three hospitals, correctional facilities, water conservation projects, and public building construction and repair. In fiscal year 2017, the State Land Office collected \$664 million from lease payments, oil and gas lease sale earnings, rights-of-way, permits, interest, fees, and oil, gas, and mineral royalties.