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PRESS RELEASE

State Ethics Commission settles with Ms. Stephanie Stringer for Governmental Conduct Act

Albuquerque, NM, February 3, 2023– Today, the State Ethics Commission announces it has entered into a pre-litigation settlement with Stephanie Stringer, the former Chair and Commissioner of the Water Quality Control Commission and a former employee of the New Mexico Environment Department. Ms. Stringer applied for, interviewed for, and accepted employment with a federal agency, while also taking actions as Chair of the WQCC related to that agency. The SEC contends that Ms. Stringer violated Section 10-16-4(C) of the GCA by acquiring a financial interest (negotiations for prospective employment) when she reasonably should have believed that her official acts as a commissioner and Chair of the WQCC would directly affect that interest. To settle this matter, and without admitting any liability or wrongdoing, Ms. Stringer agreed to pay a \$250 civil penalty. This amount is the maximum fine currently available under the Governmental Conduct Act for one violation of that act.

For more information about the State Ethics Commission, visit www.sec.state.nm.us.