

Carruthers Names 3 Cabinet Secretaries

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(Note: Material regarding other Cabinet Secretaries was in the original article, but has been removed from the following for brevity)

SANTA FE - Gov.-elect Garry Carruthers on Monday appointed Larry J. Gordon, a democrat, director of Albuquerque's Environmental Health Department, to head state's troubled Health and Environment Department.

Gordon, 60, had said 10 days ago that he was not a candidate for the HED job.. But he said Monday he changed his mind after Carruthers invited him to apply.

Carruthers did not say how many people he had considered for the HED assignment, but he previously approached Santa Fe's City Manager, Tom Baca, and was turned down.

The department has had six secretaries plus one acting secretary during the four-year term of outgoing Gov. Toney Anaya..

Carruthers and Gordon declined to say what changes they anticipate within the department, except that they will return the Environmental Improvement Division to its former status a HED division. Under Anaya the divisions director has was elevated to cabinet rank by executive order.

Last month, Gordon, who heads Carruthers' transition team for HED had said he would "highly recommend" that Deiker continue as chief of the Las Vegas Medical Center.

Gordon was deputy secretary of HED from 1977 to 1982, and he was the first director of the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Agency in 1971 He has held numerous environmental and public health posts and is a past president of the American Public Health Association.

In his Albuquerque job, he has been at the center of the controversy over how to comply with a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency order to improve the city's air quality or face federal sanctions During his campaign, Carruthers supported a 2-cent gasoline tax boost to finance an air cleanup program, but voters defeated the measure. Neither Carruthers nor Gordon said Monday what they expect the state's role in the air dispute to be during the new administration.