

"The biggest sleeper story of 2009: The city, on one hand, was doing this great cistern rebate program, but they weren't really talking to those in the Land Use Department who were basically preventing cistern [installation by requiring use of a licensed plumber]. It's already very expensive to install a cistern, and people are already very worried about their money, so to bring in plumbers at their \$85-an-hour wages as opposed to cistern guys, who are paid more like landscapers, would've been prohibitively expensive. [The license is no longer required, Downey says, and the rebate program starts Jan. 1, 2010.]

—Nate Downey, president and owner of  
Santa Fe Permaculture