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For Immediate Release

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Environment Department Issues Health Advisory Concerning Sewage Spill in Rio Rancho

(Santa Fe, NM) The New Mexico Environment Department is issuing a public health advisory related to a sewage spill into the Montoyas Arroyo in the City of Rio Rancho.

The city notified the department that heavy rains on the night of Aug. 23 resulted in damage to a 15-inch sewer main and the release of raw sewage.

Repair crews completed temporary repairs to the damaged sewer main and sewage is being diverted into other parts of the sewer. It is unclear how much sewage was released and how far down the arroyo the spill spread.

People should avoid entering the arroyo -- to limit exposure to potential human pathogens -- until the problem is resolved. Weather reports predict a chance for additional precipitation and there is a concern for flash flooding in the area. People or pets who are exposed to the affected water or soil in the Montoyas Arroyo should bathe with anti-bacterial soap and warm water.

NMED continues to assess the situation will issue additional advisories as necessary.

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