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For Immediate Release

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**Environment Department Seeks Public Comment on
Water Quality Standards for the Lower Dry Cimarron River**

Santa Fe, NM -- The Environment Department seeks public comment on several proposed amendments to surface water quality standards for the lower Dry Cimarron River. The proposal would change the aquatic life use from coldwater with a 25°C segment-specific temperature criterion to coldwater with a 29°C temperature criterion.

An analysis prepared by the Department demonstrates that naturally occurring summer air temperatures result in water temperatures that are too high to sustain coldwater fish, but are suitable for cool and warmwater aquatic life.

In developing the proposal, the Department considered input received at a public meeting held in Folsom on August 12, 2010.

The proposal is available on the Environment Department's website at:

<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/Standards/>
Click under "What's New"

Comments are being accepted through September 9, and may be submitted to Tim Michael of the Surface Water Quality Bureau (tim.michael@state.nm.us or PO Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502). He may be reached by telephone at (505) 476-3799.

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