



State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



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For Immediate Release

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**NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT PROPOSES CHANGES
TO SANTA FE RIVER WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

Santa Fe - The New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau is proposing changes to the State's water quality standards for the Santa Fe River and Nichols and McClure reservoirs, part of the City's water supply systems, to better define and protect both the water users and the water resource. The Bureau proposes to: 1) place the reservoirs in a new segment that identifies them not as streams (as they are currently) but as reservoirs used for public water supply, 2) create a new segment for the river from Nichols reservoir to San Isidro crossing, which will support the City's recently-adopted Target Flow or "Living River" Ordinance and ensure the health and safety of City residents who recreate in the River is protected, 3) determine if the lack of flow in the river below San Isidro crossing limits the attainment of uses, and 4) update uses and criteria for the river below the wastewater treatment plant, particularly to protect the health and safety of irrigators and other users.

The Surface Water Quality Bureau is holding two public meetings on the proposed changes. The first meeting is at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday May 23 at the La Cienega Community Center (50-A San Jose, La Cienega); the second is at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday May 29 at the Santa Fe Main Library Community Room (145 Washington Avenue, Santa Fe).

More information about the proposed changes can be found on the Surface Water Quality Bureau website: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/>. For additional information, contact Tim Michael at tim.michael@state.nm.us or at 476-3799.

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