



SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor
JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Resource Protection Division

Harold Runnels Building
1190 Saint Francis Drive (87505)
P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
Phone (505) 827-0419 Fax (505) 827-0310
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



DAVE MARTIN
Cabinet Secretary
BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary
JAMES H. DAVIS, Ph.D.
Division Director

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, SURFACE WATER QUALITY BUREAU PROPOSES TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLs) FOR UPPER RIO GRANDE WATERSHED

NOTICE OF A 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND COMMUNITY MEETING

The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) is inviting the public to comment on the draft "total maximum daily load" (TMDL) document for the Upper Rio Grande Watershed. Draft *E.coli* TMDLs in this document include:

- Apache Canyon (Rio Fernando de Taos to headwaters)
- Rio Fernando de Taos (Tienditas Creek to headwaters)
- Rio Fernando de Taos (Rio Pueblo de Taos to USFS bnd at canyon)
- Rio Fernando de Taos (USFS bnd at canyon to Tienditas Creek)
- Rio Pueblo de Taos (Rio Grande del Rancho to Taos Pueblo bnd)
- Rio Quemado (Santa Cruz River to Rio Arriba Cnty bnd)
- Rio San Antonio (Montoya Canyon to headwaters)
- Rio Santa Barbara (non-pueblo Embudo Ck to USFS bnd)
- Santa Cruz River (Santa Clara Pueblo bnd to Santa Cruz Dam)

A TMDL is a planning document that establishes specific goals to meet water quality standards in waterbodies where pollutant limits are exceeded. It includes current pollution loadings, reduction estimates for pollutants, information on probable sources of pollution, and suggestions to restore or protect the health of the waterbody.

The 30-day comment period on this document opened June 13, 2012 and will close July 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. MDT. Formal comments for inclusion in the public record must be submitted in writing, to **Heidi Henderson** mailing address **NMED SWQB, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM, 87502; voice: 505-827-2901; fax number (505) 827-0160; or e-mail: heidi.henderson@state.nm.us** (if possible, please submit an electronic copy in addition to paper).

A public meeting will be held to summarize the information and to provide a forum for interested parties to ask questions and provide comments. The meeting date will allow the public time to review the document and generate questions or comments. The meeting will be held in Taos on Thursday, June 28 from 6-8pm at the Taos Convention Center, 120 Civic Plaza Drive.

Following the close of the comment period, copies of the draft final document will be:

- mailed to all persons who submitted written comments by July 13 at 4:00 p.m. and
- available electronically on the bureau's website or by contacting the bureau at the address above.

The SWQB plans to request approval of the draft final TMDLs at the Water Quality Control Commission's (WQCC) regularly scheduled meeting on August 14, 2012. WQCC agendas are available at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wqcc/index.html>.

Persons having a disability and needing help in being a part of this process should contact Connie Joseph at least 10 days before the event, at the NMED, Human Resources Bureau, P.O. Box 5469, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502, telephone 505-827-9872. TDY users please access her number via the New Mexico Relay Network at 1-800-659-8331.

For more information, please contact Heidi Henderson at the address or phone number provided above.

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