

**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**David Martin, *Cabinet Secretary*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****February 19, 2013**

Contact: Jim Winchester
Communications Director
New Mexico Environment Department
(505)231-8800 / jim.winchester@state.nm.us

**THE NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT
ON WATER QUALITY STUDY OF THE JEMEZ RIVER WATERSHED**

Jemez Springs, NM -- The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) is seeking public input on planning for a surface water quality study of Jemez River Watershed. The survey will be conducted from April to October, 2013. The survey area includes the Jemez River from the headwaters to the Village of San Ysidro. The results of the survey will be used to determine water quality status, track water quality improvements, and identify impaired waterbodies.

A public meeting will be held March 5, 2013 from 6-8 pm, at the Village of Jemez Springs conference room. Representatives from the SWQB will discuss the draft monitoring plan and will provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide input. The SWQB is seeking the opinion of area residents, governmental agencies, Pueblos, and other concerned parties on the study design and any potential areas of concern that may not be addressed in the draft study plan.

The data gathered may be used to develop total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) if any bodies of water are identified as impaired by one or more types of pollution. A TMDL is a planning document that establishes specific goals for water quality conditions. It includes reduction estimates for pollutants currently exceeding state surface water quality standards, and leads to the development of restoration plans suggesting what actions might be taken to attain water quality standards. The process for developing a TMDL will be described and discussed at the meeting.

Additional information can be found on the web at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb>. Questions and comments can be directed to Greg Huey at (505) 827-0596, 1190 St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505, or e-mail at greg.huey@state.nm.us or Doug Eib at (505) 827-0106, 1190 St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505, or e-mail at doug.eib@state.nm.us.

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