

**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**David Martin, *Cabinet Secretary*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****March 29, 2013**

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Wagon Mound Takes Action to Protect Drinking Water

Wagon Mound, NN-- Concerned about the severe drought, and potential contamination, the Wagon Mound Village Council approved a comprehensive Source Water Protection Plan for the spring that supplies drinking water to their community. The Plan, prepared with technical assistance from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau and New Mexico Tech, provides for increased vigilance against potential sources of contamination, repair of aging water pipes, preservation of water rights and sustainability, and contingencies for emergencies.

“The drought is putting a pinch on our water supply,” said Wagon Mound Mayor Arturo Arguello. “This plan is our vision for how to protect it for our children and grandchildren.” The Village appointed a Source Water Protection advisory team, consisting of Village staff and residents, to draft the plan. During the Village Council meeting, Mayor Arguello and several Village residents expressed concern about the aquifer depletion and water shortages that other communities in the region were experiencing.

“Public water systems in New Mexico are facing extraordinary and unprecedented challenges caused by drought, groundwater depletion, contamination and wildfire risks,” said NMED Secretary Dave Martin. “Wagon Mound’s proactive, grass-roots planning is a brilliant measure to protect and preserve their source of drinking water while the glass is still half full.” Source Water Protection Plans are a voluntary option that U.S. Congress wrote into the Safe Drinking Water Act.

“We stand ready to assist other communities who wish to protect their water sources from contamination and depletion,” said Graham Knowles, Chief of the NMED Drinking Water Bureau. Our experts in hydrogeology, engineering and community planning can help public water systems evaluate the threats to their water supply and fortify their physical and institutional protection systems.”

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