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February 13, 2006  
Immediate Release

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**Environment Department Offers Free Water Well Testing For Homeowners  
Between Mesquite and Anthony in Doña Ana County**

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is inviting well owners between Mesquite and Anthony in Doña Ana County to have their wells sampled this month. Testing is free of charge and participation is voluntary. Tests will include, pH, electrical conductivity, dissolved oxygen, nitrate, fluoride, iron, and organic vapor. Participants will be provided with the test results and will have an opportunity to discuss the results with a NMED specialist.

On February 21 and 22, well owners can drop off their water sample for free testing at the Del Cerro Community Center in Vado between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. **The Vado Community Center is located at 180 La Fe Avenue, Vado.**

On February 23 and 24, well owners can drop off their water samples for testing at the Berino Elementary School between 8:00 am to 3:00 pm on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and between 8:00 am to 12:00 pm on February 24<sup>th</sup>. **The Berino Elementary School is located at 92 Shrode Road, Berino.**

**How to Collect the Water Sample:**

- Let the water run for at least 5 minutes before collecting the sample;
- Use a clean glass or plastic container (at least a quart);
- Do not use containers that have a strong odor;
- Collect the sample as close to the time of testing as possible;
- Cover the container with a clean lid; and
- Collect the sample before the water enters any treatment systems, such as reverse osmosis, water softener, or a carbon filter.

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Water supplied by public drinking water systems will not be tested, since those supplies are routinely tested pursuant to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Anyone supplied by a public system should receive a Consumer Confidence Report each year from the system operator that summarizes test results. For additional information on public drinking water systems in this area, you may contact Drinking Water Bureau staff in the Las Cruces office at (505) 524-6300.

For questions about this water fair, please contact Bart Faris at (505) 222-9521, or Ray Montes or Chris Whitman at (505) 524-6300. For more information or for press inquiries, please contact Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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