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For Immediate Release

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**State Environment Department Seeks Public Comment on  
Water Quality in the Jemez River Watershed**

(Santa Fe, NM) -- The New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau will be holding community meetings to present information and seek public comment about water quality in the Jemez River watershed. The watershed is located in the central portion of the state, primarily in Sandoval and Rio Arriba counties.

The Environment Department will hold two community meetings to discuss the draft "total maximum daily loads," or TMDLs, (water quality planning documents) and the proposed removal of stream segments from the list of impaired waterbodies.

The first meeting will be held Wednesday, August 28 at the Cuba Senior Center, 16A Cordova Street in Cuba. The second meeting will be held Thursday, August 29 at the Village of Jemez Springs Conference Room, 046 Jemez Springs Plaza in Jemez Springs. Both meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. and last until 8:00 p.m.

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 standards, as well as an implementation plan suggesting what actions might be implemented to restore or protect the health of the waterbody. A de-listing letter is a request for the removal of a stream

segment from the list of impaired waterbodies (commonly called the §303(d) List) when current water quality data show the waterbody to be meeting state surface water quality standards.

Some of the pollutants that have exceeded water quality standards in the Jemez River watershed include conductivity, stream bottom deposits, total organic carbon, metals (chronic aluminum), pH, temperature, and turbidity.

The New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission will hold a regular public meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 13, in Room 317 of the NM State Capitol Building, Santa Fe, New Mexico. This meeting will be the start of the 60-day public comment period for these Jemez River watershed TMDLs. The 60-day public comment period ends October 11, at 5:00 p.m. mountain daylight time. Final Jemez River watershed TMDLs will be submitted to the Commission for its formal approval at the scheduled public meeting tentatively set for November 12, 2002 at which time public comments will also be accepted.

For more information, contact David Hogge, in the Environment Department's Surface Water Quality Bureau, at P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502 or by calling (505) 827-2981. The draft TMDLs are also be posted in the TMDL Development Section of the Surface Water Quality Bureau's website, which can be found at: [www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/swqb.html](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/swqb.html).

For more information, contact David Hogge, TMDL Coordinator, NMED at (505) 827-2981, or Cathy Tyson-Foster, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-2855.

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