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For Immediate Release

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**Environment Department Honors National Ground Water Awareness Week  
With Free Water Testing in Southeastern and Central New Mexico**

(Santa Fe, NM)- Ninety percent of New Mexicans drink it every day, but most of us do not really understand the resource that lies beneath us. To help raise awareness of issues surrounding ground water, the source of drinking water for 90 percent of New Mexicans, March 14-20 has been designated National Ground Water Awareness Week. In honor of this week the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will be offering free ground water testing in several New Mexico cities and towns.

For free well water testing; join NMED on the following dates in the following locations:

**Hobbs:**

*Tuesday, March 16, 10am-7pm; NM Junior College, Continuing Education Building, Room 113*

**Carlsbad:**

*Wednesday, March 17, 10am-7pm; Eddy County Extension Service, 1304 Stephens, Carlsbad*

**Hagerman:**

*Thursday, March 18, 10am- 7pm; Hagerman Community Center, 501 E. Argyle, Hagerman*

**Placitas:**

*Saturday, March 20, 9am-2pm; Placitas Community Center, 41 Camino de las Huertas, Placitas*

In order to be tested, samples must be at least one quart in volume, freshly drawn from a cold water tap, and brought in a covered, clean glass or plastic container that did not previously contain pickles or juice.

To protect ground water quality, the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) recommends annual well water testing, checking the physical condition of the well, and using a licensed well driller. Hazardous materials such as paint, fertilizer, motor oil, and pesticides should be stored away from any well and should never be disposed of onto the land surface, into a hole or pit, or into a surface water supply. More information about National Ground Water Awareness Week can be found at [www.ngwa.org](http://www.ngwa.org).

For further information contact Jerzy Kulis, Ground Water Bureau, NMED at (505) 827-2828 or Jon Goldstein, NMED, Communications Director at (505) 827-0314.

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