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Nov. 30, 2006
For Immediate Release

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Environment Department Will Hold Public Meeting To Discuss Proposed Changes To State Water Quality Standards

WHAT: The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) invites the public to attend a meeting to discuss proposed changes to the antidegradation policy of the New Mexico Water Quality Standards. NMED proposes to modify a provision under Outstanding Natural Resource Waters (ONRWs) that would allow temporary and short-term degradation of those waters under certain circumstances including for watershed restoration projects. NMED will consider comments received at the meeting and prepare a petition to the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to begin the formal rulemaking process.

WHERE: South Capitol Complex, Harold Runnels Building Auditorium, 1190 St. Francis Drive in Santa Fe

WHEN: From 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19

WHO: NMED representatives from the SWQB will speak at the meeting.

OTHER: A public discussion draft of the proposed changes, which will be discussed at the meeting, is available on the SWQB website: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/Standards/20.6.4.8NMAC08-21-06.pdf>. If you prefer a copy be mailed to you, contact Tim Michael at 505-476-3799.

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