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For Immediate Release

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Environment Department to Hold Open Houses in Santa Fe and Las Cruces about Proposed Clean Car Regulation

WHAT: The New Mexico Environment Department will host Public Open Houses in Santa Fe Las Cruces and next week to offer information about a proposed clean car standard for New Mexico and the role the regulation will play in reducing air pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions.

WHERE and WHEN:

Las Cruces: From 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Monday, June 25 in the Board of Trustees Room at the Mesilla Town Hall, 2231 Avenida de Mesilla in Mesilla.

Santa Fe: From 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 26 in the Rio Grande Room at the Toney Anaya Building, 2550 Cerrillos Road in Santa Fe.

WHO: Environment Department staff will be available to discuss the development of the clean car standard and the related benefits to air quality, health and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

WHY: The Environment Department is soliciting comments on the proposed regulation through July 10, 2007. The regulation would put in place a clean car standard developed in accordance with Governor Bill Richardson's Executive Order 2006-069, New Mexico Climate Change Action, which seeks to implement many of the recommendations of the New Mexico Climate Change Advisory Group (CCAG). The membership of CCAG included representatives from environmental advocacy organizations, academia, industry, tribal government and state agencies. Implementation of a clean car standard in New Mexico was a unanimous recommendation from the CCAG.

The clean car standard will apply only to new vehicles for sale in New Mexico beginning in Model Year 2011. Car manufacturers will be required to supply New Mexico car dealerships with new vehicles that meet the clean car standard. Car purchasers will still have a wide range of vehicles to choose from, including cars, trucks, and sport utility vehicles. "Clean cars" in Model Year 2011 will produce less smog-producing emissions, less carbon dioxide pollution, and will cost less to maintain due to fuel savings and extended warranties. To date, eleven states have adopted clean car standards. New Mexico is one state among several that are now pursuing adoption of the standard.

For more information, call Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475.

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