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For Immediate Release

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Environment Department Opens Comment Period for Draft Integrated Clean Water Act *Notice of Public Comment Period*

WHAT: The New Mexico Environment Department's Surface Water Quality Bureau invites the public to comment on the draft 2006-2008 State of New Mexico Integrated Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d)/305(b) List of Assessed Surface Waters (Integrated List). The list identifies whether a particular surface water of the state is meeting its designated uses as detailed in the State of New Mexico Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters (20.6.4 NMAC), through application of the State of New Mexico Procedures for Assessing Standards Attainment for the Integrated Sections 303(d)/305(b) Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (Assessment Protocols). "Category 5" waters on the Integrated List specifically constitute the CWA Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters.

WHEN: The 37-day public comment period began March 5 and ends at 5 p.m. April 10, 2007. During this period, residents can provide written comments for consideration and inclusion in the public record.

WHO: Residents should submit formal written comments to **Lynette Guevara, NMED SWQB, Room N2163, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502, (505) 827-2904** or at lynette.guevara@state.nm.us.

Copies of the draft list are available at www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb or by contacting Gary King at (505) 827-2928.

WHERE: Following the close of the public comment period, copies of the final draft Integrated List as amended and the Response to Comments will be available at NMED's SWQB Web site www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb or upon request 10 days prior to next regularly scheduled Water Quality Control Commission meeting, which is tentatively set for May 8, 2007. The SWQB will present the final draft Integrated List at that meeting. The final Integrated List will then be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for formal approval as Appendix B of the 2006-2008 State of New Mexico Integrated Clean Water Act Sections 303(d)/305(b) Report to Congress.

For more information, call Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director at (505) 827-0314 or Jill Turner, NMED SWQB Outreach Coordinator at (505) 476-1866.

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