



**BILL RICHARDSON**  
GOVERNOR

**State of New Mexico**  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**Office of the Secretary**  
**Harold Runnels Building**  
**1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110**  
**Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110**  
**Telephone (505) 827-2855**



**RON CURRY**  
SECRETARY

**CINDY PADILLA**  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director  
Telephone: (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475

## **Environment Department Hosts Community Meeting Thursday in Sunland Park**

### **Topics for Discussion Include Camino Real Landfill and El Paso's ASARCO Copper Smelter**

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department will host a community meeting Thursday, June 28 in Sunland Park to listen to residents' and local leaders' concerns regarding the environment and programs the department oversees. The meeting, which is among more than 16 the department is holding statewide, will also serve to inform citizens and officials about the department's programs.

### **Topics for discussion include Camino Real Landfill, ASARCO Inc. in El Paso, Dairies and the Rio Grande.**

Residents can also ask for updates on department programs, which include food sanitation, liquid waste disposal, safe drinking water, petroleum storage tanks, air quality, groundwater protection, solid waste disposal, surface water quality and radiation control. The department is hosting the meetings to increase community awareness and involvement in the protection of the environment.

"Residents have expressed many concerns related to the environment in Sunland Park," said New Mexico Environment Department Deputy Secretary Cindy Padilla. "Those concerns are related to Camino Real Landfill, ASARCO Inc. in El Paso and cumulative environmental impacts on the area. I visited Sunland Park a couple of times recently and listened to some of residents' concerns. This meeting will give locals a chance to discuss issues with technical staff members as well."

The department will present facts about the work the department conducts, provide a forum to listen to citizens' concerns and facilitate a discussion about how the department can improve NMED programs. Four years ago, when Governor Richardson first took office, the department outlined three guiding principles for the agency — focusing on an accountable workforce, the significance and value of diversity and the importance of working as a holistic agency. These meetings ensure the department is held accountable to residents.

**WHERE:** Riverside Elementary School, 4085 McNutt, Sunland Park

**WHEN:** From 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 28

**WHO:** Secretary Curry, Deputy Secretary Padilla and local representatives of the department will attend the meeting. Other community meetings will be held July 11 in Gallup, July 26 in Carrizozo, Aug. 8 in Rio Rancho, Aug. 23 in Deming, Sept. 6 in Espanola, Sept. 20 in Alamogordo, Oct. 10 in Farmington and Oct. 25 in Carlsbad. Meetings are also planned for Las Vegas, N.M. and Los Alamos but have not been scheduled. Meeting locations are pending.

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