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**Environment Department Calls Hearing to Investigate East Mountain
Community Sewage Association**

(Santa Fe, NM) –New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Secretary Ron Curry has ordered that a hearing be held to investigate allegations surrounding the management of the Paa-ko Communities Sewage Association. Paa-ko Communities, developed by Roger Cox and Associates, is located in Sandia Park on the east side of the Sandia Mountains.

Evidence has been brought to the Department’s attention that the association’s board of directors may not be managing the association in the best interest of the members. This information includes, evidence that certain board members are ineligible for their positions, evidence that the board did not conduct an election in a manner in which the members could participate fully, evidence that the board has not made meetings sufficiently accessible to the public, and evidence that the board’s agreement to provide free effluent to the Paa-ko Golf Ventures LLC may not be in the best interest of the association.

These issues were brought to the Department’s attention by several complaints from citizens.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday May 10 at 6:00 pm at the Vista Grande Community Center, 15 La Madera Road in Sandia Park.

After the hearing Secretary Curry will issue a final decision as to whether the board is operating in the best interest of the association and ordering the board to take appropriate action if necessary. State law empowers NMED to “intervene in the operation and management with full powers” if it determines that a sanitary project is not being operated or managed in the best interests of local citizens.

In the past two years, Paa-ko has applied for and received \$1 million in low interest loans from the state to improve their wastewater treatment system. The association recently began the process of renewing their groundwater discharge permit as well.

For further information, please contact Jon Goldstein, NMED Communication Director at (505) 827-0314.

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