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For Immediate Release
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WATER FAIR IN PLACITAS

(Santa Fe, NM) -- A water fair and public meeting on water planning will be held for the Placitas area on Saturday, September 22, from 9:00 am. - noon. The focus of the event is to provide a progress report on Placitas area water planning since the series of workshops hosted by Del Agua Institute in 1999. The event will also feature free on-site water testing, by the New Mexico Environment Department, of water collected from private wells.

The Placitas Area Water Planning Group (PAWPG), composed of local citizens committed to water resource planning for the area will host this event. The theme of this year's event is beginning to understand the Placitas area water supply - both availability and demand. A major part of the program will be devoted to the presentation of a preliminary water budget (projections of supply and demand) for the Placitas area, performed over the last year by the PAWPG with financial support from Sandoval County. This analysis uses data provided by the New Mexico Bureau of Mines report on the hydrogeology of the Placitas area, Sandoval County and the Office of the State Engineer to create a simple, preliminary comparison of available water supply estimates with current and projected demand.

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Additional presentations on water planning will be made by Mr. Bill Sapien, Chairman of the Sandoval County Commission; Pete Maggiore, Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department and former Placitas resident; and Bob Wessely, Chairman of the Middle Rio Grande Water Planning Assembly and Placitas resident. A presentation will also be made introducing the upcoming Placitas Area Water Demand Evaluation, another crucial piece of the water planning process, scheduled to begin in September. The Water Demand Evaluation is a comprehensive documentation of current and historical water demand in the Placitas area. This work will be performed by UNM graduate student Andrew Sweetman, in conjunction with his work in the Water Resources Administration program, and is scheduled for completion in January 2002.

Area residents wishing to have private well water tested at the Water Fair should bring at least one liter (or approximately one quart) of water in a clean, disposable, plastic or glass container that has not previously contained fruit juice or pickles. Water should be collected from the cold faucet at the kitchen sink. If a household water filter is used, both filtered and unfiltered samples should be collected. Water testing will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis, within staffing and time limits.

The water fair and meeting will be held Saturday, September 22, from 9:00 am. – noon, at the Placitas Presbyterian Church.

For more information, contact Julie Desai of the NMED Drinking Water Bureau at (505) 827-7536 x.1014 or Reid Bandeen at (505) 867- 5477.

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