



**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*  
*Fax (505) 827-2836*



**RON CURRY**  
SECRETARY

May 19, 2006  
Immediate Release

Contact: Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director  
Phone: (505) 827-0314

### **Environment Department to Provide Free Well Water Testing in San Juan County**

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will be providing free testing of private domestic water wells in San Juan County on Saturday May 27 and Sunday May 28 at the Riverfest Celebration at the Animas Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. People wishing to have their water tested should bring one-liter (quart) of water in a clean plastic bottle, collected from the cold-water tap on the day of testing.

The testing is free, and participation is voluntary. Tests will include electrical conductivity, dissolved oxygen and nitrate. Water quality experts will provide residents with test results and will be available to answer any questions.

Water supplied by public drinking water systems will not be tested as those supplies are routinely analyzed pursuant to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. If you are supplied by a public system, you should receive a Consumer Confidence Report each year from the system operator that summarizes test results. For additional information on public drinking water systems visit [www.safewater.state.nm.us](http://www.safewater.state.nm.us) to review NMED's online database of public drinking water systems. For additional information on "public" drinking water systems in San Juan County, please contact Ms. Diane Barnes, [diane.barnes@state.nm.us](mailto:diane.barnes@state.nm.us), at 505-327-7711.

Previous tests of private wells have detected nitrate contamination in some local wells. Nitrate contamination can be caused by septic tank effluents, fertilizers, animal waste, and by natural geologic sources. For more information about nitrate contamination, see the NMED Web site, [www.nmenv.state.nm.us/gwd/Technical%20resources/haniteng.html](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/gwd/Technical%20resources/haniteng.html).

For further information, contact Thomas A. Welts, NMED Field Operations, Farmington office, at [Thomas.welts@state.nm.us](mailto:Thomas.welts@state.nm.us) or by calling (505) 327-9851. For media inquiries, contact Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

###