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Immediate Release

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### **Environment Department to Offer Free Well Water Testing in Tijeras**

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), in cooperation with local Soil & Water Conservation Districts, is offering free water testing for private domestic wells this **Sunday, May 7, 2006, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Los Vecinos Community Center, 478 ½ Old Hwy 66, Tijeras**, as part of the East Mountain Celebration and East Mountain/ Estancia Basin Water Festival.

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. If possible, samples should be collected before passing through any water treatment system, such as a water softener, reverse osmosis, or an activated-carbon filter.

The water testing is part of a statewide groundwater quality assessment. Tests will include analyses for pH, conductivity, organic vapors, nitrate, sulfate, fluoride, and iron. The testing is free, and participation is voluntary. 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. Homes supplied by a public water system 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 systems.

For further information, contact Jerzy Kulis, NMED Ground Water Bureau, at (505) 827-2828, or Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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