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RON CURRY
SECRETARY

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Immediate Release

Contact: Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director
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Environment Department Proposes Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Jemez Watershed in the Valles Caldera National Preserve

Notice of 30-Day Public Comment and Community Meeting

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is inviting the public to comment on a draft “total maximum daily load” (TMDL) document for the Valles Caldera National Preserve (VCNP) watershed, defined as the VCNP watershed (VCNP boundary to the headwaters) and its tributaries. Draft TMDLs in this document include: Temperature – East Fork Jemez (VCNP boundary to its headwaters), Jaramillo Creek (VCNP boundary to its headwaters) and Turbidity – Jaramillo Creek (VCNP boundary to its headwaters).

A TMDL is a planning document that establishes specific goals to meet water-quality standards in water bodies where pollutant limits are exceeded. It includes current pollution loadings, reduction estimates for pollutants, information on probable sources of pollution, and suggestions to restore or protect the health of the water body.

The 30-day comment period on this document will open May 15, 2006, and will end June 13, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. MDT. Formal comments for inclusion in the public record must be submitted to NMED’s Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) in writing, to **Heidi Henderson at mailing address: NMED SWQB, Room N2163, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, NM, 87502; fax number (505) 827-0160; or by e-mail: heidi.henderson@state.nm.us** (if possible, please submit an electronic copy in addition to paper).

The SWQB will approach the NM Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) at their regular monthly meeting, tentatively set for July 11, 2006, to request approval of the final draft VCNP Watershed TMDL document. Following the close of public comment, copies of the final revised draft document will be available to the public upon request and on the SWQB Web site at least 10 days prior to the WQCC meeting. For more information, or to request a copy of the TMDL, contact Heidi Henderson at the address provided above, or by calling (505) 827-2901. The draft TMDLs are also posted on the SWQB’s Web site at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb>.

A public meeting will be held to summarize the information and to provide a forum for interested parties to ask questions and provide comments. The meeting date is approximately halfway through the comment period to allow for time to review the document and generate questions or comments. The meeting will be held in Jemez Springs on May 25th from 6-7 p.m. at the Jemez Springs Town Hall

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Valles Caldera National Preserve TMDLs

(behind the downtown park off HWY 4). Formal written comments for inclusion in the public record may be submitted at this meeting as well.

People with disabilities and require help to be a part of this hearing process should contact Judy Bentley approximately 10 days prior to the meeting at the NMED, Personnel Services Bureau, P.O. Box 26110, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502, telephone 505-827-9872. TDY users please access her number via the New Mexico Relay Network at 1-800-659-8331.

For further information, contact Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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