



NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Surface Water Quality Bureau

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**THE NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, SURFACE WATER QUALITY BUREAU
PROPOSES TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLs) FOR THE JEMEZ RIVER WATERSHED**

NOTICE OF A 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) is inviting the public to comment on the draft "total maximum daily load" (TMDL) document for the Jemez River Watershed. Draft TMDLs in this document include:

East Fork Jemez (San Antonio Creek to Valles Caldera National Preserve bnd) – arsenic and temperature;
Jemez River (Zia Pueblo boundary to Jemez Pueblo boundary) – arsenic and boron;
Jemez River (Jemez Pueblo boundary to Rio Guadalupe) – arsenic and boron;
Jemez River (Rio Guadalupe to Soda Dam near Jemez Springs) – arsenic, boron, nutrients, and temperature;
Jemez River (Soda Dam near Jemez Springs to East Fork Jemez) – arsenic;
Rio de las Vacas (Rio Cebolla to Clear Creek) – nutrients;
Rio Guadalupe (Jemez River to confluence with Rio Cebolla) – temperature;
Rito de las Palomas (Rio de las Vacas to headwaters) – sedimentation/siltation and temperature;
Rito Peñas Negras (Rio de las Vacas to headwaters) – nutrients; and,
San Antontio Creek (East Fork Jemez to VCNP boundary) – arsenic.

A TMDL is a planning document that establishes specific goals to meet water quality standards in waterbodies 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 waterbody.

The 30-day comment period on this document will open June 8, 2009 and will close July 10, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. MST. Formal comments for inclusion in the public record must be submitted in writing, to **Shelly Drinkard** mailing address **NMED SWQB, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM, 87502; voice: (505) 827-2814; fax number (505) 827-0160; or e-mail: shelly.drinkard@state.nm.us** (if possible, please submit an electronic copy in addition to paper).

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 will allow the public time to review the document and generate questions or comments. The meeting will be held in Jemez Springs, NM on Thursday, June 25th from 6-8pm at the Jemez Springs Village Offices.

Following the close of the comment period, copies of the draft final document will be:

- mailed to all persons who submitted written comments by July 10, 2009 at 5pm and
- available electronically on the bureau's website or by contacting the bureau at the address above.

The SWQB plans to request approval of the draft final TMDLs at the Water Quality Control Commission's (WQCC) regularly scheduled meeting on August 11, 2009. WQCC agendas are available at:
<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wqcc/index.html>.

Persons having a disability and needing help in being a part of this hearing process should contact Judy Bentley at least 10 days before event, at the NMED, Human Resources Bureau, P.O. Box 26110, 1190 S. 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 more information, please contact Shelly Drinkard at the address or phone number provided above.