



NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



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For Immediate Release

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Environment Department to Discuss Galisteo Watershed Water Quality Standards

(Santa Fe, N.M.) The New Mexico Environment Department will hold a public meeting about water quality standards for streams in the Galisteo Watershed.

The department is investigating what aquatic life uses are appropriate for Galisteo Creek and its tributaries. The purpose of the meeting is to present this investigation and invite public input.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 7 at the Hondo Fire Station 2, south of the intersection of N.M. 285 and Old Las Vegas Highway.

The state, as required by the Clean Water Act, has developed water quality standards for its surface waters. Those standards group surface waters into hydrologically similar segments. Segments are assigned designated uses, including an aquatic life use and associated criteria to protect the uses.

Galisteo Creek and its perennial tributaries are currently assigned the high quality coldwater aquatic life use. Data collected by the department on the mainstem Galisteo Creek do not meet the criteria for this use. However, both local residents and the department have expressed concerns that high quality coldwater may not be an appropriate use.

For more information contact Deby Sarabia at deborah.sarabia@state.nm.us or visit the Surface Water Quality Bureau standards website, <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/UAA/>.

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