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For Immediate Release

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**Environment Department Lifts Boil water Order for
La Cienega Water System in Santa Fe County**

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau advised the La Cienega Water System to lift a “boil water order” for its water system today.

The La Cienega Water System, located in Santa Fe County, was put on a “boil water order” on August 18 due to bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level for E. Coli.

Actions to disinfect the water system and identify possible sources of contamination were promptly taken. These actions included shock chlorination and flushing of the entire water system. Bottled water was recommended for drinking.

Water samples collected since the shock chlorination and flushing have shown no Coliforms in the water system. These clean results have allowed NMED’s Drinking Water Bureau to advise the La Cienega Water System to lift the “boil water order” for its water system.

The presence of E. Coli in water indicates that the water may have been in contact with sewage or animal wastes, and could contain disease-causing organisms. Most strains of E. Coli are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals. However, a positive test for E. Coli in the drinking water supply may indicate the presence of dangerous strains of E. Coli or other disease-causing organisms, which are sometimes found in sewage or animal wastes. These types of organisms may cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, even death. Children, the elderly, and immuno-compromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475 or Danielle Shuryrn from the NMED-Drinking Water Bureau at (505) 476-8637.

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