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**New Mexico Environment Department's Surface Water Quality Bureau Releases Draft  
Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan**

NOTICE OF A 60-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

(Santa Fe, N.M.) The New Mexico Environment Department's Surface Water Quality Bureau invites the public to comment on its draft Nonpoint Source Management Program planning document. The document is available on the Surface Water Quality Bureau Web site at [www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/wps/plan](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/wps/plan) or will be provided upon request submitted to the address or phone number provided below.

The Nonpoint Source Management Program's planning document describes dynamic programs and progressive actions to prevent nonpoint source pollutants from entering surface and groundwater. That program will help New Mexico meet its water quality standards, achieve the goals of the Federal Clean Water Act, and protect water quality for municipal, domestic, and agricultural uses. Those goals are shared with the New Mexico Water Quality Management Program, which incorporates the Nonpoint Source Management Program by reference.

That program establishes a process to develop programs and activities within watersheds that will facilitate the maintenance and achievement of surface water quality standards. That work emphasizes watershed-based planning as a means of coordinating watershed restoration efforts, fostering watershed associations, and encouraging partnership among agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the public. In addition, the program supports local watershed-based implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads. That work also coordinates with other land management agencies that have established resource protection programs and activities.

The 60-day comment period on the planning document opens today, February 27 and closes at 5 p.m. April 28. Formal comments for inclusion in the public record must be submitted in writing to Abraham Franklin, NMED SWQB, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM, 87502; voice: (505) 827-2793; fax number (505) 827-0160; or e-mail: [Abraham.Franklin@state.nm.us](mailto:Abraham.Franklin@state.nm.us) (if possible, please submit an electronic copy in addition to paper).

Following the close of the comment period, responses to public comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted written comments by the deadline. Copies of the draft final document (including responses to public comments) will also be available electronically on the bureau's Web site or by contacting the SWQB at the address above.

The SWQB plans to request approval of the draft final Nonpoint Source Management Program planning document at the Water Quality Control Commission's regularly scheduled meeting on June 9. WQCC agendas are available at: [www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wqcc](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wqcc). Pending WQCC approval, the document will be provided to the US. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

Those who have a disability and need assistance in joining the hearing process should contact Judy Bentley at least 10 days before event at the NMED, Human Resources Bureau, P.O. Box 5469, 1190 S. St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, N.M., 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 Abraham Franklin at the address or phone number provided above.

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