



NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, SURFACE WATER QUALITY BUREAU PROPOSES TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLs) FOR THE UPPER RIO GRANDE WATERSHED

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

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 Upper Rio Grande watershed. The draft TMDL is available online at: <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/tmdl/>. Draft TMDLs in this document include:

- Chuckwagon Creek (Comanche Creek to headwaters) - Turbidity
- Costilla Creek (Diversion abv Costilla to Comanche Creek) - Total recoverable aluminum
- Fernandez Creek (Comanche Creek to headwaters) - Plant nutrients
- Grassy Creek (Comanche Creek to headwaters)-*E. coli*, Temperature
- LaBelle Creek (Comanche Creek to headwaters)-Total recoverable aluminum, *E. coli*, Sedimentation/siltation
- North Fork Tesuque Creek (Tesuque Creek to headwaters)-Total recoverable aluminum
- Placer Creek (Red River to headwaters) - Turbidity
- Red River (Rio Grande to Placer Creek) - Turbidity
- Rio Chupadero (USFS boundary to headwaters)-Sedimentation/siltation
- Rio en Medio (Aspen Ranch to headwaters) - Sedimentation/siltation
- Rio Fernando de Taos (R Pueblo d Taos to headwaters) - Specific conductance
- Rio Frijoles (Rio Medio to Pecos Wilderness) - Turbidity
- Rio Grande (Ohkay Owingeh boundary to Embudo Creek) - Temperature
- Rio Grande (Santa Clara Pueblo boundary to Ohkay Owingeh boundary) - Temperature
- Rio Medio (Rio Frijoles to headwaters) - Total recoverable aluminum, Temperature, Turbidity
- Rio Nambe (Nambe Pueblo boundary to headwaters) - Temperature
- Rio Pueblo de Taos (Arroyo del Alamo to R Grande del Rancho) – Plant nutrients
- Rio Pueblo de Taos (Rio Grande to Arroyo del Alamo) - Turbidity
- Rio Quemado (Santa Cruz River to headwaters) - Total recoverable aluminum, *E. coli*
- Sanchez Canyon (Costilla Creek to headwaters) - Turbidity
- Santa Cruz River (Santa Clara Pueblo boundary to Santa Cruz Dam) - Total recoverable aluminum
- Santa Cruz River (Santa Cruz Reservoir to Rio en Medio) - Total recoverable aluminum, Temperature
- Ute Creek (Costilla Creek to headwaters) - *E. coli*
- Vidal Creek (Comanche Creek to headwaters) - Total recoverable aluminum, *E. coli*

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 13, 2022, and will close July 13, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. MDT. Formal comments for inclusion in the public record must be submitted in writing via the NMED Public Comment Portal at: <https://nmed.commentinput.com/comment/search> or alternately in

writing to Rachel Jankowitz, e-mail: rachel.jankowitz@state.nm.us; or mailing address: NMED SWQB, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM, 87502; voice: (505) 819-9810; fax number (505) 827-0160.

Two public meeting will be held to summarize the information and to provide a forum for interested parties to ask questions and provide comments. The meetings will be held on June 15, 2022, at 2:30 to 4:00 pm and 5:30 to 7:00 pm via a virtual webinar. Specific meeting details will be made available in a meeting flyer posted to the SWQB website during the week of June 13.

Following the close of the comment period, copies of the Response to Comments will be:

- Mailed to all persons who submitted written comments by July 13, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.; and
- Available electronically on the bureau's website or by contacting Rachel Jankowitz via email or phone number provided above.

The SWQB plans to request approval of the draft final TMDLs at the Water Quality Control Commission's (WQCC) next available meeting. WQCC agendas are available at: <https://www.env.nm.gov/water-quality-control-commission/wqcc/>.

For more information, please contact Rachel Jankowitz via email or phone number provided above.

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