



NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

*Surface Water Quality Bureau*

Public Involvement Plan (PIP)  
for the Comprehensive Assessment and Listing  
Methodology (CALM)

June 2023

**APPROVAL PAGE**

**Shelly Lemon**

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Shelly Lemon  
Chief, Surface Water Quality Bureau

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Date

**Lynette Guevara**

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Date: 2023.06.08 11:44:53 -06'00'

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Lynette Guevara  
Program Manager, Surface Water Quality Bureau

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Date

## I. Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Overview

The New Mexico Environment Department (Department), Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB or Bureau) developed this Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for the periodic updates to the Statewide Comprehensive Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM). The CALM provides a description of the listing methodologies used to apply available, validated and verified water quality sampling data against the New Mexico’s water quality standards (20.6.4 NMAC) to develop the biennial CWA §303(d)/§305(b) Integrated Report and List. The Bureau encourages the public to learn about and get involved in the decision-making processes that are part of the Statewide CALM. The purpose of this PIP is to provide public participation opportunities and information that may be needed to participate in these updates. This PIP integrates information about the community and identifies resources needed by the Bureau to successfully incorporate community participation activities into the decision-making process for the CALM updates. The PIP identifies the Department staff and resources needed to accomplish these activities. The Bureau will meet the public participation requirements for the updates to the CALM by following this PIP, which includes all applicable policy, regulatory and statutory public participation requirements.

In developing this PIP, community participation needs were assessed to ensure appropriate promotion of public outreach by identifying whether there is a combination of environmental and demographic factors (i.e., low-income community, minority community, limited English proficiency individuals, Linguistically Isolated Households, etc.) that may impact public participation. This assessment identifies community outreach needs and provides for public access opportunities above and beyond statutorily mandated requirements and underscores the provision of adequate public access to information about the updates to the Statewide CALM.

As much as possible, public participation and informational activities related to the CALM will be held within the timelines outlined in the table below. This timeline is tentative and subject to change. Per the federal requirement, a 30-day public review and comment period is allotted.

More detailed information about planned Bureau outreach is available in this PIP.

Activity	Dates
Notice PIP (invite public input)	July 14, 2023
Public Notice	July 14, 2023
Public Review Period	30-day review July 14-August 14, 2023
Public announcements (radio, brochures, signs, postcards, factsheets, etc.)	As needed

This PIP is a “living” document that may be amended after considering public comments and feedback. The Bureau Chief provides final approval of the PIP and amendments.

## II. Bureau Contacts

Bureau contacts for questions regarding the Statewide Comprehensive Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM), the public review and approval process, the Bureau’s website, or this PIP, are listed below:

Meredith Zeigler, Assessment Coordinator  
Surface Water Quality Bureau  
PO Box 5469  
Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Phone: (505) 490-5866  
Email: [meredith.zeigler@env.nm.gov](mailto:meredith.zeigler@env.nm.gov)

Heidi Henderson, MASS TAT Supervisor  
Surface Water Quality Bureau  
PO Box 5469  
Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Phone: (505) 819-9986  
Email: [heidi.henderson@env.nm.gov](mailto:heidi.henderson@env.nm.gov)

If you need to contact the Bureau regarding the Comprehensive Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM), please call or email the bureau contacts listed above.

#### **A. Non-English Language Speaker Assistance and Accommodations**

Non-English speakers may call the Bureau contacts listed in this PIP and request language assistance services, such as an interpreter, so they can learn more about the CALM.

#### **B. Department Websites**

New Mexico Environment Department - <https://www.env.nm.gov/>  
Surface Water Quality Bureau - <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/>

#### **C. CALM Website**

The Bureau maintains a website location for the CALM (see website address below). The website will be kept up to date and has information about the site and important documents.

<https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/calm/>

### **III. Regulatory Framework**

The CALM provides a description of the listing methodologies used to compare available, validated and verified water quality sampling data against the New Mexico's water quality standards (20.6.4 NMAC) to develop the biennial CWA §303(d)/ §305(b) Integrated Report and List. In preparation for assessment of water quality data and the development of the Integrated Report and List, the CALM is reviewed and updated every odd year. In even numbered years, the surface water quality bureau monitoring data and all other readily available surface water data are summarized in the State of New Mexico CWA §303d/§305b Integrated Report as required by Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and 40 CFR 130.7.

The public participation requirements of specific water quality programs are specified in 40 CFR Section 25.4 and described in the Water Quality Management Plan and Continuous Planning Process (WQMP/CPP). At a minimum, the public participation process for New Mexico's water quality programs consists of the following:

- Providing the public with the information and assistance necessary for meaningful involvement;
- Providing a central location of reports, studies, plans, and other documents;
- Maintaining a list of affected or interested parties and stakeholders; and
- Notifying stakeholders in a timely fashion prior to consideration of major decisions (generally at least 30 days).

To fulfill this requirement, the Bureau invites the public to comment on significant revisions to the CALM. The Statewide CALM documents a consistent approach for assessment of data to determine whether designated uses are being attained as detailed in the State of New Mexico Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters (20.6.4 NMAC). The CALM is reviewed biennially to ensure consistency with EPA

listing guidance as well as to implement the results of studies that, for example, result in proposed numeric translators for narrative criteria. As stated in the WQMP/PPP, the CALM does not need to be approved by the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) or the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Alternatively, the WQCC and the EPA refer to the CALM to better understand how designated use attainment determinations are made.

#### **IV. Location and Demographics**

The CALM is a statewide document, and thus contains objectives and strategies for the entire state.

##### **Demographic Summary**

Demographic indicators were obtained from EPA EJSCREEN, an environmental justice screening and mapping tool, available on-line at <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>. EJSCREEN is based on nationally consistent data and an approach that combines environmental and demographic indicators in maps and reports. Users choose the geographic area of interest by selecting a point, line or polygon on the map; users may also choose to select a buffer area (up to 10 miles) around the point, line or polygon to better capture the affected community. EJSCREEN then provides a report that describes demographic and environmental information for that area. The 2016-2020 ACS Report link in EJSCREEN provides a report with US Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) data in pdf format. The 2016-2020 ACS, through EJSCREEN, provided quantitative information regarding demographic indicators.

##### **Summary of Site-Specific EJSCREEN Inputs for the CALM**

- Community of Concern = statewide
- Buffer = No buffer was applied, due to the large geographic extent of the project area.

The state of New Mexico has an estimated population of 2,097,021; 49% identify as Hispanic or Latino (which may be of mixed race) and 9% identify as American Indian. The percent of persons that communicate in a language other than English (non-English) at home is 34%, compared to 21.3% for the United States. The EJSCREEN analysis identified 40,736 of 792,755 households as linguistically isolated, of which 81% speak Spanish and 19% speak various other languages (including Indo-European and Asian-pacific island languages). The per capita income for the project area is \$27,945, compared to the national per capita income of \$31,177. These results indicate that for the project area, the percentage of Spanish-speaking communication is considerable (i.e., substantially greater than the national percentage) and there are demographic factors (i.e., low income community, minority community, limited English proficiency individuals, Linguistically Isolated Households, etc.) that may impact public participation.

#### **V. Public Participation & Outreach Activities**

The public may ask questions about the proposed CALM updates at any time. Interested community members do not need to wait for a formal public comment period to contact the Bureau. However, the Bureau emphasizes that to be included in the administrative record, comments solicited by public notices must be submitted during the noticed comment periods, and in accordance with the public notice.

Specific outreach activities related to draft CALM include:

- Developing a public notice announcing the opening of the 30-day public comment period,
- Posting this notice and the draft CALM to the SWQB website,
- Emailing this public notice to SWQB's extensive email list through the GovDelivery e-mail delivery service (1,986 email addresses as of May 31, 2023), and

- Posting to NMED’s Events Calendar.

Copies of the proposed draft CALM and all supporting documents may be obtained via download from the Bureau’s website at <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/calm> or by contacting Meredith Zeigler at (505) 490-5866, [meredith.zeigler@env.nm.gov](mailto:meredith.zeigler@env.nm.gov), NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502. This is the most direct way to learn more about and be involved in the decision-making process for the State of New Mexico’s CALM.

Based on the demographics report discussed in the PIP, basic information about public involvement opportunities will be in both English and Spanish. This information will include how to request materials in Spanish or to speak with Bureau staff through an interpreter. Further details about public participation for this activity are outlined below.

#### **A. Postal Mailing or E-Mailing of Notices to Persons on the Surface Water Quality Bureau’s Email List**

The Bureau maintains an extensive email list (1,986 email addresses as of May 31, 2023) that includes individuals interested in surface water quality issues and activities. This list is a combination of all previously interested persons who requested the Bureau provide them with information about surface water quality in New Mexico. The Bureau regularly maintains contact information, which is updated or supplemented if additional information is found. Interested persons providing both an address and email may receive physical mail and an email. Additional individuals, organizations, and other interested parties are added to the email list as requested.

#### **B. Email Updates**

The Bureau’s email list is regularly updated and is available on the Bureau’s website at: <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/> by clicking on the “Click here to subscribe to receive email updates!” button on the bottom of the home page. The Bureau’s website liaison is Heidi Henderson at 505-819-9986 (or email [heidi.henderson@env.nm.gov](mailto:heidi.henderson@env.nm.gov)).

#### **C. Public Meeting Notices, Public Comment Notices, and Other Notices**

Based on the Bureau’s evaluation of the community, public notices will be translated into Spanish. In addition, the Bureau will post notices on the Department’s Events Calendar at: <https://www.env.nm.gov/events-calendar/>

#### **D. Informational Pamphlets**

The Bureau may develop informational pamphlets for the CALM that briefly explain what is happening relative to the updates and revisions, the appropriate Bureau contacts, and next steps in the listing methodology revision process. To the extent such informational pamphlets are produced, the Bureau may determine whether they will be available in languages other than English and will post online (e.g., Bureau website). They may also be distributed via email to interested organizations and individuals, including those who sign up for email notices through the website.

#### **E. Public Comment Period**

The 30-day public comment period on the draft CALM revision is planned to start July 14, 2023, and end August 14, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. MDT.

#### **F. Other Outreach**

Other means of outreach such as flyers or other hard copy postings will not be used. However, any

updates will be posted on the Department’s website.

### G. Information Repositories

Copies of proposed updates to the CALM may be obtained via download from the Bureau’s website at <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/calm/> or by contacting Meredith Zeigler at (505) 490-5866, [meredith.zeigler@env.nm.gov](mailto:meredith.zeigler@env.nm.gov), NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502.

The Bureau will not provide hardcopies and other information at NMED district offices, post offices, community centers, public libraries, or other repositories. The Bureau requests that individuals access the draft CALM and supporting documents and information online at the links noted above. If requested, the Bureau will work with individuals to provide hard copies. If you would like to request hard copies of important documents and information about how to comment on the draft CALM, please contact Meredith Zeigler at (505) 490-5866, [meredith.zeigler@env.nm.gov](mailto:meredith.zeigler@env.nm.gov).

### H. CALM Proceedings, Outcomes and Responses to Comments

To address stakeholder and community members submitted comments, the Bureau will prepare the final draft CALM as amended, following the close of the public comment period. The Bureau will send a copy of responses to comments directly to the commenters. If a person provides comments in a language other than English, the Bureau will respond to those comments in the preferred language. The final CALM will be posted to the SWQB website and an announcement will be sent to the SWQB listserv.

**Figure 1: EJScreen State of New Mexico (CALM demographic area)**

