



NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, SURFACE WATER QUALITY BUREAU PROPOSES TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLs) FOR THE GILA/LOWER RIO GRANDE WATERSHEDS

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

- **Gilita Creek (Middle Fork Gila R to Willow Creek)** - Temperature
- **Las Animas Ck (perennial prt R Grande to Animas Gulch)** - Temperature
- **Mangas Creek (Gila River to Mangas Springs)** – *E. coli*, Temperature
- **Mimbres R (Perennial reaches Cooney Cyn to headwaters)** - Temperature
- **Mule Creek (San Francisco R to Mule Springs)** – Plant nutrients
- **Rio Grande (International Mexico bnd to TX border)** – Dissolved boron
- **San Francisco River (Box Canyon to Whitewater Creek)** - *E. coli*
- **San Francisco River (Centerfire Creek to AZ border)** - Sedimentation/siltation
- **San Francisco River (NM 12 at Reserve to Centerfire Creek)** - Temperature
- **Whitewater Creek (Whitewater Campgrd to headwaters)** - Temperature
- **Willow Creek (Gilita Creek to headwaters)** - Temperature

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 August 8, 2023, and will close September 8, 2023, 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@env.nm.gov; or mailing address: NMED SWQB, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM, 87502; voice: (505) 819-9810; fax number (505) 827-0160.

A public meeting will be held to summarize the information and to provide a forum for interested parties to ask questions and provide comments. The meeting will be held on August 30, 2023, at 1:00 to 2:00 pm via a virtual webinar.

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

- Mailed to all persons who submitted written comments by September 8, 2023 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.

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

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