



# NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

## ***Surface Water Quality Bureau***

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

**June 2025**

#### **APPROVAL PAGE**

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Chief, Surface Water Quality Bureau

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Date

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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.<sup>1</sup> 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)	June 16, 2025
Public Notice	June 16, 2025
Public Review Period	30-day review June 16-July 16, 2025
Finalize CALM and publish on SWQB website	By August 29, 2025

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.

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<sup>1</sup> See IV. Location and Demographics – Demographic Summary below.

## 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

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

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/>
- New Mexico Environment Department Non-Discrimination and Environmental Justice - <https://www.env.nm.gov/general/environmental-justice-in-new-mexico/>
- New Mexico Environment Department Public Notices - <https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices/>
- New Mexico Environment Department Public Comment Portal - <https://nmed.commentinput.com/comment/search>
- New Mexico Environment Department Events Calendar - <https://www.env.nm.gov/events-calendar/>

### A. 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/CPP, 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**

The state of New Mexico has an estimated population of 2,114,768. Of the population 53.6% percent of the community identifies as white, 2.1% percent identifies as Black, and 9.5% percent identifies as American Indian and Alaskan Native, 1.7% percent identifies as Asian, 0.1% present identifies as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 12% percent identifies with some other race, and 20.9% percent identifies as multiracial. Of the total population, 48.2% percent identify as Hispanic. The percent of persons that communicate in a language other than English (non-English) at home is 29.9% percent (632,982 individuals), with 173,410 individuals speaking English "less than very well." The per capita income for New Mexico for 2019-2023 is \$34,823, as compared to the national per capita income for 2019-2023 of \$43,289. From the 2019-2023 ACS data, there are 43,594 linguistically isolated households in this community. These results indicate that the percentage of non-English-speaking communication in New Mexico is significant and various demographic factors (i.e. low-income community, minority community, limited English proficiency individuals, Linguistically Isolated Households, etc.) may impact public participation.

Therefore, the Bureau will provide information in Spanish and in English for public comment notices, public meeting notices, and other announcements (radio broadcasts, brochures, signs, postcards, etc.), and strive to make public participation efforts as inclusive as possible within Bureau budget and time limitations. Specific information repositories that may be used depending on the need are provided in Section V of this PIP.

## **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 (1,930 email addresses as of June 6, 2025), 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 (1,930 email addresses as of June 6, 2025) 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 June 16, 2025, and end July 16, 2025, 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.