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December 20, 2019

EXTENSION OF NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS FOR NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED UPDATES TO THE STATEWIDE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN AND CONTINUING PLANNING PROCESS

The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) is extending the public comment period on the revised draft Water Quality Management Plan and Continuing Planning Process (WQMP/CPP) and will receive comments through close of business on February 5, 2020.

NMED's Statewide WQMP/CPP provides a concise summary of the water quality management system in New Mexico and the roles of the major participants in that system, as required by Sections 208 and 303 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 74-6-4(B) of the New Mexico Water Quality Act (WQA).

States are required to have a WQMP and CPP in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Sections 130.6 and 130.5, respectively. The WQMP/CPP describes the processes the State uses to manage its water quality program, describes how water quality assessments are implemented and how point and nonpoint water quality problems are prioritized, and considers alternative solutions and recommendations for control measures.

The Statewide WQMP/CPP results in a consistent approach for protecting and improving water quality by ensuring that water quality standards are established to protect designated uses, the quality of water in the environment is periodically assessed, and point and nonpoint sources of pollution that may adversely impact water quality are identified, prioritized and controlled.

The 75-day comment period for this proposal began November 22, 2019 and will close February 5, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. MST. Comments for inclusion in the public record must be submitted in writing to NMED-SWQB Attn: Jennifer Fullam, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM, 87502; by e-mail to jennifer.fullam@state.nm.us; or by fax to 505-827-0160, ATTN: Jennifer Fullam.

Persons having a disability or requiring assistance or auxiliary aid to participate in this public process should contact the NMED Human Resources Bureau at least 10 days before the scheduled meeting, at P.O. Box 5469, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502, telephone 505-827-9769. TDD or TDY users please access HRB via the New Mexico Relay Network at 1-800-659-8331.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Fullam at 505-827-2637 or by email at jennifer.fullam@state.nm.us.

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