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NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, SURFACE WATER QUALITY BUREAU PROPOSES TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLs) FOR BLUEWATER LAKE

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 Bluewater Lake. The draft TMDL is available online at: <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/>. Draft TMDLs in this document include:

Bluewater Lake – Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus

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 Thursday, February 18, 2021 and will close Monday, March 22, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. MDT. Formal comments for inclusion in the public record must be submitted in writing to **Gunnar Johnson, e-mail: gunnar.johnson@state.nm.us; or mailing address: NMED SWQB, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM, 87502; voice: (505) 819-9823; fax number (505) 827-0160.**

One 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 Thursday, February 25, 2021 from 5:30 to 7:30 via a WebEx webinar. Specific meeting details will be made available in a meeting flyer posted to the SWQB website during the week of February 22, 2021.

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

- Mailed, to all persons who submitted written comments, by March 22 at 4:00 p.m.; and
- Available electronically on the bureau’s website or by contacting Gunnar Johnson 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) regularly scheduled meetings on May 11 and June 8, 2021, or the next available meeting. WQCC agendas are available at: <https://www.env.nm.gov/water-quality-control-commission/wqcc/>.

For more information, please contact Gunnar Johnson at the address or phone number provided above.

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