



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

Howie C. Morales
Lt. Governor

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Harold Runnels Building
1190 Saint Francis Drive, PO Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
Telephone (505) 827-2855
www.env.nm.gov



James C. Kenney
Cabinet Secretary

Jennifer J. Pruett
Deputy Secretary

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, SURFACE WATER QUALITY BUREAU PROPOSES TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLs) FOR THE JEMEZ RIVER WATERSHED

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

Clear Creek (Rio de las Vacas to San Gregorio Lake) - Temperature
Jemez River (Zia Pueblo bnd to Jemez Pueblo bnd) – Temperature
Rio Guadalupe (Jemez River to confl with Rio Cebolla) – Specific Conductance
Rito de los Indios (San Antonio Creek to headwaters) – Temperature and Turbidity
Vallecito Ck (Jemez Pueblo bnd to Div abv Ponderosa) – Dissolved arsenic

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 February 22, 2021, and will close March 24, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. MDT. Formal comments for inclusion in the public record must be submitted in writing to **Rachel Jankowitz, e-mail: rachel.jankowitz@state.nm.us; or mailing address: NMED SWQB, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM, 87502; voice: (505) 819-9810; 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 Monday, March 1 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.

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 24 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..

The SWQB plans to request approval of the draft final TMDLs at the Water Quality Control Commission's (WQCC) next available meeting. WQCC agendas are available at: <https://www.env.nm.gov/water-quality-control-commission/wqcc/>.

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

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Kathryn Becker, Non-Discrimination Coordinator
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050
P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502
(505) 827-2855
nd.coordinator@state.nm.us

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