



NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Surface Water Quality Bureau

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

NOTICE OF A 35-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND COMMUNITY MEETINGS

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 Canadian River Watershed. Draft TMDLs in this document include:

Specific Conductance: Caliente Canyon (Vermejo River to headwaters)
Specific Conductance: Vermejo River (Rail Canyon to York Canyon)
Specific Conductance: York Canyon (Vermejo River to headwaters)
Specific Conductance: Coyote Creek (Mora River to Black Lake)
Specific Conductance: Mora River (Hwy 434 to headwaters)
Plant Nutrients: Little Coyote Creek (Black Lake to headwaters)
Plant Nutrients: Mora River (USGS gage east of Shoemaker to Hwy 434)
Temperature: Vermejo River (Rail Canyon to York Canyon)
Temperature: Vermejo River (York Canyon to headwaters)
Temperature: Coyote Creek (Mora River to Black Lake)
Sedimentation/Siltation: Mora River (Hwy 434 to headwaters)
Sedimentation/Siltation: Sapello River (Mora River to Manuelitas Creek)

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 35-day comment period on this document will open June 15, 2007 and will close July 20, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. MDT. Formal comments for inclusion in the public record must be submitted in writing, to **Shelly Drinkard mailing address NMED SWQB, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, NM, 87502; voice: 505-827-2814; fax number (505) 827-0160; or e-mail: shelly.drinkard@state.nm.us** (if possible, please submit an electronic copy in addition to paper).

Two public meetings will be held to summarize the information and to provide a forum for interested parties to ask questions and provide comments. The meeting dates are near the end of the comment period to allow the public time to review the document and generate questions or comments. One meeting will be held in Raton, NM on Thursday, July 12th from 11am-1pm at the Raton Public Library, 224 Cook

Avenue. A second meeting will be held in Cleveland, NM on Thursday, July 12th from 6-8 pm at the CHET Fire Department off State Rt. 518.

Following the close of the comment period, copies of the draft final document will be:

- mailed to all persons who submitted written comments by July 20, 2007 at 5pm and
- available electronically on the bureau's website or by contacting the bureau at the address above.

The SWQB plans to request approval of the draft final TMDLs at the Water Quality Control Commission's (WQCC) regularly scheduled meeting on August 14, 2007. WQCC agendas are available at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wqcc/index.html>.

Persons having a disability and needing help in being a part of this hearing process should contact Judy Bentley at least 10 days before event, at the NMED, Human Resources Bureau, P.O. Box 26110, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502, telephone 505-827-9872. TDY users please access her number via the New Mexico Relay Network at 1-800-659-8331.

For more information, please contact Shelly Drinkard at the address or phone number provided above.