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NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, SURFACE WATER QUALITY BUREAU PROPOSES TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLs) FOR THE LOWER PECOS 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 Lower Pecos watershed. Draft TMDLs in this document include:

Pecos River (TX border to Black River) – *E. coli*
Pecos River (Black River to Six Mile Dam Lake) – *E. coli*

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 July 15, 2016 and will close August 15, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. MDT. Formal comments for inclusion in the public record must be submitted in writing to **Rachel Jankowitz,** mailing address **NMED SWQB, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM, 87502; voice: 505-827-0417; fax number (505) 827-0160; or e-mail: rjankowitz@state.nm.us** (if possible, please submit an electronic copy in addition to paper).

A 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 date will allow the public time to review the document. The meeting will be held in Carlsbad on Wednesday, July 27 from 6-8pm at the Riverwalk Recreation Center, 400 Riverwalk Drive.

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

- Mailed to all persons who submitted written comments during the public comment period; 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 October 11, 2016. 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 process should contact Juan-Carlos Borrego at least 10 days before the event, at the NMED, Human Resources Bureau, P.O. Box 5469, 1190

St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502, telephone 505-827-0424. TDY users please access his number via the New Mexico Relay Network at 1-800-659-8331.

For more information, please contact Rachel Jankowitz at the address or phone number provided above.