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New Mexico Environment Department

Protecting Our Environment, Preserving The Enchantment

Surface Water Quality Bureau

1190 St. Francis Dr, Santa Fe, NM 87106 • 505-827-0187 • www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb

The NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau invites you to attend a:

Valles Caldera N. P.



COMMUNITY MEETING

Thursday, May 25 6-7 PM

Jemez Springs, NM

Jemez Springs Town Hall

(Behind the downtown park off HWY 4)

Representatives from the NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau will discuss:

- The draft “total maximum daily load” (TMDL) document for the Jemez Watershed in Valles Caldera National Preserve
- SWQB's 2001 VCNP intensive survey and TMDL development process
- 30-day comment period on this document opens May 15, 2006 and will end June 13, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.

- SEE FULL PUBLIC NOTICE ON PAGE 2 FOR MORE DETAILS -

**THE DRAFT TMDL DOCUMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE
BEGINNING MAY 15TH (WWW.NMENV.STATE.NM.US/SWQB)**

For more information regarding the TMDL document contact:

Heidi Henderson, NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau

505-827-2901 / heidi.henderson@state.nm.us



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

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RON CURRY
SECRETARY

May 15, 2006
Immediate Release

Contact: Jill Turner, NMED SWQB Outreach Coordinator
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Contact: Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director
Phone: (505) 827-0314

**THE NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, SURFACE WATER QUALITY BUREAU PROPOSE
TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLs) FOR THE JEMEZ WATERSHED IN VALLES CALDERA
NATIONAL PRESERVE**

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 draft "total maximum daily load" (TMDL) document for the Valles Caldera National Preserve (VCNP) watershed defined as the VCNP watershed (VCNP boundary to the headwaters) and its tributaries. Draft TMDLs in this document include: Temperature – East Fork Jemez (VCNP boundary to headwaters), Jaramillo Creek (VCNP boundary to headwaters) and Turbidity – Jaramillo Creek (VCNP boundary to headwaters).

A TMDL is a planning document that establishes specific goals to meet water quality standards in water bodies 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 May 15, 2006 and will end June 13, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. MDT. Formal comments for inclusion in the public record must be submitted to the SWQB in writing, to **Heidi Henderson at mailing address: NMED SWQB, Room N2163, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, NM, 87502; fax number (505) 827-0160; or e-mail: heidi.henderson@state.nm.us** (if possible, please submit an electronic copy in addition to paper).

The SWQB will approach the NM Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) at their regular monthly meeting, tentatively set for July 11, 2006, to request approval of the final draft VCNP Watershed TMDL document. Following the close of the public comment period, copies of the final revised draft document as amended will be available to the public upon request and on the SWQB website at least 10 days prior to the WQCC meeting referenced above. For more information, or to request a copy of the TMDL, contact Heidi Henderson at the address provided above, or by calling (505) 827-2901. The draft TMDLs are also posted on the Surface Water Quality Bureau's Web site, which can be found at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb>.

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 is approximately halfway through the comment period to allow the public time to review the document and generate questions or comments. The meeting will be held in Jemez Springs, NM on May 25th, 2006 from 6-7 p.m. at the Jemez Springs Town Hall (behind the downtown park off HWY 4). Formal written comments for inclusion in the public record may be submitted at this meeting as well.

Persons having a disability and needing help in being a part of this hearing process should contact Judy Bentley approximately 10 days prior to the meeting at the New Mexico Environment Department, Personnel Services 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.