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Surface Water Quality Bureau

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NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, SURFACE WATER QUALITY BUREAU
PROPOSES TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLs) FOR ANIMAS 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 Animas River Watershed. Draft TMDLs in this document include:

Animas River (San Juan River to Estes Arroyo) – *E. coli* and Temperature
Animas River (Estes Arroyo to Southern Ute Indian Tribe bnd) – *E. coli* 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 May 20, 2013 and will close June 20, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. MDT. Formal comments for inclusion in the public record must be submitted in writing, to **Meghan Bell** mailing address **NMED SWQB, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM, 87502; voice: 505-827-0669; fax number (505) 827-0160; or e-mail: meghan.bell@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 and generate questions or comments. The meeting will be held in Farmington on Wednesday, June 5 from 6-8pm at the Farmington Civic Center, 200 West Arrington.

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

- Mailed to all persons who submitted written comments by June 20 at 4:00 p.m.; 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 13, 2013. 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 Meghan Bell at the address or phone number provided above.