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**THE NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, SURFACE WATER QUALITY  
BUREAU RELEASES DRAFT NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**NOTICE OF A 90-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) Nonpoint Source Management Program (NPS Management Program) is inviting the public to comment on the draft New Mexico Nonpoint Source Management Plan. The document is available on the SWQB web site at [www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/wps/Plan](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/wps/Plan) or will be provided upon request submitted to the address or phone number provided below.

The draft New Mexico Nonpoint Source Management Plan describes dynamic programs and progressive actions to prevent nonpoint source pollutants from entering both surface and ground water. This program will help New Mexico to meet its water quality standards, achieve the goals of the Federal Clean Water Act, and protect water quality for municipal, domestic, agricultural, fisheries and other uses. These goals are shared with the New Mexico Water Quality Management Program, which incorporates the NPS Management Program by reference.

The NPS Management Program establishes a process to develop programs and activities within watersheds that will facilitate the maintenance and achievement of surface water quality standards. The NPS Management Program supports local watershed-based implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads, and coordinates with land management agencies that have established their own resource protection programs and activities. To this end, the NPS Management Program emphasizes watershed-based planning as a means of coordinating watershed restoration efforts by fostering watershed associations, and encouraging partnerships among agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the public.

Two public meetings will be held to present the draft New Mexico Nonpoint Source Management Plan and answer questions regarding the plan. The first of these meetings will be held Monday, February 3, 2014 from 4:00-6:00 PM at the City of Las Cruces City Hall, 700 North Main Street, Room 2007 – B and C. The second meeting will be held Wednesday, February 5, 2014 from 4:00-6:00 PM in Albuquerque at the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center, 7521 Carmel Avenue N.E.

The 90-day comment period on this document will open January 6, 2014 and will close April 7, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. MST. Formal comments for inclusion in the public record must be submitted in writing, to **Abraham Franklin** mailing address **NMED SWQB, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM, 87502; voice: 505-827-2793; fax number (505) 827-0160; or e-mail: [abraham.franklin@state.nm.us](mailto:abraham.franklin@state.nm.us)** (if possible, please

submit an electronic copy in addition to paper).

Responses to public comments will be mailed to all persons who submitted written comments by the April 7, 2014 deadline. Copies of the draft final document (including responses to public comments) will also be 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 New Mexico Nonpoint Source Management Plan at the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission's (WQCC) regularly scheduled meeting on May 13, 2014. WQCC agendas are available at: [www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wqcc/index.html](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wqcc/index.html). Pending WQCC approval, the document will be provided to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

Persons having a disability and needing help in being a part of this hearing process, including TTY users, should contact J. C. 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 505-827-0402.

For more information, please contact Abraham Franklin at the address or phone number provided above.