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**Environment Department Requests Public Comment on Changes to
Surface Water Quality Standards for
Nichols and McClure Reservoirs and the Santa Fe River**

The New Mexico Environment Department requests public comment on a proposal to amend surface water quality standards for Nichols and McClure Reservoirs and the Santa Fe River from Nichols Reservoir to Cochiti Pueblo. The public comment period will close on September 28, 2012.

For Nichols and McClure, the Department proposes to remove the reservoirs from the catch-all stream segment where they are now classified and place them in a separate new segment.

For the Santa Fe River from Nichols Reservoir to the wastewater treatment facility outfall, the Department proposes to create two new classified segments. The upper segment, from Nichols Reservoir to Frenchy's Field, would be assigned uses of primary contact and coolwater aquatic life. The lower segment, from Frenchy's Field to the wastewater treatment facility outfall, would be assigned uses of secondary contact and limited aquatic life. The proposed uses are supported by a draft Use Attainability Analysis.

For the Santa Fe River from the wastewater treatment facility outfall to Cochiti Pueblo, the Department proposes to upgrade contact criteria to default primary contact criteria and change the aquatic life use to coolwater from the current marginal coldwater and warmwater uses.

Both the Statement of Reasons and Proposed Changes, and the draft Use Attainability Analysis are available on the Department's website at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/Standards> under "What's New."

Submit comments to Tim Michael at the New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502. Tim may also be reached by telephone at (505) 476-3799 or email at tim.michael@state.nm.us.

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