



SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor

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Lieutenant Governor

**NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

Surface Water Quality Bureau

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DAVE MARKLIN
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Acting Deputy Secretary

August 12, 2011
For Immediate Release

Contact: Jim Winchester
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**Environment Department Seeks Public Comment on Water Quality Standards
for the Lower Dry Cimarron River**

The Environment Department is proposing amendments to surface water quality standards for the lower Dry Cimarron River. The proposal would change the aquatic life use from coldwater with a 25°C segment-specific temperature criterion to coolwater with a 29°C temperature criterion. Coldwater fish have never inhabited the stream; an analysis prepared by the Department demonstrates that naturally occurring summer air temperatures result in water temperatures that are too high to sustain coldwater fish, but are suitable for cool and warmwater aquatic life. In developing the proposal, the Department considered input received at a public meeting held in Folsom on August 12, 2010.

The proposal is available on the Environment Department's website at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/Standards/> under "What's New." Comments are being accepted through September 9, and may be submitted to Tim Michael of the Surface Water Quality Bureau (tim.michael@state.nm.us or PO Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502). He may be reached by telephone at (505) 476-3799.

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Environment Department Seeks Public Comment on Water Quality Standards for Lakes

The New Mexico Environment Department has released for public comment proposed amendments to surface water quality standards for New Mexico lakes. The Department proposes to classify or reclassify approximately 70 New Mexico lakes into new lake-only segments, with each lake segment containing a lake or group of lakes with similar characteristics, appropriate designated uses, and criteria to protect those uses. Currently, lakes are often classified with nearby streams, even though they may significantly differ from streams in the aquatic community, recreational opportunities, and other uses they support. By classifying the lakes separately, the Department will be better able to conduct accurate assessments of water quality. In addition, because many of these lakes are not named in the currently standards, the proposal will make it easier for the public to identify what standards apply to a particular lake.

The Department is convening two public meetings to discuss the lakes proposal:

- Santa Fe, Wednesday, August 24, 5:30 p.m. at the Oliver La Farge branch of the Santa Fe public library, 1730 Llano Street
- Roswell, Tuesday, August 30, 5:30 p.m. at the New Mexico Environment Department Field Office, 1914 West Second Street

The proposal includes the following lakes:

In the Rio Grande basin:

All high mountain cirque lakes and the following reservoirs: Cabresto Lake, Canjilon Lakes, Eagle Rock Lake, Fawn Lakes, Hopewell Lake, McClure and Nichols Reservoirs, San Gregorio Lake.

In the Pecos basin:

All high mountain cirque lakes; the following reservoirs: Bonito Lake, Monastery Lake and Santa Rosa Reservoir; and the following sinkholes: Cottonwood Lake, Figure Eight Lake, Inkwell Lake, Lea Lake, Mirror Lake, Perch Lake.

In the Canadian basin:

All high mountain cirque lakes and the following reservoirs: Clayton Lake, Eagle Nest Lake, Shuree Ponds and Springer Lake.

In the San Juan basin, Jackson Lake; in the Little Colorado basin, Quemado Lake; and in the Gila basin, Bill Evans Lake.

The proposal is available on the Environment Department's website at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/Standards/> under "What's New." Comments are being accepted through September 9, and may be submitted at a public meeting or sent to Deby Sarabia of the Surface Water Quality Bureau (deborah.sarabia@state.nm.us or PO Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502). She may be reached by telephone at (505) 827-0417.

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