



**Michelle Lujan Grisham**  
Governor

**Howie C. Morales**  
Lt. Governor

## NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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**James C. Kenney**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Jennifer J. Pruett**  
Deputy Secretary

### Sent via Electronic Mail

September 29, 2020

Charles Maguire, Division Director  
Water Quality Division (WDPQ)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6  
via email to [maguire.charles@epa.gov](mailto:maguire.charles@epa.gov)

**Re: Request for EPA review and approval of New Mexico's Water Quality Management Plan and Continuing Planning Process**

Dear Mr. Maguire:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) hereby submits the State of New Mexico Statewide Water Quality Management Plan and Continuing Planning Process (WQMP/CPP) for EPA's review and approval. Pursuant to 40 CFR 130.5 and 40 CFR 130.6(e), the State is required to periodically review and revise its WQMP/CPP. In accordance with the State's Water Quality Act (WQA) NMSA 1978, Section 74-6-4, the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC or Commission) is responsible for adopting a comprehensive WQMP and developing the CPP. The State of New Mexico last revised its WQMP/CPP in 2011 and since that time, there have been several processes that have changed, warranting this revision.

The revised WQMP/CPP underwent significant stakeholder outreach, including an invitation to 1,708 individuals prior to the revision process requesting they participate in a survey to assist NMED with evaluating functionality of the document and to identify as a stakeholder. A draft of the revised WQMP/CPP was provided to EPA on November 22, 2019 and a 75-day public comment period was provided to the public. This outreach resulted in 195 comments to the document from six entities. NMED revised the document accordingly and presented the findings to the WQCC during their regularly scheduled public meeting on June 9, 2020. Members of the public provided additional comment at the meeting and the Commission found several elements warranting attention and remanded the WQMP/CPP back to NMED to revise accordingly. The Commission's concerns were addressed by NMED through the incorporation of a new section under the Introduction which addresses significant challenges to managing water quality in New Mexico. This amendment was presented to the Commission during their regularly scheduled meeting on September 8, 2020. The Commission approved and adopted the updated and amended WQMP/CPP unanimously as reflected in the WQCC Order of Approval, dated September 21, 2020 (attached).

Following the approval and adoption by the WQCC (filed with the WQCC under matter 20-34), NMED is hereby submitting the revised WQMP/CPP for review and approval in accordance with 40 CFR 130.5 and 40 CFR 130.6. Through delegation by the Governor of New Mexico and the Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department, I hereby certify the WQMP/CPP update is consistent with all other parts

of the plan. If you have questions or would like to discuss this matter, please feel free to contact Jennifer Fullam, of my staff, by email at [Jennifer.Fullam@state.nm.us](mailto:Jennifer.Fullam@state.nm.us) or by phone at (505) 946-8954.

Sincerely,

Shelly Lemon, Chief  
Surface Water Quality Bureau

Encl.: WQCC approved and adopted Water Quality Management Plan/Continuing Planning Process, with appendices

WQCC Order of Approval, dated September 21, 2020

Delegation of Signatory Authority by the Governor, dated June 25, 2020

Delegation of Signatory Authority by the Secretary of Environment, dated September 14, 2020

Cc: Richard Wooster, Water Quality Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency (via email to [wooster.richard@epa.gov](mailto:wooster.richard@epa.gov))  
Russell Nelson, Regional Water Quality Standards Coordinator, Water Quality Protection (WDPQ), US EPA Region 6 (via email to [nelson.russell@epa.gov](mailto:nelson.russell@epa.gov))  
Pamela Jones, Administrator for Boards and Commissions, New Mexico Environment Department (via email to [public.facilitation@state.nm.us](mailto:public.facilitation@state.nm.us))  
Rebecca Roose, Division Director, Water Protection Division, New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) (via email to [Rebecca.Roose@state.nm.us](mailto:Rebecca.Roose@state.nm.us))  
Christal Weatherly, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, New Mexico Environment Department (via email to [Christal.Weatherly@state.nm.us](mailto:Christal.Weatherly@state.nm.us))  
Kris Barrios, Program Manager, Monitoring, Assessment and Standards Section (MASS), SWQB (via email to [Kristopher.Barrios@state.nm.us](mailto:Kristopher.Barrios@state.nm.us))  
Jennifer Fullam, Standards Planning and Reporting Team Leader, MASS (via email to [Jennifer.Fullam@state.nm.us](mailto:Jennifer.Fullam@state.nm.us))