

Upper Rio Grande Watershed topic of June 28 meeting

Staff report

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The New Mexico Environment Department's Surface Water Quality Bureau will be holding a public meeting in Taos, Thursday (June 28) to discuss the draft "total maximum daily load" (TMDL) document for the Upper Rio Grande Watershed.

The Environment Department opened a 30-day public comment period regarding the document June 13; the comment period will close July 13. The TMDL document, according to the department, is used for planning and "establishes specific goals to meet water quality standards in water bodies 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 water body," a department release states.

According to an announcement from the department draft, E. coli TMDLs in the document include sections of Rio Fernando de Taos, Rio Pueblo de Taos, Rio Quemado, Rio Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz River and Apache Canyon.

The meeting will be held from 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the Convention Center, 220 Civic Plaza Drive, to give the public an opportunity to review the document, ask questions or make comments.

Comments may also be submitted to Heidi Henderson by at heidi.henderson@state.nm.us or by mail to NMED SWQB, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe NM 87502.