NEWS RELEASE
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Environment Department Lifts “Boil Water Advisory” for
San Cristobal Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA)
Water System in Taos County

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau
is lifting the “boil water advisory” for the San Cristobal Mutual Domestic Water Consumers
Association (MDWCA) Water System in Taos County.

NMED issued the advisory on September 16, 2013 after bacteriological contamination (E. coli)
was detected in a routine monitoring sample on September 11, 2013. Total coliform and E.coli
were also detected in four samples collected from the system on September 13, 2013. NMED
requires the San Cristobal MDWCA Water System to notify water system consumers of this
finding. San Cristobal MDWCA Water System serves approximately 140 residents and is located
approximately 18 miles north of Taos, NM, in Taos County.

This advisory only applied to the drinking water from the San Cristobal MDWCA Water System,
and did not extend to any other surrounding water systems.

Consumers of the San Cristobal MDWCA Water System were advised to boil the water for five
minutes before drinking, cooking, dishwashing and bathing. The presence of E. coli in water
indicates that the water may have been in contact with sewage or animal wastes, and could
contain disease-causing organisms. Most strains of E. coli are harmless and live in the intestines
of healthy humans and animals. However, a positive test for E. coli in the drinking water supply
may indicate the presence of dangerous strains of E. coli or other disease-causing organisms.
These types of organisms may cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, death.
Children, the elderly and immuno-compromised individuals are at an increased risk for illness.

The NMED Drinking Water Bureau provided technical assistance to the water system and
determined that adequate disinfection (chlorination) was provided at levels that mitigates the
potential threat to public health. The San Cristobal MDWCA water system will maintain a
regular monitoring schedule and continue to test the distribution system for the presence of E.
coli.
For more information, call NMED Communications Director Jim Winchester at (505) 831-8800 or Janice Dye, Drinking Water Bureau Compliance Officer, at (575) 445-3621.

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