

# OurwaterQuality

## Who's monitoring your water?

If your water is supplied by a city water system (such as in Santa Fe) or a community water system (such as in Eldorado), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations govern contaminant compliance and monitoring. EPA regulations do not apply to private water wells, so if you're dependent on a private well you're on your own! The good news is that EPA standards are useful guidelines for well-water treatment.

The Safe Drinking Water Act, passed by Congress in 1974 and amended in 1986 and 1996, gives the EPA authority to set drinking-water standards. The EPA is charged with assessing and protecting public drinking-water sources and collection systems, making sure that water is treated by qualified operators, ensuring the integrity of distribution systems, and making information about the quality of drinking water available to the public.

There are two categories of drinking water standards: primary and secondary. Primary standards deal with micro-organisms, disinfectants, disinfection byproducts, inorganic chemicals, organic chemicals, and radionuclides. These standards limit levels of contaminants that can adversely affect public health and are known or anticipated to occur in water. These standards, listed as maximum contaminant levels (MCLs), are enforceable and are defined as the highest level of a contaminant allowable in drinking water. The EPA also sets MCL goals, which are non-enforceable public health goals. For some contaminants, treatment techniques are set rather than MCLs.

City and community water systems, which are defined as public water systems that have at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents, fall under EPA regulations and are required by law to meet EPA drinking-water standards. In New Mexico these systems must also comply with State of New Mexico drinking-water regulations. Community systems are tested at regular intervals and are closely monitored for compliance with MCL levels.



**STEPHEN WIMAN**

Compliance testing is conducted by the New Mexico Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau and is a matter of public record.

The EPA's Consumer Confidence Rule requires that public water suppliers provide a consumer confidence report (CCR) to their customers. These reports are also known as annual water quality reports or drinking water quality reports and contain information regarding supply sources (rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and aquifers), any contaminants detected, compliance efforts, and educational information. In Santa Fe, these reports are distributed annually to Sangre de Cristo Water Division customers.

Secondary standards are the EPA's recommended, non-enforceable guidelines regarding contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor or color) in drinking water. Iron and manganese, which may result in staining, are included on this list. There is no EPA standard for hardness, which many Santa Feans find to be the most annoying contaminant of all.

The EPA recommends, but does not require, annual testing of private water supplies for coliform bacteria, total dissolved solids, and pH levels for early detection of contamination problems. In addition to contaminants that commonly occur in wells, residents of the Santa Fe area should also be cognizant of possible contamination by naturally-occurring radionuclides.

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## RANCH AND COMMERCIAL LISTINGS:

**El Pino Ranch** – Don't miss this opportunity to own a 1,280 +- acre ranch located 14 miles south of Romeroville, NM on the west side of Hwy 84. Ranch is perimeter fenced, has one cross fence, two pens, one windmill well with water storage tank & a drinker, three dirt tanks. Electric & telephone on Hwy 84. Has development potential. **Priced at \$1,050.00 per acre.**

## RESIDENTIAL LISTINGS:

**69 Estrada Calabasa** – Passive Solar designed Main Home, Guest apartments, Gate Home, Cabana pool house, Powder River fenced arena and stunning sunsets all ready for your inspection. Call Ken to view. **Offered at \$2,395,000.00** Adjacent 10 acre lot is offered for \$295,900.00 Go to [www.SantaFeLand.com](http://www.SantaFeLand.com) for more info.

**6136 Monte Verde Place** – Tierra Contenta home has 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 2 car garage, office or 3rd bedroom. New Paint & New Carpet too. **List price is \$232,900.00.**

**5912 Camino Azul** – Tierra Contenta home has a fireplace, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and a 1 car garage. Back yard views of Ortiz Mtns. views are inspiring. EZ to see. **Price is \$232,900.00.**

**1023 Valerie Circle** – Super south side location is close to shopping & schools. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, walled yard. Remodeled home has new doors & windows, roof is 2 years old. Hurry to see this one. **List Price is \$279,900.00.**

**Abiquiu Lake Retreat:** Need a place to launch your boat? This summer time vacation get away is located on the south shore of Abiquiu Lake; this 3+ acre lot has an immaculate boat launch. Plenty of room for RV & Boat storage, price includes boat launch access. **Listed at \$158,900.00**

**Apache Springs near Los Montoyas:** 14 Miles south of Romeroville, NM – 30 acres of bluestem pasture is fenced and has its own private well. You will find excellent views of a country setting from a property that has 2 septic tanks, a mobile home, a metal shop & Hwy 84 frontage. **List Price Only: \$119,000.00**

## VACANT LAND LISTINGS:

**San Juan Pueblo area** - Driveway 1080 off State Road 582 – Two (2) adjacent 6 acre building sites sit on the side of Black Mesa and provide stunning home site locations looking over El Rio Grande near El Guique next to Ohkay Owingue Pueblo. Shared well has been tested, electric & telephone are on site. Ready to build. **\$98,900.00 each.**

**801 & 803 Viejo Rastro** – Two building sites off the Old Santa Fe Trail, both over 1 acre near old Georgia O'Keeffe Estate. Both have exciting sunset views of western ranges. Utilities include water, sewer, natural gas, cable tv & telephone. Sensible CC&R's available. This is a private location, close in. **\$440,000.00 & \$480,000.00** respectively. Call Swede Malmstrom at 690-3294.

**Kings Hwy, Edgewood, NM** – This 20 acre parcel has State Road 472 (Kings Highway) frontage, needs water well & septic, has electric & telephone at the lot line. Views of 5 mountain ranges make this a great place to build. Only 35 minutes from Santa Fe. 1031 Exchange desired. **List Price is \$89,900.00**

**Tierra del Sol** – 20 acre lot is located off SMCR B25 (it's on the way to Bernal), cross the railroad tracks at the olde Blanchard Train Station & head south. Parcel has overhead electric & telephone at the lot line. Mfg homes okay. Views are awesome and water wells in the area are excellent producers. **- List Price: \$89,900.00**

**6B Cam Los Abuelos** – Hwy 14 building site has 15.39 acres & sensible restrictions. Water meter in place & underground electric transformer is located at lot line. Main home & Guest home allowed, plus barn & corral. All you need are house plans and a building permit... Inspiring views exist of the Galisteo River Valley and the Ortiz Mtn Range. **Priced at \$192,500.00**



I work as Buyers Agent for Ranch Buyers anywhere in New Mexico.

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