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ADEQ Releases Draft 2010 Status of Water Quality in Arizona Report for Public Review; Deadline for Comments Feb. 17

PHOENIX (Jan. 13, 2012) -- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that a draft version of a report that examines surface water quality in Arizona is available for public review and comment.

The public comment period for the *Draft 2010 Status of Water Quality in Arizona 305(b) Assessment and 303(d) Listing Report* ends on Friday, Feb. 17 and is the first step in the approval process for the document. The report is available online at:

<http://azdeq.gov/environ/water/assessment/assess.html>

Following the close of the public comment period, a summary of responses to comments received and the 303(d) Impaired Waters List with any revisions will be published in the Arizona Administrative Register (AAR) for a 45-day public notice. Only those persons who submitted comments during the original 30-day notice may also comment during the AAR notice. Upon completion of the 45-day AAR notice, the 303(d) list will be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for final approval. EPA can approve or disapprove the state's 303(d) list as well as add additional surface waters to the list that EPA assesses as impaired.

Every two years, the Clean Water Act requires states to assess water quality data and publish a list of surface waters that are not meeting water quality standards or beneficial uses. The reports are named after the appropriate sections of the Clean Water Act.

Comments on the assessment report or the impaired waters list must be received by ADEQ by Friday, Feb. 17. Comments can be submitted electronically at js9@azdeq.gov or via mail to ADEQ, Surface Water Assessment, 1110 W. Washington St., Phoenix, Arizona. 85007.

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