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CONTACT: Mark Shaffer, Director of Communications, (602) 771-2215

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## **ADEQ Director Owens Announces Flagstaff Public Meeting June 17 to Discuss Fish, Mercury Issues in Area Lakes**

PHOENIX (June 6, 2008) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Steve Owens announced today that a Tuesday, June 17 public meeting will be conducted in Flagstaff to discuss the proposed removal of fish contaminated by mercury from Upper and Lower Lake Mary and three other Flagstaff-area lakes.

The hearing will be held from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at ADEQ's Northern Regional Office, located at 1801 W. Route 66, Suite 117. In addition to Lake Mary, the other lakes with problems of mercury in fish tissue are Soldiers, Soldiers Annex and Long lakes.

The hearing is part of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) under the Clean Water Act analysis to determine the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can assimilate and still meet surface water quality standards.

The meeting will provide a project overview, report what has been accomplished thus far by the TMDL investigation, discuss the data collected, possible sources and quantities of pollutants, mercury and sediment models and solicit comment from stakeholders.

"This is an issue of vital importance to fishermen and others who eat fish from those lakes and are concerned about the environment," Director Owens said. "We hope to see a good turnout at the Flagstaff meeting."

For questions and additional information, call (602)771-4468 or email [sutter.jason@azdeq.gov](mailto:sutter.jason@azdeq.gov)