

# NEWS RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **MID RIO GRANDE STORMWATER QUALITY TEAM DEBUTS INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL KIOSK FOR CHILDREN**

**Albuquerque, NM**— The Mid Rio Grande Stormwater Quality Team (MRGSQT) today unveiled a three-sided interactive kiosk designed to educate children on our region’s stormwater drainage system as well as what they can do to keep from adding trash, debris and chemicals to stormwater that can pollute the Rio Grande.

“Stormwater is the leading cause of pollution in the Rio Grande, and the vast majority of that pollution is caused by humans. By teaching children about our stormwater runoff system and giving them practical tips on how they can prevent stormwater pollution, we hope to protect the quality of our river,” explained Tim Trujillo, chair of the MRGSQT.

The group, which was formed as a multi-agency task force in 2004, commissioned the kiosk as an educational tool targeting elementary school children. The kiosk features:

- An **interactive stormwater system map** where children can press various points to learn the roles arroyos and channels play in the stormwater system and how to keep from polluting that system. The system stretches from Bernalillo on the north through Rio Rancho and into Albuquerque.
- A **“Scoop the Poop” game** that lets children choose one of three dogs and learn how to properly pick up after that dog. This is important, according to the MRGSQT, because pet waste is a major source of *E coli* contamination in the Rio Grande.
- An **educational panel on common types of trash, debris and chemicals that pollute the Rio Grande** including appliances and electronics, automotive products such as oil, batteries and gasoline, glass and cement, household cleaners, yard waste, prescription and over-the-counter medicines.
- A **touch screen** that includes facts about each arroyo and the Rio Grande.

- An **interactive educational screen** that allows children to watch a variety of educational videos produced by the MRGSQT.

The kiosk will be housed at the Children's Library in the basement of the downtown Albuquerque Bernalillo County Public Library, 501 Copper Ave. NW, for at least the next six months and will move to locations where it can be viewed by groups of children in the future.

"We believe the Children's Library is an ideal initial location for this kiosk because it annually hosts thousands of children who check out more than 490,000 books a year. This is another learning opportunity for them that we hope will encourage their curiosity about our watershed and the role stormwater plays in the health of our watershed and our river," said Patrick Chavez, secretary of the MRGSQT executive committee.

The kiosk was designed by CWA Strategic Communications and 3 Bicycles Creative and fabricated by New Mexico Big Prints. All firms are headquartered in Albuquerque.

The Mid Rio Grande Stormwater Quality Team was formed to cooperatively educate and reach out to residents about how they can reduce stormwater pollution to help "Keep the Rio Grand!" The team includes the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority, the Town of Bernalillo, the City of Albuquerque, the Village of Los Ranchos, the New Mexico Department of Transportation, the City of Rio Rancho, Eastern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority, Southern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority, and Sandoval County. More information is available at [www.keeptheriogrand.org](http://www.keeptheriogrand.org).

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