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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Main Camping Loop at Hyde Memorial State Park to close for construction of exploratory well through spring 2023

New Mexico State Parks officials seek a permanent fresh water source to replace aging system

Santa Fe, NM – The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) State Parks Division announces that the main camping loop at Hyde Memorial State Park near Santa Fe will be closing for construction of an exploratory water well this October. If successful, the well will provide the park with fresh water for use by visitors and campers for decades to come.

A partial closure of the main camping loop and the Piggyback Trail south of Group Site #3 begins today, October 3rd, with a full closure starting Tuesday, October 11th. These areas will remain closed until the spring of 2023 for the safety of visitors and construction workers. The electric loop, sites on the west side of Highway 475 and the Circle Trail, will remain open.

"The water supply and treatment system at Hyde Memorial State Park is failing and needs a complete overhaul," said Colleen Baker, EMNRD State Parks Division. "The current water source is an infiltration gallery in the Little Tesuque Creek, which treats surface water with a slow sand filter and chlorination technology. The water treatment system is closed down when the creek runs dry in the summer, and after years of intermittent use, the system has now deteriorated to the point where it needs a complete replacement."

Crews expect to drill down approximately 500 feet to reach the water table or until the well can produce two gallons of water per minute. Using the water well year-round will still depend on

area water availability and long-term climate conditions. Construction for the exploratory well is expected to last until the spring of 2023, costing approximately \$517,940. Funding is being provided through a 2019 Land Water and Conservation Fund grant and combined with a State match.

Hyde Memorial State Park is located eight miles northeast of Santa Fe in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Visitors are encouraged to be aware of construction activities and use extreme caution near equipment and vehicles. For more details, contact the park at 505-987-7175.

For more information on all 35 of your New Mexico State Parks, please visit our website at www.emnrd.nm.gov/spd or reserve your camping space today at www.reserveamerica.com.



Entrance to the Main Camping Loop at Hyde Memorial State Park. Photo: New Mexico State Parks



Entrance to Piggyback Trail south of Group Site #3. Photo: New Mexico State Parks



Campsite within the Main Camping Loop at Hyde Memorial State Park. Photo: New Mexico State Parks

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