



## NEWS RELEASE

Date: 02-01-2024

Contact: Udell Vigil, public information officer

Phone: (575) 642-5339

### **Sunland Park and Santa Teresa Water Systems Update**

The Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (CRRUA) is currently taking expedited measures to improve its arsenic treatment facilities that serve Sunland Park and Santa Teresa, NM. Presently, efforts are focused on discolored water in the industrial area and subdivisions north of Sunland Park.

Juan Carlos Crosby, interim executive director of the CRRUA, says the discoloration is caused by sediments in the arsenic filter media that accumulated over time at the Santa Teresa Industrial Park Arsenic Treatment Plant (STIPATP.)

Crosby, whom the CRRUA Board named to the position last month, says maintenance issues in the months prior to his appointment have resulted in the need to now perform enhanced maintenance of the arsenic treatment system. “We are taking immediate action to backwash the arsenic filter media at the STIPATP,”

Crosby said. According to Crosby, the filter should be backwashed every two weeks. “We discovered that regular backwashing did not occur as needed, so now we are having to do it every two days until sediment deposits in the filter media are removed. Until then, the water could appear discolored at times as the sediments are being disturbed during the backwash process.”

“I realize that discolored water causes concerns, so I want to assure everyone that the water is safe to drink, cook and bathe with. There is no need to boil it first,” Crosby says. He also says that while the CRRUA has identified the source of the discolored water, the backwash process will take time. “Unfortunately, it is not an overnight process. So, I thank our customers for their patience and understanding during this procedure. It’s also important for our customers to know that my goal is to make all needed repairs and improvements to our water system as quickly as possible to avoid these disruptions in the future.”