



NEWS RELEASE

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Sunland Park/Santa Teresa Water Systems Update #2

Latest results for arsenic levels in the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (CRRUA) service area are below Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by the EPA of 10 parts per billion (ppb.)

“Samples of treated water from each of the four arsenic treatment plants operated by CRRUA came in under the MCL in the last round of testing,” said Juan Carlos Crosby, interim executive director of CRRUA.

Crosby said the initial Quarterly Sampling Test from the arsenic treatment plants were conducted by NMED staff on Jan. 9, 2024. The first column in the following chart lists the arsenic treatment facility. The middle column is the arsenic level on the collection date. The third column contains the results of samples collected by CRRUA as part of its bi-weekly monitoring. The company that analyzed the water samples in accordance with EPA procedures or equivalent is Eurofins Environment Testing (EET) in Albuquerque, NM.

Arsénico - Nivel máximo de contaminante	10 ppb	10 ppb
Sample Collected	Jan. 9, 24	Jan.24,24
Sunland Park Arsenic Treatment facility	17 ppb	9.6 ppb
Santa Teresa Industrial Plant	36 ppb	8.4 ppb
Santa Teresa Community Plant	11 ppb	3.5 ppb
Santa Teresa Border Entry Plant	12 ppb	3.0 ppb

“This is positive news for CRRUA customers in many respects,” Crosby said. “This is positive news for CRRUA customers because it shows that our efforts to reduce arsenic in the water through daily monitoring, operational system improvements and systematic backwash of the arsenic filter media are proving successful.”

Crosby said despite the improved results, CCRUA customers will receive a notice of violation from NMED in the coming days. “The reason for the notice is because on the date the water samples were collected, Jan. 9, they exceeded the MCL.”

Since Crosby took over as interim executive director, CRRUA has secured and engaged Bridel Services, a professional and licensed third party resource and service to review, address and secure the additional technology and resources necessary.

Additionally, CRRUA's on-call engineer is helping develop a long-term training plan for operating the arsenic treatment facilities.

Crosby reminds customers that continued backwashing of the arsenic filter media in the treatment facilities may disturb built-up sediments, resulting occasionally in discolored water. He stresses that despite the discoloration, the water remains safe to consume.

Crosby, whom the CRRUA Board named to the position last month, said maintenance issues in the months prior to his appointment resulted in the need to now perform enhanced maintenance of the arsenic treatment system. 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," Crosby said.