



## News Release

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- **Sunland Park City Council Approves \$1.2 million for CRRUA Water Tank Sediment Removal/Rehabilitation**
- **Establishment of New City Utility Department Moves Forward**

Tonight, the Sunland Park City Council voted unanimously to allocate \$1.2 million to the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (CRRUA) to fund three immediate water improvement projects that will enhance water service to the community. The projects are the sediment removal and rehabilitation of the Anapra, Meadow Vista and Tierra Madre water tanks.

“These projects will help reduce incidents of discolored water caused by sediment buildup in the water tanks,” said CRRUA Executive Director Juan Crosby. “The sediment is primarily composed of the naturally occurring minerals iron and manganese. When the sediment is disturbed by water flow, it can enter the distribution system causing discoloration. By removing sediment from the tanks, we will help eliminate discolored water throughout the system.”

“Now that the funding is approved, CRRUA can move forward with scheduling the sediment removal that will likely occur in the fall and winter months when water demand is reduced,” Crosby said.

Along with authorizing the \$1.2 million, City Council created a City utility department that CRRUA will transition into following Dona Ana County’s decision to terminate the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the COSP that created CRRUA.

“The City Council and I are working proactively and quickly to establish the mechanisms needed for CRRUA to become a City department so that when the JPA is dissolved, CRRUA can transition into the utility department seamlessly and without service disruption,” said Sunland Park Mayor Javier Perea.

“In addition to the water tanks projects, the COSP will identify other critical water and wastewater infrastructure priorities resulting from deferred maintenance, along with funding opportunities, development agreements, and revenue streams that will address capacity improvements, and expansion,” Pera said.

“As a City department, CRRUA will have access to more City resources, immediate staffing support, and grant funding assistance for capital infrastructure investments—all of which will help enhance operations to better serve our customers,” said Mario Juarez-Infante, City Manager of Sunland Park and Vice-Chair of CRRUA.

The board also approved forming an internal team to handle CRRUA’s transition from joint ownership to a City department and a new community coordinator position responsible in part for participating in the water and wastewater transition plan.