

Customer Message

09-06-2024

The Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (CRRUA) Takes Initiative in Planning for Future Economic and Population Growth for City of Sunland Park and Santa Teresa, NM.

Planning for the anticipated surge in population and economic development opportunities in the Santa Teresa area is the theme of the presentation CRRUA Executive Director Juan Crosby delivered to the Santa Teresa Strategic Plan (STSP) steering committee at its Sept. 3, 2024, virtual meeting.

The [Santa Teresa Strategic Plan](#) is led by the New Mexico Economic Development Department to support and encourage economic development in the Santa Teresa area by identifying infrastructure needs, costs and funding mechanisms.

CRRUA provides water and wastewater services to Santa Teresa and Sunland Park, NM. Crosby said CRRUA currently has approximately 7,900 active connections, with an additional 1,000 connections anticipated by the end of 2025 and an estimated 6,500 over the next five years.

To accommodate that growth, Crosby said a new one-million-gallon elevated water storage tank is in development to serve the Santa Teresa Border Industrial Area for economic development purposes. He said in addition to that tank, a one-to-two-million-gallon elevated tank, additional water wells and a fifth arsenic treatment facility (ATF) would be required. CRRUA currently operates four ATFs and seven water storage tanks.

Crosby said long-range planning must include an effluent discharge system to the Rio Grande from the West Mesa Wastewater Treatment Plant that would provide Return Flow Credits (RFC) with the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer and reduce amount of land required to discharge effluent.

Crosby said CRRUA's primary funding sources are loans and grants, and an additional revenue source could come from the establishment of a Public Improvement District (PID). PIDs are created under state statute to finance various infrastructure and improvements such as water and sewer systems.

The utility is currently engaged in a [cost-of-service rate study](#) recommended by an independent third-party comprehensive performance evaluation (CPE) of CRRUA commissioned by the New Mexico Environment Department.

Crosby said the cost-of-service rate study will take approximately eight-to-12 months to complete.