

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

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The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

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City of Las Vegas drinking water remains safe to drink

Residents urged to conserve water

LAS VEGAS — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) confirms that City of Las Vegas drinking water is still safe to drink. NMED and the City of Las Vegas continue to closely monitor the impacts of the Calf Canyon and Hermits Peak Fire post fire runoff and monitor potential effects on the City's drinking water supply.

On July 27, 2022, the City of Las Vegas issued a disaster declaration due to damage from flooding, ash, and fire debris caused by the wildfires and the increased risk to the City's water supply. That declaration provides funding to the city to construct a specialized treatment plant at Storrie Lake, which would be used *should the supply be contaminated* by debris or ash.

Today, the City's drinking water quality continues to meet all standards and the water is safe to drink.

After recent flooding and ash runoff, the City began using water from the Bradner Reservoir as its main source of drinking water. At this time, Bradner Reservoir has not been impacted by wildfires or burn scar runoff. NMED's Drinking Water Bureau continues to review drinking water quality data from the City's drinking water treatment plant and confirms that there is no current threat to public health from the City's drinking water supply.

"We reviewed the data and verified that the water in Las Vegas is safe," said **NMED Drinking Water Bureau Chief Joe Martinez**. "We are working closely with the City to ensure safe drinking water is delivered to residents while addressing supply challenges from wildfire and burn scar flooding."

As a result of the declared emergency, the City of Las Vegas is also encouraging residents to conserve as much water as possible and has implemented Stage 6 water restrictions. Those restrictions are posted on the [City's website](#).

On July 29, 2022, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed executive orders [declaring a state of emergency in the City of Las Vegas](#) due to burn scar flooding threatening the area's drinking water supply. The executive orders make \$2.25 million in state emergency funding available to assist the local government with emergency measures, help prevent additional damage, repair public infrastructure, and lessen the overall recovery time related to wildfire impacts and burn scar flooding. The emergency funding will support the City of Las Vegas to establish and operate a temporary pre-treatment system that will allow the city to safely treat and draw water from Storrie Lake for municipal use.

As circumstances surrounding the Calf Canyon and Hermits Peak post fire impacts continue to evolve, NMED and the City of Las Vegas will provide validated information and advice for residents regarding any confirmed threats to public health from the City's drinking water supply.

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