

**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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Environment Department confirms “Do Not Drink” order required for Camino Real Regional Utility Authority*Customers urged to use bottled water for drinking, cooking, bathing*

DOÑA ANA COUNTY — The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau confirmed that a “Do Not Drink” order is required for the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (CRRUA) in Doña Ana County.

The Camino Real Regional Utility Authority issued an advisory on Friday, December 1, 2023, after elevated pH levels were detected in the water system’s distribution system. Drinking Water Bureau staff are investigating the cause of the high pH levels and working with CRRUA to gather additional information about this incident. New Mexico drinking water regulations require CRRUA to notify their water system consumers as soon as practical but no later than 24 hours if the safety of a water supply is endangered for any reason. NMED staff were first informed about the incident in the afternoon of Friday, December 1, 2023.

The Camino Real Regional Utility Authority is a community public water system that serves approximately 17,000 users. Based on information received by NMED, this advisory applies to the drinking water from the following areas in Sunland Park and Santa Teresa, NM:

- Valencia Park
- Villa Valencia
- Mason Farms
- The Grove
- Edgemont
- Casas Lindas
- Bluffs
- Tuscan Ridge

This advisory does not extend to any other surrounding water systems.

Customers of the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority are encouraged to use bottled water for all purposes including:

- Drinking
- Making coffee, tea, and other drinks
- Making ice

- Cooking
- Washing fruits, vegetables, and dishes
- Using the water to feed a baby
- Brushing teeth
- Bathing
- Providing as drinking water for pets

The City of Sunland Park is working with CRRUA to deliver bottled water to locations in the affected area. CRRUA customers may pick up bottled water at the following locations from 5-10 p.m. on Friday, December 1, 2023 at the following locations:

- Fire Station #2 – 5650 McNutt Rd., Sunland Park, NM
- The Sports Complex – 4700 McNutt Rd., Santa Teresa, NM
- Santa Teresa Elementary School, 201 Comerciantes Blvd., Santa Teresa, NM

The Drinking Water Bureau will provide oversight and offer technical assistance to the water system and require the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority to continue to test the water until no further threat of contamination remains.

For [questions or more information](#), please call Brent Westmoreland, Executive Director of CRRUA at 575-649-9349.

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