



NEWS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

February 17, 2026

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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.

Construction of new Las Vegas water plant begins Summer 2026

LAS VEGAS, N.M. — Construction will begin Summer 2026 on a new water treatment plant that will nearly double the City of Las Vegas' water capacity and ensure safe drinking water for generations to come.

The City of Las Vegas' new water treatment plant, designed in partnership with the New Mexico Environment Department, will include critical upgrades to the City's water treatment systems, including optimized pre-treatment to improve removal of cloudiness and natural debris, as well as granular activated carbon filters which will reduce dissolved materials that can cause taste, odor, or discoloration.

"This new treatment plant is a signal that investment in Las Vegas is not stopping," said **Environment Secretary James Kenney**. "Alongside our ongoing improvements to Las Vegas' water system — made in partnership between the City of Las Vegas and the New Mexico Environment Department — this project is assuring safe and reliable drinking water for generations to come."

The general site location has been decided and design is underway. The advanced treatment plant will have an initial capacity of 3.56 million gallons per day — a significant improvement over the City's existing 2.5-million-gallon system. The facility will serve a population of approximately 14,880.

To accommodate future growth and assure long-term water security, the design also includes the ability to efficiently expand the plant's capacity to 5 million gallons per day, supporting the City's anticipated needs for decades to come.

"Delivering on water quality, quantity, reliability, and a strong water future has been the commitment of myself and the entire governing body," said **Las Vegas Mayor David Romero**. "We have made tremendous progress toward those goals, and there is so much more to come."

The project builds on ongoing improvements to the City's drinking water and wastewater systems in recent months, including installing new pretreatment filter beds, clearing debris and sediment from the Gallinas River, and extending and replacing overflow drains.

Construction of the City of Las Vegas' new water treatment plant is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency Claims Office and state funding provided in response to the devastating impact of the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire and subsequent flooding, which caused system-wide outages and boil water advisories.

While the system is currently stable, it is over 60 years old, fragile, and urgently in need of replacement to guarantee clean drinking water for residents and businesses now and into the future.

The construction timeline for the new water treatment plant is as follows:

- **Late Spring 2026:** Treatment plant design finalized
- **Late Summer 2026:** Groundbreaking for the City's new water treatment plant. At the same time, the City will install new Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters at the existing water treatment plant to assure safe and reliable drinking water during construction.

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