

Customer Message

09-24-2024

Office of State Auditor Concludes Investigation of CRRUA: “No documentation to support allegations of misuse by CRRUA”

The Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (CRRUA) received notice today that the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (OSA) concluded its investigations into CRRUA, initiated by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in March 2024. The investigation concluded that allegations regarding misuse of funds by CRRUA were **unsubstantiated**.

In a [press release](#) issued today by the OSA, the agency stated in part, “The investigation focused on potential fraud, waste, and abuse of \$5.3 million in public funds awarded by the Water Trust Board in June 2013 for the construction and operation of the Santa Teresa Arsenic Community Treatment Plant.”

According to the press release: “The OSA has completed its review of documentation provided by the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) and CRRUA. The results of the review confirm that all disbursements related to the \$5.3 million, including both loan and grant components, were specifically allocated for the costs of construction of the Santa Teresa Arsenic Community Treatment Plant, between August 2015, and July 2017. All CRRUA's draw requests and requisitions to NMFA were approved by NMED at the time of disbursement, with **no documentation to support allegations of misuse by CRRUA of these specific funds.**”

“We are gratified with the outcome of the OSA investigation, and the transparency it provides,” said CRRUA Executive Director Juan Crosby.

“We acknowledge that operational issues have resulted in varying degrees of mistrust among some CRRUA customers,” Crosby said. “Hopefully, the positive outcome of OSA’s investigation will put many of those concerns to rest and with CRRUA’s continued system improvements help gain customer confidence.”

Crosby said many of the improvements include:

- All four CRRUA arsenic treatment facilities are operational and functioning properly with additional technology upgrades coming.

- Arsenic samples from all four of CRRUA's arsenic treatment facilities are below the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maximum Contaminant Level of 10 parts per billion (ppb.)

- [CRRUA has passed 14 arsenic tests](#) since January 2024, including the last two quarterly arsenic tests conducted by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and
 - 12-voluntary monthly arsenic tests as verified by an independent laboratory certified by NMED.

- CRRUA recently replaced the filter media at two arsenic treatment facilities to increase the efficiency of the arsenic removal process and ensure the continued delivery of consumable water that meets government standards.

- CRRUA is repairing water wells to enhance production.

- CRRUA is conducting a cost-of-service rate study as recommended by an independent audit commissioned by NMED.

- CRRUA provides timely information on its website and Facebook page and is currently working to acquire a mass notification system for customers.