



CITY OF SUNLAND PARK NEW MEXICO

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News Release

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Sunland Park City Council Approves \$1.2 Million for Water Tank Rehabilitation Projects Establishment of New City Utility Department Moves Forward

Tonight, the Sunland Park City Council voted to allocate \$1.2 million to fund three immediate water improvement projects aimed at enhancing service across the community. The projects include sediment removal and rehabilitation of the Anapra, Meadow Vista, and Tierra Madre water tanks.

“These projects will help reduce incidents of discolored water caused by sediment buildup in the water tanks,” said CRRUA Executive Director Juan Crosby. “The sediment is primarily composed of the naturally occurring minerals iron and manganese. When disturbed by water flow, it can enter the distribution system and cause discoloration. By removing the sediment, we will help eliminate this issue across the system.” Crosby added that discolored water resulting from this action continues to meet state and federal drinking water standards.

“Now that the funding is approved, CRRUA can move forward with scheduling the sediment removal during the fall and winter months when water demand is lower,” Crosby said.

In addition to funding these projects, the City Council also authorized the establishment of a new City utility department. This action comes in response to Doña Ana County’s recent decision to terminate the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) that formed CRRUA.

“The City Council and I are working proactively and quickly to establish the mechanisms needed to create a City utility department so that, when the JPA is dissolved, operations can continue seamlessly and without service disruption,” said Sunland Park Mayor Javier Perea.

“In addition to the tank improvements, the City will also identify other critical water and wastewater infrastructure priorities tied to deferred maintenance. We’re focused on securing funding, development agreements, and sustainable revenue streams that support capacity upgrades and long-term system expansion,” Perea added.

“As a City department, CRRUA will have access to more City resources, immediate staffing support, and grant funding assistance for capital infrastructure investments—all of which will help enhance operations to better serve our customers,” said Mario Juarez-Infante, City Manager of Sunland Park and Vice-Chair of CRRUA.

The Council also approved the formation of an internal transition team to oversee CRRUA’s shift from joint governance to City operations, as well as the creation of a new Community Coordinator position to help facilitate community outreach and engagement throughout the transition process.

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