

“2014” City of Las Vegas Legislative Request

Bradner Reservoir Enlargement Project

Purpose and Need Statement

The current water storage capacity is inadequate, especially during times of water scarcity. Enlarging Bradner Reservoir will allow the City to significantly increase its critical water supply while improving the dam structure, thereby increasing the safety of its citizens.

THE CITY IS REQUESTING A LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION OF \$16 MILLION TO ASSIST IN FINANCING THE EXPANSION OF BRADNER DAM

Water Supply Shortfall

- The City can only store about 17% of its total annual municipal water demand, which is insufficient to consistently satisfy municipal water demands during periods of limited water availability, drought, and/or wildfire ash effects (water contamination).
- Without adequate storage, the City is unable to meet its demands even with supplemental groundwater under drought conditions and/or catastrophic wildfire.

Reliability

- Enlarging Bradner Reservoir will enable the City to store 2,300 acre-feet of water, adding 12 months of critically needed storage under current demand conditions.
- The reservoir is a critical component of the City’s water supply system, providing approximately 90% of its raw water storage capacity.

Vulnerability

- The current dam structure needs to be modernized to

meet New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (OSE) dam safety criteria.

Project Background

The City relies on the Gallinas River for its water supply. To help avoid problems due to flooding, drought, wildfire, and the resulting effect of fire ash, the City needs to increase the amount of surface water storage. The present Bradner Reservoir water storage capacity is about 300 acre-feet. The proposed reconstruction would enable the City to store 2,300 acre-feet. The cost for this project is estimated at \$30 million and will be confirmed through a detailed project design and cost estimate.

In 2012, a 27% water rate increase was passed for Fiscal Year 2013, in 2013 another 27% for Fiscal Year 2014, and a 3% increase in subsequent years. **These rate increases will enable the City to obtain revenue bonds in the amount of approximately \$12 million, \$2 million has already been invested in Dam Design. City is requesting \$16 million from State Capital Outlay Funds.**

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Benefits

- The City will be able to both save reservoir water leakage at Peterson Dam (about 180 acre-feet per year, approximately 6% of the City’s Gallinas River water rights) and divert more water from the Gallinas River without requiring additional water rights.

Positive impacts resulting from the enlargement of Bradner Reservoir would include:

- Enhanced public safety.
- Improved system reliability under drought conditions.
- Enhanced water supply needed to meet present and future demand to the year 2050.
- Improve system reliability under anticipated long-term climate change conditions.
- Improved system reliability in event of catastrophic fire in the watershed.
- Improving system reliability reduces competition with downstream water user.

Dam Safety Considerations

- The City has designed the project in accordance with the New Mexico Rules and Regulations for Dam Safety and Dam Construction and current engineering practices, and it will be subject to a series of design reviews by the OSE.
- The City will update its current Emergency Action Plan (EAP), as required by the OSE.

OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION

City of Las Vegas serves approximately 18,000 customers. More than 20% of the City’s water consumers (close to 4,000) are located outside the municipal limits and about 14,000 customers are in the City. Improving the reliability of the City’s water supply system would enable the City to continue services to City Residents and to consumers who reside outside the incorporated community and who are now dealing with serious issues due to the lack of water.

- **State Agencies being served include: Las Vegas Medical Center, Department of Transportation, State Police, NMHU, Luna Community College, Motor Vehicle, WLV, ELV Schools...**

Milestone	Completion Scheduled
Finalize Preliminary Engineering Report	January 2014
Value Engineering Review	March 2014
Submit Design to OSE	May 2014
OSE Approval/ Permit	September 2014
Construction Contractor Bidding	Aug 2014 – Nov 2014
Construction	Nov 2014 – Dec 2015

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST

THE CITY IS REQUESTING A LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION OF \$16 MILLION TO ASSIST IN FINANCING THE EXPANSION OF BRADNER DAM

\$2 Million Previously Invested

\$12 Million City Revenue Bonds

\$16 Million State Capital Outlay Request

TOTAL COST FOR BRADNER DAM: \$30 MILLION