



CITY OF LAS VEGAS

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WATER TRUST BOARD REVERTS WTB FUNDS – CITY TO RE-APPLY

LAS VEGAS, NM – Las Vegas Mayor Tony E. Marquez Jr. and some members of the city staff attended a meeting today with the New Mexico Water Trust Board in Santa Fe regarding the funding of a water project. The city received funding a few years ago from the board. During the past few months, there has been numerous concerns and confusion regarding the project's final scope of work. At the recommendation of the Water Trust Board's staff, the board withdrew the approximately \$1.4 million to the city. The board advised the city that they would be eligible to reapply within the 2009/2010 fiscal year

"Though the city is disappointed with the action taken by the Water Trust Board we will continue to move forward," Mayor Marquez said. "We will continue to work with our area stakeholders and develop a feasible project beneficial to the whole area. Water is the lifeline of the community."

Within the next couple of weeks, Mayor Marquez plans to appoint a task force that will provide the city council with project recommendations that will benefit the whole community. The mayor plans to direct the appointees to hold a city wide meeting to receive input from residents of Las Vegas. The feedback will provide a foundation for a future water project.

"I want to ensure that residents take part in city government," Mayor Marquez said. "By appointing residents to this task force, it will ensure that the next water project benefits every Las Vegas resident."

The task force's recommendations will then be reviewed and a new water project will be developed by the governing body and city staff. The new project will then be proposed for possible funding at a future meeting of the Water Trust Board.

"Just as I mentioned in my state of the city address a few months ago, one of my biggest goals as mayor is to develop a plan to help solve the water issue that has plagued our city for numerous years," Mayor Marquez said. "I will ensure that our next proposed project for Water Trust Board funding will benefit all of Las Vegas."

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