



## **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

**January 12, 2024**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

#### **Monthly Total Organic Carbon Removal Requirements Not Being Met by the City of Las Vegas Water System**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water regulation. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. We monitor monthly for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal and maintain a running annual average (RAA) of the results. During the fourth quarter of 2023 the RAA for TOC removal was less than required.

#### **What does this mean?**

This ongoing TOC violation is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified immediately. Total organic carbon has no health effects. However, TOC provides a medium for the formation of disinfection by-products. These by-products include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Drinking water containing these by-products more than the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects, and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.

#### **What should I do?**

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, please contact your health care professional.

#### **What is being done?**

Total Organic Carbon (TOC) is a result of decaying organic matter in the watershed. The nature of the TOC in our waters after the Hermits Peak Calf Canyon Fire has changed, making it more difficult to remove. Post fire TOC composition and reactivity is more impactful than standard biological degradation. The fire-related impacts to the Gallinas River water quality could continue for many years in the future. This TOC violation may also be reflected in violations related to high Disinfection by Products (DBPs) in the drinking water.

City of Las Vegas Water Treatment Plant Staff and our engineers are working on process improvements including enhanced coagulation to improve the TOC removal to acceptable levels. The options for reducing TOC include improved coagulation & flocculation, granular activated carbon, activated oxidation, ion exchange, reverse osmosis and nanofiltration. The impacts to the water quality in the river could continue for 15 years or more. These continuing TOC violations may also be reflected in continuing TTHM and HAAs Disinfection by product violations.

We have already begun working on solutions to manage the TOC and DBP levels and anticipate implementing them within the next twelve (12) months.

Feel free to contact the City of Las Vegas at 505-454-3832 with any questions or via email at [gilvarrym@lasvegasnm.gov](mailto:gilvarrym@lasvegasnm.gov)



## **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT** **January 12, 2024**

### **DRINKING WATER NOTICE** **CITY OF LAS VEGAS HAD HIGH TURBIDITY LEVELS**

We routinely monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. Water samples taken between 9:25 a.m. and 9:40 a.m. on Friday December 8, 2023 showed turbidity levels above the maximum allowable. Because of these high levels of turbidity, there is an increased chance that the water may contain disease-causing organisms.

#### **What should I do? What does this mean?**

- *You **do not** need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, please contact your health care professional.*
- *\*Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.\* The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking this water.*

#### **What is being done?**

During the event City Water Treatment Plant staff maintained adequate disinfection throughout the distribution system. City staff and contractors are continuing to replace system components to improve our treatment process. The turbidity levels returned to compliance by 9:40 a.m. on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December.

Please contact the City of Las Vegas Utilities Department at 505-454-3832 with any questions or via email at [gilvarrym@lasvegasnm.gov](mailto:gilvarrym@lasvegasnm.gov).

*A*  
*TM*