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EPA CONDUCTS ON-SITE INSPECTION OF CRRUA Inspection Follows Meetings with & Requests by Community Members

SUNLAND PARK, NM—On February 4, 2025, representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted an on-site inspection of the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (CRRUA). The EPA inspected CRRUA's four arsenic treatment facilities, water wells and reviewed CRRUA's operations and maintenance records.

The site-visit and inspection come only a few months after Sunland Park and Santa Teresa community members, Empowerment Congress of Doña Ana County, and the New Mexico Environmental Law Center met with EPA Region 6 and its Water Enforcement Branch in October 2024 to share concerns around CRRUA's ongoing Safe Drinking Water Act violations.

Following the meeting, on December 20, 2024, the group filed with the EPA a [*Request for the EPA to Inspect CRRUA for Compliance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act.*](#)

The request includes the following alarming statistics from the EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online database:

- For the past three years, **CRRUA has received 12 quarterly Safe Drinking Water Act violations**, meaning CRRUA has been in noncompliance every single quarter during that time period.
- EPA has **slapped CRRUA with 152 violation points**. According to EPA's scoring system, points are assigned to every violation based on the seriousness and duration of the violation. They include public notice violations as well as

arsenic maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) exceeding the federal health standards.

- At 152 violation points, **CRRUA has earned one of the highest total violation scores in the state of New Mexico.**

Vivian Fuller, Santa Teresa resident and organizer with Empowerment Congress, said, “We thank the EPA for coming to our community and inspecting the water treatment facilities to protect our health. We look forward to learning what the results of the inspection were. We’re excited to continue working with the EPA to ensure our community actually receives clean and safe drinking water moving forward.”

Daisy Maldonado, Director, Empowerment Congress of Doña Ana County, said, “Empowerment Congress appreciates that the Environmental Protection Agency visited and inspected the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (CRRUA) Arsenic Water Treatment Plants because this inspection supports clean and safe drinking water being delivered to Sunland Park and Santa Teresa community members **who deserve for their government to ensure their drinking water isn't poisoning them.**”

Kacey Hovden, NMELC Staff Attorney, said, “For the EPA to listen to community members’ concerns and take the initiative to physically show up to Sunland Park and Santa Teresa and inspect CRRUA’s facilities and records is a **massive win for community members.** For **years,** folks have been requesting federal and state assistance to ensure their inherent right to clean and safe drinking water is protected, and it’s huge for the EPA to pay attention and be active.”

Empowerment Congress NM’s goal is to transform high-need Dona Ana colonia communities into equitable, healthy and resourced places to live and enjoy a whole and prospered life. Nuestro objetivo es transformar las comunidades coloniales del condado dona ana con grandes necesidades en lugares equitativos, saludables, y con recursos para vivir y disfrutar de manera integral y próspera.

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New Mexico Environmental Law Center (NMELC) has been defending environmental justice since 1987. NMELC provides free and low-cost legal services to people fighting for clean air, land and water across New Mexico. www.nmelc.org

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