Frank Armijo is the Water Treatment Plant supervisor in Las Vegas, New Mexico. He has been with the City for about 18 years and has been in the water industry for a little over 25 years. Frank has worked in distribution, supply, and operations. He has managed the water treatment plant supply operations for the City for the past 7 years.

New Mexico Municipal Representatives on the Use of Surface Water for Their City: Las Vegas

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I was notified at about 11:30 today that I was going to be presenting this so bear with me. I have been with the City of Las Vegas for about 18 years and have been in the water industry for a little over 25 years. I have worked in distribution, supply, and operations. I have managed water treatment plant supply operations for the City for the past 7 years. The water treatment plant in Las Vegas serves a population of about 19,000. The City's source of surface water is the Gallinas River, which can most of the time not even be considered a river, it is more of a creek. The City has two reservoirs, Peterson and Bradner, which combined provide a total of about 500 acre-ft. We also lease 500 acre-ft of storage in Storrie Lake, which is also in a state park, which at times worries me because it is a state park and we allow boating on it. The dam itself is a highway, which has its own risks of contamination.

Up until 2004 we managed our water under the pueblo rights doctrine, which meant we were managing under rights granted by Spain. In 2004 those rights were taken away by the Supreme Court and fell back to the lower court decision granting the City only 2,600 acre-ft per year. In the past 3 years, we have managed to keep within the 2,600 acre-ft by supplementing our water with the Taylor Well Field. We have three wells operational in the Taylor Well Field. This year we have dealt with aquifer problems and dropping water levels and we have had limited use of the well field. The well field is City owned and we are working to find out what caused the problems. Right after drilling Taylor

well #7 in June of 2007, we noticed the drop in water levels. We have also had complaints from residents nearby about their water levels and the loss of the use of their wells. Around November 15, 2008, we are going to be coming into 2,600 acre-ft, meaning that we are going to be short this year and it leaves no room for growth. There is a diversion located approximately 3 miles from our closest reservoir that gives us the opportunity during storm advance or spring runoff to divert the water around and not use it and then we'll rely on our storage to catch up later. This allows us the treatment capability to stay within the same chemical dosages. Our treatment costs would be impacted if we had to change our backwash rates. The City is currently utilizing treated wastewater to water golf course, parks, and sports fields.

Our per capita water use per day, before we lost water rights and went into conservation projects and plans, was about 165 gallons per person per day. Currently it is down to 115 gallons per person per day. Our conservation program includes going to schools and speaking to kids between 3rd and 5th grade. Those kids are at the age where when they are told something, they will take it home and use it against you. That has been real handy for us and works very well. We have noticed that after giving tours and going out to the schools with our classroom presentations, the next day we can usually see a drop of about 300,000 gallons, which if we could maintain that, it would be really great. Our production levels back in the 1980s were up to 6 million gallons per day during the summer max production. Last year, production was 3.2 million gallons and the reason it was that high was because we had a leak. Other than that, our max day was 2.8 million gallons. We are currently working with a ranch that is southeast of Taylor Well Field that has wells to different aquifers and good quality of water and high yield. We are working with them on a deal to supplement our water. That's pretty much all I have, but I would be happy to answer any questions.