

# Groundwater Quality and Well Water Assessment in Las Vegas, New Mexico Area

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## **PURPOSE OF STUDY**

The drinking water available to most northern New Mexican communities meets the drinking water standards recommended by the State of New Mexico. However, on occasion the water quality does not meet these standards, therefore requiring consistent monitoring of the water. Well water is representative of area groundwater and reflects the composition of the groundwater. The researchers will examine water from 25 wells in the Las Vegas area for E. coli, nitrates, hardness, alkalinity, and pH. The wells will be checked four times over the course of the year.

## **STUDY UNDERWAY**

- The researchers have identified 21 wells from higher (8600 ft) to lower (6300 ft) elevation and have initiated preliminary sampling.

## **BENEFITS**

- Knowledge of E. coli and nitrate concentrations will give researchers and water managers a way to address the source to well water contamination and their impacts on the environment.



Simone-Camille Yelah Tar is pursuing an master's degree in life sciences from New Mexico Highland University.

