

Inside Thacker Pass

Massive Lithium Project Takes Shape in Northern Humboldt County

By Rachel Dahl

Even on a Sunday, when activity was reduced to a fraction of a normal workday, roughly 350 people were at work building what is expected to become one of the largest sources of lithium in the United States.

During the week, that number is more than 1,600 workers, traveling nearly an hour north of Winnemucca to the mine site every morning and back every night.

A media tour of Lithium Americas' Thacker Pass project in northern Humboldt County offered a ground-level look at the scale of construction underway as the company moves toward mechanical completion of the first phase of the mine and processing facility in late 2027.

Joining the tour was Audrey Robertson, assistant secretary of energy and head of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation, which focuses on strengthening domestic mineral supply chains, processing, manufacturing, and energy technology.

From the entrance, the size of the undertaking becomes apparent quickly.

White tents positioned throughout the site serve as lunch areas, cooling shelters, and locations where workers badge in and out. A medical center serves the construction workforce. Beyond them, tanks, structural steel, pipe racks, processing buildings, and massive pieces of industrial equipment stretch across the site.

Lithium Americas reported in August that more than \$1.8 billion in construction and other project costs had been capitalized through June 30, with Phase 1 carrying an estimated total capital cost of \$2.93 billion. More than 95% of detailed engineering has been completed, and procurement has passed 80%.

The company expects the workforce to exceed 2,000 later this year.

Construction is being managed with dozens of contractors, suppliers, and specialty companies involved in everything from concrete and steel fabrication to transportation and process equipment.

During the tour, workers pointed out prefabricated pipe racks assembled with piping and cable trays before being lifted into place. Large crystallizers have begun arriving and are being installed in the processing plant, along with tanks, compressors, heat exchangers and other equipment.

Lithium Americas Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, Tim Crowley, said approximately

100 prefabricated pipe rack modules manufactured in Winnemucca have been delivered to the project, while major equipment continues arriving at a rate of more than 60 truckloads a day.

Unlike a conventional mine where ore may be hauled elsewhere for processing, Thacker Pass is being developed as an integrated mine and chemical processing operation designed to produce battery-grade lithium carbonate on site.

That requires an industrial complex substantially different from the image most people have of a Nevada mine.

Among the largest components visible during the tour were tanks associated with the sulfuric acid plant. Sulfur will ultimately be transported to the area and converted into sulfuric acid used in processing the lithium-bearing clay. During startup, Crowley said purchased sulfuric acid will initially be used.

The first phase is designed to produce 40,000 metric tons of lithium carbonate annually. Lithium Americas has laid out plans for additional phases that could eventually increase production substantially, although those expansions would require additional permitting.

The federal government has a significant stake in the project.

According to Jon Evans, President and CEO, Lithium Americas has received more than \$1.2 billion in advances under a U.S. Department of Energy loan supporting construction. General Motors is also a joint venture partner in Thacker Pass.

Secretary Robertson's presence underscored why the project has attracted attention far beyond Humboldt County.

Lithium is used in rechargeable batteries found in electric vehicles, consumer electronics, military systems, and large-scale energy storage. Federal officials increasingly view domestic production and processing of critical minerals as a national security and supply-chain issue, particularly because much of the world's mineral processing capacity is located outside the United States.

Thacker Pass is intended to do both: mine the mineral and process it into a finished lithium product in Nevada.

The project has also faced years of opposition and litigation over environmental impacts and the cultural significance of the area to Native American tribes. Lithium Americas has reached a Community Benefits Agreement with the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe and says it continues tribal employment, training and cultural-resource programs.

Whatever the debate surrounding

the mine, however, its physical transition from proposal to industrial project is now difficult to miss.

Concrete foundations that were being poured only last year now hold multistory steel structures. Crystallizers and other specialized equipment are being set into place. High-voltage electrical equipment is being installed, and the company says modifications connecting the site to the regional power grid are complete.

On weekdays, buses carry workers from Winnemucca to Thacker Pass by the dozens, while oversized equipment and fabricated components continue making their way north.

Evans said mechanical completion of Phase 1 remains targeted for late 2027, followed by commissioning and ramp-up.

For now, Thacker Pass remains a construction site, but increasingly looks like a modern mining and processing plant.



Assistant Secretary Audrey Robertson (right) with three of the workers at Thacker Pass and Jon Evans on the left, Photo Courtesy Rachel Dahl

A Town Within a Town

Thacker Pass Workforce Hub Houses Hundreds of Construction Workers Outside Winnemucca

By Rachel Dahl

Building a multibillion-dollar lithium project in a rural county creates a problem long before the mine begins producing anything: where do you put the workers?

At Thacker Pass, the answer has been to build what amounts to a temporary community of its own.

The workforce housing complex outside Winnemucca was developed to accommodate construction workers traveling to northern Humboldt County for the Lithium Americas project, where the workforce has climbed to more than 1,600 and is expected to grow further as construction continues.

During a recent media tour, the housing complex looked less like the rough "man camps" associated with some remote energy projects and more like a compact hotel campus.

Workers live in individual rooms equipped with televisions, storage, and basic furnishings. A central dining facility provides meals, while a small store offers snacks, drinks, and grab-and-go items. Recreation areas include a gym, game room, and common spaces, and company representatives said organized activities and contests are used to give workers something to do during their off-hours.

The dining area is also designed around round-the-clock shift work, with food and basic items available outside normal mealtimes.

For Lithium Americas, the housing complex serves a purpose beyond convenience.

Company representatives said concentrating the temporary workforce in one managed location reduces the pressure that hundreds or thousands of additional workers could otherwise place on Winnemucca's housing market, hotels, and neighborhoods.

That concern is not theoretical in rural communities where large construction projects can quickly consume available hotel rooms and rental housing, driving up costs for local residents and creating additional demands on law enforcement, roads, and other services. Company officials said the alternative would have been to simply tell contractors to find housing for their own employees and leave the

surrounding community to absorb the impact.

Instead, workers are housed together and are transported to the Thacker Pass construction site by bus.

About 45 buses are used during peak morning and evening transportation periods, according to company representatives, with individual buses capable of carrying roughly 55 passengers.

The arrangement also gives project managers more control over transportation, worker schedules and off-site activity.

Security is maintained at the complex, and company officials said workers are subject to background checks. They acknowledged that problems can occur anytime a large population is concentrated in one place, but said centralized housing allows those issues to be addressed more quickly than if workers were scattered throughout the community.

The complex is operated by Target Hospitality, a company that specializes in workforce accommodations for large industrial projects.

Tim Crowley, Vice President of Government Affairs, said the facility has become popular enough with some employees that people who initially preferred staying in Winnemucca hotels now choose to stay at the hub instead.

During the tour, one company representative said he had stayed there roughly 20 times and preferred it because he could maintain the same room and routine while working on the project.

The complex is currently operating near capacity.

While it was developed around the needs of Thacker Pass construction, representatives said the investment may have a life beyond the lithium project. Northern Nevada continues to see interest in mining, energy, and other large industrial developments that can require temporary workforces far larger than nearby communities can easily accommodate.

That could turn what began as project housing into a longer-term regional asset.

For now, however, the housing hub has one primary job: absorb the human side of one of the largest construction projects underway in rural Nevada.



From Left to Right: Assistant Secretary of Energy Audrey Robertson, Vice President of Project Construction Tim Abel, President and CEO Jon Evans, Photo Courtesy Rachel Dahl

COMMENTARY

As Healthcare Shifts in Northern Nevada, We Must Protect Patient Choice

By Traci Biondi, MD

I have spent many years working in Northern Nevada healthcare as a physician and a clinical administrator. When you spend that much time in our region, you learn that large-scale structural changes in health systems are rarely just about corporate business. They shape the everyday choices families make when someone gets sick.

Lately our local healthcare landscape has been undergoing a major transition. The joint venture between Renown Health and Kaiser Permanente, and broader shifts across local health plans reflect a national trend toward larger, integrated care systems. On paper, these changes are framed around streamlining care and expanding options. But as open enrollment approaches, our community needs to look carefully at what this evolution means for real patients in Reno, Sparks, Carson City, and our surrounding rural counties.

When health systems and insurance plans shift toward closed, highly restricted models, the natural result is a narrower path for patients. We are already seeing local seniors and families navigate new administrative rules about where they can see a primary care doctor or access specialized care. In a growing region like ours, narrowing access creates real friction for everyone involved.

Consider pediatric and specialty care. Northern Nevada relies on a limited number of subspecialists, particularly in pediatric subspecialties. When rigid network boundaries make it difficult for local families to access these specialists, children and

parents end up caught in the middle of administrative rules. The same challenge applies to complex care for adults. When a patient requires a specialized procedure, the primary goal should always be to keep them close to home. If routine single-case coverage agreements between regional health systems break down, local patients risk being directed out of state for specialized procedures that skilled local surgeons could perform right here in town.

For local seniors, continuity of care is paramount. Thousands of Nevadans rely on Medicare Advantage plans to maintain long-standing relationships with doctors and hospital systems they have trusted for decades. Sudden administrative exclusions or abrupt shifts in plan participation disrupt care for the very people who need stability the most.

From an economic perspective, healthcare thrives on healthy competition, not consolidation. When a single closed system dominates a market, it eliminates competition. This is when healthcare costs inevitably rise for local employers and families while patients lose options. Broad, competitive networks keep healthcare affordable and responsive to the community.

Healthcare works best when it functions as an open ecosystem rather than a locked system. Prominence Health, as part of Universal Health Services, works alongside Sierra Medical Center, Northern Nevada Health System, regional community partners like Carson Tahoe Health, and hundreds of independent physicians across our region. Our objective is to build a collaborative model where health plans and medical providers

work across organizational lines, ensuring that patients retain genuine freedom of choice.

Large health systems and regional insurers carry a shared responsibility to the public. As contract negotiations occur and new corporate alliances take shape, the primary benchmark for success must remain patient access, affordability, and local continuity of care.

As open enrollment season arrives, I encourage local employers, families, and seniors to look closely at network details. Ask which doctors and hospitals are included, where you can go for specialty care, and whether your plan gives you the freedom to choose your providers. Northern Nevada's healthcare future should be defined by open doors, strong doctor-patient relationships, and real choices for every resident.

Traci Biondi, MD, is the Chief Medical Officer for Prominence Health in Reno. She is a board-certified anesthesiologist and received her medical degree from University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine.



Military Briefings Liberty Dogs



Photo Courtesy Liberty Dogs

Staff Report

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Blue Star Mothers Care Packages

Staff Report

Blue Star Mothers of Spanish Springs NV5 are reaching out to advise that they are sending care packages to deployed and/or stateside military service members.

If you have a deployed service member or a service member serving stateside and would like them to receive a care package, send an email with the service member's address to finsec.nv5@bluestarmothers.us or treas.nv5@bluestarmothers.us.

Ensure that you have the service member's correct address and that they are able to receive care packages at this time. Some service members serving in the Middle East are unable to receive care packages. Include your name and email address so we may contact you when we send the care package and/or have questions.

This program permits AUSA members to purchase these titles at a discounted rate. Graphic novels about Medal of Honor awardees and military history subjects are also available to read online or download at no cost.

For information, go to ausa.org/book-program.

Veterans Job Club

Staff Report

The Veterans Job Club is held at the Ioannis A. Lougaris Veterans' Medical Center, Tahoe Room C5330, 975 Kirman Ave. in Reno.

The meeting is held on the third Thursday of each month from 1-2 p.m. Many local, state, and regional organizations will be on hand to answer questions.

For more information, contact Joseph Henle at (775) 297-9637 or Theo Thompson at (775) 625-6790.

Data Centers Are Coming. The Question Is What Communities Get in Return

By Rachel Dahl

The debate over data centers in Nevada is becoming increasingly polarized.

To hear one side tell it, they are economic salvation: billions of dollars in investment, badly needed tax revenue, and infrastructure development.

To hear the other, they are resource-hungry industrial projects that consume enormous amounts of power and water while leaving communities to deal with the consequences.

Boulder City Mayor Joe Hardy offered a more useful way to look at the question during a recent appearance on Nevada Newsmakers.

Don't start with whether data centers are good or bad. Start with the deal.

Boulder City finds itself in an unusual position. According to Hardy, roughly one-third of the city's budget is supported by revenue from solar-field leases. The city has historically preferred leasing land rather than selling it, using those payments to fund municipal operations.

And now data centers have entered the conversation.

Hardy said a company associated with Townsite Solar 2 originally held an option to lease Boulder City land for additional solar generation and battery storage. As interest in data centers grew, the company began exploring whether one could be developed there instead.

At the same time, the company had separately sought federal approval for a data center on Bureau of Land Management property within Boulder City's boundaries.

That is where things became complicated.

Hardy said the BLM ultimately approved the use based on an environmental review originally conducted for solar generation and battery storage.

Boulder City is now suing the agency, arguing that a data center requires a different environmental review. Hardy's objection is also financial: because the land is federally owned, Boulder City could be responsible for police, fire, and other services without receiving the lease

revenue it would collect from a project built on city land.

Hardy is not arguing that Boulder City should reject data centers. In fact, he believes a properly structured project could help solve looming city budget shortfalls.

His position is essentially this: if a community is going to accommodate a major industrial development, the community should receive a measurable benefit in return.

Hardy said a November ballot question will ask residents whether the city should consider energy-related development in Eldorado Valley, potentially including a data center.

The interview also addressed the three concerns now following nearly every Nevada data center proposal: power, water, and noise.

On power, Hardy said Boulder City's municipal utility gives the city leverage other jurisdictions may not have. Any data center would need a power purchase agreement establishing where its electricity will come from.

More importantly, Hardy said the city could structure an agreement so some of the revenue generated by the project helps offset residents' power costs.

That is a much different proposition than simply adding a massive new electrical customer and hoping existing ratepayers are not affected.

On water, Hardy was equally direct: a closed-loop cooling system would be mandatory from his perspective.

On noise, he dismissed much of the concern surrounding newer facilities, arguing that modern data centers are different from earlier generations.

Continue reading on Section B-Page 4.



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EVENTS

The Rural Roar: Labor Day Unleashed

Where Quiet Takes a Holiday

By Doris Rodriguez

Listen – Nevada’s towns are trading quiet for country rodeo bells, carnival lights, and a whole lot of local pride. Follow the laughter, the music, and the smell of barbecue, and you’ll land right where you belong: smack dab in the middle of the friendliest shindigs in the state.

Winnemucca is buzzing this Labor Day stretch. The Tri-County Fair & Stampede runs through Sunday, Sept. 6, at the Humboldt County Fairgrounds. The event opens Thursday from 4-10 p.m. and continues Friday from 2-10 p.m. Over the weekend, the fair runs from 12-10 p.m. The Junior livestock show runs Friday through Sunday.

While you’re there, don’t miss the Western Art Roundup and the Buckaroo Hall of Fame, which can both be found at the convention center. Circle Saturday, Sept. 5, on your calendar for the Great Basin

Challenge. Later, catch the 105th annual Labor Day Rodeo at 6 p.m. in the main arena, outside this year. On Sept. 6, truck pulls will begin at 6 p.m.

Elko also isn’t ready to stop the sound of fun just yet! East of town, the Elko County Fair goes all the way through Labor Day, Sept. 7, at 13 Fairgrounds Road. They’re racing Sept. 4 through 7, with Thoroughbreds and Quarter Horses hitting the track. The fair offers over \$300,000 in purse money, including the Intermountain Quarter Horse Futurity and Elko County Quarter Horse Derby, if you like a number with your dust. The Home Arts Exhibit Hall flings its doors open Friday at 1 p.m. and stays open through Monday. Grab a program, pick a horse, and check the post times before you leave the house.

Lovelock cranks up the volume after dark, with two nights of action at Lovelock Speedway. Visit the track Sept. 4 and 5; pits open at 4 p.m., gates open at 5 p.m., and the green flag waves at 7 p.m. Live it up and join the

crowd by cheering on and shouting from the stands!

Fallon keeps the party going right down Maine Street. Sept. 4, grab some fried fish at the American Legion. Saturday, Sept. 5, lace up for the Tristan Redmond Memorial 5K. On Labor Day, start with Rotary Club pancakes from 7-10 a.m. in the lot next to the Churchill County Library on South Maine Street. Then catch the Lions parade at 10 a.m., kicking off on Taylor Street at the middle school.

Hungry Valley infuses Labor Day with its own Indigenous spirit as the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony hosts the Numaga Indian Days Powwow & Handgames from Sept. 4 through 6. The event takes place on the powwow grounds off Eagle Canyon Road, about 18 miles north of Reno, on the last stretch of highway before entering colony land. Admission is free and open to everyone, featuring drums, grand entries, handgames, vendors, and food. It is the largest powwow in our state. Grand entries are typically

held on Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at noon and 7 p.m., and Sunday at noon.

Then there’s Pioche. Climb into the mountains of Lincoln County, and the whole town is already mid-celebration: old brick, steep streets, and a main drag that looks like it never stopped being 1904. The 121st annual Labor Day Celebration runs Sept. 4 through 7 at Pioche Town Park, 117 Highway 93. You’ll find shiny cars, costumed pets, and roaring lawn-mower races down steep streets. ATVs, mining games, water fights, and a parade all pack the weekend, plus music, minibikes, and fireworks echoing in the canyon.

If you’re in an adventurous mood, Burning Man is still rolling out on the Black Rock through Sept. 7. Give it a shot if you’re up for something wild.

Check the websites before you head out; times can change in a wink.

So don’t miss the last of the summer. Come take part in the festivities and chase the fun of Labor Day!

Otteson Brothers Turquoise Offers Mine Tours



Photo Courtesy Otteson Brothers Turquoise

By Sydney Trainor

Roughly 26 miles outside Tonopah, Nevada, Otteson Brothers Turquoise

offers visitors an opportunity to dig for turquoise at the family’s mines in the Royston Mining District. Through guided mine tours, participants can learn about the mining process and dig for pieces of turquoise to take home.

Tours are offered year-round, Monday through Saturday, weather permitting and excluding holidays. Morning tours begin at 8 a.m., while afternoon tours start at 1 p.m. The company offers both half-day and full-day tours.

To get to the mine, visitors will have to travel on about 5 miles of dirt roads. The company recommends driving a vehicle with all-wheel drive or four-wheel drive or using a high-clearance vehicle.

The Otteson family has mined and

processed natural turquoise for three generations, supplying some of the world’s most sought-after turquoise.

The whole operation started with Lynn Otteson, who began mining as a teenager in Colorado. Eventually, he leased his first mine near his hometown of Sanford: the Lick Skillet Mine, also known as the Manassa King Mine. In 1944, he entered Nevada’s turquoise industry after leasing a Royston claim from miner Lee F. Hand.

Hand discovered Royston turquoise in 1902, according to the Otteson family. He eventually controlled more than 30 claims in the district, which originally included the Bunker Hill, Easter Blue, Oscar Wehrend, and Royal Blue claims. The district contains some of Nevada’s oldest turquoise mines and

remains an active mining area.

After traveling between Colorado and Nevada, Otteson moved his family to Tonopah in 1960. The family has carried on his legacy and continued mining in the area ever since.

The Otteson family now controls much of the Royston Mining District and has worked on a number of its claims at different points over the decades. Family members have also partnered with friends and relatives to mine and prospect for additional turquoise deposits. The operation continues to add claims while carrying on the mining practices begun by earlier generations.

For more information about tour reservations and history, visit ottesonbrothersturquoise.com.

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LEGISLATIVE

Federal Resources and Partnership Forum Sept. 9

Staff Report

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development agency and other federal partners will host a forum Sept. 9 to connect Northern Nevada communities, businesses, and organizations with federal programs and development resources.

The Advancing Rural and Regional Opportunity Through Federal Partnerships forum will run from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fallon Convention Center, 100 Campus Way. The forum will focus on ways federal programs and partnerships can support economic growth and community development across rural Nevada.

Representatives from the U.S. Small Business Administration, or SBA; U.S. Department of Agriculture, or USDA; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and other invited federal agencies are expected to participate. Attendees will also include regional leaders, lenders, economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, industry associations, manufacturers, agricultural producers, ranchers, and other community stakeholders.

One panel will discuss capital access and financing opportunities. The discussion will cover federal funding and investment resources, capital-stacking strategies, Opportunity Zones, the HUBZone program, and public-private partnerships. Participants will also address coordinating federal, state, tribal, county, and local resources to support community investment.

A second panel will highlight federal resources and partnership opportunities. Topics will include

agency-specific programs, technical assistance, and other resources available for small businesses and community development. Infrastructure, housing, agriculture, food systems, regional development, and coordination among government agencies and local partners will also be discussed.

Anyone involved in business, agriculture, community development, lending, economic development, housing, or infrastructure is encouraged to attend. The forum is designed for participants to collaborate and create meaningful discussions between federal leaders and local communities.

The schedule includes:

8:30 a.m. — Coffee and networking

9 a.m. — Welcome and opening remarks

9:15 a.m. — Federal leadership introductions

9:20-10:10 a.m. — Capital Access and Financing Opportunities panel, followed by audience questions

10:10-10:25 a.m. — Break

10:25-11:15 a.m. — Federal Resources and Partnership Opportunities panel, followed by audience questions

Noon — Networking engagement

The forum is free, but advance registration is requested. Additional information and registration are available through the event webpage. Questions may be directed to the SBA Nevada District Office at NVDO@sba.gov.

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities may be requested by contacting the district office at least two weeks before the forum. Event details were confirmed through the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Continued from Section B- Page 2- Data Centers

Hardy's larger point was that the debate does not have to be reduced to simply supporting or opposing data centers.

He pointed to criteria developed by the Sierra Club as an example of how communities could set conditions for acceptable projects. In Boulder City, Hardy said that would mean requiring a closed-loop water system, requiring the developer to secure its own power through a power purchase agreement, and structuring the deal so the city receives a direct financial benefit.

For Boulder City, the financial piece is especially important. Hardy said the city is anticipating budget shortfalls within the next five to 10 years, and revenue from a properly structured land lease could help fill those gaps while allowing the city to maintain current services.

His argument was not that every data center is a good deal, but that one meeting strict requirements on water, power, and environmental impacts could be.

That is a useful distinction as more Nevada communities are asked to consider these projects.

Large industrial developments can transform a tax base, but they can also strain infrastructure and consume scarce resources if agreements are poorly structured. The real question is not simply whether a data center is coming, but what conditions a community puts in place before it says yes and whether the benefits are substantial enough to justify the demands the project will place on local resources and services.

Hardy's approach offers a useful framework: require a project to prove its value. Protect the water. Protect existing ratepayers. Account for public-service costs. Require environmental review appropriate to the project being built.

That puts communities in a stronger position to negotiate with a clear understanding of the value of their land, water, power and infrastructure.

State leaders may welcome data centers, but it will fall largely to local officials to make sure their communities, and ultimately Nevada, benefit from them.

Lehman Creek Water System Breaks Ground



Photo Courtesy White Pine Chamber of Commerce

By Sydney Trainor

The Lehman Creek community broke ground Aug. 22 on its first public water system. The new system will serve 30 homes in the Lehman Creek Residential Area in Baker, Nevada, the gateway community to Great Basin National Park. According to the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, those homes have never had access to public water service.

The project is designed to include two wells, storage tanks, distribution lines, and service connections. Water is expected to reach residents as soon as spring 2027.

Previously, residents relied on private wells and water drawn straight from Lehman Creek. This created issues such as private wells running low or dry, while residents pulling water from the creek had to boil it before use.

“This has been a long, hard road with a lot of twists and turns. Projects of this type are complex with many moving parts,” said Terry Steadman, treasurer of the Baker Water and Sewer General Improvement District. “Working through the regulatory compliance issues and the endless red tape can be a daunting task.”

After years of community work and support from organizations, the project finally reached the construction phase. Community members began advocating for a

community water system in 2006. Sixteen years later, in 2022, the Baker Water and Sewer General Improvement District partnered with the Rural Community Assistance Corporation to advance the project, as requested by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

The Rural Community Assistance Corporation helped with funding applications, board governance, environmental reviews, easement acquisition, and service line mapping, with support through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law drinking water program.

“Small rural communities can face significant challenges when it comes to developing and funding critical drinking water infrastructure,” said Jennifer Carr, administrator of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. “Our team has helped the Baker community navigate those challenges throughout this process, and it is incredibly rewarding to see construction finally begin.”

The new water system is fully funded through state and federal grants, meaning no debt for the community to repay. Funding sources include \$1.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding administered by Conserve Nevada, \$2.5 million through Nevada's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, \$438,480 through the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act's Small, Rural, and Tribal Drinking Water Assistance Grant Program, and \$3.8 million in congressionally directed spending.

“Access to drinking water is a basic necessity for every Nevadan, and I'll keep working tirelessly to make sure all communities have access to safe, clean water,” said U.S. Sen. Jacky Rosen. “I am proud to have helped secure millions of dollars in federal funding for the first public drinking water system for Lehman Creek Residential Area, bringing a much-needed resource to a community that had been waiting for years.”

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