

Amargosa Arsenic Treatment Plant Loan Approval

**Nye County School District
Nate Cardinal, MOSS Director**

**Nye County School District
Board of Trustees regular meeting
August 20th, 2026
Pahrump, Nevada**

Agenda Item:

For Possible Action:

- a. Discuss the State of Nevada Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Contract No. DW2616 for the Amargosa School arsenic treatment plant;
- b. Approve the State of Nevada Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Contract No. DW2616; or
- c. Reject the State of Nevada Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Contract No. DW2616 and provide direction to staff on how to proceed with the project.

Goal

To construct a new arsenic treatment plant at Amargosa School to provide a safe, reliable drinking water supply that meets state and federal drinking water standards.

Discussion

The Amargosa School arsenic treatment plant project will construct a new water treatment facility designed to remove arsenic from the school's drinking water. The project has been in development since October 2023 and has gone through multiple engineering reviews and regulatory approvals to identify the most effective and sustainable treatment solution.

An initial pilot filtration system was tested but did not provide a workable long-term solution. The project was redesigned to use a point-of-use treatment approach (reverse osmosis). During the review process, the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water determined that the existing septic system could not accommodate the discharge water from the treatment system, requiring additional engineering and the preparation of a revised Preliminary Engineering Report (PER).

The revised PER was approved by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Office in March of 2026. The District subsequently submitted a Letter of Intent and an application for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan with principal forgiveness. On May 20, 2026, the NDEP Board approved the project cost of \$1,369,900. The public comment period concluded on June 10, 2026, with no comments received.

The Board of Trustees is now being asked to approve the State of Nevada Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Contract No. DW2616, which will allow the District to move forward with the project and secure the funding needed for construction. This is a principal forgiveness contract.

Construction is anticipated to begin in December 2026. The treatment plant will be constructed outside of the fenced school campus and is not expected to interfere with daily school operations. The final connection to the school's water system is planned to occur on a Friday while school is not in session, minimizing any disruption to students and staff.

Project Timeline

- **October 2023:** Began working with Day Engineering on treatment options.
- **June 2024:** Pilot filtration system installed, tested, and determined to be unsuccessful.
- **August 2025:** Point-of-use Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) submitted to the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW).
- **October 2025:** Board of Trustees approved applying for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan with principal forgiveness.
- **October 2025:** BSDW determined the existing septic system could not accommodate treatment system discharge, requiring redesign.
- **March 2026:** Revised PER submitted to BSDW for review.
- **March 18, 2026:** Revised PER approved by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP).
- **April 2, 2026:** Submitted Letter of Intent for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund principal forgiveness loan.
- **April 3, 2026:** Submitted the loan application.
- **May 20, 2026:** NDEP Board approved the project cost of \$1,369,900, pending completion of the public comment period.
- **June 15, 2026:** District notified that no public comments were received and began waiting for the draft loan contract.
- **August 20, 2026:** Board of Trustees consideration of State of Nevada Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Contract No. DW2616.
- **December 2026 (anticipated):** Construction begins.

Attachments:

State of Nevada Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Contract No. DW2616