

RENOVATION OF LAS VEGAS BRADNER RESERVOIR SLATED FOR COMPLETION BY SEPTEMBER 1

By Lee Einer, Information Officer
City of Las Vegas

The reservoir had been seldom used for drinking water due to a problem with its original design. The outlet for the reservoir was at the bottom, near the dam, where much of the sediment settled. As a consequence, the water drawn from Bradner had high levels of particulate matter, making the water impractical to purify.

The solution to the problem is the installation of an outlet tower, with a series of gates from top to bottom which will allow the city to draw upon whichever layer of water in the reservoir is cleanest at the time. Water treatment workers will have the ability to operate and control the gates remotely from the water treatment plant.

The reservoir was drained in 2015. This enabled the geological assessment which was needed to identify the most stable area in which to anchor the outlet tower, and that had to happen in order to begin the design phase.

The project also includes rehabilitation of the reservoir's embankment and spillway.

The City of Las Vegas had been making due for years with the storage in Peterson Reservoir. Bradner's capacity is 294 acre-feet, while Peterson's is just under 200 acre-feet.

The City of Las Vegas also recently acquired 800 acre-feet of permanent water storage in Storrie Lake. Glorieta Geoscience, a hydrogeologic research firm, determined after extensive study, that the 800 acre-feet of additional storage is the maximum that the city is likely to use. Between the Bradner Reservoir renovation and the water storage in Storrie Lake, the city's useable raw water storage capacity will be increased more than six-fold, from the 197 acre-feet in Peterson Reservoir to roughly 1,300 acre-feet of storage between the Bradner, Peterson and Storrie Reservoirs.

