



## **For Immediate Release**

June 17, 2014

### ***City Issues Voluntary Watering Restrictions***

The City of Alamosa needs your help. Effective immediately, the City is implementing a voluntary watering restriction until further notice. “We realize that this request will catch most residents by surprise, but we are hopeful that everyone will comply with the voluntary restrictions” explains Heather Brooks, City Manager. “We have been working to identify the best solution to a filtering problem that presented itself in 2013, but due to the unique nature of the filters and the single-source supply of this resource, we will not receive the new filters until the end of the month.” What that means to the community is that the City’s water production capabilities are lower than the current demand. “We can easily meet the needs of the community’s household water needs” noted Pat Steenburg, Public Works Director. “However, with the onset of outdoor watering, the water treatment plant will have difficulty meeting the total demand.” Once the new filters have been installed, the plant capacity will be returned to normal levels.

We ask that residents with even numbered houses water on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and those with odd numbered houses water on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It is our expectation that this restriction will be lifted prior to the beginning of August. Please contact the

Department of Public Works at 589-6631 with any questions and your cooperation is appreciated. “We feel that it is important for residents to understand that this is a temporary situation and that the water treatment plant will be returned to full capacity as soon as possible” summarized Brooks.

Background:

The water treatment plant consists of 5 trains, or groups, of filters that remove the arsenic from our well water. When all 5 trains are in operation, even in a period of poor overall performance, the plant is capable of meeting the total water demand, however, each train must periodically be taken off line for cleaning and maintenance. It is only during these times when we are having difficulty meeting the increased demand caused by seasonal irrigation. These voluntary restrictions will allow us to more effectively deal with higher demands while we are in this short transition phase.