NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
GROUND WATER QUALITY BUREAU

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN
(PIP)

Facility Name:	City of Carlsbad Wastewater Treatment Facility
Facility Location:	45 Telltale Lane, approximately three miles southeast of Carlsbad, NM Section 10, Township 22 South, Range 27 East
County:	Eddy
Responsible Party:	Wendy Austin, City Administrator City of Carlsbad P.O. Box 1569 Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221
Agency:	Ground Water Quality Bureau Pollution Prevention Section
GWQB Action:	Permitting - Renewal DP-1274
Bureau Contact:	Deborah Carpenter, Senior Water Resources Professional (505) 531-7430 Deborah.Carpenter@env.nm.gov or pps.general@env.nm.gov Main bureau telephone number: (505) 827-2900

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 26, 2026

REVISION DATE: N/A

Haylea Nisbet

Digitally signed by Haylea Nisbet
Date: 2026.03.26 10:26:51 -06'00'

For

Justin D. Ball, Chief
Ground Water Quality Bureau

Element 1 – Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Overview

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED or Department), Ground Water Quality Bureau (Bureau) has developed this PIP for the application for renewal of the Ground Water Discharge Permit for the City of Carlsbad Wastewater Treatment Facility. The permit for this facility is referred to as DP-1274.

The purpose of this PIP is to plan for providing public participation opportunities and information that may be needed for the community to participate in the permitting process for this facility. This PIP identifies information about the community and resources needed by the Bureau to incorporate community participation activities into the decision-making process. This PIP is developed in accordance with the Department's *Public Participation Policy* (Policy 07-13 or Policy), and incorporates the requirements of the Policy, as well as applicable regulatory and statutory public participation requirements.

This PIP implements the "elements" set forth in the Policy. Those elements include:

1. An overview of the Public Involvement Plan for the community affected by the activity
2. Bureau contact names and contact information, specifically for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) language assistance services (e.g., translation, interpreters) or for disability accommodations
3. A summary of the regulatory public participation framework associated with discharge permits
4. A description of community/stakeholder groups based on results of a preliminary environmental justice (EJ) screening
5. Details about planned public outreach activities

In developing this PIP, community participation needs were assessed to ensure appropriate public outreach. This was accomplished by identifying whether there is a combination of environmental and demographic factors that may impact public participation (e.g., low-income community, minority community, LEP individuals, linguistically isolated households).

Public involvement associated with discharge permits occurs at different stages and in different forms. Public involvement activities required by statute or regulation are mandatory and subject to statutory or regulatory deadlines. Mandatory public involvement activities and associated time requirements relevant to this PIP are noted in the *Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities* at the end of this PIP.

The Bureau plans to conduct the public involvement activities related to the permitting process outlined in the *Table of Public Involvement Activities* below. The activity timeline and dates are tentative and subject to change.

Table of Public Involvement Activities

Activity	Date
Application Notice (PN-1) See *Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities* at the end of this PIP for details.	December 2025
Placement of a hardcopy of the PIP in the local NMED office: Carlsbad NMED Field Office 406 N. Guadalupe, Suite C Carlsbad, NM 88220 (575) 885-9023	April 2026
Notice of availability of draft permit (PN-2) See *Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities*.	Within 60 days of determining the application is technically complete. Date to be determined.

All notices for upcoming meetings or hearings will include a statement that any person who requires assistance, an interpreter, or an auxiliary aid to participate in the process may contact a specifically identified Department person to request those services. Requested interpretation services during the meeting and accommodations or services for persons with disabilities will be arranged to the extent possible.

This PIP is a "living" document that may be amended for numerous reasons, including the consideration of public comments and feedback.

Element 2 – Bureau Contact Information

PIP Specific Contacts

The Bureau contact for this discharge permit is:

Deborah Carpenter, Senior Water Resources Professional
NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau
P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
(505) 531-7430 / deborah.carpenter@env.nm.gov / pps.general@env.nm.gov

Non-English Language Speaker Assistance

All public notices will contain a statement that non-English speakers may call the Bureau contact listed above and request language assistance in order to learn more about this permit or the permitting process. Arrangements may be made for document translation or interpretation related to the permitting process as necessary and as resources allow.

Individuals with Disabilities Assistance

All public notices will contain a statement that individuals with disabilities may call the Bureau contact listed above and request assistance needed to participate in activities associated with the permitting process.

The following information will be provided in public notices so that individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have difficulty speaking on the phone can contact the Bureau and ask questions about the activity or proceeding: Telephone conversation assistance is available through Relay New Mexico at no charge for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have difficulty speaking on the phone, by calling 1-800-659-1779 (English); 1-800-327-1857 (Spanish); TTY users: 1-800-659-8331.

Websites

Outreach materials and notices will include links to the following website, where the Bureau's public notices and PIP information are posted:

Ground Water Quality Bureau – *https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices/*

Element 3 – Regulatory Framework for Public Participation Related to the Permitting Process

The public participation regulatory framework associated with the permitting process is identified in the *Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities* at the end of this PIP. The Table identifies activities subject to statutory or regulatory deadlines, the associated regulatory requirements, and the associated dates or time periods.

Element 4 – Description of Community/Stakeholder Groups Based on the EJSCREEN

EJSCREEN Summary

To provide for adequate public participation opportunities and meaningful involvement of persons in the permitting process, the affected communities must first be identified, informed about proposed environmental actions affecting the community, and invited to share their comments and concerns. The EJSCREEN tool developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) helps identify communities that are low income, have minority populations, and have limited English proficiency that may benefit from a variety of approaches for notification and outreach communication, which is no longer available, therefore, an unofficial copy hosted by the Public Environmental Data Partners is used. This information is used to help plan for the community's involvement in the public process for environmental activities or actions. In addition to the EJSCREEN results, the Bureau may consider additional information such as the U.S. Census Bureau website or NMED's EJ Mapping Tool.

The Bureau considers the affected community to be those persons living within a 4-mile radius of the discharge site. The results of the EJScreen Multisite Report (attached to this PIP) are summarized in the table below.

EJSCREEN* Results for the Affected Community

Total population	18,807
Percentage People of Color population	62%
Percentage of the population by race	Population reporting one race: White: ..... 38% Black: ..... 3% American Indian: ..... 1% Asian: ..... 0% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: ..... 0% Some Other Race: ..... 2% Hispanic: 55%
Percentage of Limited English households	5%
Languages by percentage in Limited English-Speaking Breakdown	Spanish: ..... 96% Other Indo-European languages: ……0% Asian-Pacific Island languages: ……0% Other languages: 4%
Percent linguistically isolated population, New Mexico**:	5.1%
Percentage Low Income	30%
Percentage Low Income, USA***	26%

* An unofficial copy of EJScreen hosted by the Public Environmental Data Partners.

** U.S. Census Bureau. 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1602. Limited English-Speaking Households.
https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=S1602%3A%20LIMITED%20ENGLISH%20SPEAKING%20HOUSEHOLDS&g=0400000US35&tid=ACSST5Y2020.S1602 (date of access: 5/4/2022).

*** U.S. Census Bureau. 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, from EJam Report, an unofficial copy of EJScreen hosted by the Public Environmental Data Partners. (date of access: 3/5/2025).

Element 5 – Detailed Actions and Outreach Activities with the Affected Public

Public involvement activities required by statute or regulation for this permitting action are listed in the *Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities* at the end of this document.

Public Participation – Outreach Activities

The Bureau will conduct the following outreach activities during this permitting process:

- Placement of this PIP on the Bureau website and in nearby NMED field office
- Postal mailing and email notices
- Newspaper notices
- Notice posted on NMED website

Newspapers to be utilized in the notification process include:

- Statewide circulation (English): Albuquerque Journal
- Local circulation (English): Roswell Daily Record and Carlsbad Current Argus – Eddy County

Local, state, and federal government agencies, tribal entities, land grant officials and colonias will be notified about the permitting process. A list of the agencies and officials notified can be provided upon request.

Indian Tribes, Pueblos and Nations will be notified about the permitting action through the contacts maintained by the Indian Affairs Department at the following URLs:

https://www.iad.state.nm.us/pueblo-tribes-and-nations/pueblos/
https://www.iad.state.nm.us/pueblo-tribes-and-nations/navajo/
https://www.iad.state.nm.us/pueblo-tribes-and-nations/apaches/

Timelines and methods for submitting public comments are specified in the *Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities.* Final discharge permit documents will be available from the Bureau's contact identified in Element 2 of this PIP.

Postal Mailing or E-Mailing of Notices to Persons on the Facility-Specific Mailing List

The Bureau solicits the names and contact information of interested parties with all public notices. The Bureau maintains those names on a Facility-Specific Mailing List and provides the individuals with information about regulatory activities for the facility. Individuals, organizations, and other interested parties are added to the mailing list as requested. All public notices will contain a statement directing interested individuals to contact the Bureau contact for this permit if they want to be added to the facility specific mailing list.

Other means of outreach such as fliers announcing public comment periods and/or public meetings or hearings may be posted in locations throughout the community (e.g., local

businesses, schools, libraries) and on the Department's website, at the Bureau's discretion after consideration of public interest and input.

PIP Contingency Plan

During a public health emergency or other unforeseen event outside the control of the Department, the Department will make every effort to ensure the public remains involved in and informed of the decision making and permit processes. The purpose of this PIP Contingency Plan is in part to address circumstances when public spaces are closed because of potential human exposure risks. The Department will attempt to identify and utilize alternate methods of document delivery to the public and public viewing when conventional methods and locations are unavailable. When it is unsafe to utilize the physical PIP and document repositories, the Department will consider utilizing electronic delivery methods deemed appropriate for the permitting action. While operating under the PIP Contingency Plan, the PN-2 will include a statement specifying that the PIP Contingency Plan is in effect and that, "instead of placing a copy of the PIP for this permitting action in a public location, NMED will make the PIP available to the community by sending the PIP by email or US mail to any community member requesting a copy. An individual may request a copy of the PIP utilizing the Bureau contact information in this public notice. When making such a request, please specify how you would like the document delivered. If you request a copy of a PIP, you will receive a revised PIP should the PIP be updated in the future." During the times of potential human exposure risks and the resultant implementation of this PIP Contingency Plan, public meetings and hearings will only be held when or through means by which the Department can ensure the public's health and safety and this PIP can be fully adhered to.

Attachments

- A copy of the EJSCREEN Multisite Report, and a map showing the area evaluated.

Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities

Activity	Dates
Application Notice (PN-1): The first notice of the Bureau's receipt of the permit application – applicant's obligations at 20.6.2.3108.B and C NMAC – Bureau's obligations at 20.6.2.3108.E NMAC • Posting a flyer in a location conspicuous to the public – Applicant obligation • Newspaper display ads (PN-1 synopsis[1] in English and Spanish)- Applicant obligation • NMED website	Within 30 days of the department deeming the application administratively complete

[1] Suitable for display, the abbreviated format of the PN-1 synopsis does not contain all the information provided by a full public notice, e.g., language assistance or non-discrimination information.

https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices/ • Notice to government agencies • Notice to interested parties	
Permit Notice (PN-2): Notice to the public of the availability of a draft permit for a 30-day review and comment period – the notice will outline the process for requesting a public hearing – obligation at 20.6.2.3108.H through J NMAC • NMED website https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices/ • Newspaper legal ads • Notification of interested parties • Notice to government agencies • Notice to Indian Tribes, Pueblos and Nations	Within 60 days of the department determining the application is technically complete and drafting a permit.
Fact Sheet (for federal facilities, except those with only domestic waste discharges): To include general information regarding the permittee, the facility, the discharge, procedures to be followed in making a final permit determination, the comment period, procedures for a person to request a hearing, contact information to obtain a copy of the draft permit and fact sheet, and a brief summary of the basis of draft permit conditions – obligation at 20.6.2.3108.I NMAC[2]	With the PN-2
Public Hearing Notice (if required): Upon the Department's determination that there is substantial public interest in the permit – obligation at 20.6.2.3108.M NMAC. Notice includes information on how to participate in the hearing, and how to request an interpreter or auxiliary aid if needed. • NMED website https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices/ • Newspapers • Notice to interested parties • Notice to government agencies • Notice to Indian Tribes, Pueblos and Nations	Notice of the hearing shall occur at least 30 days prior to the hearing.
Response to Comments (if comments received): Upon the Secretary's decision regarding issuance of a discharge permit – obligation at 20.6.2.3109.B NMAC. The Response to Comments shall specify which provisions, if any, in the draft permit were changed and the reasons for the change, and shall briefly describe and respond to all significant comments on the draft permit raised during the public comment period or at any hearing. The Secretary shall notify persons who participated in the permitting action by mail or email of the	Response is issued 30 days after the administrative record is complete and all required information is available

[2] NMED considers the cited regulation to more appropriately reference the information in 20.6.2.3108.K instead of distribution methods of 20.6.2.3108.J NMAC.

action taken and the reasons for such action and shall include a copy of the Response to Comments.	

EJSCREEN Community Report

This report summarizes environmental and residential population information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into indexes.

Summary of Analysis

Residents within 4 miles of this specified point
(Site 1, ejam_uniq_id 1) centered at 32.410742, -104.177641
Area in Square Miles: 50.27
Population: 18,807

Environmental and Residential Population Indicators

	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA	RATIO TO US AVG	RATIO TO STATE AVG
POLLUTION AND SOURCES							
Particulate Matter (PM 2.5 in ug/m3)	6.52	6.11	64	8.45	10	0.8	1.1
Ozone (ppb)	69.6	65.3	99	61.8	85	1.1	1.1
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)	11.7	8.1	86	7.8	86	1.5	1.5
Diesel Particulate Matter (ug/m3)	0.096	0.187	44	0.191	27	0.5	0.5
Toxic Releases to Air	1	29	42	4,600	4	0.0	0.0
Traffic Proximity and Volume (daily traffic count/distance to road)	130,000	730,000	41	1,700,000	19	0.1	0.2
Lead Paint Indicator (% pre-1960s housing)	44.35%	0.19	84	0.3	70	1.5	2.3
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.00	0.34	0	0.39	0	0.0	0.0
RMP Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.01	0.20	53	0.57	28	0.0	0.0
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.7	1.2	59	3.5	39	0.2	0.6
Underground Storage Tanks (UST) indicator	9.7	2.8	92	3.6	89	2.7	3.5
Wastewater Discharge Indicator (toxicity-weighted concentration/distance)	0	990,000	39	700,000	16	0.0	0.0
Drinking Water Non-Compliance	1.0	5.58	80	2.2	83	0.5	0.2
RESIDENTIAL POPULATION INDICATORS							
Demographic Index USA	1.68	2.16	42	1.34	69	1.3	0.9
Supplemental Demographic Index USA	2.12	1.62	66	1.64	78	1.3	1.2
% Low Income	30%	39%	36	30%	55	1.0	0.8
% in limited English-speaking Households	5%	6%	65	5%	75	1.0	0.9
% Unemployed	3%	6%	40	6%	42	0.5	0.4
% with Less Than High School Education	19%	14%	73	11%	81	1.7	1.4
% under Age 5	5%	5%	61	5%	56	1.0	1.0
% over Age 64	16%	20%	45	18%	50	0.9	0.8
% People of Color	62%	62%	48	40%	73	1.6	1.0

EJ Indexes

The summary and supplemental EJ indexes are a combination of environmental and residential population information.

For each of the environmental indicators, there is an EJ Index and a Supplemental EJ Index.

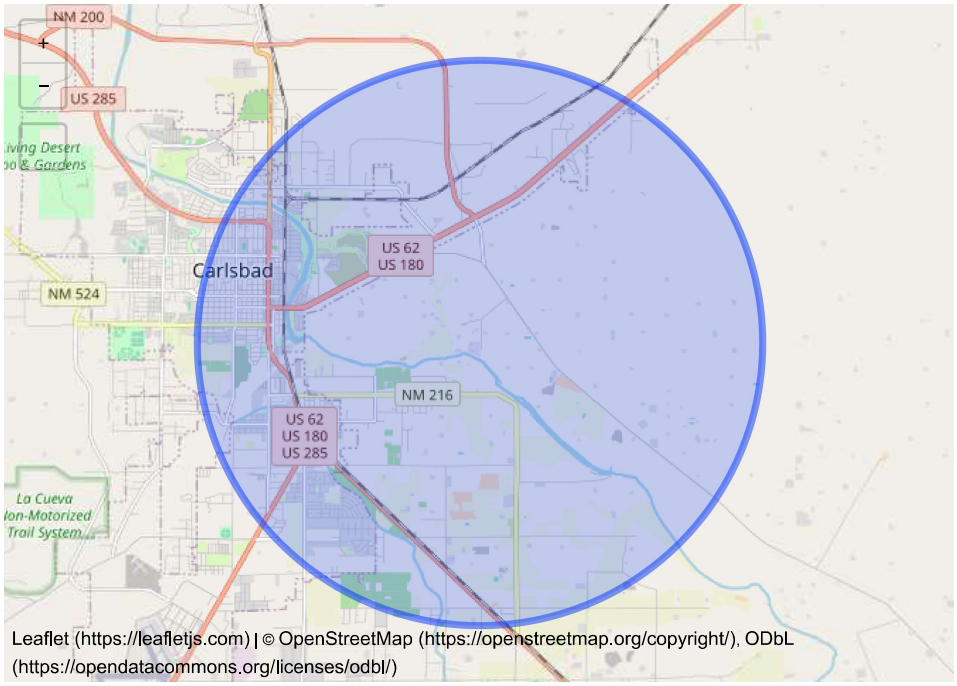
The indexes for a selected area are compared to those for all other locations in the state or nation.

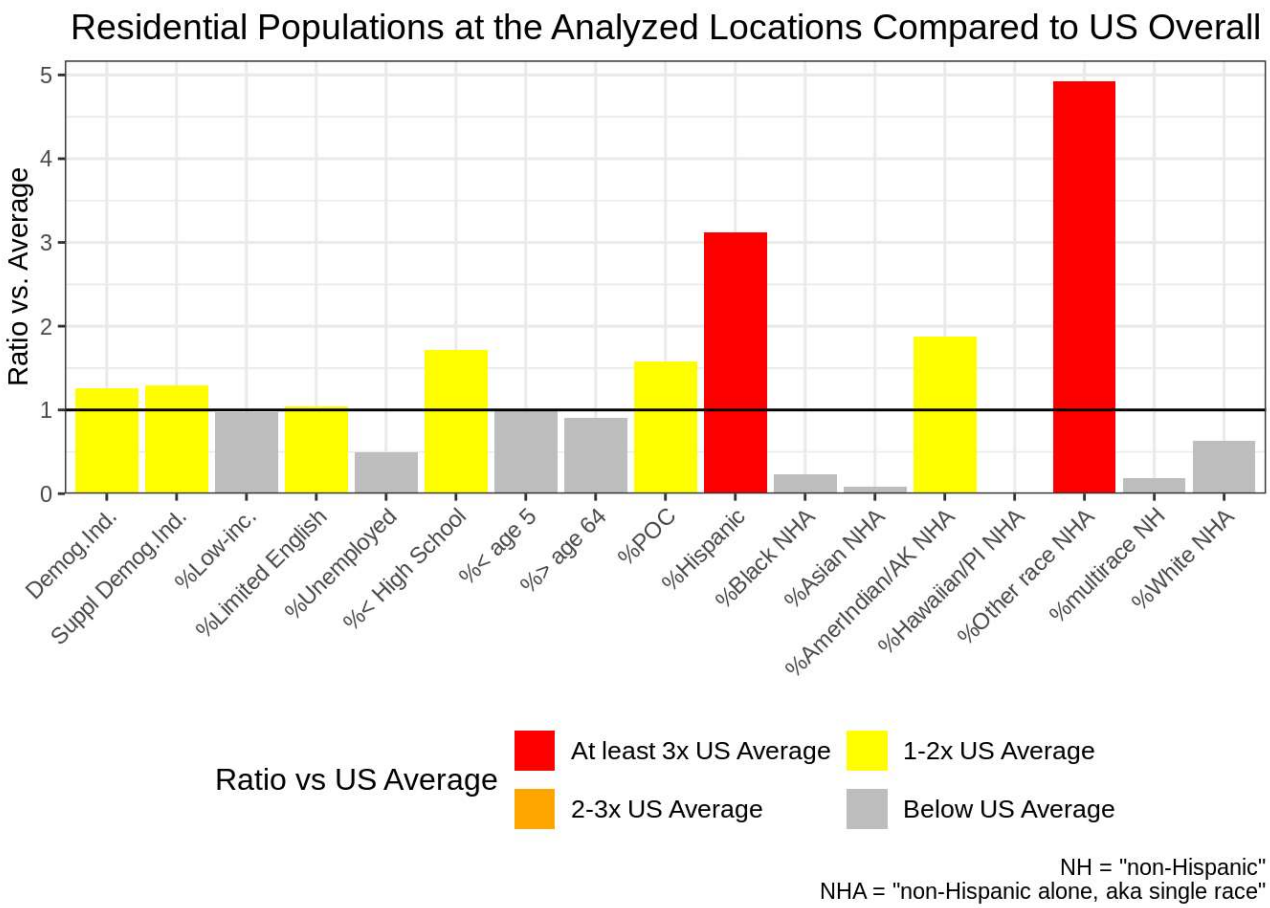
	PERCENTILE IN STATE	PERCENTILE IN USA
EJ INDEXES		
Particulate Matter Summary Index	65	23
Ozone Summary Index	87	85
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) Summary Index	75	82
Diesel Particulate Matter Summary Index	47	49
Toxic Releases to Air Summary Index	37	6
Traffic Proximity and Volume Summary Index	43	38
Lead Paint Summary Index	68	78
Superfund Proximity Summary Index	0	0
RMP Proximity Summary Index	53	28
Hazardous Waste Proximity Summary Index	58	57
Underground Storage Tanks Summary Index	72	81
Wastewater Discharge Summary Index	42	33
Drinking Water Non-Compliance Summary Index	70	74
SUPPLEMENTAL EJ INDEXES		
Particulate Matter Supplemental Summary Index	79	16
Ozone Supplemental Summary Index	95	93
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) Supplemental Summary Index	86	89
Diesel Particulate Matter Supplemental Summary Index	59	44
Toxic Releases to Air Supplemental Summary Index	45	4
Traffic Proximity and Volume Supplemental Summary Index	54	30
Lead Paint Supplemental Summary Index	82	81
Superfund Proximity Supplemental Summary Index	0	0
RMP Proximity Supplemental Summary Index	53	28
Hazardous Waste Proximity Supplemental Summary Index	73	55
Underground Storage Tanks Supplemental Summary Index	82	86
Wastewater Discharge Supplemental Summary Index	56	25
Drinking Water Non-Compliance Supplemental Summary Index	70	73

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	VALUE	RATIO TO US AVG	RATIO TO STATE AVG
BREAKDOWN BY POPULATION GROUP			
% Hispanic or Latino	55%	3.1	1.2
% Black or African American (non-Hispanic, single race)	3%	0.2	1.6
% Asian (non-Hispanic, single race)	0%	0.1	0.3
% American Indian and Alaska Native (non-Hispanic, single race)	1%	1.9	0.1
% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic, single race)	0%	0	0
% Other race (non-Hispanic, single race)	2%	4.9	6
% Two or more races (non-Hispanic)	1%	0.2	0.3
% White (non-Hispanic, single race)	38%	0.6	1
LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME			
% speaking Non English languages at home	24%	NA	NA
% speaking Other Indo-European at home	0%	NA	NA
% speaking Asian and Pacific Island languages at home	0%	NA	NA
% speaking Other and Unspecified languages at home	0%	NA	NA
% speaking English at home	1	NA	NA
% speaking Spanish at home	24%	NA	NA
% speaking French at home	0	NA	NA
% speaking Russian, Polish or Other Slavic at home	0	NA	NA
% speaking Indo-European at home	0	NA	NA
% speaking Vietnamese at home	0	NA	NA
% speaking Other Asian and Pacific Island languages at home	0	NA	NA
% speaking Arabic at home	0	NA	NA
LANGUAGE IN LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING HOUSEHOLDS			
% speaking Spanish (as % of limited English households)	96%	NA	NA

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	VALUE	RATIO TO US AVG	RATIO TO STATE AVG
% speaking Other Indo-European languages (as % of limited English households)	0%	NA	NA
% speaking Asian-Pacific Island languages (as % of limited English households)	0%	NA	NA
% speaking Other languages (as % of limited English households)	4%	NA	NA
BREAKDOWN BY SEX			
% Males	52%	NA	NA
% Females	48%	NA	NA
HEALTH			
% with Disabilities	17%	1.3	1
% with Low Life Expectancy	24%	1.2	1.2
% with Heart Diseases	6	NA	NA
% of Adults with Asthma	10.00	NA	NA
% of Adults with Cancer (excluding skin cancer)	6.68	NA	NA
AGE			
% under Age 5	5%	1	1
% under age 18	23%	NA	NA
% over Age 64	16%	0.9	0.8
COMMUNITY			
Occupied Housing Units	7,159	NA	NA
Life Expectancy in Years	74	NA	NA
Per Capita Income	34,255	NA	NA
% Owner Occupied households	71%	NA	NA
POVERTY			
% of Households below Poverty Level	14%	NA	NA
FEATURES AND LOCATION INFORMATION			
Number of Sites Nearby (total unique)	1	NA	NA
Distance to Closest Site for Avg Person	3.4	NA	NA
Number of Sites Nearby (avg)	1.0	NA	NA
Number of Sites Nearby (max)	1	NA	NA
Distance to Closest Site	0.3	NA	NA
Count of National Priority List Superfund sites	0	NA	NA
Count of Treatment Storage Disposal Facilities (TSDF)	1	NA	NA
Number of Air Pollution Facilities	55	NA	NA
Number of Toxic Release Facilities	0	NA	NA
Number of Water Discharge Facilities	71	NA	NA
Number of Brownfields	0	NA	NA
Number of Schools	9	NA	NA
Number of Worship Places	10	NA	NA
Number of Hospitals	1	NA	NA
Flag for Overlapping with Tribes	0	NA	NA
Flag for Overlapping with Impaired Waters	1	NA	NA
Flag for Overlapping with Non-Attainment Areas	0	NA	NA
Flag for Overlapping with CEJST Disadvantaged Communities	1	NA	NA
Flag for Overlapping with EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities	1	NA	NA
CLIMATE			
Estimated Fire Risk in 30 Years	1%	NA	NA
Estimated Flood Risk in 30 Years	0%	NA	NA
CRITICAL SERVICES			
Flag for Overlapping with Housing Burden Communities	0	NA	NA
Flag for Overlapping with Food Desert Areas	1	NA	NA
% Households without Broadband Internet	18%	NA	NA
% Households without Health Insurance	0%	NA	NA
Flag for Overlapping with Transportation Disadvantaged Communities	1	NA	NA
OTHER			
Total Population	18,807	NA	NA
Count of Population Age 25 up	12,670	NA	NA
Count of Households	7,159	NA	NA
Universe for % unemployed (denominator, count)	15,119	NA	NA
Count of Housing Units Built Pre 1960	3,632	NA	NA
Built housing units count (denominator for % pre 1960)	8,190	NA	NA
Count of Population for whom Poverty Status is Determined	18,405	NA	NA

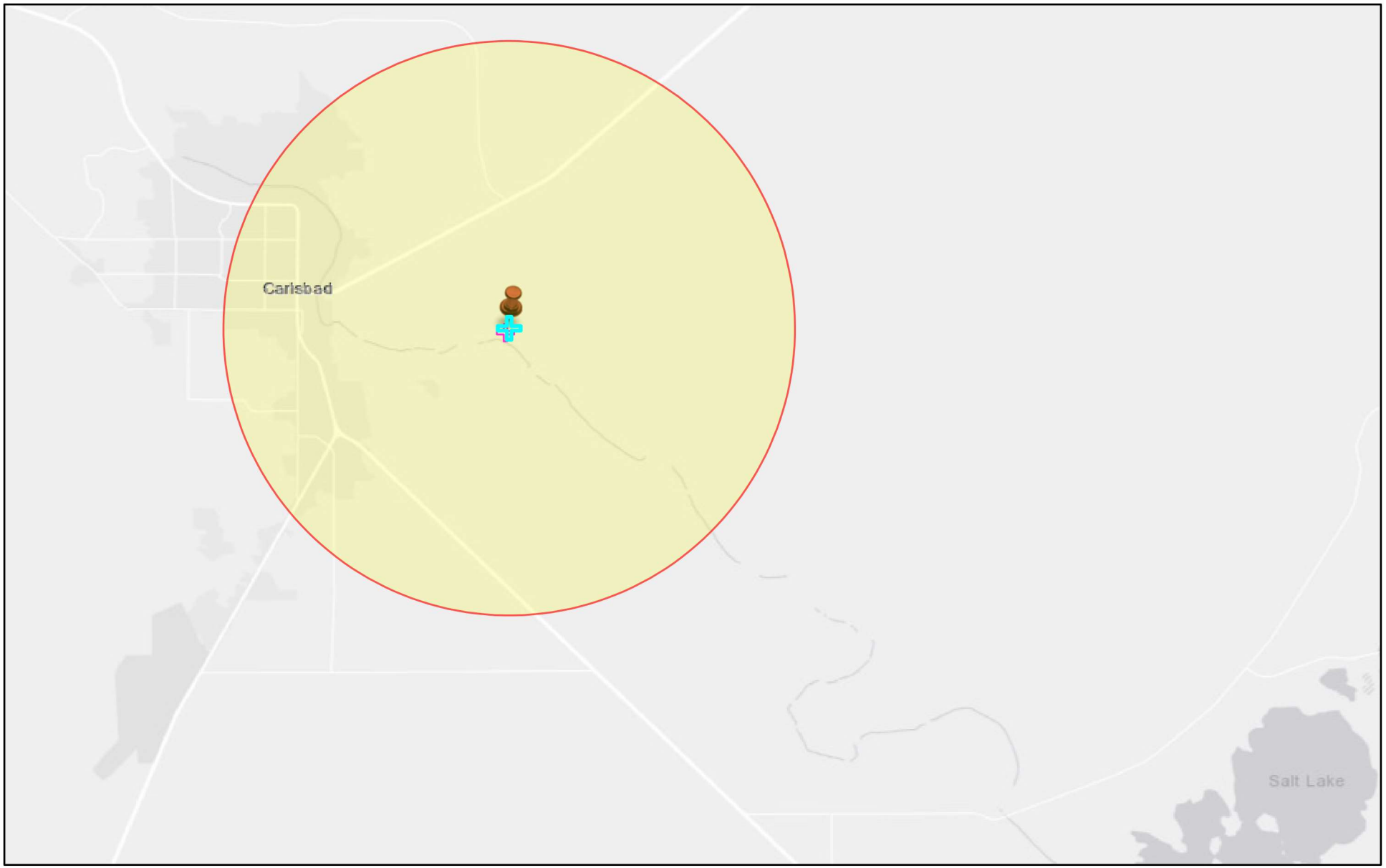
Note: Diesel particulate matter index is from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update (https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update)





Report created by EJAM version 2.32.7 on March 12, 2026

DP-1274



3/12/2026

1:144,448

0 1 2 4 mi

0 1.5 3 6 km

DP-1274

Search Result (point)

Bureau of Land Management, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS, Esri, HERE, NPS