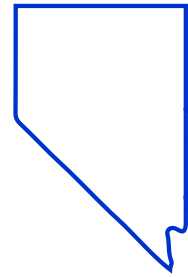


Analysis: Federal budget cuts would contaminate Nevada's air and water, leaving Nevadans vulnerable to long-term health risks

The President's budget proposes eliminating core protections, putting Nevadans' health at risk and letting polluters off the hook.



Everyone deserves clean air and water. These basic public health rights are why the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created: to prevent pollution that triggers asthma attacks and heart disease, and to safeguard our drinking water from contamination.

President Trump's budget proposes decimating the EPA, giving polluters a free pass to pump toxic chemicals into Nevadans' air and water. The proposal slashes EPA's overall budget by more than half, including gutting more than [86%](#) of funds to provide safe drinking water to Nevada communities.

EPA's investments keep Nevadans' water drinkable and their air breathable, and it holds the polluters who threaten those basic rights accountable.

Water Contamination

Clean water isn't just a basic right—it's a requirement for survival.



**86% cut
to Nevada's Drinking Water
SRF (over \$9 mil)**



**90% cut
to Nevada's Clean Water
SRF (over \$7 mil)**



**Over 485k Nevadans
drinking problematic
level of toxic PFAS**

According to [EPA data](#), more than 485,000 Nevadans are served by a water utility releasing a problematic level of toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), otherwise known as "forever chemicals," into drinking water. President Trump's budget would hamper Nevada's ability to address this issue, as well as its estimated [6,783 lead](#) service lines, as the administration proposes to eliminate most of the state's funding for ensuring clean and safe water.

EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) provide low-interest loans and other financial assistance to public water systems for critical drinking water infrastructure projects, including lead service line replacement and treatment for PFAS in drinking water.

Examples of What's at Stake:

Unsafe Drinking Water: President Trump's budget cuts mean Nevada's federal resources would be reduced by 86% (over \$9 million) for its Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF), leaving Nevadans without the bulk of federal funding needed to ensure they have safe drinking water. For example, Silver Springs Mutual Water Company [received](#) more than \$4 million for six projects between 2022-2024 to replace wells, upgrade tanks, and install new water mains, among other improvements to its drinking water system. Future projects like this could be jeopardized without maintained federal funding.

Insufficient Infrastructure: Citizens in cities like Las Vegas rely heavily on federal funding to ensure safe drinking water. The Las Vegas Water Valley, for example, was able to modernize its water systems through a [\\$15 million](#) grant from the [Drinking Water SRF](#), replacing old water meters and upgrading the filtering process, among other improvements that safeguarded Nevadans' water—the same fund that the President's budget would cut by 86%.

Air Pollution

Everyone deserves clean air, and breathing shouldn't make you sick.



President Trump's budget would gut programs that support clean air and eliminate vital protections that Nevadans depend on. More than [269,000 Nevadans](#) (roughly 1 in 12 people), including more than 49,000 children, suffer from asthma, putting them at increased risk of attacks triggered by smog and soot from unchecked pollution.

Examples of What's at Stake:

Poor Air Quality: President Trump's proposed elimination of all federal funding for State & Local Air Quality Management Grants would have lasting effects in Nevada, which received over \$4 million in funding from these grants in 2023. Without federal support, state agencies would be forced to reduce staff, curtail monitoring networks, or potentially abandon certain projects altogether. This would lead to increased health risks for vulnerable populations and set back progress on meeting national air quality standards.

Increased Vehicle Emissions: President Trump's budget would eliminate the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Program, which provided more than \$2.6 million to Nevada in 2024, undercutting the state's efforts to [replace](#) older polluting trucks and buses with newer, cleaner technologies that don't emit cancer-causing fumes. The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, for example, received more than \$630,000 in 2023 for an ongoing project to [replace](#) diesel-powered buses with clean alternative-fueled versions across multiple school districts.

Letting Polluters Off the Hook

Polluters shouldn't get a free pass to pollute, and no one is above the law.



EPA enforcement ensures that polluters are held accountable and that environmental protections are real—not just words on paper. Trump is proposing to cut EPA's enforcement budget by 45%, a move that would make air less breathable and water less drinkable. As of September 2025, Nevada has [more than 150 facilities](#) with current violations. Without enforcement resources, efforts to bring polluters into compliance—like those below—risk being abandoned, resulting in unchecked pollution in Nevada.

Examples of What's at Stake:

Poorly Managed Facilities: In 2023, EPA [took action](#) against ABF Freight System, Inc, after the national freight carrier [failed](#) to properly store chemicals and vehicle fluids at its facilities, which can lead to polluted stormwater runoff and increased flooding. One of those facilities was in Nevada. Future cuts could hinder EPA's ability to bring similar facilities into compliance, leaving communities more vulnerable to water contamination and flood risks.

Polluted Wetlands: In 2025, EPA [took action](#) against Nevada Tri Partners, LLC and Liberty Dogs, LLC after the companies allegedly discharged pollutants, including dredged or fill material, into 6.13 acres of wetlands connected to waters in Reno, NV, endangering the health of Nevadans. Without federal enforcement resources, future violations like this could go unchecked, threatening wetlands that protect Nevadans' water quality and community health.

Bottom Line

EPA's air and water safeguards should give Nevadans the freedom to breathe clean air and drink clean water without a second thought. But President Trump's budget request for EPA would severely weaken or outright eliminate the programs and enforcement actions protecting Nevadans from polluters.

Visit our [website](#) and take action for Nevada.

