

TMWA weighs in on Flint water crisis

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RENO, Nev. -- The Flint water crisis has been called a national disgrace as evidence indicates lead was poisoning the city's water system for more than a year. There is also evidence of major mistakes and cover-ups at multiple levels, including regulatory agencies as well as elected officials.

Unfortunately, this has happened before in other American cities, including Washington D. C. It is even now happening in Sebring, Ohio, with some saying the city could be the next Flint.

Fox 11's Terri Hendry asked Truckee Meadows Water Authority Operations Supervisor, Will Raymond if something similar could happen here.

He said, "The situation in Flint really would not be likely to happen here because our infrastructure is much newer. We do not have lead pipe, and we really do have a consistent water source, the Truckee River."

A change in water source, lead pipes and the wrong mix of chemicals are said to have created the problem in Flint.

When asked about his thoughts on the situation there, Raymond responded, "There seems to be multiple failures at different levels."

He said he cannot understand why Flint officials did not act when residents started showing them dirty, discolored water. He said, "You know warning bells should have been going off for everybody that something is not right there."

While Raymond said our water facility has a very similar regulatory and oversight structure, there is one big difference: local ownership. Raymond said, "We pride ourselves on having that local ownership, which was established in 2001. I'm not ashamed to say I drink the water right out of the tap and so do most of the employees that I know."

Raymond said in addition to the required regulatory testing, TMWA performs routine sampling over and above what is required. [CLICK HERE](#) to see TMWA's annual Water Quality reports