Coffee tasting stimulates discussion on Nev. water quality

By Yvonne Gonzalez, Las Vegas Sun

Not only does Nevada's naturally hard water cloud the taste of coffee, experts say — it also requires steady monitoring, even if lawmakers approve cuts to a federal agency that monitors quality.

A coffee tasting at UNLV served as a platform to discuss potential budget cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency while illustrating how Nevada's hard water can affect flavor. Environmental policy Professor Ted Greenhalgh said the state's geography adds minerals to the water.

Iron, calcium and calcium carbonate wash out from rocks and into the water supply, Greenhalgh said.

Perchlorate, a chemical compound that often is commercially produced and can affect the thyroid gland, has been found in Nevada water, Greenhalgh said.

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