

Appendix B

Overview of Committee Meetings

MEETING 1 – Monday, March 17, 2003

The committee was welcomed by Pat Mulroy, General Manager for the Southern Nevada Water Authority. Ms. Mulroy provided remarks concerning the drought and its effect on the Colorado River before stating the committee would provide recommendations on the Drought Emergency stage of the SNWA Drought Plan, as well as feedback on the Drought Alert and Drought Watch stages.

Lewis Michaelson, Katz & Associates, discussed his role as a neutral facilitator who would be responsible for conducting the meetings. He said the ultimate goal of the process was consensus and his primary role during the meetings would be to ensure that all members of the committee had an opportunity to participate fully in the discussions and used their time effectively.

Committee members introduced themselves and provided information on their backgrounds. The committee determined their meeting schedule and reviewed the mission statement and principles of participation. Kay Brothers, SNWA Deputy General Manager of Engineering and Operations, gave the committee an overview of the SNWA and the drought. The presentation focused on how current drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin are affecting Southern Nevada. Ms. Brothers also provided an overview of Southern Nevada's integrated resource planning process, which emphasizes the use of Colorado River water. The committee asked various questions regarding drought and water conservation. Public comments focused on water waste, make up of the committee membership and implementation of the drought restrictions.

MEETING 2 – Monday, March 25, 2003

The committee received a presentation on the SNWA Water Resource Plan from Ken Albright, Director of SNWA Resources. The committee asked several questions regarding the Colorado River apportionment and groundwater.

The committee received a presentation from Doug Bennett, SNWA Conservation Manager, on current SNWA water conservation programs. Doug explained how the community uses water, the difference between consumptive and non-consumptive uses, and how those uses affect demand. The committee asked questions regarding water use by the different customer sectors and incentive programs.

Ken Albright finished the meeting by reviewing the SNWA Drought Plan and its key elements. Committee questions focused on the drought stages and the measures outlined in the plan. There were no comments from the public.

MEETING 3 – Monday, April 14, 2003

The committee reviewed the drought presentation that was given at the previous meeting to ensure understanding of the three drought stages and how the stages are tied to the water levels of Lake Mead. The committee also reviewed the nine principles that helped guide staff from the SNWA and its member agencies during development of the measures for the Drought Watch and Drought Alert stages of the SNWA Drought Plan. A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the

economic impact of the plan on the community. Other topics included water rates and the need to have SNWA staff identify potential water savings attributed to each measure in the Drought Plan. The committee reviewed the Drought Plan matrix and discussed numerous measures for the Drought Emergency stage. There were no comments from the public.

MEETING 4 – Monday, April 28, 2003

The committee reviewed the Drought Plan matrix prepared by staff. An extensive discussion arose regarding a request to quantify water savings for each suggested drought measure. Ken Albright explained the difficulty of forecasting water savings, given the unpredictability of how the community will respond to specific drought measures. With this caveat, however, he worked with the committee to develop some rough estimates of water savings amounts for several different drought measures. Public comments focused on growth and its effect on Southern Nevada's water supply.

MEETING 5 – Monday, May 12, 2003

The committee suggested ideas for possible Drought Emergency measures and policy-related recommendations. Several members voiced concern over the potential adverse economic impact that may occur to the community due to some of the drought measures. A prolonged discussion was held about how greater water savings could be achieved by targeting homeowners instead of golf courses. The committee spent a large amount of time discussing golf course water budgets and it was eventually suggested that staff and representatives of the golf courses work together offline to determine feasible water budget amounts for the drought stages. This would prevent the issue from unduly delaying the progress of the committee. The committee also agreed that it would focus on specific measures for the Drought Plan matrix at the next meeting. Public comments pertained to waterless vehicle washing and improving community awareness about the committee activities.

MEETING 6 – Tuesday, May 27, 2003

The committee went item-by-item through the Drought Plan matrix and proposed preliminary measures. Committee members discussed the issue of water waste enforcement and suggested criminalizing those who repeatedly violate water waste restrictions. A lengthy discussion on swimming pools occurred and several members questioned the technical and economic consequences if pools were not filled. Public comments concerned postponing the use of golf course water budgets and increasing community education about drought and water conservation. The committee was updated on the status of golf course water budget discussions.

MEETING 7 – Monday, June 16, 2003

The committee reviewed a version of the Drought Plan matrix that staff had prepared to reflect the suggestions made at the previous meeting. Committee members reviewed the proposed measures in the Drought Emergency column and considered whether they were sufficient or if additional measures were needed. The committee discussed residential water budgets and penalties at length. The committee asked several questions regarding the implementation of

water budgets. Public comments focused on growth as the cause of water problems and the lack of public awareness of the drought.

MEETING 8 – Monday, June 30, 2003

The committee received overviews of proposed rate changes for the Las Vegas Valley Water District and City of Henderson from Cary Casey, LVVWD Director of Finance, and Kurt Segler, Director of Utility Operations in Henderson (respectively).

A lengthy discussion was held concerning the status of the golf course water budget amount for Drought Watch. Staff indicated that the golf course representatives had committed to submitting their own analysis to the SNWA on feasible budget amounts for the drought stages, but that no analysis had yet been provided. To meet deadlines for the ordinances and service rules necessary to implement drought measures in August, the SNWA was therefore proposing 6.0 acre-feet per irrigated acre as a feasible target amount for Drought Watch. Staff noted this amount was subject to review if the golf course industry provided their analysis to the SNWA and the committee.

The committee continued to refine the proposed measures in the Drought Emergency column of the Drought Plan matrix. Public comments centered on golf course watering budgets and personal conservation research conducted by a local resident.

MEETING 9 – Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Members representing the golf course industry provided committee members with copies of two water budget proposals for review before updating the committee on the status of the industry's discussions with the SNWA concerning water budget amounts.

The committee reviewed preliminary draft recommendations that had been prepared by staff based on the committee's discussions to date. The committee also reviewed a list of other ideas for Drought Emergency that members had previously suggested, but had not been discussed in full and brainstormed new ideas. In addition, the members brainstormed new ideas, which were added to the list. The committee then reviewed the list of additional ideas and eliminated measures that were less restrictive than the measures in Drought Alert, or which had already been proposed in the Drought Plan matrix. The committee then participated in a ranking exercise to further refine the list. There were no comments from the public.

MEETING 10 – Monday, July 28, 2003

The committee reviewed the draft recommendations distributed at the previous meeting. The focus of the discussion involved Recommendations #3 and #8, which pertained to public education and water budgets for schools, parks and government facilities. The committee discussed at length how schools could reduce their water use. The committee also discussed the availability of rebate money for turf conversions and held a lengthy discussion on growth. Public comment pertained to the importance of water waste enforcement under the Drought Plan.

MEETING 11 – Monday, August 11, 2003

The committee conducted a re-ranking exercise to finalize the list of additional measures. The resulting list of measures would constitute Recommendation #2.

The committee reviewed an updated version of its draft recommendations. Richard Wimmer, Deputy General Manager of Administration, provided an update on the water budget discussions between staff and golf course representatives. He explained that after a series of discussions and meetings, an agreement had been reached that 6.5 acre-feet per irrigated acre would be the budget target for golf courses in Drought Watch. Amounts for the Drought Alert stage were still under discussion. Committee members recommended several changes to the recommendation text for clarification. There were no comments from the public.

MEETING 12 – Monday, August 25, 2003

The committee received an update on drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin from Ken Albright, Director of SNWA Resources, before reviewing its draft recommendations report. The committee approved the report after suggesting a few changes be made throughout the document, such as bulleting the list of additional measures in Recommendation #2 and incorporating a revision of the growth recommendation provided by one of the members. The members were thanked for their participation and were told they would be contacted when the final recommendations report is scheduled for presentation to the SNWA Board of Directors. Public comment pertained to the importance of water waste enforcement under the Drought Plan.

Complete copies of the Drought CAC meetings and the SNWA Drought Plan are available on request. Please contact Ellen Moskito at (702) 822-8380 or ellen.moskito@snwa.com