

With these issues and concerns in mind, the Drought CAC developed a series of recommended measures for the Drought Emergency column in the SNWA Drought Plan matrix, as well as nine other recommendations on more general topics.

The recommendations are contained in Chapter III of this report. Members also recognized that if the recommended Drought Emergency measures were implemented and proved ineffective in reducing consumptive use to the levels needed, the SNWA and its member agencies would need to explore even more stringent measures in order to minimize the impacts of a severe water shortage on the community. The committee developed a preliminary list of suggestions for this situation, which is included in Chapter III, Recommendation 2.

II. Advisory Committee Process

The Drought CAC was structured to represent a broad cross-section of the community. Each of the seven elected officials on the SNWA Board of Directors appointed four individuals to participate, resulting in a committee of 28 citizens. Members were selected on the basis of their stakeholder interest, as well as for their ability to participate in a lengthy series of meetings requiring a substantial commitment of time and effort. The result was a committee comprised of diverse, interested citizens, reflecting a wide variety of opinions on the use of water resources and drought. Appendix A provides a list of the Drought CAC members and the stakeholder groups they represented.

To coordinate and manage the committee meetings, the SNWA retained an independent, neutral facilitator from out-of-state (Lewis Michaelson from Katz & Associates, San Diego, California). Mr. Michaelson was responsible for coordinating the dialogue and interaction among committee members at each meeting, ensuring all perspectives had an opportunity to be heard and considered, and suggesting appropriate process or conflict management tools to assist the committee members in problem-solving and other aspects of their deliberations. He functioned independently of the SNWA in working with committee members to develop ideas and recommendations, making himself available to members before and after meetings. His primary focus was to ensure the process remained open, collaborative and productive.

To this end, the Drought CAC discussed and adopted the following mission statement at its first meeting:

To review the SNWA Drought Plan in order to make recommendation(s) to the SNWA Board of Directors on measures for the Drought Emergency stage and possible improvements to the plan.

The committee also adopted the following set of ground rules for committee operation:

DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

All perspectives are valued. The preferred approach to making decisions is collaborative problem-solving leading to consensus. In cases of non-consensus, however, minority viewpoints will be preserved.

SUPPORT

A professional facilitator, as well as Southern Nevada Water Authority staff, will provide assistance to the Citizens Advisory Committee during its discussions. Southern Nevada Water Authority staff will also be available to make additional presentations and provide technical information as needed.

MEETING RECORDING

Meetings will be audiotaped to assist in the preparation of meeting summaries, which will be subsequently mailed to committee members for their reference.

OBSERVERS

Meetings are intended to promote the interaction and exchange of ideas between committee members. Observers are welcome to the Drought meetings, but are asked to reserve any comments for the public comment period at the end of each meeting.

ALTERNATES

If a committee member becomes unavailable to attend a meeting, he or she may send an alternate to monitor that meeting. The alternate will not be permitted to participate in committee discussion.

As noted above, collaborative problem-solving and consensus functioned as the basis for identifying final recommendations of the Drought CAC. Members did not vote on specific items, but worked together to identify positions that were acceptable to the committee as a whole. In instances where consensus was not possible because members had conflicting positions or perspectives on an issue, the conflicting views have been preserved in the narrative accompanying the particular issue in Chapter III of this report.

Lastly, in addition to the mission statement and ground rules, committee members were responsible for consistent participation, presenting the perspective of their particular organization or stakeholder group where appropriate, coordinating with their particular organization or stakeholder group to keep them aware of the committee's discussions and issues, and working cooperatively with other committee members to accomplish the process objective. To assist in meeting these responsibilities, the SNWA assigned staff to prepare and deliver meeting summaries, coordinate committee schedules and provide other administrative coordination and assistance for the process.

An overview of each Drought CAC meeting is provided in Appendix B. A complete summary of each Drought CAC meeting is available by contacting the SNWA.