

Integrated Resources Planning Advisory Committee



Public Comment



Welcome and Introductions



Open Meeting Law Overview



SNWA History and Key Initiatives



The Southern Nevada Water Authority meets the water demands of Southern Nevada's nearly 2 million residents and nearly 40 million annual visitors.

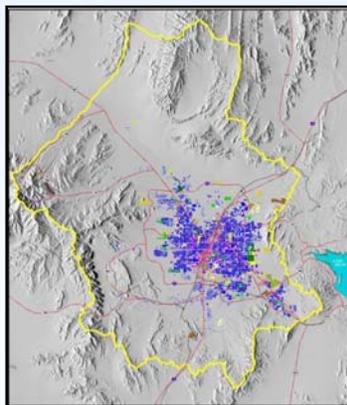


SNWA Responsibilities:

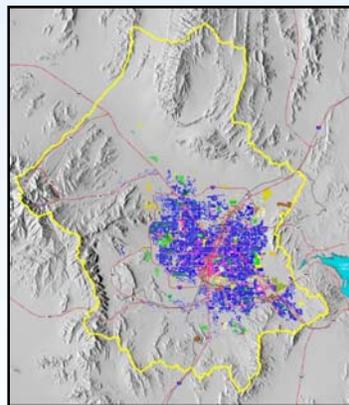
- **Manage water supplies**
- **Implement conservation programs**
- **Build and operate facilities**
- **Develop resources for long-term water planning scenarios**
- **Meet state and federal water quality standards**



During the 1990s, Southern Nevada's population exploded.



Land Use, 1990 (Approx. 750,000 residents)



Land Use, 2000 (Approx. 1,370,000 residents)



The SNWA also adopted a concept of Integrated Resource Planning; citizen and stakeholder recommendations were considered as part of overall water-planning efforts.

- The Integrated Resource Plan Advisory Committee (IRPAC) helped to identify the appropriate combination of resources, facilities and conservation programs to meet future water demands.
- In 1995, committee recommendations were presented and adopted by the SNWA Board of Directors.
- In 1996, a subsequent planning process and recommendations were developed on how to pay for new regional water facilities and water quality efforts.



IRPAC's Board Adopted Recommendations

- Seek permanent long-term water supplies
- Place priority on development of Colorado River water
- Implement a water facilities program that is phased and expandable in order to respond to future uncertainties
- Expand the existing Southern Nevada Water System to 600 million gallons per day
- Build a new treatment and transmission facility that is big enough to be reliable (avoid shortages) and to provide backup capability in the event of a catastrophic failure



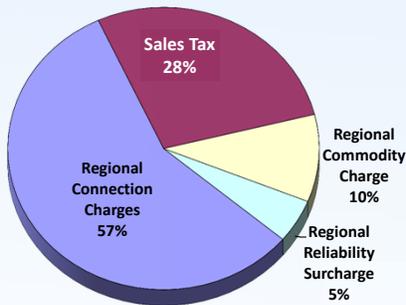
As part of IRPAC's second planning process, recommendations also were developed specific to the costs of new regional facilities.

Results from this process included:

- The "growth pays for growth" model
- An assumption that water rates should contribute to new facilities
- Incorporation of Sales Tax as a revenue source
- An assumption that increased revenues also should support funding for conservation programs (such as the Water Smart Landscapes Program)



Capital Improvements Plan Funding Sources (1996)





The Colorado River provides water and power supplies for nearly 30 million people.

Southern Nevada relies on the source to meet 90 percent of its demands.



Beginning in 1999, the Colorado River Basin began to experience a period of drought conditions that were among the most severe in the river's recorded history.



The SNWA spent much of the 2000s responding to drought and working to secure reliable supplies to meet long-term demands.



An Integrated Water Planning Process (IWPAC) was initiated to develop recommendations on the most appropriate combination of resources to meet Southern Nevada's long-term demands.

- **The Committee included 29 stakeholder representatives from the Las Vegas metropolitan area, Lincoln, Nye and White Pine counties, and the Moapa and Virgin Valley water districts.**
- **In 2005, committee recommendations were presented to the SNWA Board.**



The SNWA made several facility improvements as a result of extreme drought conditions:

- **Intake No. 1 – Added a “snorkel” to access better water quality.**
- **Intake No. 2 – Increased pumping capacity in the event that Intake No. 1 becomes non-operational due to lowered lake levels.**
- **Intake No. 3 – SNWA Board approved construction of an additional intake.**



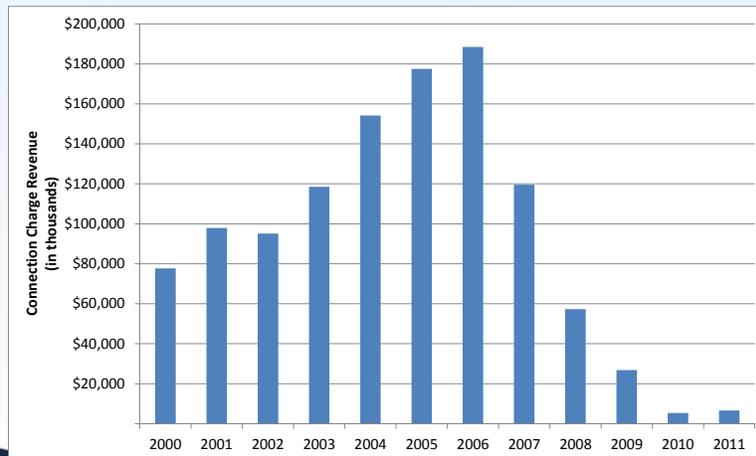
Meanwhile, Southern Nevada’s economic conditions began to deteriorate.

These conditions caused significant declines in SNWA revenue sources:

- **Sales-tax collections**
- **Regional connection charges**
- **SNPLMA revenue**
- **Wholesale delivery charge revenue**



Regional connection charges plummeted from more than \$188 million in FY 2006 to a low of \$ 3.2 million in FY 2010.



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The SNWA was able to stave off a rate increase for more than three years.

- Expense reductions and deferrals
- Utilization of reserves

Ultimately, replacing lost revenue sources became necessary to continue to fund infrastructure improvements, maintain the SNWA's bond rating and offset declines in connection charge revenues.

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The SNWA Board of Directors commissioned an external evaluation of SNWA's existing rates and charges.

- **The process resulted in several modification recommendations to the SNWA's existing rate structure to ensure funding continues for critical water infrastructure (Intake No. 3).**



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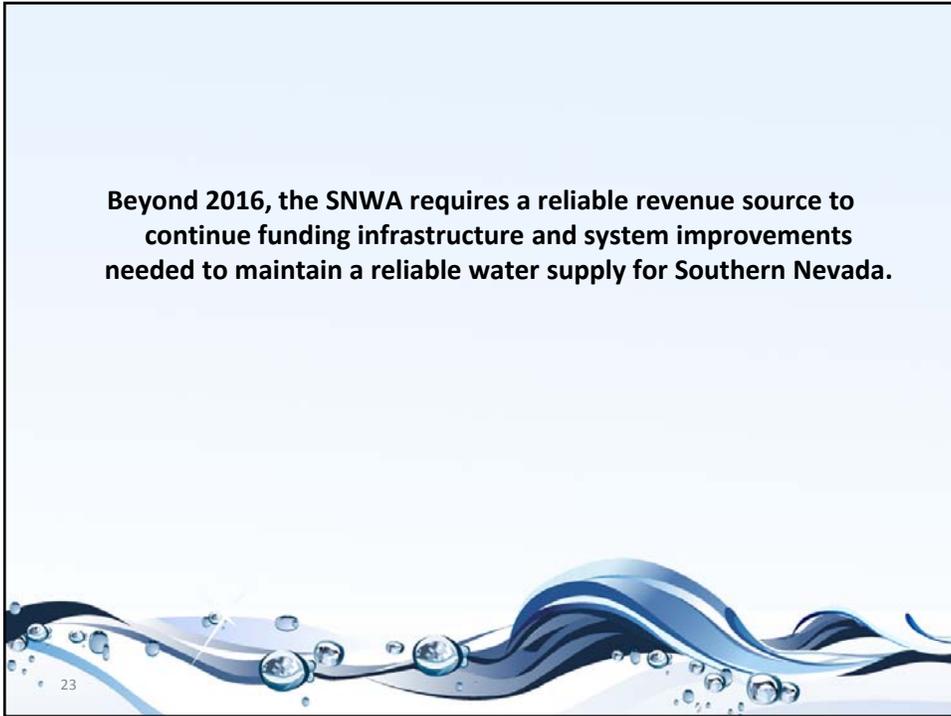
The SNWA Board approved a fixed infrastructure surcharge through 2016 to meet funding obligations.

- **Fixed charge per water bill based on meter size.**
- **Non-residential fire-lines assessed a fixed charge at 35 percent of the infrastructure surcharge.**



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Beyond 2016, the SNWA requires a reliable revenue source to continue funding infrastructure and system improvements needed to maintain a reliable water supply for Southern Nevada.



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Committee Process Overview



INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING

An integrated resources plan (IRP) represents a long-term strategy that includes a diversified mix of water supply and water conservation in order to meet current and future water needs, while also addressing other multiple criteria.

An IRP explicitly considers risk and uncertainty, and is developed with stakeholder input.



WHY IS AN IRP NEEDED?

- **Current economic conditions have had significant impacts to SNWA's revenue streams.**
- **Securing reliable supplies for the future requires a long-term strategy.**
- **The Board is seeking recommendations on how to meet resource, facility, conservation and funding needs for the long term.**



ADVISORY COMMITTEE SCOPE

Water Issues

- Understand existing water supplies and facilities
- Assess future supply and facility needs
- Evaluate alternatives against multiple criteria
- Consider funding implications
- Recommend preferred long-term strategy

Funding Issues

- Develop thorough understanding of existing financial situation
- Explore, in-depth, the range of funding options
- Recommend a long-term funding strategy



CONSENSUS-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS

- An opinion or position reached by a group as a whole
- Focuses on discussion and considers input of all participants
- Cooperatively seeks mutually-beneficial solutions
- Not unanimity
- Recommendation may not necessarily be your first choice



VOTING V. POLLING

- Voting is a procedure, not a process
- Polling may be used as a technique to assess level of support for a particular idea or suggestion



YOUR COMMITMENT

1. Attend and participate in all meetings.
2. Be prepared to discuss the issues on the agenda, as well as information distributed by staff in advance of meetings.
3. Be willing to explore goals, constraints and multiple options.
4. Listen attentively and with an open mind.
5. Respect the ideas and perspectives of others. Give everyone a chance to speak. Avoid side discussions. Don't interrupt.
6. Maintain focus on the topic currently under discussion. Avoid repeating issues that have already been raised or recorded.
7. Achieve consensus.



SNWA'S COMMITMENT

1. **Begin meetings on time**
2. **Provide information in a timely manner**
3. **Be available to answer questions or for further discussion**
4. **Provide committee members with reasonable notice of meeting date and accurate description of discussion topics**
5. **Respect the opinions of committee members**



2012 MEETING SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 12

Wednesday, October 3

Wednesday, October 24

Wednesday, November 14

Wednesday, December 5

**All meetings scheduled to begin at 4:00 p.m.*



MISSED MEETINGS

- **Materials and updates will be provided to members following meetings**
- **Staff is available for individual briefings**
- **Contact me for any additional information or concerns**
- **Alternates not permitted**



Administrative Items



NEXT STEPS

- **Individual interviews throughout the summer**
- **Your input will be used to:**
 - Better understand the diversity of your perspectives
 - Assess group's current understanding of issues
 - Refine processes
 - Draft a statement of purpose
- **Committee members will receive packet of information prior August 27.**
- **Next full Advisory Committee meeting on September 12 at 4:00 p.m.**



Public Comment

