MEETING OF THE
INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY

February 26, 2014, 4:00 p.m.

Colorado River Conference Rooms, Southern Nevada Water Authority
100 City Parkway, Seventh Floor, Las Vegas, Nevada

IRPAC Members Present	Tom Burns	Terry Murphy
	Bob Ferraro	Otto Merida
	Carol Jefferies	Phil Ralston
	Jennifer Lewis	John Restrepo
	April Mastroluca	David Scherer
	Bobbi Miracle	Virginia Valentine
IRPAC Members Absent	Yvanna Cancela	Katherine Jacobi
	Thalia Dondero	Brian McAnallen
	Garry Goett	Lester Romero
	Joyce Haldeman	Danny Thompson
	Warren Hardy	
Staff Present:	John Entsminger	Andy Belanger
	Phil Speight	JC Davis
	Julie Wilcox	Rick Holmes
	Dave Johnson	Katie Horn
	Ken Albright	Zane Marshall
Others Present:	Guy Hobbs	

PUBLIC COMMENT
Ed Uehling said he would like the background materials to be made available when the agenda is posted. He noted that the minutes of the September 4, 2013, have not been approved yet. Mr. Uehling thought that the public outreach performed by the SNWA relative to IRPAC's Phase I funding recommendations was poor, and he doesn't believe the committee applied the defined rate attributes. Mr. Uehling said he doesn't believe drought conditions are as dire as the SNWA represents.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
The Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) Integrated Resource Planning Advisory Committee (IRPAC) met on Wednesday, February 26, 2014. The meeting began at 4:06 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions. Dave Ebersold, facilitator, welcomed new committee members Brian McAnallen, Terry Murphy and April Mastroluca.

Review the committee process and previous committee processes. Mr. Ebersold said the goal of the meeting is to review the history and process of integrated resource planning, review IRPAC's mission statement and receive a drought update.

Mr. Ebersold said integrated resource planning is the development of a long-term strategy. In Phase II, the committee will be considering the SNWA's 50-year planning horizon. Mr. Ebersold advised that the committee will:

- Understand existing water supplies and facilities
- Consider facility needs given future supplies
- Evaluate alternatives against multiple criteria
- Evaluate funding implications for potential recommendations
- Recommend preferred long-term strategy

He reminded the committee that recommendations are made on a consensus basis and do not require unanimous agreement. He reviewed committee member and SNWA commitments.

John Entsminger, SNWA General Manager, welcomed back the committee and described previous citizen advisory committee processes.

- The 1994 IRPAC made recommendations related to facilities, resources and finances.
- The 2004 Integrated Water Planning Advisory Committee (IWPAC) made recommendations related to conservation, resources and finance.
- Phase I of the current IRPAC process, which began in 2012, made funding recommendations.

While discussing the 2004 IWPAC resources recommendations, Mr. Entsminger said the SNWA has funded studies to evaluate ocean desalination in Yuma, Arizona and Rosarito, Mexico. Phil Ralston asked if these desalination facilities exist now. Mr. Entsminger said that the Yuma Desalination Plant (YDP) exists and is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation. He said there is no desalination plant in Rosarito, Mexico, but there is a power plant, which makes it an ideal location for a desalination plant. Bob Ferraro asked if the YDP is operational. Mr. Entsminger explained that because the YDP was built but never used, it would take tens of millions of dollars to make it fully operational again.

Referencing the 2004 IWPAC funding recommendation to pursue the extension of the quarter-cent sales tax, Mr. Ralston asked if anyone has quantified what an extension would provide in terms of bonding capability. Guy Hobbs, Hobbs, Ong & Associates, said he has calculated it previously and would provide that information to the committee.

Mr. Entsminger said that Phase II of this process will focus on:

- Drought and climate change planning
- Long-term facility planning
- Facility construction and maintenance
- Conservation
- Water Quality
- Water resources

Terry Murphy noted that she served on the 2004 IRPAC committee and remembered the committee's challenge to the SNWA to reduce total water demand from 272 gallons per capital per day (GPCD) to 250 GPCD by 2010, and to 245 GPCD by 2035. Ten years later, she congratulated the SNWA on accomplishing that goal and more.

Discuss development of committee process attributes. Mr. Ebersold reminded the committee of its Mission Statement, which was developed in 2012:

> The Integrated Resource Planning Advisory Committee will evaluate current and near-term (2016) water charges, future resources, conservation, and facility needs in a way that supports adaptation to changing conditions, and develop recommendations on all these areas for the Southern Nevada Water Authority's Board of Directors.

Mr. Ferraro suggested the Phase II committee will reduce its emphasis on water charges and, therefore, that portion should be removed from the mission statement. After a short discussion, the committee reached consensus and modified the Mission Statement to read:

> The Integrated Resource Planning Advisory Committee will evaluate water charges, future resources, conservation, and facility needs in a way that supports adaptation to changing conditions, and develop recommendations on all these areas for the Southern Nevada Water Authority's Board of Directors.

Mr. Ebersold then discussed the Phase I committee's rate attributes and advised the committee that it will be developing attributes specific to the Phase II topics at a subsequent meeting.

Discuss the onset of drought in Southern Nevada. Mr. Entsminger explained that the Colorado River experienced favorable water years in the 1980s and 1990s. By the early 2000s, the Colorado River experienced some of the lowest average flows on record. As a result, Lake Mead water elevations have been falling.

Mr. Entsminger explained that tree-ring studies have allowed us to analyze Colorado River flows for the last 1,200 years. He said the 20th century was one of the two wettest 100-year periods in that 1,200-year record. Showing a chart of statistical percentages for Lake Mead elevations, Mr. Entsminger said if we are fortunate enough to experience another "20th century," we can hover at elevation 1,075 feet fifty percent of the time.

He advised that the SNWA has initiated multiple processed to address drought and mitigate its impacts. In 2002, the SNWA adopted a Drought Plan; later, regional planning boards adopted plans and policies to reduce water use, which fundamentally changed the way we use water in Southern Nevada.

Key efforts include:

- Land development codes
- Watering restrictions
- Increasing the incentives for the Water Smart Landscapes program
- Golf course water budgets
- Community outreach
- Infrastructure improvements
- More robust conservation program offerings

Receive an update on current drought conditions. Mr. Entsminger advised that current Colorado River conditions will be presented at every meeting. He stated that January's inflow to Lake Powell was 75 percent of average, snow pack is 110 percent of average, Water Year 2014 precipitation is at 102 percent of average, and the forecasted Water Year 2014 inflow to Lake Powell is 101 percent of average.

He said that Lake Mead is currently at 48 percent of capacity and, regardless of snow pack, Lake Mead is projected to drop 21 feet by January 1, 2015. This is because the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) announced in August 2013 that it will only release 7.48 million acre-feet into Lake Mead from Lake Powell this calendar year, as part of the Department of the Interior's Record of Decision.

Mr. Entsminger said the committee will discuss the Colorado River Basin States' drought response at the next meeting, which is scheduled for March 26, 2014. At the April 23rd meeting, the committee will discuss climate change and develop attributes. He noted that topics for future meetings include:

- Existing and deferred facilities
- Water quality and emerging issues
- SNWA environmental efforts
- Asset management
- Conservation
- Current and long-term water resources
- Funding impacts

Mr. Entsminger finished his discussion on current drought conditions and asked if the committee had any questions. Tom Burns asked if the committee was in compliance with Nevada's Open Meeting Law. Mr. Entsminger replied yes.

David Scherer asked if the chart titled "Statistical Percentiles for Lake Mead Elevations" is based on historical information. Mr. Entsminger said it contains 106 years of historic flow record plugged into the BOR's Colorado River System Simulation Model (CRSS) by SNWA staff. Mr. Scherer asked if the model takes variables such as climate change into consideration. Mr. Entsminger said an SNWA hydrologist/modeler would be able to discuss this information at a future meeting. In advance of that meeting, Mr. Scherer asked if he could receive the input data. Mr. Entsminger said he will have a SNWA staffer contact Mr. Scherer to provide him with that information.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Mr. Uehling said that by not providing the meeting materials in advance, there was no time for the committee to discuss the mission statement and make good recommendations. He said there is confusion as to the number of acre-feet of water being released into Lake Mead. Mr. Uehling feels there is an unlimited availability of water because of return-flow credits, and he said he does not like the SNWA's conservation advertising related to indoor water use.

For full public comment remarks, please visit www.snwa.com/apps/agenda/snwa/index.cfml

Mr. Ebersold concluded the meeting by advising the committee that they control how much time is spent on any particular topic.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.