

**SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2012
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER 9:02 a.m., SNWA Board Chambers, Southern Nevada Water Authority
100 City Parkway, Seventh Floor, Las Vegas, Nevada

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT Shari Buck, Chair
Bob Coffin
Tom Collins
Duncan McCoy
Steve Sisolak

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT Mary Beth Scow, Vice Chair
Sam Bateman

STAFF PRESENT Pat Mulroy, Greg Walch, Rick Holmes, Phil Speight, Doug Bennett

OTHERS PRESENT Greg Bortolin and Arlen Huggins, DRI

Unless otherwise indicated, all members present voted in the affirmative.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Dean Baker, Baker, NV, discussed his concerns with the Authority's groundwater development project in eastern Nevada and stressed the importance of having absolute proof of the availability of water resources in the area.

1. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Director Sisolak to approve the agenda for this meeting and the minutes of the regular meetings of June 21, 2012, and July 19, 2012. The motion was approved.

2. Approve and authorize the General Manager to enter into an assistance agreement, in substantially the same form, between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Authority, to accept a grant for an amount not to exceed \$300,000 to support the Authority's Water Smart Landscape Rebate Program, and authorize the General Manager to approve future modifications only if the future modifications do not fiscally impact the Authority.

Director Sisolak asked if the Authority offers a rebate for removing a pool. Doug Bennett confirmed that the Authority offers a rebate for homeowners and businesses who replace any body of water such as pools and fountains with desert landscaping.

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Director Sisolak to follow staff's recommendation. The motion was approved.

3. Approve an agreement among the members of the Las Vegas Area Consortium for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program and the Authority.

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Director Sisolak to follow staff's recommendation. The motion was approved.

4. Approve an agreement between the Board of Regents, Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the Desert Research Institute, and the Authority to conduct cloud seeding operations in eastern Nevada for an amount not to exceed \$724,000, and authorize the General Manager to extend the agreement for two additional one-year periods.

Ms. Mulroy indicated that the item, if approved, would allow the Authority to continue funding the current cloud seeding operation. In addition, the Authority is working with DRI to move or open a new cloud seeding operation in Schell Creek in order to give other interested stakeholders an opportunity to secure funding to continue cloud seeding operations as they currently exist.

Director Coffin asked how long cloud seeding operations have taken place in eastern Nevada. Ms. Mulroy replied that operations have taken place for a number of years under state funding; however, three years ago the Authority assumed funding responsibilities when the cloud seeding program was stopped due to state budget cuts. Washoe County currently funds cloud seeding operations on the western side of the state; the Authority funds cloud seeding operations in the east side.

Greg Bortolin and Arlen Huggins discussed DRI's ongoing cloud seeding efforts and provided the Board with a cloud seeding fact sheet, which is included with these minutes.

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Director Sisolak to follow staff's recommendation. The motion was approved.

5. Ratify General Counsel's intervention in Public Utility Commission Docket 12-06053, Nevada Power Company's Triennial Integrated Resource Plan.

Director Sisolak asked for a brief summary of the item. Greg Walch reported the Authority intervened for two reasons: a clause within NV Energy's agreement could leave the Authority without a firm power supply and therefore be forced to purchase power on the open market, at potentially significant costs. In addition, per the agreement, the Authority had a deadline of August 1, 2012 to file an intervention.

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Director Sisolak to follow staff's recommendation. The motion was approved.

6. Receive an update from staff on water resources including, but not limited to, drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin, the results of the implementation of the Authority's Water Resource and Conservation Plans, activities on the Colorado River, and on the development of in-state water resources.

Rick Holmes, Deputy General Manager, provided the Board with an update of drought conditions and local water use information. A copy of his presentation is included with these minutes.

Director Sisolak asked about how rain is measured within the community. Rick Holmes reported that a community of this size may see differences in average rainfall and that the Authority relies upon rain gages located at McCarran Airport as a baseline standard.

Ms. Mulroy reported the Bureau of Land Management released its Final Environmental Impact Statement related to the Authority's Clark, Lincoln and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project, and noted that she anticipates a Record of Decision from the agency by the end of the year.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

Public Comment

Dean Baker, Baker, NV, discussed the Clark, Lincoln and White Pine County Groundwater Development Project and the proposed Utah-Nevada Agreement regarding water resources in Snake Valley.

Ed Uehling discussed the Authority's budget, general manager, groundwater development project and board activities.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

APPROVED:

Shari Buck, Chair

Patricia Mulroy, General Manager

Cloud Seeding

FACT SHEET



www.dri.edu

>> 40+ years of cloud seeding research experience in Nevada's watersheds makes DRI uniquely qualified to design and conduct operational projects for these same watersheds.

>> Scientific studies support that DRI's method of cloud seeding enhances local snowfall and resulting snowpack levels.

>> DRI pioneered the technique of using trace chemical analysis of snowfall to assess both environmental impacts and the effectiveness of cloud seeding.

>> The trace chemical technique was used to show that cloud seeding operations produced a seasonal 8 percent increase in the snowpack across a specific watershed.

>> A National Academy of Sciences report noted that wintertime cloud seeding, as done by DRI, showed strong suggestions of positive seeding effects.

>> DRI obtained \$2.5 million in federal grants to establish the scientific basis for cloud seeding in the Sierra Nevada and to develop the tools with which to conduct cloud seeding and evaluate its impact prior to launching the program that is currently in place.

>> For 25 years, DRI provided more than 40 percent of the \$1 million it has cost to run the program annually.

>> DRI scientists estimate that annual augmented snow water has averaged 64,000 acre-feet during the last 15 years. That's enough to supply 140,000 households with water annually. The state-funded program cost was \$7-\$15 per acre-foot.

>> DRI runs an extremely efficient operation with three technicians with a combined 50 years of experience running the programs in Northeastern Nevada, the Walker-Carson Area and Tahoe-Truckee region + active participation in several Colorado projects.

>> There are no detrimental downwind impacts by cloud seeding operations. In other words, cloud seeding does not diminish snowfall in basins beyond where operations occur.



>> CONTACT

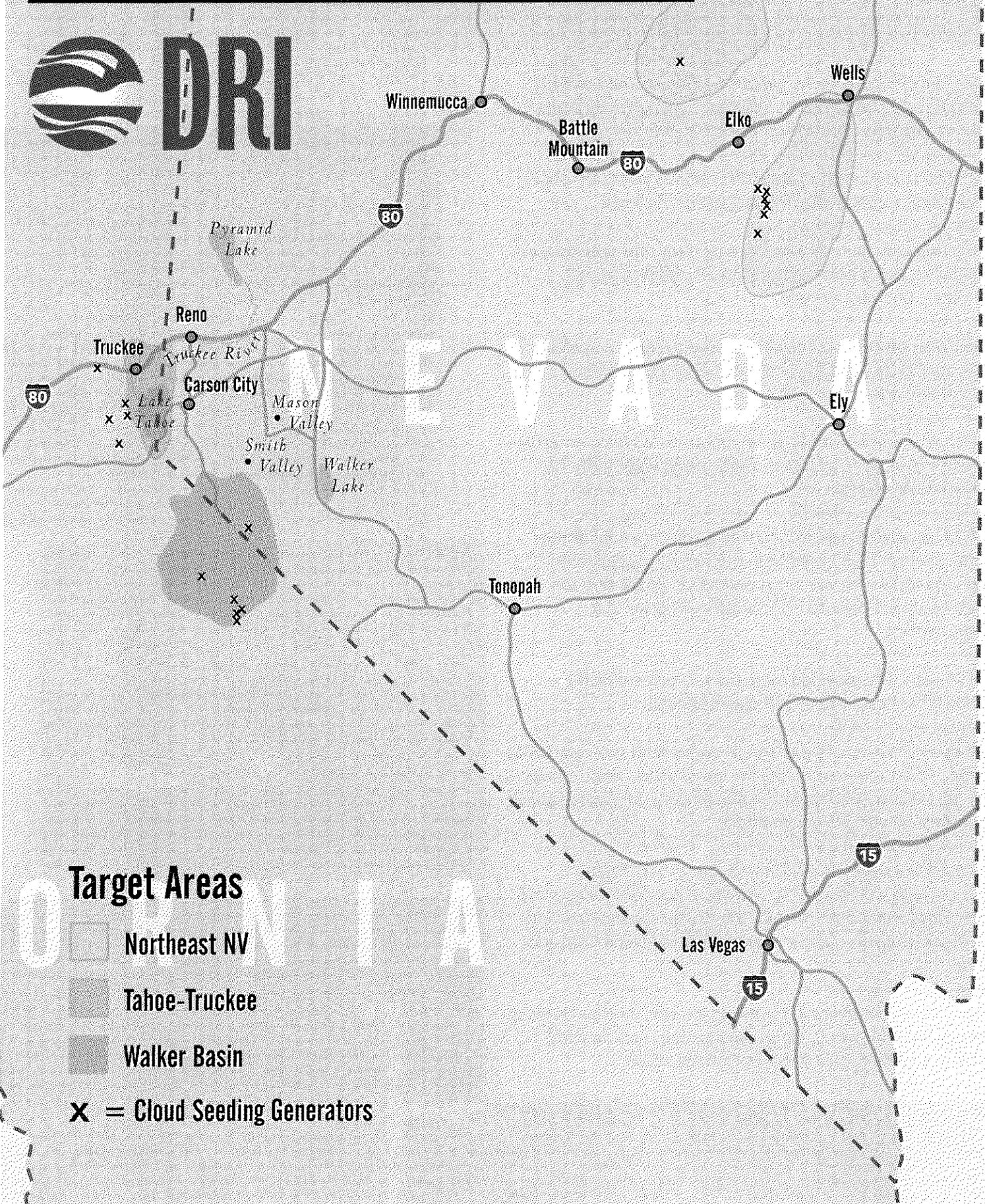
Arlen Huggins, Associate Research Scientist
2215 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV 89512

OFFICE: 775/674-7140

EMAIL: Arlen.Huggins@dri.edu

WEBSITE: <http://www.dri.edu/cloudseeding>

CLOUD SEEDING OPERATIONS



Target Areas

- Northeast NV
- Tahoe-Truckee
- Walker Basin

X = Cloud Seeding Generators

SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY

Update on Drought Conditions and Water Use

August 16, 2012

Drought Monitor

Legend:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text warnings for forecast statements.

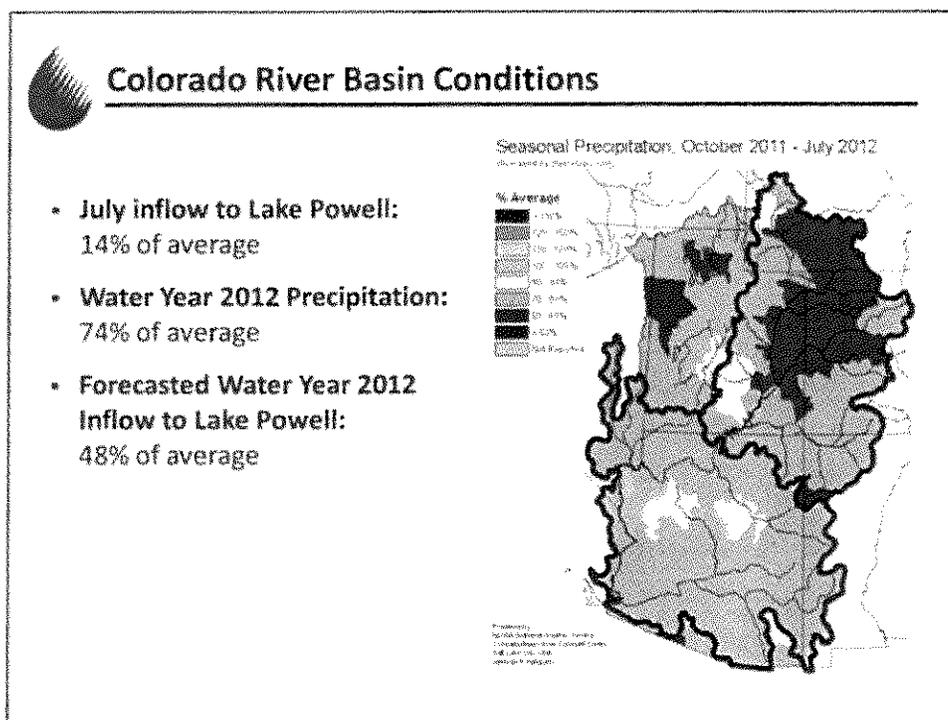
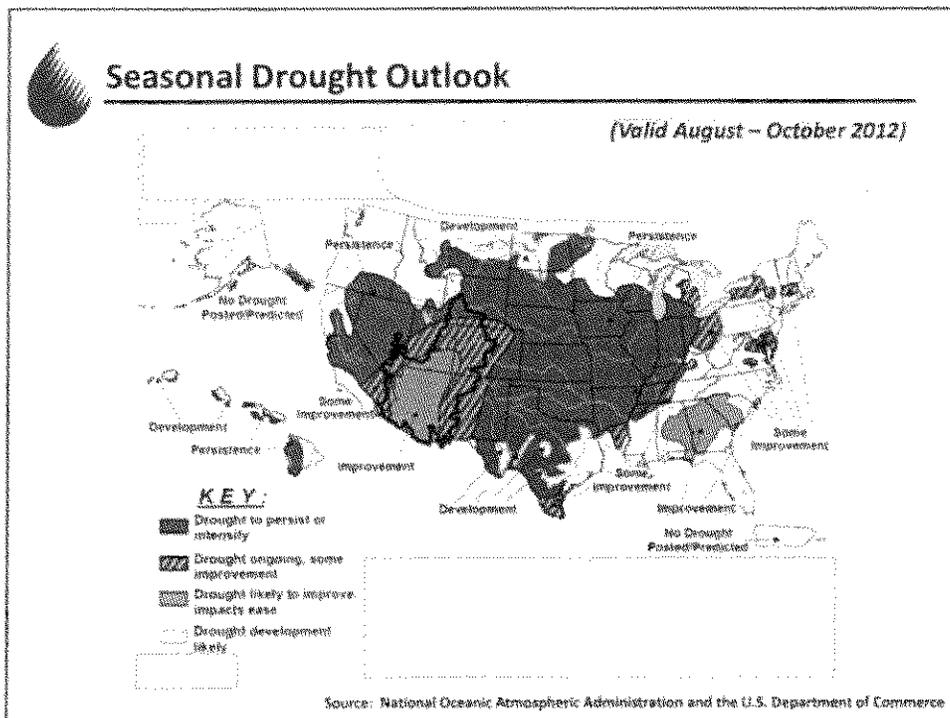
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Drought Risk Levels

- 1 - Short Term: Approximately 1-6 months
- 2 - Intermediate: Approximately 6-18 months
- 3 - Long Term: Approximately 18+ months, (e.g. hydrologic cycle)

USDA
National Drought Mitigation Center

Released Thursday, August 9, 2012
Author: Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center





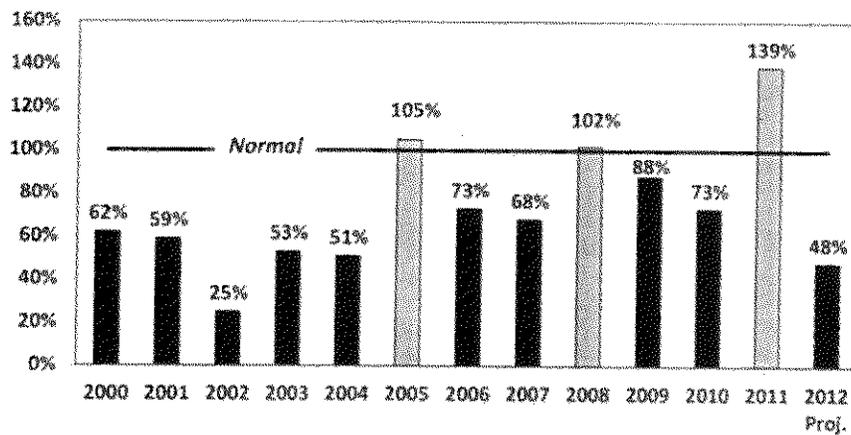
Precipitation and Inflow Forecast – Lake Powell

2011 Water Year			2012 Water Year		
Month	Actual Precipitation	Inflows Forecast	Actual Precipitation	Inflows Forecast	
Jan	140%	110%	75%	79%	
Feb	127%	105%	84%	78%	
Mar	119%	105%	86%	80%	
Apr	118%	111%	78%	63%	
May	125%	128%	74%	51%	
Jun	126%	138%	71%	47%	
Jul	128%	139%	71%	46%	
Aug	125%	142%	74%	48%	
Sept	123%	140%			
Actual	120%	139%			

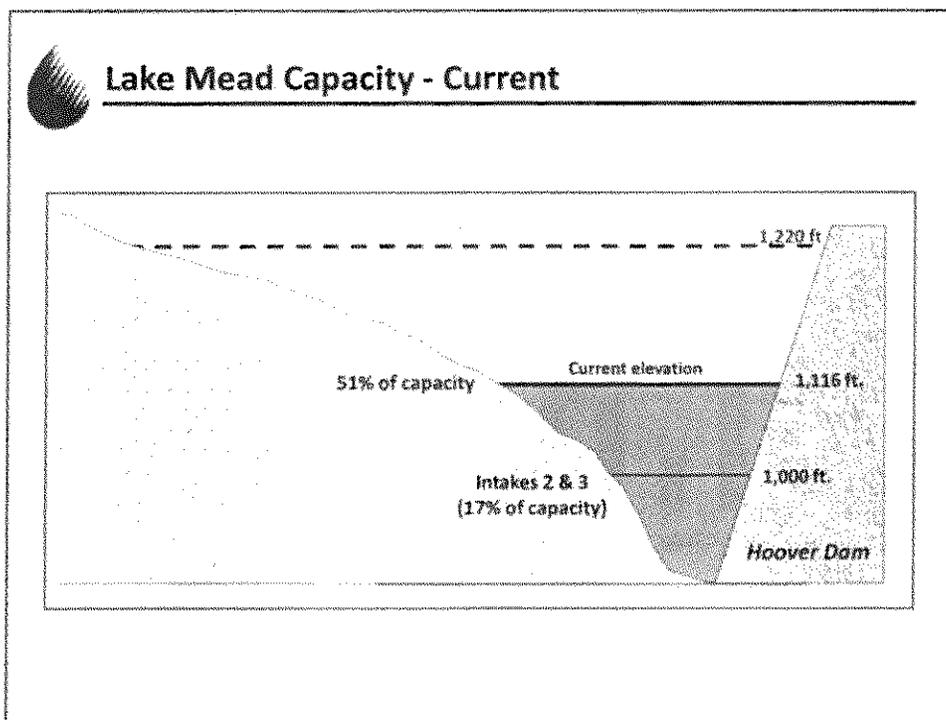
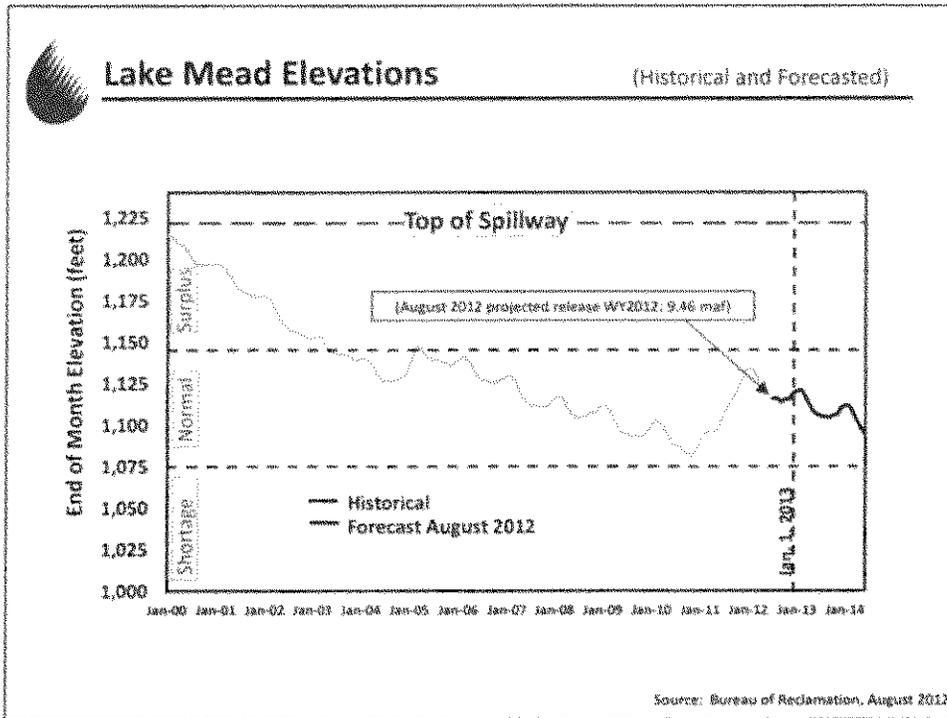
Source: Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Water Supply Reports



Historical and Projected Lake Powell Annual Inflows

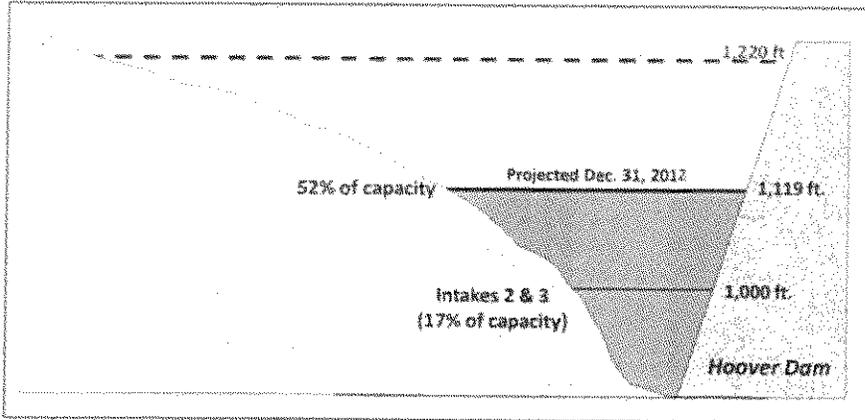


10-Year Average (2003-2012 projection): 80% of normal

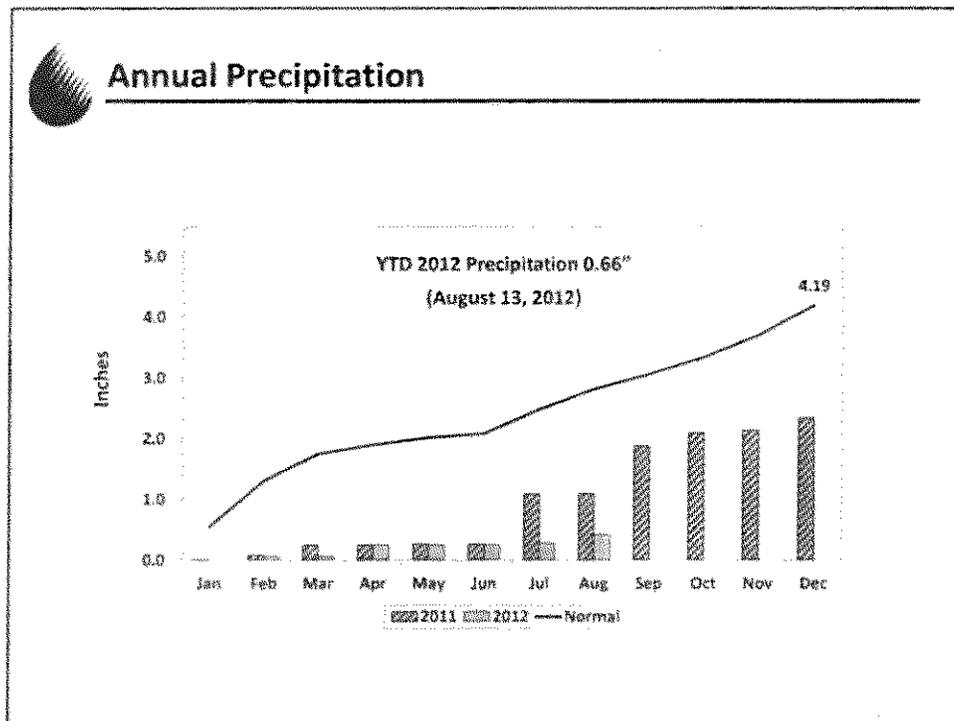
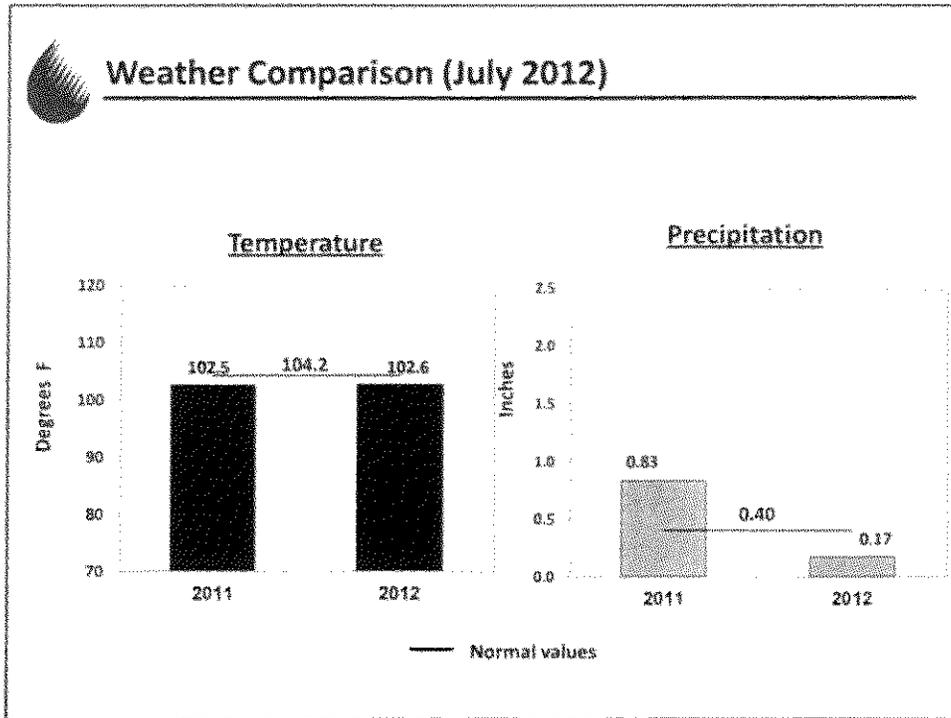




Lake Mead Capacity - Projected (12/31/12)



SNWA Water Use





SNWA Total Water Use

