



**NONFUNCTIONAL TURF REMOVAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

August 18, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

*Colorado River Conference Rooms, Southern Nevada Water Authority
100 City Parkway, 7th Floor, Las Vegas, Nevada*

NTRAC members present:	David Strickland	Tena Cameron
	Larry Fossan	Scott Black
	Brian Walsh	Mauricia Baca
	Stephanie Bressler	Tom Burns

NTRAC members absent: Dale Hahn

Staff present:	John Entsminger	Colby Pellegrino
	Zane Marshall	Katie Horn
	Tabitha Simmons	Mitch Bishop

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maryann Goodsell, a representative from the Peccole Ranch Homeowners Association (HOA), asked if definitions will be addressed during the committee process. She also stated that the paseos are a greenbelt area controlled by flood channels and asked if considerations will be made to accommodate unique properties such as the Paseos. John Entsminger, General Manager, noted that one of the committee's main charges will be to define nonfunctional turf. He added that he couldn't presuppose where future committee discussions will lead, but informed Ms. Goodsell that the meetings are also being streamed on the internet and invited her to monitor them to see how discussions progress.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The Southern Nevada Water Authority's (Authority) Nonfunctional Turf Removal Advisory Committee (NTRAC) met on Wednesday, August 18, 2021. The meeting began at 3 p.m.

#1 Approve agenda.

Scott Black moved to approve the meeting agenda. The agenda was approved.

#2 Welcome and introductions.

Mr. Entsminger introduced himself and staff. Committee introductions were made.

#3 Receive an overview of Nevada's Open Meeting Law.

Tabitha Simmons, Director of Legal Services, provided an overview of Nevada Open Meeting Law, which ensures that decisions affecting the public are made through transparent, public processes. She noted the main components of the law, including posting procedures, public comment, conducting activities in the public, and quorums.

#4 Receive an overview of the SNWA's background and Colorado River Basin drought status.

Colby Pellegrino, Deputy General Manager of Resources, provided an overview of the Authority and its core responsibilities, which include water resource planning, infrastructure, conservation, water quality and stewardship. Ms. Pellegrino also provided information on Southern Nevada's reliability on the

Colorado River, drought and climate change impacts, current and projected Lake Mead water elevations, banked water resources and return-flow credits. She also talked about the recent federally mandated water shortage declaration and the probability of future shortages if Lake Mead water levels continue to decline.

#5 Receive an overview of SNWA's conservation initiatives.

Ms. Pellegrino provided a history of the Authority's water conservation and drought response efforts since 2002, which include:

- Drought planning
- Landscape development codes
- Golf course water budgets
- Mandatory watering schedules
- Water waste enforcement
- Tiered water rates
- Incentive and rebate programs
- Evaporative cooling studies

She stated these initiatives have resulted in significant water savings over the past 20 years, but progress has stalled.

Ms. Pellegrino also provided information on additional actions that the Authority has taken to protect the community's water supply. These include the construction of a third intake and pumping station at Lake Mead; banked water resources in Arizona, California and Nevada; and a 50-year water resource plan.

Ms. Pellegrino then talked about the recommendations made by the Integrated Resources Planning Advisory Committee in 2020, one of which was the reduction of existing nonfunctional turf throughout Southern Nevada. She explained that there are currently 5,000 acres of nonfunctional turf throughout the community that, if removed, would save approximately 12 billion gallons of water annually. She then provided information on the Nevada Assembly Bill 356 (AB) legislation, which prohibits the use of Colorado River water for unused grass and calls for the formation of this committee.

#6 Receive and overview of the committee process and administrative items relating to the committee.

Zane Marshall, Director of Water Resources, reviewed the scope of the NTRAC. He reminded the committee that recommendations are made on a consensus basis and do not require unanimous agreement, and that the goal of the committee is to make mutually beneficial recommendations regarding non-functional turf removal to present to the SNWA Board of Directors. He also reviewed committee member and SNWA commitments as well as future meeting dates.

David Strickland asked whether the committee will be generating language or examples of nonfunctional turf. Mr. Marshall responded that the goal is to develop definitions that can be used broadly throughout the community, which will inform recommendations for the SNWA Board's consideration.

Tena Cameron asked if the committee will be developing a recommendation on a process for waivers. Mr. Marshall confirmed that it will.

Brian Walsh asked how a committee member can introduce a topic to be discussed at a future meeting. Mr. Entsminger responded that committee members can make topics known to staff ahead of time, so that they can be included on the agenda for discussion, per Nevada Open Meeting Law. Mr. Walsh noted that a review of AB 356 would be helpful in understanding the committee's charges.

Stephanie Bressler asked if the committee will be able to make recommendations to change existing programs and incentives. Mr. Entsminger responded that this committee has a narrow charge to comply with the legislation that appointed the committee. He added that feedback outside the scope of committee discussion can be recorded by staff for future consideration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Musik complimented the work the Authority has done over the years, specifically the information provided in various reports that have been generated by staff. He asked if committee meeting materials will be made available to the public and if a “data room” will be provided for the public to retrieve Authority reports or make recommendations on specific topics. Mr. Entsminger responded that NTRAC meetings will be broadcast and that all materials will be available to the public. He added that materials or comments can be made available to the committee members. Ms. Pellegrino added that the Authority’s Water Resource Plan and Water Conservation plan are both available at snwa.com.

Lisa Parry asked how members of the public can submit ideas and comments, especially pertaining to unique neighborhoods. Katie Horn, Management Service Manager, responded that members of the public can send comments to publiccomment@snwa.com.

Leslie Weller asked if backyards can be grandfathered in under the current requirement of no more than 50 percent of grass allowed in backyards. She also asked if the seasonal watering schedule can be made mandatory. Mr. Entsminger responded that the development codes limiting backyards to 50 percent grass was put in place in 2002, so it is effective for homes constructed after that date. He added that the seasonal water schedules are mandatory and that people are breaking law by not abiding by them.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.