

**SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 20, 2023
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER 9:06 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Chair
Dan Stewart, Vice Chair
Scott Black
Olivia Diaz
Jim Gibson
Justin Jones
Steve Walton

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT None

STAFF PRESENT John Entsminger, Colby Pellegrino, Dave Johnson, Doa Ross, Greg Walch,
and Kevin Bethel

OTHERS PRESENT None

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

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

For full public comment, visit snwa.com/apps/snwa-agendas/index.cfm

John Hiatt spoke concerning item 14. He said he supported the septic conversion program but said that the program would be more cost effective when entire streets were converted to municipal sewer instead of allowing single, voluntary conversions. He suggested that the incentive be reduced for homes that waited to convert. He said that local development policies where new construction pays to extend infrastructure, such as water and sewer, have not served the community very well. There needs to be a system put in place to extend sewer to isolated parcels throughout the county and city.

Diane Henry spoke concerning item 14. She asked about the differences between the 100 percent-funded septic conversion program in Assembly Bill 220 (AB220) and the program being proposed by the SNWA. She also spoke about item 8 and said that increased water rates were adversely affecting mature trees in her neighborhood, while the SNWA and other jurisdictions are looking to plant more trees. She said her neighbors cannot afford to water their existing trees.

Brian Scroggins spoke concerning item 14. He said that he has a parcel that he cannot develop because of septic policies. He said he supported the septic conversion program.

Julie Wignall spoke concerning item 14. She said that the Authority was exerting “hydrologic despotism” on the community by introducing water policies and then enacting penalties on residents that do not comply. She said that the proposed septic conversion program was redundant and a waste of funding when AB220 already created a 100-percent funded program through the Southern Nevada Health District.

ITEM NO.

1. ***For Possible Action: Approve agenda with the inclusion of tabled and/or reconsidered items, emergency items and/or deletion of items, and approve the minutes from the regular meeting of May 18, 2023.***

FINAL ACTION: Vice Chair Stewart made a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting, and to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of May 18, 2023. The motion was approved.

2. ***For Possible Action: Appoint a chair and vice chair to preside over the Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2023/24.***

FINAL ACTION: Director Gibson made a motion to reappoint Marilyn Kirkpatrick as chair and Dan Stewart as vice chair. The motion was approved.

3. ***For Possible Action: Receive a presentation from the Authority’s Youth Conservation Council and direct staff accordingly.***

Youth Conservation Council (YCC) members, Lily Noel and Garrett Ordonez, gave a presentation. A copy of their presentation is attached to these minutes. The Board thanked the students for their participation on the YCC.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

CONSENT AGENDA Items 4 – 6 are routine and can be taken in one motion unless a Director requests that an item be taken separately.

4. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an amendment to the agreement between Black & Veatch Corporation and the Authority for professional engineering design and construction support services for the River Mountains Water Treatment Facility Microbiology Research Laboratory Expansion Project increasing the not to exceed amount by \$715,864.
5. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an amended and restated interlocal agreement between the City of North Las Vegas and the Authority for the conversion of approximately 2,142,200 square feet of irrigated turf with water-efficient landscaping and authorize the General Manager to sign any ministerial documents necessary to effectuate the transaction in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000.
6. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve a resolution authorizing the submission of a grant proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects grants program seeking \$20,000,000.

FINAL ACTION: Director Black made a motion to approve staff's recommendations. The motion was approved.

BUSINESS AGENDA

7. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize funds in an amount not to exceed \$10 million to support the installation of up to 100,000 trees under a new Tree Enhancement Program and authorize staff to implement the incentive as a supplement to the Water Smart Landscapes program.

Colby Pellegrino, Deputy General Manager – Resources, gave an overview presentation on the Tree Enhancement Program. A copy of her presentation is attached to these minutes.

FINAL ACTION: Vice Chair Stewart made a motion to approve staff's recommendation. The motion was approved.

8. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, between Green Chips, a Nevada non-profit corporation dba ImpactNV, and the Authority to support the installation of approximately 1,000 trees as part of an Urban Forest Initiative and to help fund the project for an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

FINAL ACTION: Director Jones made a motion to approve staff's recommendation. The motion was approved.

9. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an agreement between Brown and Caldwell and the Authority to provide professional services on the Boulder City Effluent Reuse Project for an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000.

FINAL ACTION: Director Walton made a motion to approve staff's recommendation. The motion was approved.

10. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an agreement between Parsons Corporation dba Parsons Water & Infrastructure, Inc., and the Authority for program management services for capital projects in an amount not to exceed \$150,000,000.

FINAL ACTION: Director Gibson made a motion to approve staff's recommendation. The motion was approved.

11. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an agreement between MWH Constructors, Inc., and the Authority to provide construction manager at risk pre-construction services in support of the Ozone Equipment Upgrade Project for an amount not to exceed \$30,000,000.

FINAL ACTION: Director Gibson made a motion to approve staff's recommendation. The motion was approved.

12. ***For Possible Action:*** Award a contract for on-call repair, maintenance and construction services to MMC, Inc., in the amount of \$2,500,000, authorize a change order contingency amount not to exceed \$250,000, and authorize the General Manager to sign the construction agreement and up to four renewals.

FINAL ACTION: Director Jones disclosed that MMC, Inc., was a client of his law firm, and therefore, he would be abstaining on the item. Director Gibson made a motion to approve staff's recommendation. The motion was approved with Director Jones abstaining.

13. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve an increase to the maximum incentive issued for Water Efficient Technologies projects associated with consumptive water use reduction for evaporative cooling conversions from \$45 to \$70 per 1,000 gallons of water saved annually, ratify the rebate incentive for wet-to-dry cooling from \$950 to \$1,500 per ton converted, and remove the \$500,000 annual cap for all evaporative cooling projects that fall under the Water Efficient Technologies program.

FINAL ACTION: Director Gibson made a motion to approve staff's recommendation. The motion was approved.

14. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve guidelines for the Authority's voluntary Septic Conversion Program, including authorization for the General Manager, or its designee, to execute agreements and ministerial documents, and issue reimbursements consistent with such guidelines.

Ms. Pellegrino gave a presentation on the proposed program. A copy of her presentation is attached to these minutes.

Director Jones said he supported the program. He asked what the potential impact of the program would have on converting septic systems to municipal sewer. Ms. Pellegrino said that there was a wide variability in the costs involved in converting septic systems. She said that projects with sewer nearby could be accomplished on average for \$40,000. If projects require extending sewer main, the costs increase significantly, therefore the program would prioritize projects near sewer main. Doa Ross, Deputy General Manager – Engineering, added that as projects are approved, staff would reach out to neighbors to encourage greater participation.

Vice Chair Stewart said he supported the program, and that additional funding should be secured to ensure the success of the program. He also encouraged the different jurisdictions to work together to reduce costs and have the most impact.

FINAL ACTION: Director Jones made a motion to approve staff's recommendation. The motion was approved.

15. ***For Information Only:*** Receive an update from staff on water resources including, but not limited to, drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin, conservation programs and initiatives, activities on the Colorado River, and water resource acquisition and development.

Ms. Pellegrino gave an update on water resources and conservation initiatives. A copy of her presentation is attached to these minutes. Chair Kirkpatrick pointed out that Southern Nevada was not the only community working to conserve and protect water resources. She said that more than 270 municipalities in the West, such as communities in Arizona, Utah and New Mexico, were following Southern Nevada's example and implementing conservation programs. Ms. Pellegrino said that St. George, Utah, implemented an excessive use charge that was modeled after the Las Vegas Valley Water District's charge. Two dozen entities have adopted nonfunctional turf standards. Scottsdale, Arizona, just implemented an ordinance prohibiting turf in front yards. Across the West, communities are looking at Southern Nevada as an example in how to conserve water and deal with potential future water shortages on the Colorado River.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

Public Comment

Cheryl Pastore said that some septic system conversions will be more complicated than others which might deter some homes from converting.

Brigitte Solvie said that well owners with pools were being prevented from filling their pools from a water service due to recent changes in municipal water policies. She said that without those services, well owners were unable to fill their pools after draining for maintenance or repairs. She asked for the Board to continue the discussion and find a suitable resolution.

Michele Tombari asked about details with the septic conversion program when private cul de sacs were involved. She also asked if permit fees were part of the eligible costs covered in the conversion program. Staff took her information to answer her questions.

Laura McSwain said she supported efforts to plant trees to lower heat in the Valley. She also said that larger lots have the opportunity to accommodate more trees, but water use thresholds under the excessive use charge do not take that into consideration.

Robert Hillsman said that the septic conversion program was not going to be helpful to areas like section 10 where he lived because sewer lines were not available in that area. He said that excessive use charges were implemented unfairly while he and many of his neighbors were focused on proposed septic legislation.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.



YOUTH CONSERVATION COUNCIL

- Created in 1999 by the SNWA Board of Directors
- Explore the water sustainability challenges facing Southern Nevada and the design solutions needed to address those challenges
- Learn about the many educational and professional paths that support resource management and conservation
- Field trips expose students to water management in action
- Share knowledge with the public at the Springs Preserve Earth Day Event



7/20/2023



LEARNING

7/20/2023



- Engage visitors in the topics of water resources, conservation and desert adaptation
- Inform visitors of water challenges facing our community
- Encourage visitors to be part of the solution

7/20/2023



ENGAGEMENT



7/20/2023




SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY

URBAN HEAT ISLANDS

Cities are incorporating UHI reduction strategies to help lower urban temperatures and improve resilience extreme heat.

UHI Adaptation Strategies:

- Implementing new development policies for building/infrastructure and landscape design.
- Retrofitting roofs and pavements with cool/reflective materials.
- Increasing vegetation, including tree canopy coverage.




SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY

SNWA POLICIES

The SNWA's Water Smart Landscapes (WSL) program requires participants to achieve 50 percent canopy coverage at plant maturity.

At a Glance:

- Conversion area not covered by vegetation is exposed to solar radiation, which contributes to UHI.
- Increasing tree canopy coverage will improve cooling, comfort and air quality, and support climate change adaptation in Southern Nevada.



Canopy coverage includes trees, shrubs and groundcovers.

SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY

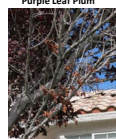
OTHER CHALLENGES

Some popular tree species are at or near their maximum heat tolerance. Current and changing climate conditions play a key role in tree survival.


At a Glance:

- Several at-risk tree species are already showing signs of decline in our community.
- These trees are planted in significant numbers in all areas of the community.
- SNWA has communicated with nurseries and landscape companies; updated the Regional Plant list in 2021.

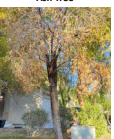
Purple Leaf Plum



Afghan Pine



Ash Tree



New trees are needed to mitigate unavoidable tree loss due to climate change and address urban heat island.

PROPOSED PROGRAM
WSL TREE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM


SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY

TREE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The SNWA is targeting the installation of 100,000 trees through a new Tree Enhancement Program, offered as a companion to the WSL program incentive.

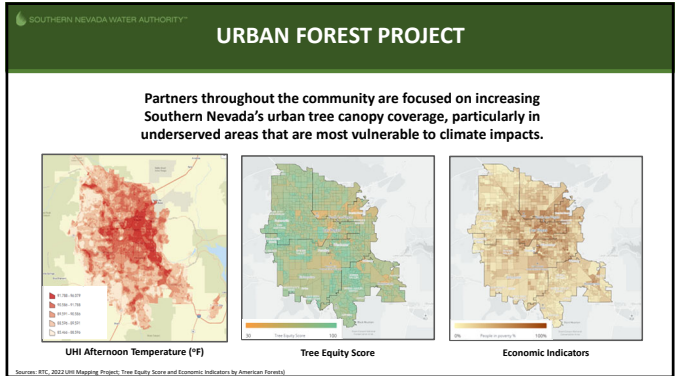
Tree Program Proposal:

- The SNWA will pay new WSL participants a \$100 per tree bonus for all **new** tree installations (up to 100 percent canopy coverage).
- The tree bonus is in addition to the existing WSL rebate.
- The program includes some restrictions on tree types and sizes. Visit snwa.com for details.



The program design makes it easy for applicants to participate and SNWA to administer.

PROPOSED PROGRAM SNWA URBAN FOREST PROJECT



URBAN FOREST PROJECT

The SNWA is targeting the installation of 1,000 trees in at-risk areas of the community by the end of 2026 through collaboration with ImpactNV.

Reaching At-Risk Communities:

- ImpactNV, a local non-profit, is already coordinating with local jurisdictions to support tree planting initiatives.
- The project will focus tree placement efforts in areas where populations are most vulnerable to extreme heat, targeting high-use areas to maximize public benefit.
 - Schools, parks and recreation centers
 - Commerce and community centers
 - Mass transit terminals, high-traffic pedestrian routes
 - Residential community common areas



URBAN FOREST PROJECT

ImpactNV has deep roots in our community; they have the capacity to support this effort and can hit the ground running.

ImpactNV Responsibilities:

- Recruit non-SFR property owners in select neighborhoods.
- Secure liability releases/easements and tree care commitments.
- Source and secure preferred trees.
- Contract/coordinate labor and installations.
- Conduct regular reporting to SNWA.



OTHER RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

TREE RESOURCES

Protecting mature trees is critically important to our community. Most trees will survive landscape conversion with proper planning and care.

Online Resources:

- Tree care conversion tips at snwa.com
- Turf removal checklist, best management practices for tree protection by the Southern Nevada Arborist Group at snwa.com
- Tips for hiring a landscaper
- Speaking for the Trees: SNWA Water Smart Podcast, Episode 36
- Videos, classes and tutorials.



TREE RESOURCES

Videos, tips and tutorials were developed in collaboration with the Southern Nevada Arborist Group, Nevada Division of Forestry, landscape professionals and Nevada Plants.



Before You Begin:

- Visit snwa.com before starting conversion projects.
- Select a licensed and insured contractor. Consider hiring an arborist for tree concerns.
- Assess each tree for its health and condition. Consider removing weak or older trees.
- Complete your project during the cool season, if possible.




This is not a complete list of recommended best practices – visit snwa.com for more information on how to protect your trees during turf removal.

TREE RESOURCES

Take special care to protect tree roots in the root zone. Avoid using heavy machinery within the protected area to prevent damage to tree roots and topsoil.

Identify & Protect Tree Roots:

- Consider placing a fence around the edge of each tree crown to prevent root and soil damage.
- Don't use equipment like sod cutters to remove turf under tree – these tools can damage tree roots and strip off valuable topsoil.
- Minimize trenching and other heavy equipment near trees to avoid soil compaction.
- Avoid placing hardscaping and inorganic mulches (especially rocks) under trees.



This is not a complete list of recommended best practices – visit snwa.com for more information on how to protect your trees during turf removal.

TREE RESOURCES

Provide deep water to the tree root protection zone before beginning a conversion and continue to water trees for the duration of the project.

Irrigate Trees Before, During & After Conversions:







- Provide adequate irrigation to trees throughout the conversion process.
- Ensure new drip systems supply water under the full tree canopy.
- Place older trees on a separate irrigation valve, if possible.
- Monitor irrigation systems closely to ensure that existing trees and new plants are receiving sufficient water.



This is not a complete list of recommended best practices – visit snwa.com for more information on how to protect your trees during turf removal.





MATURE TREES IN CONVERSIONS

The community has conducted thousands of successful landscape conversions since 1999.

MATURE TREES IN CONVERSIONS


Green Valley South Owners Association
(84,482 sf. conversion, 2008)

MATURE TREES IN CONVERSIONS



Green Valley South HOA
(24,611 sf. conversion, 2009)



	
	



MATURE TREES IN CONVERSIONS

Green Valley Highlands
(41,119 sf. conversion, 2004)







MATURE TREES IN CONVERSIONS

Pecole Ranch Community Association
(5,537 sf. conversion, 2010)





MATURE TREES IN CONVERSIONS

Pecole Ranch Community Association
(8,416 sf. conversion, 2020)







MATURE TREES IN CONVERSIONS

Country Club Hills Community Association
(9,656 sf. conversion, 2021)



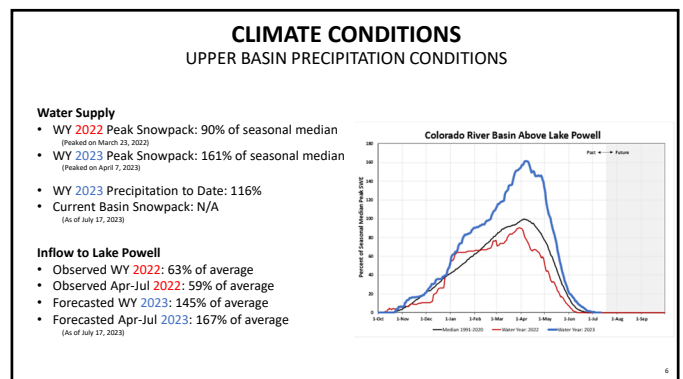
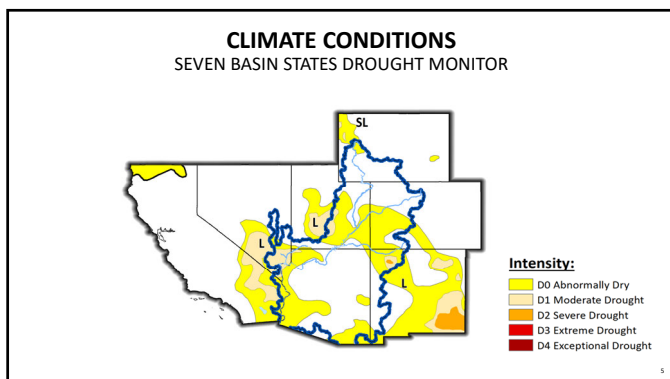
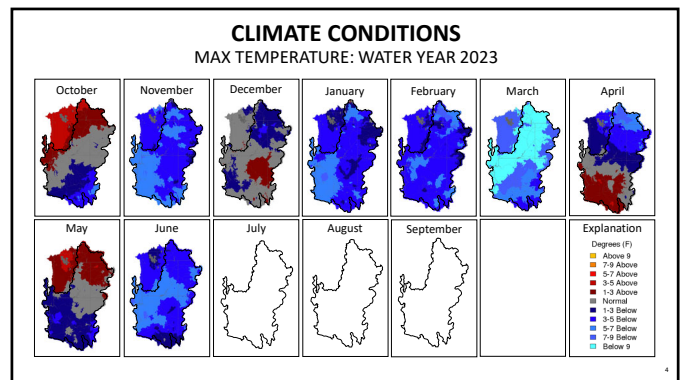
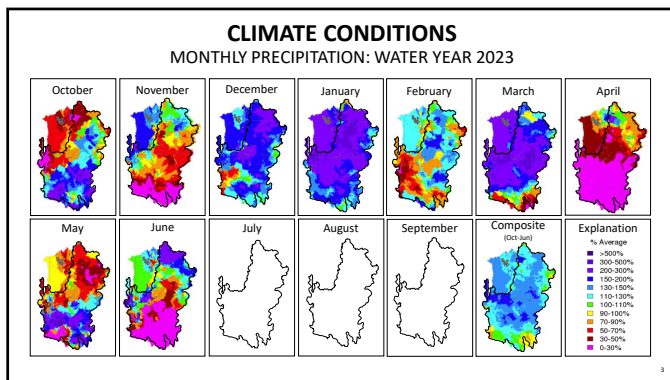


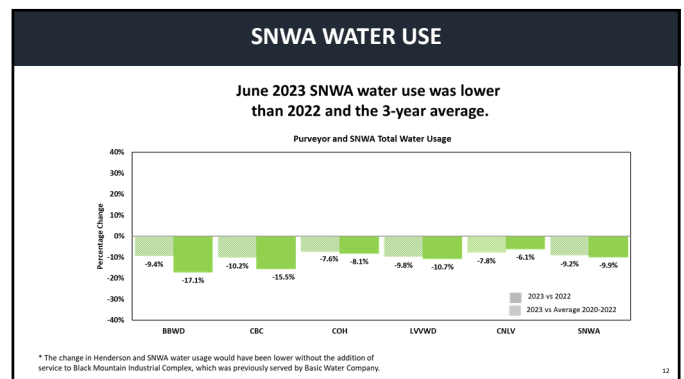
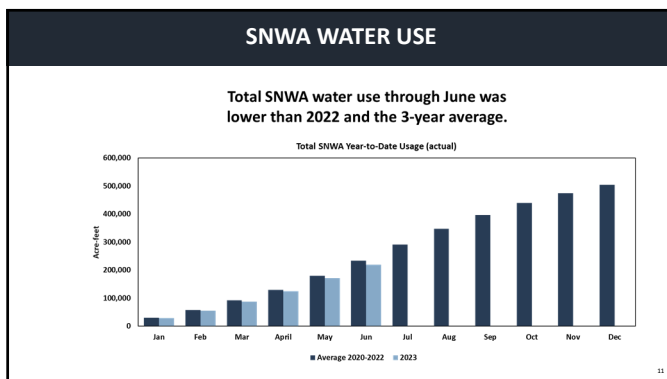
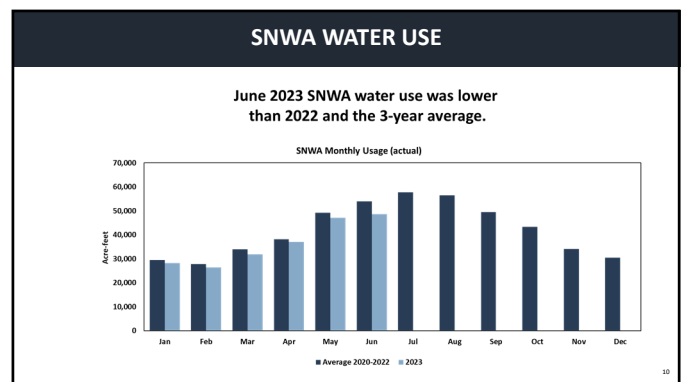
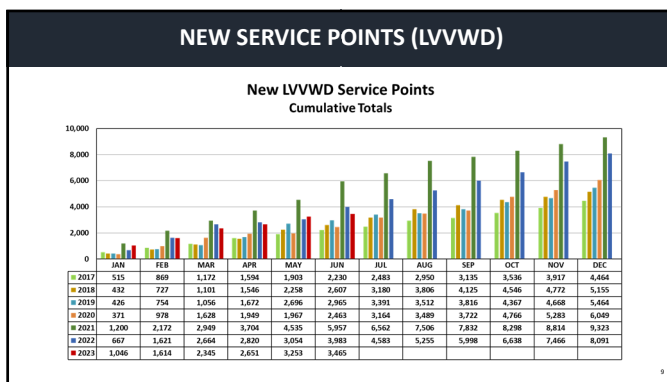
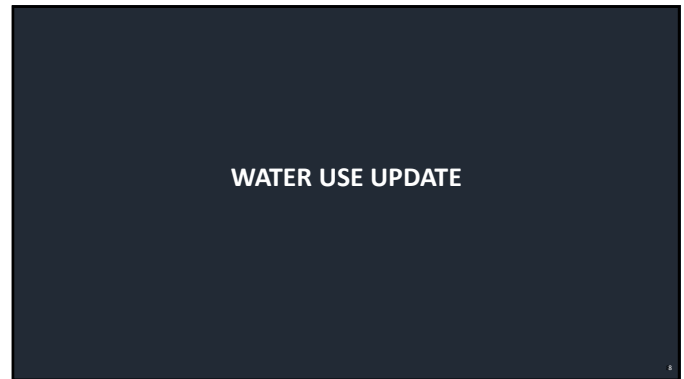
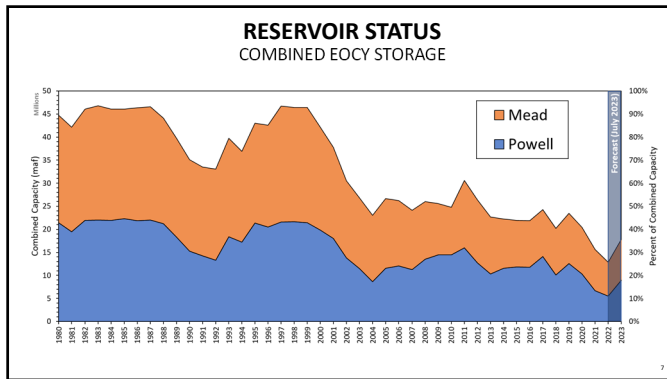


AB220 Authority and Funding

- Section 1: Authorizes the Southern Nevada Health District to create and voluntary septic to sewer conversion program and establish a voluntary fee for septic users to fund the program.
 - STATUS: Pending action by SNHD Board
- Section 33: Authorizes SNWA to operate a septic to sewer conversion program

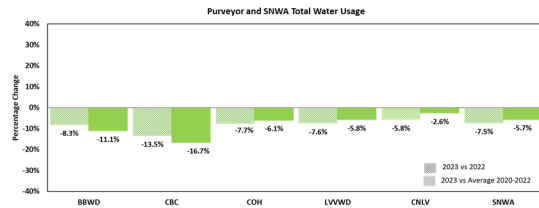
	Fully Funded	Partially Funded	Groundwater Management Program
Estimated Launch Date	January 2024	August 2023	August 2023
Funding Amount/Source (FY24)	Secured: \$6.5 million • \$3 million – Federal appropriation • \$1.75 million – BCR grant (SNWA match required in same amount)	\$1.3 million – SNWA Operating Fund	\$500,000 – GMP Fund
Eligibility	Residential septic users.	Residential, commercial, and public/government septic users willing to cover costs in excess of the benefit.	Residential and commercial well users current on GMP fees willing to cover costs in excess of the benefit.
Participant Selection	Due to limited funding, SNWA may target specific property clusters, areas with water quality issues, and other priority parcels in order to maximize return on investment.	First come, first served based on available funding.	First come, first served based on available funding.
Benefit	100% of total project costs, including engineering/design, construction, associated fees, and like-for-like landscaping replacement.	85% of total project costs, including engineering/design, construction, associated fees, and like-for-like landscaping replacement. \$40,000 maximum benefit.	85% of total project costs, including engineering/design, construction, associated fees, and like-for-like landscaping replacement. \$40,000 maximum benefit.
Procurement Process	SNWA conducts sealed bid RFP to hire and manage contractor(s). May include design and/or project management procurement.	Parcel owner acquires three quotes and submits to SNWA for approval and Notice to Proceed.	Parcel owner acquires three quotes and submits to SNWA for approval and Notice to Proceed.
Rebate to Customer?	No. SNWA will handle all payments directly to procured contractor.	Yes. Customer will pay full costs and request reimbursement from SNWA.	Yes. Customer will pay full costs and request reimbursement from SNWA.





SNWA WATER USE

January-June 2023 SNWA water use was lower than 2022 and the 3-year average.

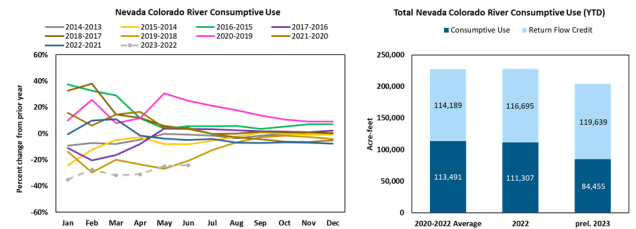


* The change in Henderson and SNWA water usage would have been lower without the addition of service to Black Mountain Industrial Complex, which was previously served by Basic Water Company.

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NEVADA COLORADO RIVER USE

January-June 2023 Colorado River consumptive use was well below 2022 and the 3-year average.

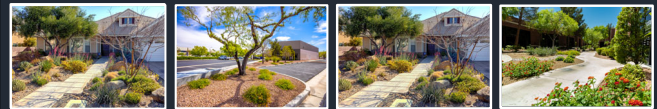


14

WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE

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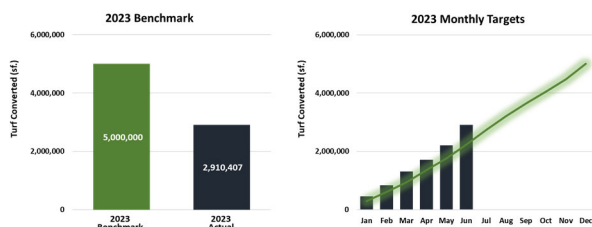
WATER SMART LANDSCAPES



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WATER SMART LANDSCAPES

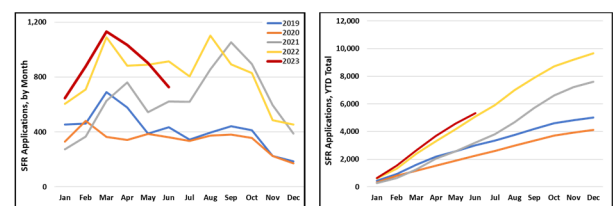
Residents converted more than 2.9 million square feet of turf in 2023, saving an estimated 162.4 million gallons of water annually.



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WATER SMART LANDSCAPES

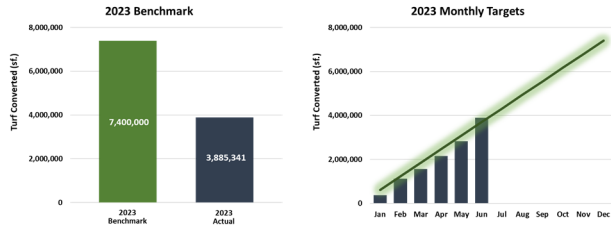
Single Family Residential WSL applications continue to outpace progress in recent years.



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WATER SMART LANDSCAPES

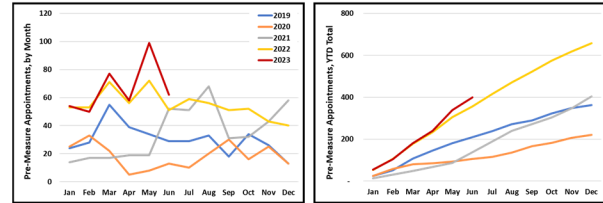
Non-SFR property owners converted more than 3.8 million square feet of turf in 2023, saving an estimated 216.8 million gallons of water annually.



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WATER SMART LANDSCAPES

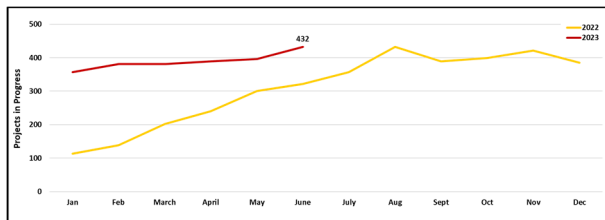
Program interest among Non-SFR water users is trending higher than the same time last year.



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WATER SMART LANDSCAPES

There are 432 Non-SFR Water Smart Landscapes projects currently in progress.



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WATER SMART LANDSCAPES

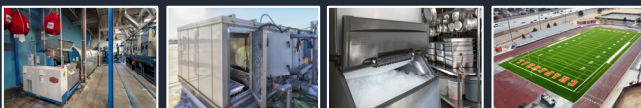
Conversion Highlights

- Rhodes Ranch Association, 262,346 sf.
- TPC Summerlin Golf Course, 297,802 sf.
- City of Henderson Parks, 51,928 sf.



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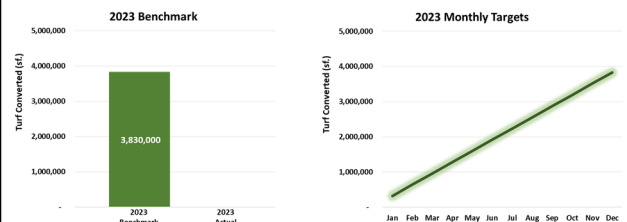
WATER EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGIES



23

COOL-TO-WARM SEASON TURF CONVERSIONS (WET)

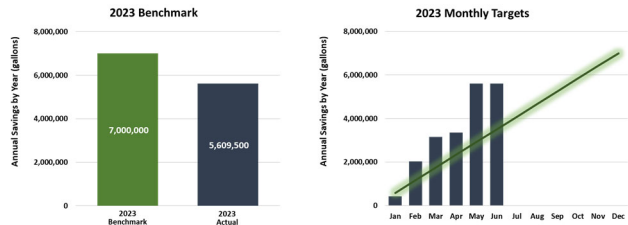
The 2023 benchmark for WET cool-to-warm-season turf conversions is 3.83 million square feet (~80 million gallons).



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EVAPORATIVE COOLING REDUCTIONS (WET)

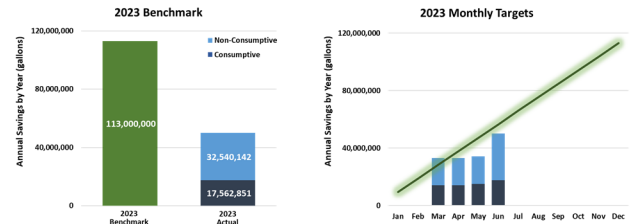
Customers have completed 15 WET projects in 2023, saving an estimated 5.6 million gallons of water annually.



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OTHER PROJECTS (WET)

Participants completed 11 other WET projects in 2023, saving an estimated 50.1 million gallons of water annually.



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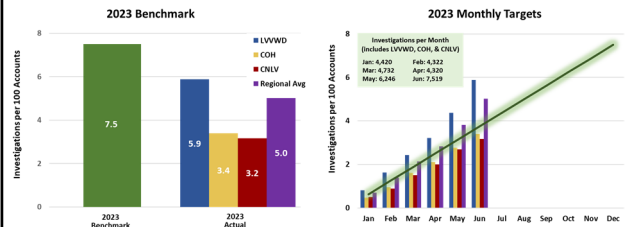
WATER USE COMPLIANCE



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WATER USE COMPLIANCE

The 2023 benchmark for water use compliance investigations is 7.50 per 100 accounts.



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