

**SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 18, 2024
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER 9:05 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Chair
Dan Stewart, Vice Chair
Scott Black (by telephone)
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

Laura McSwain spoke concerning items 3 and 4. She provided a copy of her notes which are attached to these minutes. She said safety and health concerns regarding artificial turf should be considered before providing rebates to the Clark County School District to replace grass fields with artificial turf.

Pete Foley spoke concerning item 3. He said that the potential toxicity of materials in artificial turf should be determined before installing turf in schools. He said other communities in the eastern United States were removing artificial turf due to health concerns while our community was installing artificial turf without resolving those concerns. He said that saving water should not come at the potential detriment to the community's health.

Julie Wignall spoke concerning item 3. She said that artificial turf had been shown to have negative environmental and health impacts on communities. She asked the Board not to approve the agenda item or at least delay the vote until the proposal could be further researched.

Amelia Wignall spoke concerning item 3. She said that the proliferation of artificial turf should be stopped due to the potential negative health impacts caused by artificial turf.

Ed Uehling spoke concerning items 2, 3 and 4. He said that item 2 allows the Clark County Commission to have undue influence over other jurisdictions and should not be approved. He said that there had been information provided regarding the negative environmental impacts of artificial turf, which should persuade the Board to reconsider incentives to install artificial turf at schools.

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 November 16, 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 November 16, 2023. The motion was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA Items 2 – 8 are routine and can be taken in one motion unless a Director requests that an item be taken separately.

2. ***For Possible Action: Renew the Amended and Restated Interlocal Contract between the Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Authority, which authorizes the General Manager of the District to serve as the General Manager of the Authority and utilize the staff and resources of the District to manage the affairs of the Authority.***

3. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an interlocal agreement between the Clark County School District and the Authority to rebate the conversion of natural turf on baseball, softball, and soccer fields to artificial turf at 46 schools, and authorize the General Manager to sign any ministerial documents necessary to effectuate the transaction in an amount not to exceed \$23,500,000.

John Entsminger, General Manager, said that the concern of toxin exposure from artificial turf is often linked to rubber infill material that is used beneath the turf to maintain the field's structure and help with shock absorption.

CCSD's policy is that no natural, recycled, or synthetic rubber material can be used for turf infill at its fields. The turf itself cannot contain any toxic substances. Only a specific, approved list of vetted manufacturers and products may be used on school district properties.

He also said that the interlocal agreement was put together as a direct response from the School District to accelerate the replacement of natural turf fields due to the poor condition of the current fields, which has led to a large number of youth injuries.

Chair Kirkpatrick added that CCSD has a bond oversight construction committee that reviews these types of policies, and the committee adopted the CCSD's artificial turf requirements and policies before artificial installations began at schools.

4. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an amended and restated interlocal agreement between the Clark County School District and the Authority to rebate the conversion of approximately 6,100,000 square feet of irrigated turf at 97 schools to water-efficient landscaping and authorize the General Manager to sign any ministerial documents necessary to effectuate the transaction in an amount not to exceed \$11,700,000.
5. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve a resolution authorizing the submission of a grant proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects grant program seeking \$609,937.
6. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve a resolution authorizing the submission of a grant proposal to the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Conserve Nevada Program to seek funding for a wetland and riparian restoration project at the Las Vegas Wash, and, if awarded, authorize the General Manager, or his designee, to enter into any future funding agreement for the project.
7. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve a resolution authorizing the submission of a grant proposal to the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Conserve Nevada Program to seek funding for a wetland and riparian restoration project at the Warm Springs Natural Area, and, if awarded, authorize the General Manager, or his designee, to enter into any future funding agreement for the project.
8. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign Change Order No. 3 to the contract with Monument Construction to replace two trolley mounted electric hoists at the Authority's Pumping Plant Nos. 1A and 2A, in an amount not to exceed \$37,592 and extend the Final Completion date by 341 calendar days.

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

BUSINESS AGENDA

9. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign a high voltage distribution agreement between Nevada Power Company dba NV Energy and the Authority for the construction of an electrical power service line to serve the future Apex 2920 Pumping Station site as a part of the Garnet Valley Water Transmission System in an amount not to exceed \$2,687,528.

FINAL ACTION: Director Gibson 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 electric power transmission service agreement among the Colorado River Commission of Nevada, the Silver State Energy Association, and the Authority, enabling the Silver State Energy Association to utilize electric transmission and distribution facilities and other assets owned, controlled and operated by the Colorado River Commission of Nevada and the Authority for the purpose of delivering energy to Authority loads.

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

11. ***For Possible Action:*** Award a contract for the installation of water distribution pipeline to Harbor Company, Inc., dba Mountain Cascade of Nevada, in the amount of \$11,831,900, authorize a change order contingency amount not to exceed \$1,000,000, and authorize the General Manager to sign the construction agreement.

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

12. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, a purchase agreement between Ebara Corporation and the Authority for the supply of pumps and motors for the Sloan and Lamb Pumping Stations Expansion Project in the amount of \$12,032,800 and authorize a change order contingency not to exceed \$1,200,000.

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

Items 13 and 17 were taken together.

13. ***For Possible Action:*** Adopt the 2024 Water Resource Plan.
17. ***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.

Colby Pellegrino, Deputy General Manager, Resources, gave a presentation on the 2024 Water Resource Plan, drought conditions and conservation programs. A copy of her presentation is attached to these minutes.

Director Jones asked what the Authority was doing to address heat island effects in Southern Nevada. Ms. Pellegrino said that predominately, heat island effects were driven by hard surfaces, such as roads and roofs. While landscaping cannot overcome the urban heat island effect, it does help in managing it. Shade is the most effective contributor to reducing heat island effects, so trees, canopies and structures that help shade those hardscapes are what really help in reducing heat island effects. Therefore, the Authority has added an incentive of \$100 to plant robust-sized trees as part of the Water Smart Landscapes program. The Authority has also funded \$500,000 toward tree plantings in areas of the community that have high urban heat island index scores to help emoliate some of the urban heat island effect in the community.

FINAL ACTION: Director Gibson made a motion to adopt the 2024 Water Resource Plan. The motion was approved.

14. ***For Possible Action:*** Adopt the 2024 Water Budget.

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

15. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize a temporary increase to the Water Smart Landscapes Program rebate for single family residential properties from \$3.00 per square foot to \$5.00 per square foot for the first 10,000 square feet of grass converted to water efficient landscaping and from \$1.50 to \$3.50 for every square foot thereafter for projects completed during calendar year 2024.

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

16. ***For Possible Action:*** Decrease the Water Smart Landscapes Program rebate for non-functional grass conversions to \$2.00 per square foot from \$3.00 per square feet for the first 10,000 square feet, and to \$1.00 per square foot thereafter, on January 1, 2025.

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

Public Comment

Ed Uehling said that the Authority does not conserve water. He said that the Authority transfers water from residents living in the eastside of Las Vegas to those living in Summerlin and the westside of Las Vegas. He said that the Board serves large corporations and resorts instead of less affluent residents. He said that the efficiency and salaries of the Authority and its staff should be investigated.

Pete Foley said that Southern Nevada has successfully conserved water over the last 20 years, but the community cannot expect to continue to save additional water in the future. He said that the Authority has shifted from providing incentives to implementing penalties, including charges for excessive usage which 1 in 6 residents have received. He said that those charges are not being equitably applied since residents in Las Vegas receive the charges while Henderson residents do not. He said residents need fairness and equity in how these measures are applied.

Julie Wignall said that new types of artificial turf, which may not be made with toxic chemicals, can still have detrimental impacts to air quality as the materials age and breakdown. She said that playing surfaces at schools would not be shaded, and that one university study showed that artificial turf can be 37 degrees hotter than asphalt thereby also contributing to the urban heat island effect.

Alex Kleinman said he was concerned that the increased heat from artificial turf playing surfaces at schools would have a negative impact on students.

Laura McSwain said that the community should not be placing water conservation over air quality. She said that certain sections of the community are being targeted while other areas can continue to enjoy trees and grass. She said that grass is a component in helping combat heat, and that measures should be applied equitably across the Valley not just in the City of Las Vegas.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Copies of all original agenda items and minutes, including all attachments, are on file in the General Manager's office at the Las Vegas Valley Water District, 1001 South Valley View Boulevard, Las Vegas, Nevada.