

**SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 16, 2025  
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER 9:11 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Chair (Entered at item 7)  
Dan Stewart, Vice Chair  
Scott Black  
Olivia Diaz  
Jim Gibson  
Justin Jones  
Steve Walton

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT None

STAFF PRESENT John Entsminger, Colby Pellegrino, Doa Ross, Dave Johnson, Kevin Bethel  
and Tabitha Simmons

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](http://snwa.com/apps/snwa-agendas/index.cfm)*

Laura McSwain spoke concerning item 2. She provided a written copy of her comments, which are attached to these minutes.

Ed Uehling spoke concerning item 2. He said that the Las Vegas Valley Water District, which is a member agency of the Authority, should not manage the entire regional Authority. He asked what efforts were being made to bring additional water resources to Southern Nevada. He said that conservation efforts were not enough to solve water shortage challenges.

Diane Henry spoke concerning item 9. She asked about the details of the proposed septic waiver program. She said that people have been waiting for the waivers to be able to build on their land.

**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 21, 2024.***

FINAL ACTION: Director Gibson made a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting and to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of November 21, 2024. The motion was approved.

**CONSENT AGENDA** Items 2 – 6 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: Ratify the execution of Amendments 3 and 4 to an agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Authority to decrease grant funding of the agreement and close out the grant agreement.***
4. ***For Possible Action: Ratify the execution of Amendments 2 and 3 to an agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Authority to decrease grant funding of the agreement and to close out the grant agreement.***
5. ***For Possible Action: Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, an interlocal agreement between Clark County and the Authority that details the responsibilities and funding commitments of each agency to implement cool roof research, including a pilot project study, to quantify potential water and energy savings and other benefits of retrofitting existing commercial warehouse properties.***

6. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign a cooperative agreement between the Nevada Division of Forestry and the Authority to conduct inmate conservation work detail services from January 16, 2025, through June 30, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$100,000 per annum, with an option to renew for five additional one-year periods.

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 the General Manager to sign, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, a Purchase and Sale Agreement and Joint Escrow Instructions for the purchase of real property interests from Diamond Solo, LLC, for \$33,147,466, authorize payment of buyer closing costs, and authorize the General Manager to sign any administrative documents necessary to effectuate the transaction.

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

8. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, a Purchase and Sale Agreement and Joint Escrow Instructions for the purchase of real property interests from Propstrike LLC for \$85,929, authorize payment of buyer closing costs, and authorize the General Manager to sign any administrative documents necessary to effectuate the transaction.

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

9. ***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.

John Entsminger, General Manager, said that staff had been engaged in discussions concerning septic conversions and waivers for septic tank installations. He said that staff was working extensively with the member agency sewer providers on program details for septic conversions and a septic waiver program.

Colby Pellegrino, Deputy General Manager – Resources, gave an update presentation. A copy of her presentation is attached to these minutes.

Director Jones asked about compliance rates for non-single-family residential properties with non-functional turf. Ms. Pellegrino said that staff had surveyed property owners in an effort to assist them with potential turf conversions and compliance with AB356 requirements. Director Jones offered to assist in coordinating efforts with property owners with non-functional turf as they were identified.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

#### **Public Comment**

Ed Uehling said that the Authority board members should be more concerned with the amount of power wielded by the Las Vegas Valley Water District in managing regional water issues. He said that the Board needed to be more involved with bringing additional water resources to Southern Nevada. He cited a concept to desalinate the Salton Sea to be used by California irrigation districts in exchange for additional Colorado River water.

Julie Abarzua spoke concerning septic waivers. She said that she was unable to develop her property until a waiver process was instituted.

Diane Henry spoke concerning septic waivers. She said that a reasonable program was needed that was less onerous than what was proposed at the November meeting. The amount of fees and restrictions included in the program could potentially create additional hardships for property owners. She asked that fees be reduced to actual costs to not put an unfair financial burden on property owners.

Cheryl Zimmer spoke concerning septic waivers. She asked that discussions involving septic conversions be had separately from discussions on septic waivers as to not delay a decision on waivers. She said that building costs continue to rise and that delays make it more expensive for them to build.

Guillermo Cerna spoke concerning septic waivers. He said that he was waiting for the program to be able to build.

Jose Montes spoke concerning septic waivers. He described the steps he had taken so far to build on his property. He said he was ready to build and just needed a waiver process to be implemented.

Jay Samuels spoke concerning septic waivers. He said that the proposed fees and timelines for the waiver program were too onerous. He said he was looking for a reasonable and fair waiver program.

Ray Jensen spoke concerning septic waivers. He said he was just looking to be able to build on his property.

Laura McSwain spoke concerning the water update given under item 9. She congratulated the property owners that were apathetic to AB356 restrictions saying that the law was badly written. She said that more discussions were needed regarding deadpool at Lake Mead and not allowing Nevada's Colorado River allocation to be reduced. She said that saplings being planted under the Authority's tree programs require a generation to grow before providing the same cooling effects and oxygen benefits that existing trees that are being lost due to grass removal provide. She said that arborists and horticulturalists have said that only about 20 percent of the new trees installed under the Authority's programs will survive.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 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.**



January 16, 2025 SNWA Meeting – Public Comment

**Item #2 – Consent Agenda**

The reauthorization of the General Manager of LVVWD to serve as the General Manager of SNWA deserves a broader conversation.

Since its formation in 1991, SNWA has masterfully extended and expanded the valley's water supply. However, a very disturbing turn has been taken **AGAINST EXISTING RESIDENTS**, something Pat Mulroy, SNWA's principal architect never did. For over two decades, she shaped its policies and pioneered much of the technology that has made SNWA synonymous with conservation. She has recently publicly questioned the agency's current trajectory. Ms. Mulroy shared her thoughts in an editorial she wrote that appeared in the Las Vegas Sun, August 27, 2023; *Sustainable solutions are needed to navigate the water crisis in the West*. In it she states that... **"as all important and foundational as conservation is, at some point you will hit a wall, and any further reductions will have unwanted social and economic consequences. .... in a country where we pride ourselves on innovation and achievement, we have become paralyzed."** Under her leadership, recommendations for development standards impacted new development thereby preserving existing microclimates, property investments and allowed mature landscapes and tree canopy to help mitigate the negative impacts of growth in a warming climate. All one has to do is navigate mature neighborhoods throughout the valley to notice the decline of our urban tree canopy. **So yes, WE HAVE HIT A WALL.**

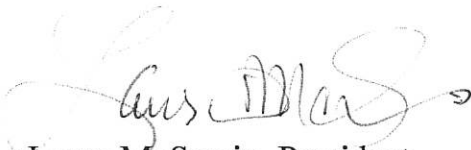
It is time to revisit the structure of how water is controlled and managed in Clark County and consider the negative consequences currently on display when so much power is aggregated by representatives serving in conflicting roles. There are a variety of methods used in water management across the United States and governance varies by state and region.

The current management of SNWA/LVVWD has elected to turn on residents to justify growth in Clark County, ignoring environmental consequences and weaponizing a flawed rules making process, (that also must be revisited) leaving the rate payers out of conversations, and paying exorbitant amounts of money for propaganda that uses the levels of Lake Mead to distort the reality of our water supply and resilience. Boundaries must now be created between the water negotiator, the water supplier and the water delivery agency.

Separately elected water boards are often created to oversee the impacts of policies so that it doesn't become a matter of bureaucrats creating policies that support the political desires of elected representatives. So, technically, you all should be retired from your responsibilities as well.

It is usually a gross overreach that exposes structural flaws in a system. It is time to do something about it.

WATER FAIRNESS COALITION, INC



Laura McSwain, President

WORK PARTNERS BLOG LA COUNTY GRANTS

WATER TABLE ABOUT DONATE

## Currents

# Water Boards: Pathways to Community Power

IDEAS DECEMBER 15, 2020 [Alesandra Nájera](#) and [Alex Paxton](#)



Table with materials and resources for voter outreach and education on drinking water issues, Community Water Center.

As part of an ongoing series on broadening who makes water decisions and how, we're exploring the role of water boards and sharing how community groups are helping residents build their skills to run, win decision-making seats, and advance community-led solutions.

Every election season, most of the attention goes to the top of the ballot. Races to decide who serves on water boards – often opaquely named community services districts or public utility districts – get little notice.

For the most part, water boards operate with an engineering mindset. This culture attracts board members who frequently have backgrounds in water agencies, business, or large-scale agriculture. This approach is very effective in delivering safe water to most US residents. But there are unintended consequences to this uniformity.

Predominantly led by white men, many of these public institutions have also failed to reflect the people they are supposed to serve. Community members' knowledge and aspirations are often discounted or minimized by those in power. Even as populations and their priorities evolve and change, water boards can be unresponsive to new goals and approaches.

Still, these boards remain powerful. They decide whether and how residents get clean, safe, and affordable water. They make decisions on how to spend public funds on everything from river health and infrastructure upgrades to climate action in the face of worsening floods, droughts, and wildfires. Because we all need water to live, their choices deeply affect each constituent.

need water to live, their choices deeply affect each constituent.



## Uncontested Races Offer Opening for Change

Despite their crucial responsibilities, many board seats, particularly for smaller districts, go uncontested for years. Last November, for example, a [water district near Sacramento, CA](#), held its first election in 43 years. This year, the [Desert Sun interviewed every water district candidate](#) running in the Coachella and Imperial valleys. Out of nine races, four seats automatically went to the incumbents because no one else qualified to run.

While this isn't the democracy we want or need, the proliferation of uncontested water board elections also offers an opening for new leadership.

.....

With some support, community members, especially those who have been at the forefront of water justice organizing and advocacy, are well positioned to run energized campaigns and win.

.....

Community and justice groups, such as [Community Water Center](#), [Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability](#), [Nature for All](#), and [Self-Help Enterprises](#), are leading the charge to make local water leadership representative of and accountable to residents.

To do this, they are helping a new generation build their power and technical skills for values-based governance that listens and responds to the people who are most directly affected by water challenges. As a result of these and other groups' work, rising leaders from [Coachella](#) to Tulare are running for seats on water boards. They are creating a nascent wave of base-connected elected officials from communities of color and communities struggling to make ends meet.

## Water-Focused Action Funds Step Up

After finding that 87% of local water boards in the southern San Joaquin Valley had not held a single election between 2014 and 2018, Community Water Center launched the [Community Water Leaders Network](#) to help grow the pool of community leaders for local, regional, and state positions.

Community Water Center explains that "local elected seats are also the starting

point for higher office and building a pipeline of community-focused progressive leadership. From our past experience, these leaders need support and access to good information to be successful in their roles as water decision-makers. [The Community Water Leaders Network] aims to provide access to relevant and timely information on drinking water issues, technical support on water governance issues, and access to a peer network of values-aligned elected officials dedicated to the human right to water.”

The Community Water Center Action Fund also endorsed candidates in 2018 and 2020 elections. In 2018, the 501(c)4 organization endorsed Linda Gutiérrez to serve on the Yettem/Seville community services district, which is now helping advance a community-driven project to rebuild Seville residents’ water system and undo decades of neglect that denied families their basic right to water. Gutiérrez says one of the reasons she decided to run was that Seville residents live in an area that helps grow food for most of the country but don’t have water for their own hygiene and cooking.



Community Water Center Action Fund staff and 2018 endorsed candidates, Community Water Center Action Fund.

This year, Community Water Center Action Fund endorsed Jose Sigala for Tulare City Council, District 1; Veronica Vasquez and Salvador Solorio-Ruiz for Delano City Council; and Tim Prado for Lamont Public Utility District. All four endorsed candidates were successful in their elections to local office. The action fund also launched its first civic engagement program that focused on talking to Latino, low propensity voters in Tulare, Delano, and Lamont.

Other groups are also supporting new water board leadership. This fall, for instance, the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters endorsed former Pomona Councilmember Danielle Soto for a seat on the Three Valleys Municipal Water District, highlighting her expertise in working with community and environmental justice leaders. Over in Fresno, the Valley Voters PAC endorsed Tyler Mackey for the local water district. Soto and Mackey both won their elections on November 3.

Ensuring clean, reliable water for people and nature comes through the never-ending work on a social contract that enables everyone to live safely and with dignity. Community power on water boards is a part of the puzzle to get there.

## Thirsty for Democracy Series

To learn more about how we're thinking about and supporting systemic change in water decision-making, check out our [opening post in this series](#), as well as a [new post on making water and land decisions together](#).



**Alesandra Nájera** is a program officer at the Water Foundation

My name is Gregory McElroy and I am a resident of Las Vegas. This is in regards I find myself in a predicament in which I do not know what to do. I'm in escrow on a piece of land which I thought I was going to be able to install a septic tank, just like everyone else in the area. The closest sewer line is over half a mile away, which is well further than the 400ft mark, which I was under the impression was the rule to connect or convert to the sewer. It now looks like I am incorrect and that no septic is allowed to be installed. It also looks like cannot drill a well because municipal water is accessible, 75ft away. I cannot connect to municipal water because I cannot connect to the sewer, which again is half a mile away (2640ft), which doesn't seem reasonable for someone to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to connect to the sewer. It seems once I owned the property I wouldn't have rights to any water and in short not be able to live there. I really don't know what to do and any guidance or help would be appreciated. It also seems that moving to a location where it is more affordable is no longer an option because one cannot afford to tie into the sewer. I am all for tying into the sewer but the sewer company does not provide any assistance to make to make that achievable. I have heard of the waiver that would allow the use of a septic tank, however it looks like it keeps getting delayed while people agree to the terms. I was happy with the past waiver proposal, since then I could move forward on life and dreams of building a house. Is there any way temporary pause to the rule till the waiver gets approved or is there any way we can speed up the process. The more delay, the more time and funds are spent on funds and loans, just standing still wondering if and when something will be passed. Just looking for help and guidance.

--

Warmest regards,

Gregory McElroy

[gregorymcelroy@gmail.com](mailto:gregorymcelroy@gmail.com)

+1.917.319.3817

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/gregorymcelroy>

Facebook:

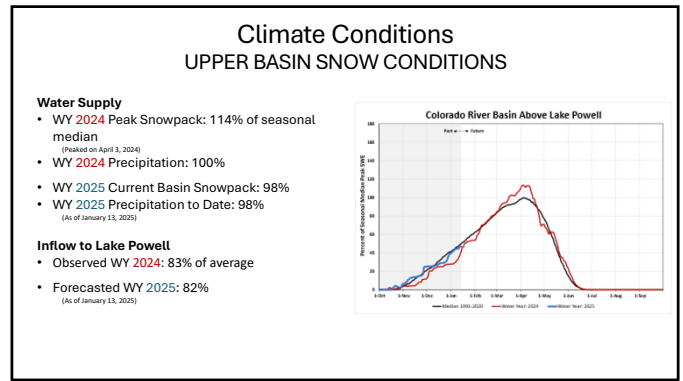
<https://www.facebook.com/gregmcelroy>

Website:

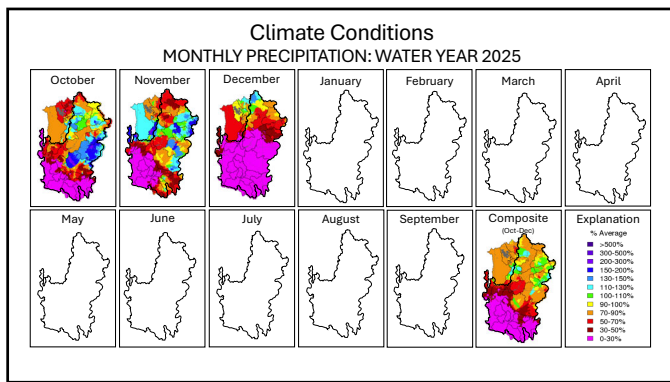
<https://www.gregorymcelroy.com>



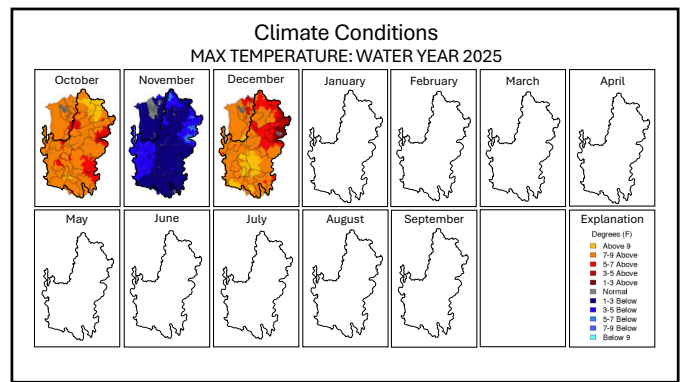
1



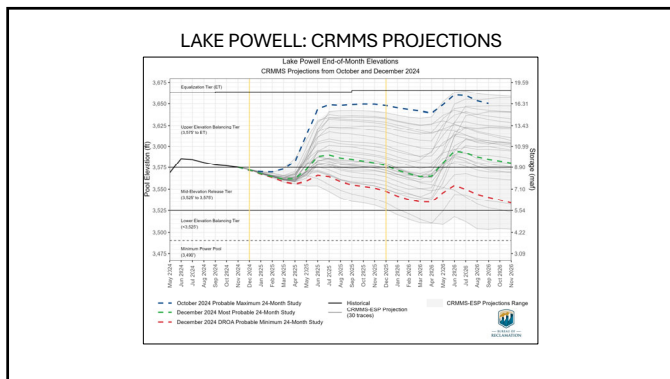
2



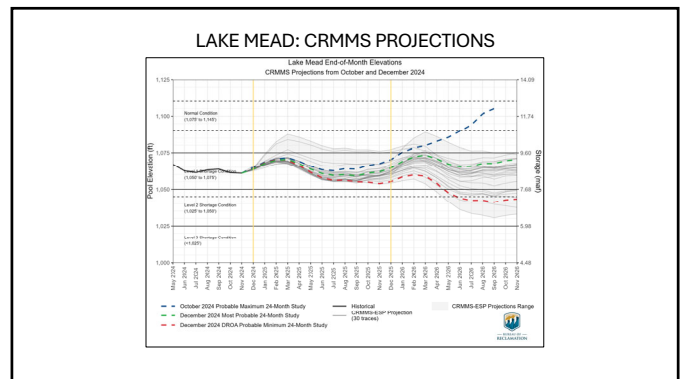
3



4



5



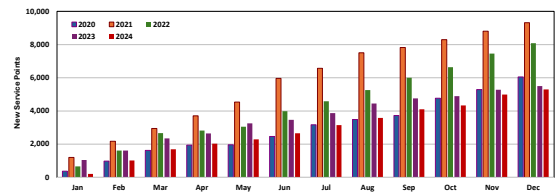
6

## WATER USE UPDATE

7

## NEW SERVICE POINTS (LVVWD)

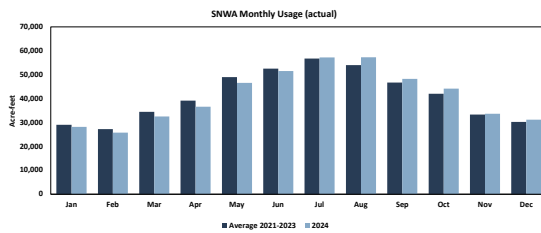
New LVVWD Service Points  
Cumulative Totals Through December



8

## SNWA WATER USE

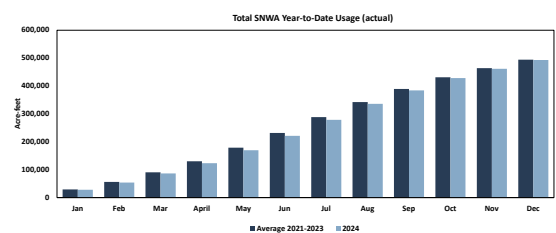
December 2024 SNWA water use was higher than 2023 and the 3-year average.



9

## SNWA WATER USE

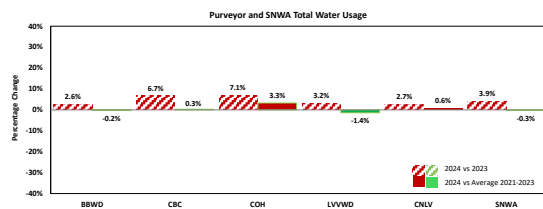
Total SNWA water use through December was higher than 2023 and lower than the 3-year average.



10

## SNWA WATER USE

January-December 2024 SNWA water use was higher than 2023 and lower than the 3-year average.

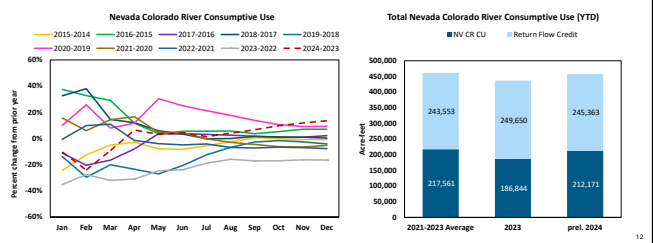


\* The change in Henderson and SNWA water usage would have been lower without the addition of service to Black Mountain Industrial Complex, which was previously served by Basic Water Company.

11

## NEVADA COLORADO RIVER USE

December 2024 Colorado River consumptive use was above 2023 and lower than the 3-year average.



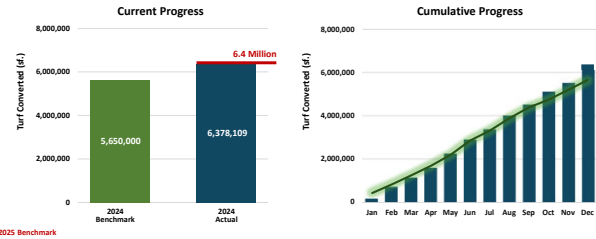
12

## CONSERVATION BENCHMARKS

13

## WATER SMART LANDSCAPES

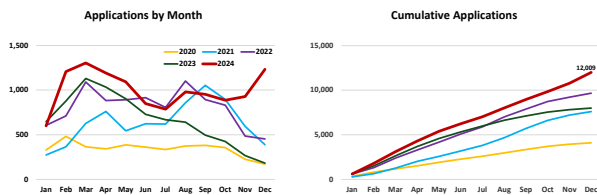
Homeowners have converted more than 6.3 million square feet of grass in 2024, saving more than 355 million gallons of water annually.



14

## WATER SMART LANDSCAPES

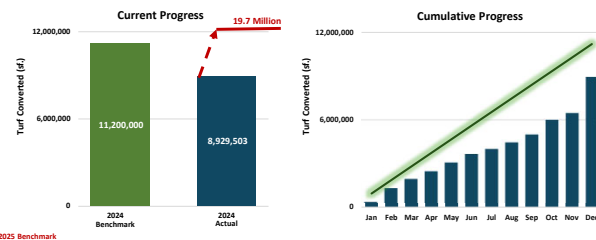
Cumulatively, homeowner applications are trending well above recent prior years.



15

## WATER SMART LANDSCAPES

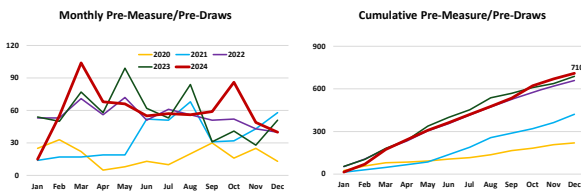
Non-SFR property owners converted more than 8.9 million square feet of grass in 2024, saving nearly 500 million gallons of water annually.



16

## WATER SMART LANDSCAPES

Cumulatively, enterprise customer applications are trending slightly above 2023.



17

## TREE PROGRAMS

The SNWA offers a tree incentives for WSL participants and is partnering with ImpactNV to create shade in our community.

### SNWA Tree Enhancement Program

- WSL participants installed more than 3,400 new trees in 2024, creating approximately 1.5 million sf. of new tree canopy at maturity.

### ImpactNV Partnership

- Installed more than 1,000 trees in high-heat low-income areas.



Sandstone Ridge Tree Planting Project, June 2024

18

**CONVERSION HIGHLIGHTS**

**Top WSL/WET Enrollments for December**

**Water Smart Landscapes (WSL):**

- Canyon Gate Country Club, 983,151 sf.
- Desert Shores Community Assn., 165,974 sf.
- Arroyo Grande Apartments, 86,412 sf.

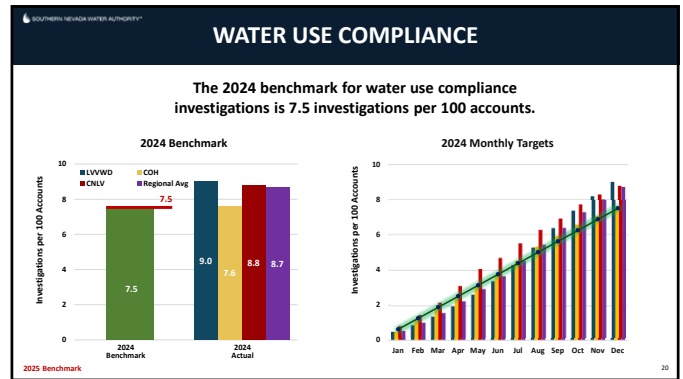
**Water Efficient Technologies (WET):**

- CCSD-Centennial Hills (Alternate Sporting Surface) – saves ~18.2 million gallons/year
- Chimera Golf Club (Cool to Warm Season Turf Conversion) – saves ~5.1 million gallons/year
- Ocean Spray (Swamp Cooler Retrofit) – saves ~4.1 million gallons/year



19

19



20



21