

## **LAS VEGAS VALLEY WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Virtual Meeting Conducted via Microsoft Teams

October 21, 2025

2:00 p.m.

### **Members Present:**

Keiba Crear, *Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD, alt.)*

Dan Fischer, *Clark County Water Reclamation District (CCWRD, alt.)*

Priscilla Howell, *City of Henderson (COH)*

Lisa Kremer, *Clark County (CC)*

Joemel Llamado, *City of North Las Vegas (CNLV)*

Zane Marshall, *Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA)*

Andrew Trelease, *Clark County Regional Flood Control District (CCRFCD)*

Charles Trushel, *City of Las Vegas (CLV)*

### **Also Present:**

Patrick Almeida

Taryn Alves

Erik Anderson

Steven Anderson

Jason Bailey

Eric Bauer

Elizabeth Bickmore

Brian Carlson

Richard Donahue

Shonna Dooman

Jason Eckberg

Deena Hannoun

John Hiatt

Ryan Pearson

AJ Rodrigues

Kristina Sasser

John Solvie

David Stoft

Todd Tietjen

Debbie Van Dooremolen

Xiaoping Zhou

### **1. Welcome/Call to Order**

Chair Joemel Llamado called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

### **2. Public Comment**

Seeing no request for public comment, Joemel moved forward with the meeting.

### **3. Introductions**

Attendees are listed above.

### **4. Approve April 8, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes passed.

### **5. Receive an Informational Update on Items Related to the Las Vegas Valley Watershed Advisory Committee (LVVWAC) that May Appear in Future Regular Board Meetings of LVVWAC Members' Appointing Agencies**

There were no comments from the committee members.

**6. Approve the Las Vegas Wash Long-Term Operating Plan 2026/2027 Budget**

Keiba Crear presented the 2026/2027 Las Vegas Wash Long-Term Operating Plan (LTOP) budget, the fourth budget since LTOP implementation began. All funding categories remained the same, including Erosion & Stormwater, Jurisdictional & Regulatory (i.e., Stakeholder Process), Public Outreach, Funding, Water Quality and Environmental Resources. The only adjustment made to the budget is the annual increase of 2.5 percent, bringing the total operating budget to \$2,843,560. The program expects \$312,625 from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and \$2,530,935 in local contributions. She noted that the BOR funds are currently delayed due to the federal government shutdown, but we historically receive the full BOR amount once government operations resume. If not received, staff will consider budget reductions. The allocations for each entity were reviewed. The proposed budget covers July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and was presented early to support the agencies' internal budget planning.

A motion to approve the 2026/2027 LTOP budget passed unanimously.

**7. Review and Approve the LTOP Reserve Fund Policy**

Keiba presented the proposed LTOP reserve fund policy, noting a current reserve balance of \$730,938 to be used for extraordinary weir repairs and other emergencies. Staff reached out to LVVWAC members to examine their reserve policies and make recommendations for different reserve funding options. Two options for target amounts were presented: (1) a reserve equal to 50% of the annual budget (\$1.4 million), or (2) a reserve equal to 100% of the annual budget (\$2.8 million). She also presented one option for authorization to use reserve funds: staff can expend up to 50% of the reserve without first seeking LVVWAC approval. She clarified that operating funds not spent on programs within the allocated budget would be put into this reserve, up to the reserve amount. Keiba opened the item for discussion by the committee, stating that once a target amount is determined for the reserve, legal counsel will update LVVWAC bylaws to be approved by the committee at a future meeting.

Priscilla Howell proposed the creation of a working group to further understand the lifecycle of the weirs and to give a better idea of weir maintenance costs. Keiba reassured LVVWAC members that the purpose of the reserve is for extraordinary costs not covered within the annual budget. Keiba brought Ryan Pearson, head engineer on the project, into the conversation. Ryan agreed that a working group could be beneficial and provided rough estimates on weir project and maintenance costs. Andrew Trelease offered that CCRFCD just kicked off a conditional assessment program to examine facilities and their lifespans, and to create standard operating procedures to investigate these issues. Zane Marshall informally proposed setting the reserve fund at \$2.8 million. Dan Fischer first commended staff for the current reserve fund but opposed the \$2.8 million amount, citing a steep jump from current funds in the account. Andrew thought that \$2.8 million makes more sense as \$1.4 million would not be sufficient for 2025 costs. Conversation continued amongst LVVWAC members that while weir construction, planning and design are costly, the intent of these funds is to deal with emergency repairs.

After deliberation, Priscilla made a motion which proposed the \$2.8 million target amount and adjusted the pre-approved percentage for use of the reserve fund to 25 percent. Dan suggested lowering the amount to 10 percent, and Priscilla amended her motion to that percentage. None

opposed and the motion passed. Legal counsel will draft policy text for the LVVWAC bylaws for potential action in April.

**8. Receive an Update on the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee**

Debbie Van Dooremolen, SNWA, gave the update. The Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) continues in its mission to stabilize and enhance the Las Vegas Wash (Wash), as directed by the CAMP and LTOP. The LTOP budget is now in year two of a five-year interlocal agreement. For Erosion & Stormwater activities, crews completed maintenance on five weir sites and three stockpile sites for \$1.4 million. Wash water quality data shows lower total suspended solids levels and a substantial decrease in perchlorate levels related to the Athens Channel. Debbie reported on ongoing monitoring of birds, bats, large mammals and benthic macroinvertebrates at the Wash. The LVWCC is currently in long-term operations, and while there are no new planting sites, maintenance and management of existing sites continues. There are more than 600 acres of total revegetation, and tamarisk is down 99 percent. Lastly, Debbie reported on outreach efforts, which had attendance of approximately 13,000, and she stated that the next LVWCC meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2025.

**9. Receive an Update on the Clark County Wetlands Park**

Elizabeth Bickmore, Clark County Wetlands Park (Wetlands Park), presented the update. She highlighted the completion of Phase 1 of the Wetlands Loop Trail project, with trail design currently under BOR review. A new barrier project is in place to create a park perimeter to help prevent illegal dumping in Wetlands Park, with plans to work with other jurisdictions to expand this project. Maintenance efforts include the purchase of a TRUXOR amphibious marsh mower to improve water quality and flow, renewal of a four-year agreement with the National Park Service (NPS) for weed management and a five-year landscaping contract with BrightView. Public safety continues to be a priority; they are working together with the Southern Nevada Hazardous Fuels Reduction Group to determine fire protection levels within the park and on a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposal for fire mitigation. This proposal was submitted October 1, and Elizabeth stated that Wetlands Park is hoping to get additional funds to address fuel loads in Clark County. The park experienced four fires in 2025, affecting 165 acres. The Hollywood Boulevard Extension project is at 60 percent design for Phase 2, supporting future weir installation on Duck Creek. Elizabeth reported that community events and children's programs continue to be a success through field trips and events such as the new BLM Fire Prevention Day. In 2024, approximately 700,000 people visited the park, generating \$58,000 in store revenue and increased digital engagement. Lastly, Elizabeth reported that Placer.ai is now being used to support demographic tracking.

**10. Receive an Update on Regional Water Quality**

Todd Tietjen and Deena Hannoun, SNWA, presented the update. Todd reported that Lake Mead's water quality remains good, with no major concerns. Data collected from the Colorado River entry point into Lake Mead shows the water entering the lake is warmer than usual, decreasing dissolved oxygen levels. Algal toxins remain low overall, except in Lake Mohave, which showed a higher concentration likely due to wind patterns. Current lake levels are at 1,057 feet above sea level, and with the new water year just beginning, estimated predictions show Lake Mead between 1,053 feet and 1,059 feet by the end of 2026. Todd reported that his team is working to develop an eDNA screening for early identification of invasive mussel

species. He also shared updates on weather stations located throughout Lake Mead which provide real-time data on air and water temperatures, wind speed and direction, wave height and direction, and relative humidity and pressure, with all data tracked online. His team is also working on the rebuilding and overall cleanup of the water quality database, which is now in the testing phase.

Deena presented modeling projects focused on the impacts of water temperature at the Hoover Dam intake, 3D modeling of negative water quality scenarios, and optimization of chlorine dosing at water treatment facilities. She highlighted the team's achievements in a recently published article in *Environmental Modeling and Software*, which compares 2D to 3D modeling to place the location of the Las Vegas Wash plume relative to the drinking water intake, and she noted the addition of two new postdoctoral students to support model building and calibrating the system to establish benchmark standards.

#### **11. Receive an Update on the Lower Las Vegas Wash**

Zane gave an update and began with the history of the Lower Las Vegas Wash project to help the committee better understand where the project currently stands. He discussed erosion in the late 1990s. The NPS built four weirs to mitigate this issue, but erosion continued. In 2014, the LVVWAC began a letter writing campaign asking congressional leaders to fund/build additional erosion control structures in the reach. In 2016, funding was deemed unavailable. Since 2019, SNWA has focused on Weirs 5 through 9, particularly Weir 5, conducting extensive environmental compliance work. Following Weir 3's failure in 2023, a \$20 million BOR grant was awarded for a new structure. Zane stated that administrative changes earlier this year revised this agreement to now require SNWA to assume long-term weir maintenance, terms that are deemed unfeasible within the organization. He shared that the original cost estimate for Weirs 5 through 9 was \$120 million, and according to an engineering update six months ago, the estimated project cost stands at approximately \$490 million today. Zane shared that many discussions were held, and staff ultimately decided to end the project. The BOR has been notified of the termination and staff is working to return unused funds and create a plan for the unused project materials.

Priscilla asked what consideration was taken in terminating the project as it pertains to other individuals worried about weir failure such as the Federal Highway Administration and COH, who are concerned about ongoing erosion and infrastructure, particularly the Northshore Road bridge. Zane confirmed that NPS leadership was briefed on the severity of the issue but still chose not to commit maintenance funding.

#### **12. Receive an Update from Members and Staff Regarding Water Resources, Stormwater, Wastewater and Water Quality**

Zane announced that the 2026 Water Resource Plan and 2026 Water Budget will go before the SNWA Board of Directors in November 2025. Andrew noted that the Stormwater Quality Management Committee's (SQMC's) monthly meeting has been rescheduled to November 10, to avoid the holiday. Priscilla asked Brian Carlson to give an update on COH projects. Brian reported that completion of the Phase 4 project at the Kurt R. Segler Water Reclamation Facility is set for December 16, adding that it is a 12 million gallons per day (MGD) capacity expansion to allow for maintenance redundancy and infrastructure projects. He also gave

updates on several lift station projects, including the Cadence Lift Station, which will have a capacity of over 3 MGD. No other updates were made.

**13. Set Next Meeting Date and Propose Items for the Next Meeting's Agenda**

Joemel Llamado reviewed proposed agenda items for the next meeting, including the LVVWAC Accomplishments Document and updates on the SQMC and water dischargers. Dan suggested adding an item on the draft LTOP reserve fund policy. He also proposed additional discussion about future weir costs, possibly within a working group. Keiba stated that the Operations Study Team would be tasked with working through the process to determine future weir costs and Steven Anderson, SNWA legal counsel, will work on the bylaws revision addressing the new reserve fund policy.

She stated that both proposed items will be coordinated with staff to determine whether they can be on the next agenda or if more time is needed. She assured all members that updates will be provided as needed. The LVVWAC unanimously approved a motion to set the next meeting for April 14, 2026, at 2 p.m.

**14. Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public. Meeting adjourned.