

**SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 16, 2026  
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER 9:04 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Chair  
Scott Black  
Olivia Diaz  
Jim Gibson  
Steve Walton

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT Dan Stewart and Justin Jones

STAFF PRESENT John Entsminger, Colby Pellegrino, Doa Ross, Andy Belanger, Paul Johnson  
and Greg Walch

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 3. She provided a written copy of her comments for the record, which are attached to these minutes.

Carol Reynolds spoke concerning item 3. She opposed SNWA paying to install shade trees when its policies were killing mature trees. She said that she lived in section 11 where many trees had already been lost. She said planting new trees was commendable but wondered how long it would take the young trees to provide any shade and support wildlife. Her trees were planted 36 years ago and some of her neighbors' trees were decades older. She said that excessive use fees were implemented by some board members whose constituents pay no excessive use fees. She criticized the Authority for its dire description of the drought while telling the public that additional growth in Southern Nevada did not necessarily mean more water use. She talked about the bird species that her yard supported and expressed concern for the wildlife's wellbeing.

Diane Henry spoke concerning item 3. She said that trees were needed in underserved areas in Southern Nevada, but it will be years before the young trees planted under this program make it to maturity and provide appreciable benefits. In the meantime, SNWA's policies for forced turf removal and member agencies' high water rates and excessive use charges continue to lead to the demise of mature trees. She said that it was ironic that the Authority was paying to plant trees while its policies were killing trees. She said that the Authority's policies needed to change for the environment and for residents' quality of life. She questioned the timing of the implementation of the contract since planting in the heat of summer was not a good time to be planting trees. Ms. Henry also spoke concerning items 4 and 5. She said it would be helpful if presentation materials were posted with the meeting's supporting documents to allow for public review and comment at the meeting.

**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 February 19, 2026.***

FINAL ACTION: Director Walton made a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting, and to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of February 19, 2026. The motion was approved.

**BUSINESS AGENDA**

2. ***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 wildfire mitigation 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.***

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

3. ***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 shade tree plantings and to help fund the project for an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

John Entsminger, General Manager, said that this agreement was an extension of an existing agreement. He said that this agreement would continue ongoing work that had planted approximately 4,000 new trees to date in the Valley.

Director Diaz asked for a map showing where trees had been planted and target areas for new trees. She said her Ward needs additional tree canopy to combat urban heat island effect. Colby Pellegrino, Deputy General Manager – Resources, said that she could provide a map. She said the biggest challenge with the tree planting program was getting landowners to agree to maintain the trees after planting. She said ImpactNV was anxious to partner with landowners that were ready and willing to maintain the newly-planted trees. She said that the program used heat maps to target areas for new trees.

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

4. ***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 a presentation. A copy of her presentation is attached to these minutes.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

5. ***For Information Only:*** Receive an overview and discuss the Fiscal Year 2026/27 Tentative Budget for the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Mr. Entsminger gave a presentation. A copy of his presentation is attached to these minutes.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

#### **Public Comment**

Diane Henry said that Nevada had been the most successful in conserving and recycling water in the Colorado River Basin. She said that Nevada should not voluntarily give up any of its Colorado River allocation when similar conservation activities were not being reciprocated in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Until other states invest to conserve and recycle, Nevada should continue to fight to keep all its water. Nevada needs to do more than rely only on local conservation. She said that if more was not done then Southern Nevada’s continuous growth would become unsustainable.

Laura McSwain said that ImpactNV’s goal stated on its website was to plant 100,000 trees in Nevada, but according to its website, it had planted only 120. She said she would like to see where the trees were being planted. She said that the Authority was seeking landowners willing to care for new trees while enacting policies that kill existing trees. She also commented on Nevada potentially giving up 50,000 acre-feet of water as part of a negotiated agreement with the other Colorado River Basin states. She said that Colorado diverts 500,000 acre-feet of water outside of the basin, while Nevada recycles its water to keep it inside the basin. She said that the situation was broader than Nevada and the Colorado River Basin and had become a national security issue in terms of having national water security.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

**Copies of all original agenda items and minutes, including all attachments, are on file at the Las Vegas Valley Water District, 1001 South Valley View Boulevard, Las Vegas, Nevada.**



1

**Public Comment**

Please limit your comments to three minutes.

2

**Item 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 February 19, 2026.

3

**Item 2**

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4

**Item 3**

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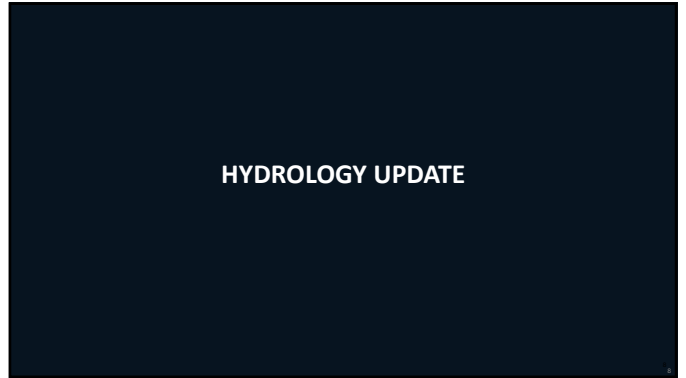
**Item 4**

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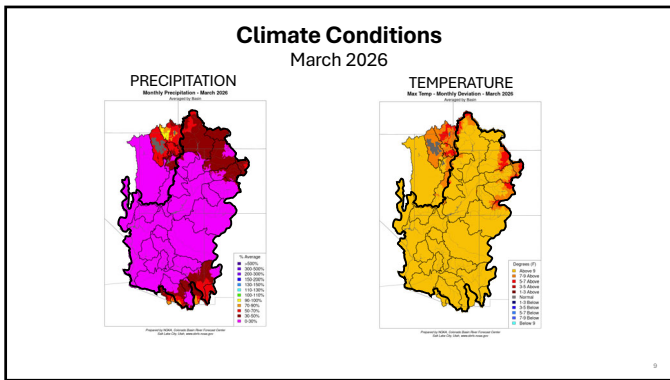
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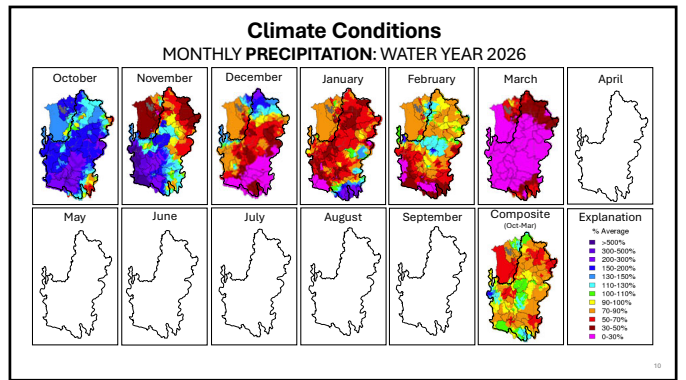
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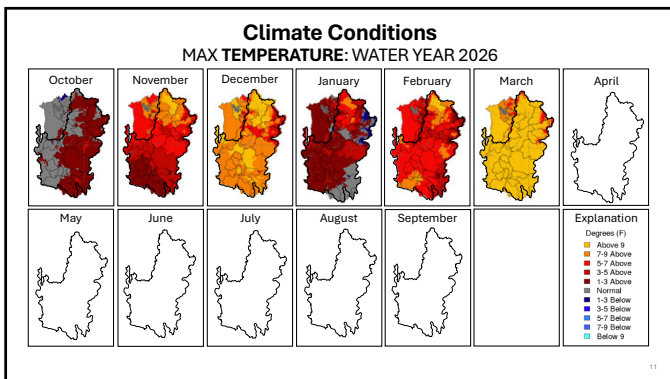
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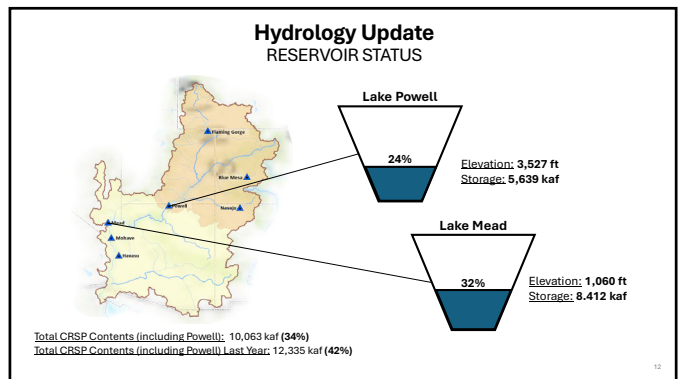
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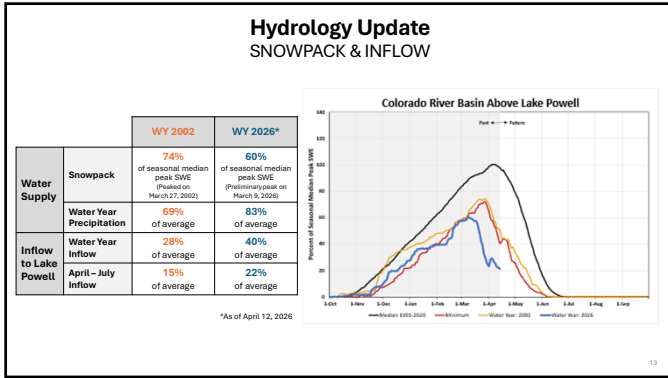
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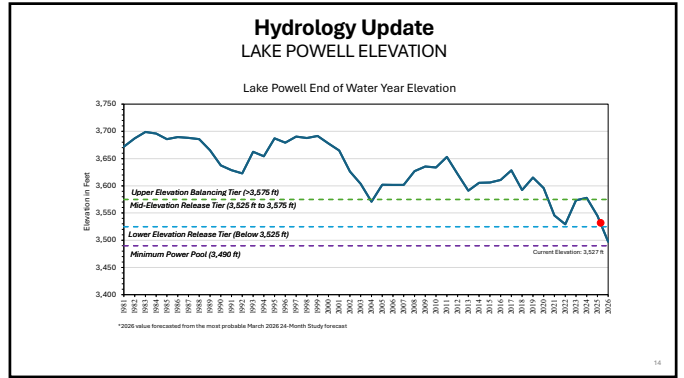
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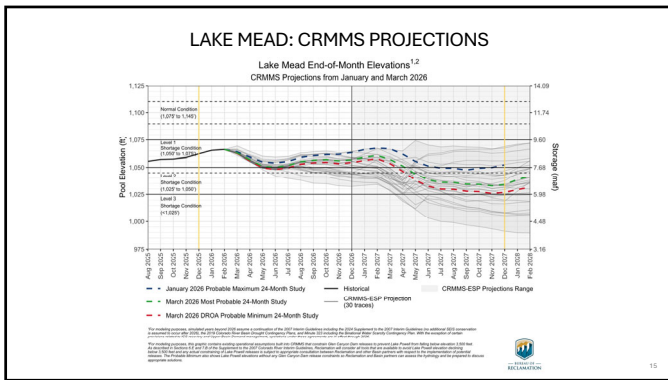
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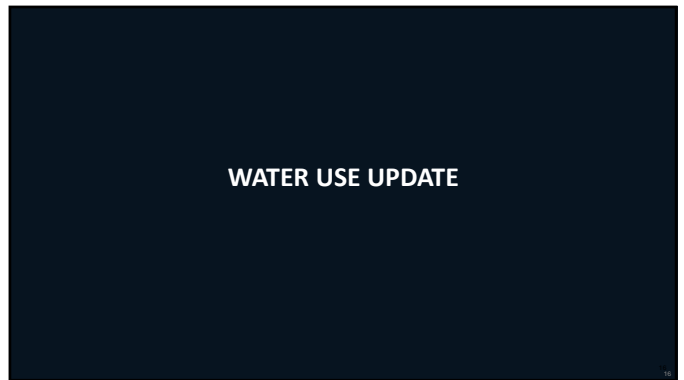
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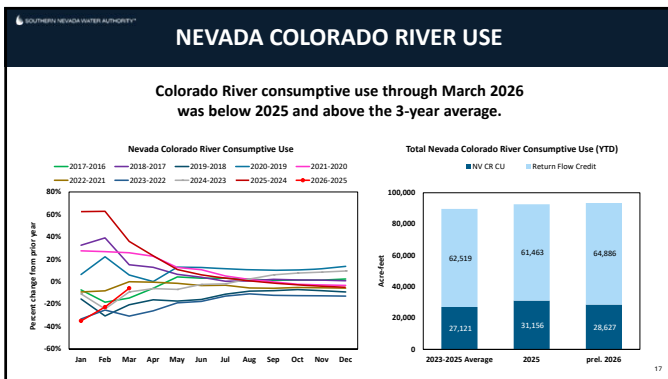
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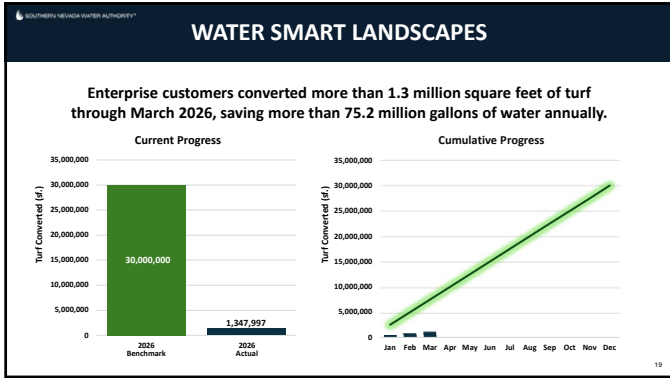
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**Item 5**

*For Information Only:* Receive an overview of and discuss the Fiscal Year 2026/27 Tentative Budget for the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

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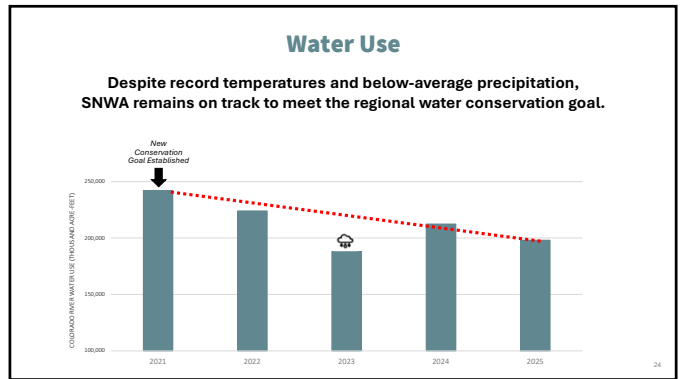
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**2025-26 Highlights**

- 2025 water use remained lower than the 3-year average
- Commenced major construction on the Garnet Valley water and wastewater projects
- 10.8 million square feet of turf converted, saving approximately 14 billion gallons of water
- Nearly 4,000 trees planted through the WSL program and partnerships with non-profit organizations, resulting in more than one million sq. ft. of new canopy coverage upon maturity

Garnet Valley wastewater pipeline construction

23




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# Capital Projects UPDATE

25

## Horizon Lateral

**When completed, the project will offer redundancy and provide additional capacity in the southern portion of the water system.**



**Phase 1:** Six contracts at 60% Design

- Paradise Hills Pumping Station & Pipeline
- Fayle Pumping Station & Pipeline
- Rice Pumping Station & Pipeline
- South Boulevard Pumping Station & Pipeline
- Horizon Reservoir
- Fayle Pumping Station

Phase 1 design began in 2023; estimated to complete Phase 1 in 2030.

FY 26/27 Budget: \$20.9 million  
Total Project (Phase I): \$1.9 billion

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## Garnet Valley Water Transmission System

**A new transmission and distribution system will supply water to the Apex Industrial Park.**

- Distribution Pipeline
- Transmission Pipeline
- Pumping Station
- North Las Vegas' reservoir and Environmental monitoring.





Construction start: May 2025  
Estimated completion: March 2029



FY 26/27 Budget: \$179.8 million  
Total Program: \$409.04 million

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## Garnet Valley Wastewater System

**Will capture wastewater from the Apex Industrial Park and return it to Lake Mead for return-flow credits.**

- Phase II Out of Valley System (Lift Stations and Force Mains)
- Las Vegas Boulevard Interceptor (Sloan to Speedway, Speedway to Union Pacific Railroad) are in construction

Construction start: May 2025  
Estimated completion: April 2028

FY 26/27 Budget: \$120 million  
Total Program: \$383 million



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## Stage II Reliability Upgrades: Sloan / Lamb Pumping Station Expansion

**Expands the existing Sloan and Lamb pumping stations to provide redundancy to the Hacienda pumping station.**

Project includes:

- 4 new pumps and motors at the Sloan/Lamb Pump Station
- Expansion of Sloan electrical system to improve overall redundancy
- Pump Factory Testing scheduled this spring

Construction start: November 2025  
Estimated completion: October 2027



FY 26/27 Budget: \$53.3 million  
Total Project: \$82.9 million

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## Stage II Reliability Upgrades: Monthill Pumping Station and Substation

**Design and construction of the Monthill Pumping Station, Electrical Substation and pipeline.**

- 90 MGD capacity
- Ability to operate at 50 MGD when Hacienda Pump Station is online
- Substation sized with sufficient capacity to power three pumping stations
- Located at Campbell 1845 Zone Reservoir Site

Estimated construction start: June 2026  
Estimated completion: September 2029

FY 26/27 Budget: \$22.9 million  
Total Project: \$203.1 million

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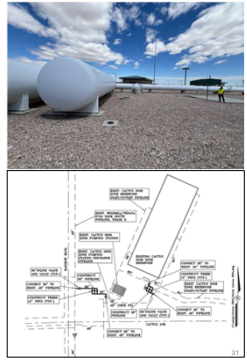
### Stage III: PRV Installation at Volunteer, Cactus, and Bermuda

Will provide additional capacity to City of Henderson to meet demands during an emergency and provide redundancy to the South Valley Lateral during a shutdown.

- 2745 to 2635 Zone PRV and pipeline
- 2635 to 2538 Zone PRV and pipeline at the Cactus Pumping Station
- 2538 to 2420 Zone PRV and pipeline at the Bermuda Pumping Station.

Estimated construction start: December 2026  
Estimated completion: February 2029

FY 26/27 Budget: \$9.5 million  
Total Project: \$25.2 million



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### Calico Ridge Rate-of-Flow Control Station

New 25 million MGD Rate-of-Flow Control Station on the Las Vegas Lateral for customers in the southeast.

Project includes:

- 25 MGD delivery to City of Henderson
- Provisions for a future outlet connection to a future City of Henderson reservoir

Construction start: March 2026  
Estimated completion: August 2027

FY 26/27 Budget: \$12.6 million  
Total Project: \$20 million



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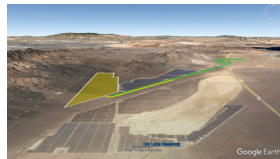
### Boulder Flats Solar Power Project

Supports SNWA's renewable energy goals

- 10-mile 230 kV transmission line and switchyard
- 2021: SNWA signed a Power Purchase Agreement with Boulder Flats Solar
- Current Status: PV Commercial operations slated to begin June 2027

Transmission line construction began summer 2024; estimated completion date in October 2026.

FY 26/27 Budget: \$2.1 million  
Total Project: \$26.7 million



RESOURCE COST COMPARISON		2027
Hoover A		\$26.06
Hoover D		\$34.07
Market (as of 4/1/25)		\$56.46
SNWA Solar PPA		\$40.93

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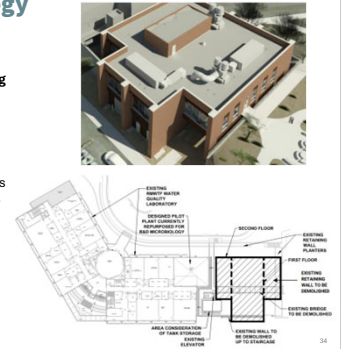
### River Mountains Microbiology Research Lab Expansion

Will add a 13,169 square foot, two-story building to the existing RMWTF microbiology lab.

- Provides Biosafety Level 2 research microbiology capability to investigate emerging microbial contaminants
- Provide a home for pilot corrosion testing capabilities to evaluate lead and copper corrosion and materials testing

Estimated construction start: May 2026  
Estimated completion: January 2029

FY 2025/26 Budget: \$11.4 million  
Total Project: \$34.7 million



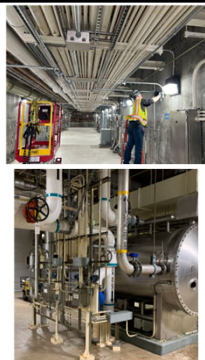
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### Ozone Equipment Upgrade

The ozone equipment at Alfred Merritt Smith and River Mountains water treatment facilities has been operating for 20+ years and requires an update.

Construction start: June 2025  
Estimated completion: August 2029

FY 26/27 Budget: \$57.8 million  
Total Program: \$166 million



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### Alfred Merritt Smith WTF Flocculation Area Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation of the rapid mix, flow splitter, and flocculation basins at the Alfred Merritt Water Treatment Facility

- Upgrade flocculation mixing equipment
- Replacement of flocculation influent gates
- Replacement of flash and rapid mixers
- Condition assessment of chemical feed lines and cathodic protection systems

Estimated construction start: June 2027  
Estimated completion: March 2030

FY 2025/26 Budget: \$9.3 million  
Total Project: \$115 million




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# Budget OVERVIEW

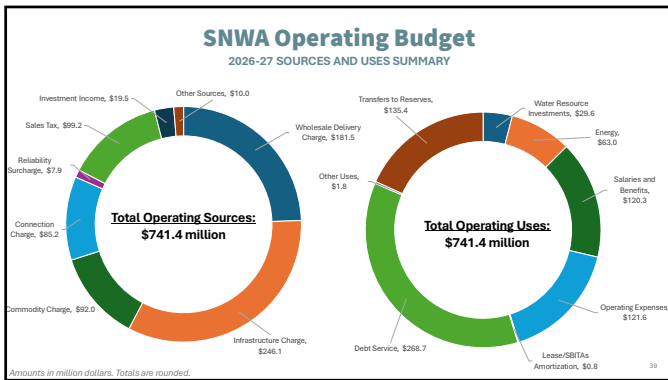
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## 2026-27 Budget Overview



- Significant construction activity is reflected by 66% increase in capital expenditures
- Inflation continues to impact project costs
- Indexed rate adjustments continue to use a conservative 25-year average
- Infrastructure, commodity, and connection charges reflect final year of IRPAC-approved six year inflationary-catch up increases
- Continued uncertainty surrounding future Colorado River operations

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### SNWA Operating Budget 2026-27 SOURCES OF FUNDS

	Actual 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27	Budget-to-Budget Variance
<b>SOURCES</b>				
Wholesale Delivery Charge	\$ 177.8	\$ 175.0	\$ 181.5	\$ 6.6
Infrastructure Charge	223.1	241.9	246.1	4.1
Commodity Charge	89.5	88.4	92.0	3.7
Connection Charge	85.6	89.9	85.2	(4.7)
Reliability Surcharge	7.4	7.6	7.9	0.3
Sales Tax	97.6	102.6	99.2	(3.3)
Investment Income	83.0	14.4	19.5	5.1
Other Sources	14.7	10.0	10.0	0.0
<b>SNWA Sources</b>	<b>\$ 778.8</b>	<b>\$ 729.7</b>	<b>\$ 741.4</b>	<b>\$ 11.7</b>

Amounts in million dollars. Totals are rounded.

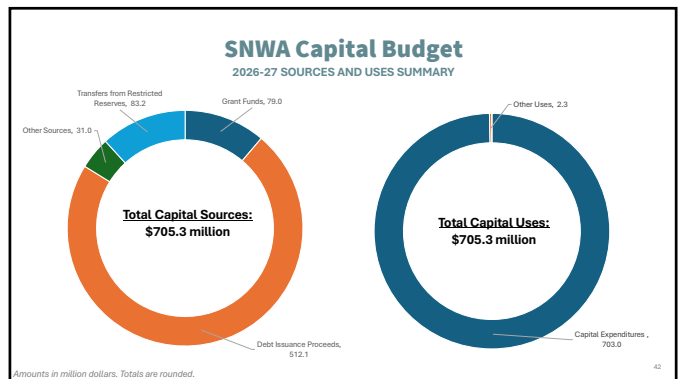
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### SNWA Operating Budget 2026-27 USES OF FUNDS

	Actual 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27	Budget-to-Budget Variance
<b>USES</b>				
Water Resource Investments	\$ 7.1	\$ 29.8	\$ 29.6	\$ (0.2)
Energy	50.1	63.0	63.0	0.0
Salaries and Benefits	90.9	115.8	120.3	4.5
Operating Expenses	88.0	95.5	121.6	26.1
Lease/SBITAs Amortization	1.1	1.3	0.8	(0.4)
Debt Service	278.8	305.1	268.7	(36.4)
Other Uses	-	1.8	1.8	0.1
Transfers to Reserves	262.7	117.4	135.4	18.1
<b>SNWA Uses</b>	<b>\$ 778.8</b>	<b>\$ 729.7</b>	<b>\$ 741.1</b>	<b>\$ 11.7</b>

Amounts in million dollars. Totals are rounded.

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### SNWA Capital Budget

2026-27 SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

	Actual 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27	Budget-to-Budget Variance
<b>SOURCES</b>				
Grant Funds	\$ 56.2	\$ 67.5	\$ 79.0	\$ (38.5)
Debt Issuance Proceeds	472.1	-	512.1	512.1
Other Sources	0.7	-	31.0	81.0
Transfers from Restricted Reserves	-	361.2	83.2	(278.0)
<b>SNWA Sources</b>	<b>\$ 529.0</b>	<b>\$ 428.7</b>	<b>\$ 705.3</b>	<b>\$ 276.6</b>
<b>USES</b>				
Capital Expenditures	209.7	424.6	703.0	278.3
Other Uses	-	4.1	2.3	(1.7)
Transfers to Restricted Reserves	319.3	-	-	-
<b>SNWA Uses</b>	<b>\$ 529.0</b>	<b>\$ 428.7</b>	<b>\$ 705.3</b>	<b>\$ 276.6</b>

Amounts in million dollars. Totals are rounded.

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### 2026-27 Initiatives

- Maintain momentum on capital improvement projects
- Advance efforts to reduce non-functional turf
- Continue discussions with Colorado River Basin states on river operations
- Support water conservation initiatives to reduce overall water use
- Unrestricted reserves remain above Reserve Policy target



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### Public Comment

Please limit your comments to three minutes.

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## **Water Fairness COALITION**

**April 16, 2026**

### **Public Comment – Agenda Item 3 (\$500,000 to ImpactNV)**

In January, this board approved a \$500,000 agreement with Nevada Plants for urban forestry work. That agreement included defined tree sizes, fixed pricing, installation, reporting, and oversight.

Now, just weeks later, you're being asked to approve another \$500,000....this time described as a "pilot program" that includes \$75,000 in administrative fees to ImpactNV before we've even evaluated the first program."

Which raises a simple question-setting aside for a moment whether this is even an appropriate use of ratepayer funds:

### **What distinguishes this as a "pilot" from the program you already funded in January?**

Because the model already exists, the costs are known and the implementation structure is already in place based on that agreement.

Yet instead of evaluating the results of the program you just funded, you're being asked to fund a second, parallel effort.

That's not how pilots work.

A pilot program is typically a small, short-term effort designed to test feasibility, cost, and outcomes *before* scaling.

That's not what's happening here.

There is also a broader issue.

SNWA policies are driving landscape changes across the valley that often result in the removal of mature trees....trees that already provide meaningful shade and cooling.

At the same time, SNWA is proposing to use ratepayer funds to plant new trees to address those same impacts.

From the public's perspective, this starts to look like a **“create the problem, then fund the solution”** cycle.

We remove canopy through policy...  
and then ask ratepayers to fund mitigation for the impacts of that removal.

This is not a question of improving implementation.

**It is a question of whether this is an appropriate use of ratepayer funds at all.**

Finally, **this proposal involves an organization with ties to SNWA leadership**, which raises additional concerns about independence and public trust.

And with a budget workshop on this agenda that provides no supporting documentation, it's impossible to see where expenditures like this are being accounted for. **This is clearly not a core operating expense....**so where is it in the budget, and how is it being tracked for accountability?

So stepping back:

You approved \$500,000 in January for a fully defined program.  
You're now being asked for another \$500,000, called a pilot, without evaluating the first.

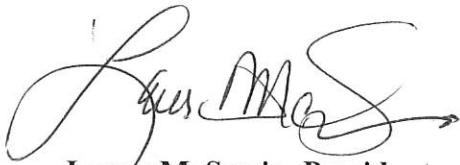
**How many more programs (pilot or otherwise) are ratepayers going to be expected to fund that are not part of SNWA's core mission or responsibilities?**

SNWA's responsibility is to secure and manage water resources for Southern Nevada.

**How about getting this agency back to its core mission, and ensuring growth is supported by real water supply, not policies that push the community toward environmental bankruptcy?**

Respectfully submitted,

**WATER FAIRNESS COALITION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura McSwain', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Laura McSwain, President**



**Water Fairness**  
COALITION

**January 15, 2026**

**Public Comment – Agenda Item 8 - \$500,000 to Urban Forest Initiative**

Members of the Board,

Agenda Item 8 asks you to approve up to \$500,000 to plant trees for an Urban Forest Initiative. The hypocrisy is that SNWA is taking credit for planting trees while the consequences of AB356 implementation—especially turf conversions that destabilize mature trees—are being ignored in real time. You cannot celebrate canopy creation on paper while allowing canopy destruction on the ground.

I'm submitting a photograph for the record. It shows a tree-lined street and sidewalk along Village Center Circle in Summerlin, where mature trees were growing in an approximately four-foot-wide strip between the street and the sidewalk, with matching trees on the opposite side. The trees were doing exactly what has been prescribed to reduce urban heat island; shading hardscapes and offering protection to people while walking to and from commercial centers adjacent to their neighborhoods. For years, that strip functioned as the life-support system for those trees until the grass was forcibly removed out from under them.

I called this configuration the “*death gauntlet*” in a recent newsletter to WFC members, because under SNWA’s AB356 implementation, the outcome was predictable.

There was no proportionality applied here. No common-sense test. If trees are truly a priority, there were **no true water savings** to be achieved by pulling out the turf beneath mature trees confined to a narrow root zone between asphalt and concrete. **The grass was not decorative. It was functional infrastructure.**

Today, approximately **90 mature trees in this single area of Summerlin are marked for removal because they have died.**

SNWA has created the *appearance* of mandated tree-protection measures, but those measures are not meaningful when they allow landscaping designs that technically comply while functionally depriving trees of water. Designing rules on paper that cause tree death is not conservation,

This failure traces back to governance.

NTRAC was sold to the public as “community-driven,” but it wasn’t a community process—it was a **staged endorsement**. It created the appearance of public buy-in while SNWA’s **prepackaged “nonfunctional turf” definitions** stayed off-limits. When the outcome is predetermined and the committee exists to validate it, that isn’t collaboration. It’s **manufactured consent**.

And the composition of the committee underscored that. Of nine members, only two had direct, practical experience in grounds management—one grounds manager from Sun City Anthem and a golf professional. That is not serious urban forestry expertise, and it is not proportional to the consequences we are now seeing across HOAs, multifamily developments, and commercial corridors.

At the same time, SNWA has already transitioned away from cooperative, incentive-based conservation—the carrots that built public trust—and toward a punitive, enforcement-driven model. That shift has had visible consequences on our streets and in our neighborhoods. This was beneath the role of a public servant.

Now we are approving funds to plant new trees, while **trees that were already providing shade, cooling, and public-health benefits are being lost**.

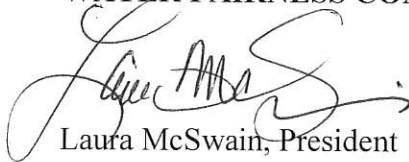
You cannot plant your way out of this contradiction.

If SNWA truly wants credibility on urban forestry, it must stop treating tree protection as an exercise in optics and start measuring what actually matters: trees that survive. **That means revisiting AB356 implementation, reconvening NTRAC with real expertise**, and aligning policy with outcomes—real water savings, real tree protection, and a livable valley.

This photograph is not an anecdote. It is evidence - And it speaks for itself.

Respectfully submitted,

**WATER FAIRNESS COALITION**



Laura McSwain, President