

**SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 21, 2026
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER 9:04 a.m.

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT Jim Gibson and Justin Jones

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

Laura McSwain spoke concerning item 8. She provided a written copy of her comments for the record, which are attached to these minutes.

Sam Castor spoke concerning item 8. He urged the Board to delay the vote on item 8, arguing that the Board lacked legal authority to make the decision. He emphasized Southern Nevada's long success in water conservation, noting the region had reduced usage despite growth and had become a national model. However, he warned that excessive conservation has had unintended consequences, including the loss of over 100,000 trees, increased heat, and diminished quality of life. He argued that conservation alone was no longer sufficient and that the region needed more water. He opposed any proposal to transfer 50,000–100,000 acre-feet of water to other states, especially when Nevada already uses far less than others and has made greater conservation efforts. He also claimed that only the Colorado River Commission, along with the Governor and Legislature, has authority over such decisions—not the Water Authority. He called for protecting Nevada's water, involving the public in decisions, and rejecting item 8. He said that proceeding could lead to legal action and further harm to the region.

Carol Reynolds spoke concerning item 8. She said that three and a half years of attending Las Vegas Valley Water District and Southern Nevada Water Authority meetings had taught her to pay close attention when officials assure the public that their actions are harmless and non-binding. She said that the Water Authority needed to do more to secure the community's lawful portion of water.

Christian Salmon spoke concerning item 8. He said that even a non-binding agreement could lead to future obligations that weaken Nevada's Colorado River water rights. He said Southern Nevada residents have already made significant sacrifices—conserving water, removing turf, and paying higher costs—which should strengthen the state's position, not justify further concessions. He criticized what he described as unfair treatment of residents while other states were not held to the same conservation standards. He warned that reducing Nevada's water allocation would harm residents' quality of life and the region's future. He urged SNWA to retract any offers to reduce Nevada's share and reject or delay the proposal until the public fully understood its implications. He also called for exploring new water sources rather than relying solely on conservation. He expressed frustration over the Authority's lack of public involvement in decision-making.

Diane Henry spoke concerning item 8. She said that it was disturbing that the Upper Basin was not meeting its obligation to deliver 7.5 million acre-feet per year to the Lower Basin, while Nevada would voluntarily offer to give up 50,000 acre-feet per year. She said that every voluntary concession changed expectations, and every temporary voluntary reduction became tomorrow's baseline expectation. She said that the Authority should stop being a mediator on the river and start standing up for Nevada's water rights.

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 meetings of April 13, 2026, and April 16, 2026.

FINAL ACTION: Vice Chair Stewart made a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting, and to approve the minutes from the meetings of April 13, 2026, and April 16, 2026. The motion was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA Items 2 – 4 are routine and can be taken in one motion unless a Director requests that an item be taken separately.

2. ***For Possible Action:*** Ratify the approval of a cooperative agreement between the Bureau of Land Management and the Authority to receive funding for Las Vegas Wash Restoration Activities in the amount of \$1,048,553 and authorize the General Manager to approve future modifications if the future modifications do not fiscally impact the Authority.
3. ***For Possible Action:*** Ratify the approval of a Cooperative Agreement between the Bureau of Land Management and the Authority to receive funding for the Warm Springs Natural Area Wildlife and Bird Viewing Tower in the amount of \$1,000,000 and authorize the General Manager to approve future modifications if the future modifications do not fiscally impact the Authority.
4. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign Change Order No. 2 to the contract with the Resource Development Company LLC for a potable water tank rehabilitation in the amount of \$494,441, authorize a total change order contingency amount not to exceed \$180,000 and an increase to the contract time of 96 calendar days.

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

BUSINESS AGENDA

5. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an amendment to the existing agreement between Black & Veatch Corporation and the Authority to provide additional professional design engineering and construction phase support services for the Water Quality Laboratory Expansion at the River Mountain Water Treatment Facility for an increase of \$1,738,514.

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

6. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to award a contract for the construction of the Water Quality Laboratory Expansion at the River Mountains Water Treatment Facility to Sletten Construction of Nevada, Inc., for the amount of \$24,464,363, authorize a change order contingency amount not to exceed \$2,535,637, and authorize the General Manager to sign the construction agreement.

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

7. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, an agreement among Titanium Metals Corporation, the Las Vegas Valley Water District, and the Authority addressing the assignment of a portion of Titanium Metals Corporation's Colorado River water rights to the Authority and the framework for permanent water service to Titanium Metals Corporation within the Black Mountain Industrial Complex.

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

8. ***For Possible Action:*** Authorize the General Manager to sign, in substantially similar form as attached hereto, a memorandum of understanding among the San Diego County Water Authority, the Bureau of Reclamation on behalf of the United States Department of the Interior, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Arizona Department of Water Resources, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District, and the Authority to explore the transfer and exchange of Colorado River water resources.

John Entsminger, General Manager, clarified that the proposed MOU did not involve giving away any of Nevada's water rights. Instead, the MOU was about exploring opportunities to bring additional water into Southern Nevada, particularly by partnering with entities like the San Diego County Water Authority, which has surplus water from investments in desalination, conservation, and water transfers.

Mr. Entsminger emphasized that the MOU was non-binding and exploratory, meant to start discussions and demonstrate efforts to secure new water supplies, which was something that residents have been requesting. Any actual agreement involving water would still require approval from both the SNWA and the Colorado River Commission.

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

9. ***For Possible Action: Adopt a resolution authorizing the Authority to issue Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2026, in the maximum principal amount of \$177,140,000 to Clark County to refinance certain outstanding Authority bonds held by the Clark County Municipal Bond Bank.***

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

10. ***For Possible Action: Adopt a resolution authorizing an augmentation to the Fiscal Year 2025/26 Capital Budget, for fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, to appropriate resources in the amount of \$75,000,000, and for the purpose set forth therein.***

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

11. ***For Possible Action: Conduct a public hearing on the Tentative Budget for the Authority and adopt a final budget for Fiscal Year 2026/27.***

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

After the presentation, Chair Kirkpatrick opened the public hearing. As there were no speakers wishing to be heard, Chair Kirkpatrick closed the public hearing.

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

12. ***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.

Mr. Entsminger thanked Nevada's elected officials, particularly Senator Cortez Masto, Congresswoman Titus, Governor Lombardo, Chair Kirkpatrick and Vice Chair Stewart, for their assistance in getting the Horizon Lateral bill passed. He said that it was the culmination of a 22-year effort, and he wanted to show his appreciation. Vice Chair Stewart said that the Horizon Lateral, once constructed, will be critical for Southern Nevada and especially for the City of Henderson.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

Public Comment

Laura McSwain said that Nevada should focus on protecting and strengthening its existing Colorado River water rights rather than considering reductions. She pointed to current river conditions as evidence that Southern Nevada's conservation and recycling efforts have created a unique opportunity to achieve long-term water security. She said that other basin states should be held accountable for living within the compact's terms and contributing more to conservation efforts. While she supported exploring new water supplies, she questioned the logic of reducing Nevada's allocation while simultaneously spending money to acquire additional water elsewhere. She argued that Nevada has already invested heavily in conservation, recycling, and water infrastructure and should now work to protect those gains.

Christian Salmon said SNWA manages water issues by having ordinary homeowners bear the burden of conservation while larger water users receive preferential treatment. He pointed to restrictions, rising costs, turf-removal programs, and pressure on septic system owners as examples of burdens placed on residents. He raised concerns about data centers, claiming they consume significant water and energy resources while facing little scrutiny or restriction. He said that large, new water users should not be approved unless they provide or develop new water sources themselves. He also expressed frustration with what he sees as a lack of public engagement and follow-through from SNWA. He referenced discussions during the AB 220 legislative process and subsequent septic system regulations.

Diane Henry said that while SNWA's tree-planting programs were beneficial, they were somewhat undermined by water policies that she believed contributed to the loss of mature trees. She was concerned with the timing of tree planting and said that planting trees during the summer was ineffective because young trees struggle in extreme heat and require more water to survive. She recommended planting trees in the fall, when cooler temperatures allow roots to establish more easily and reduce water demands.

Stacy Stanley spoke about past legal battles against water diversions from Colorado's Western Slope to the Front Range, arguing that these transfers support growth outside the Colorado River Basin while reducing water available to basin communities. He said that Southern Nevada has already done more than its share to conserve water, calling Las Vegas one of the most water-efficient cities in the world. He said that Nevada should not be asked to make additional sacrifices or reduce its already small Colorado River allocation.

Chair Kirkpatrick said that due to the Board's leadership and cooperation from the member agencies on evaporative cooling limitations, data centers in Southern Nevada do not have the negative impact on water resources as they might in other parts of the country. Mr. Entsminger agreed with Chair Kirkpatrick and said that the Board's willingness to have hard discussions has helped the community plan for the future.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 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.**



May 21, 2026

SNWA Meeting – Public Comment, Agenda Item 8

President and Board of Directors,

On Tuesday Water Fairness Coalition took the extraordinary step of initiating a cease-and-desist demand because years of unchecked agency overreach culminating in the proposed MOU could not be left unchallenged.

For too long, SNWA has operated with minimal resistance from this body resulting in devastating consequences to the environment, residents' investments and overall quality of life. Leaving one remaining option: legal remedy. It has become a business model, and it must stop.

During Tuesday's LVVWD meeting, Mr. Entsminger framed the MOU purpose as being to "explore water transactions". The MOU language itself might appear harmless simply because it is described as "nonbinding". However, it ignores the political reality of how such agreements impact outcomes.

Most concerning is the MOU's timing.

It follows Nevada's proposal to voluntarily reduce our state's meager Colorado River allocation while Upper Basin states skirt accountability.

It follows ongoing federal efforts to reduce releases downstream to stabilize Lake Powell, whose very purpose was to help the Upper Basin satisfy its obligations to the Lower Basin.

Then there is the most recent development, the Lower Basin State's proposal that politically merges Nevada into a regional framework that dilutes its sovereignty and weakens its independent negotiating leverage.

And with each move to participate in these "concessions" the public is repeatedly being reassured that Nevada is "not giving anything away" because of mechanisms like (ICS) Intentionally Created Surplus, which under current conditions resembles depositing money into a

financially compromised bank: what exists on paper survives up until the moment of system collapse.

Experienced negotiators understand, and studies show that when smaller entities enter multi-party arrangements with significantly larger political and institutional actors, their interests are gradually and permanently diluted in pursuit of consensus. Which is why the direction we are headed must be confronted.

Climate change blaming is a distraction and has done nothing to address structural deficits the federal government has known about since the late 1800s.

Drawing a hard line at Lee Ferry - the "Mason-Dixon Line" of the American Southwest - and Nevada leading the way defending its own investments, the federal government will finally be forced to confront its own long-term failure to create real water security for the region because water security is national security.

Mr. Entsminger and I agree on at least one thing:

'We have to take care of our own house'.

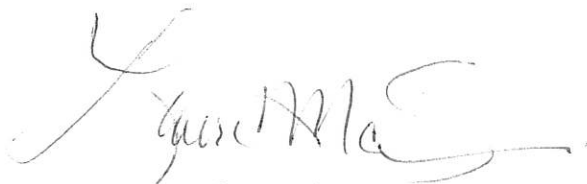
Southern Nevada has done that.

The fact that we have is not being independently leveraged.

Nevada's well-built brick house is being structurally compromised and politically tied to much larger structures built from sticks and straw. If the path we are on is not averted, the consequences could prove catastrophic.

Respectfully submitted,

WATER FAIRNESS COALITION, INC

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Laura McSwain', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Laura McSwain, President



1

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

2

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

3

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

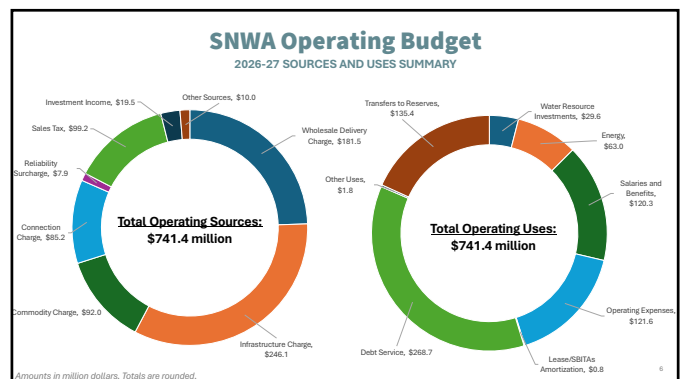
FY 26/27 Budget: \$120 million
Total Program: \$383 million

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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
SOURCES				
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
SNWA Sources	\$ 778.8	\$ 729.7	\$ 741.4	\$ 11.7

Amounts in million dollars. Totals are rounded.

SNWA Operating Budget

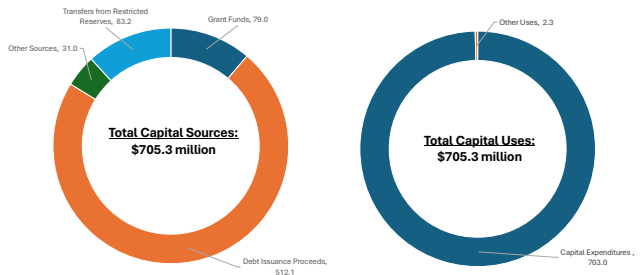
2026-27 USES OF FUNDS

	Actual 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27	Budget-to- Budget Variance
USES				
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
SNWA Uses	\$ 778.8	\$ 729.7	\$ 741.1	\$ 11.7

Amounts in million dollars. Totals are rounded.

SNWA Capital Budget

2026-27 SOURCES AND USES SUMMARY



Amounts in million dollars. Totals are rounded.

SNWA Capital Budget

2026-27 SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

	Actual 2024-25	Budget 2025-26	Budget 2026-27	Budget-to- Budget Variance
SOURCES				
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)
SNWA Sources	\$ 529.0	\$ 428.7	\$ 705.3	\$ 276.6
USES				
Capital Expenditures	209.7	424.6	703.0	278.3
Other Uses	-	4.1	2.3	(1.7)
Transfers to Restricted Reserves	319.3	-	-	-
SNWA Uses	\$ 529.0	\$ 428.7	\$ 705.3	\$ 276.6

Amounts in million dollars. Totals are rounded.

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

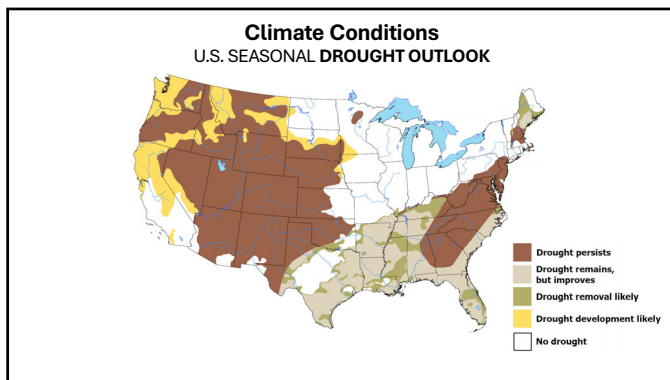




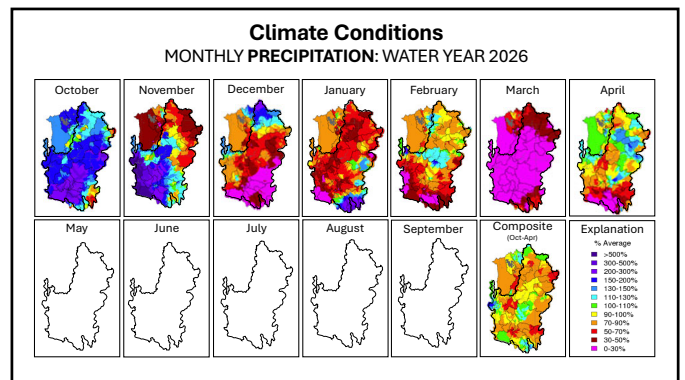
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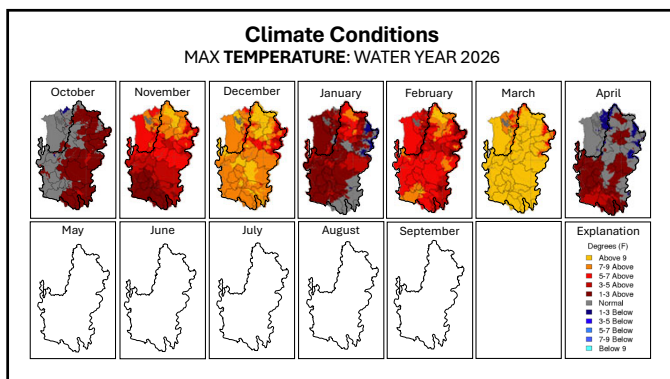
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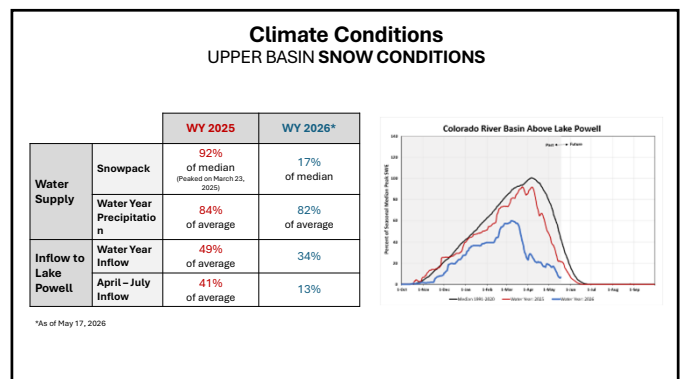
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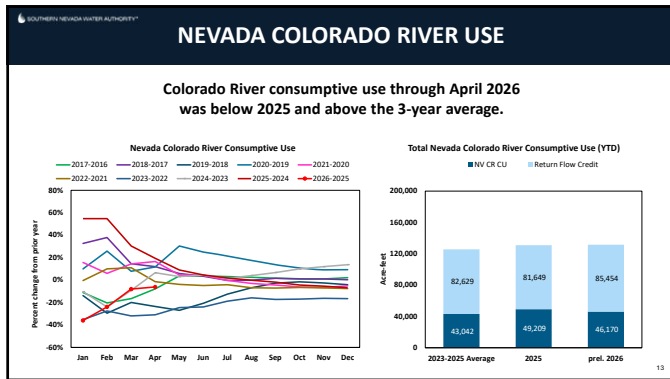


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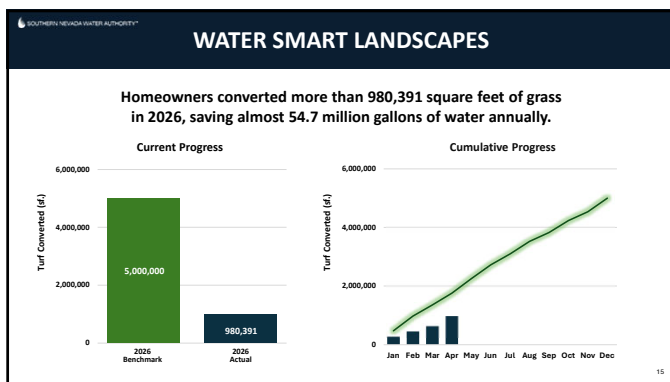




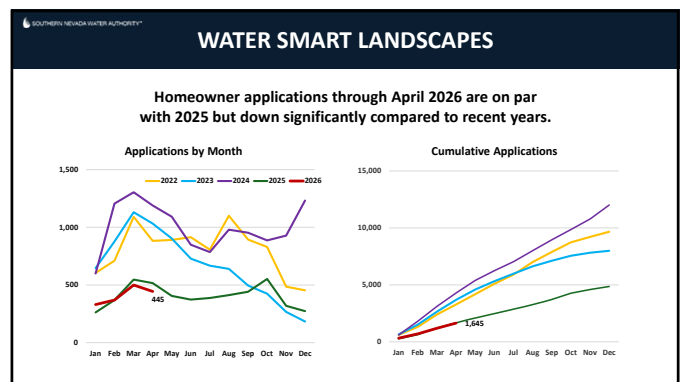
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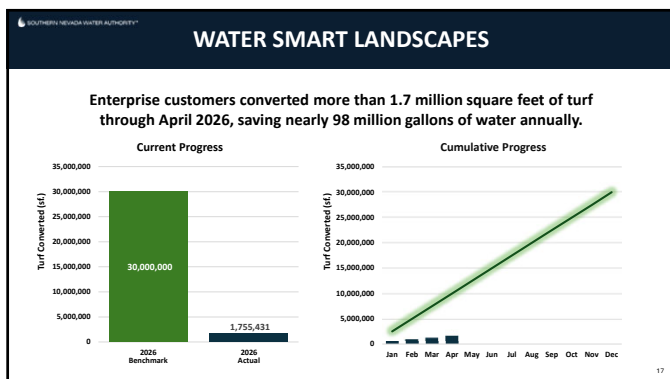
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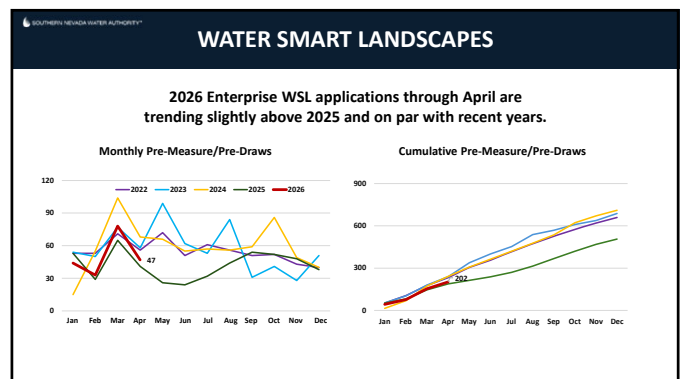
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TREE PROGRAMS

The SNWA offers a tree incentive for WSL participants and is partnering with local nonprofits to create shade in our community.

SNWA Tree Enhancement Program

- WSL participants installed approximately 8,900 new trees since program launch, creating nearly 3.9 million sf. of new tree canopy at maturity (958 trees installed to date in 2026).

Nonprofit Partnership

- ImpactNV installed approximately 1,466 trees in high-heat low-income areas.
- Nevada Plants hosted two tree give away events and is gearing up to plant approximately 270 trees at CSN campuses.



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CONVERSION HIGHLIGHTS

Top Enrollments for April

Water Smart Landscapes (WSL):

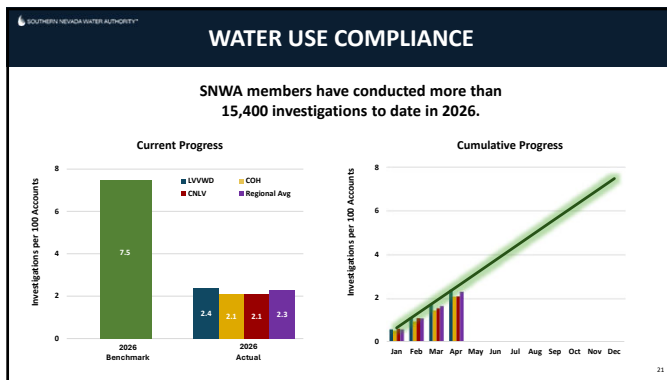
- CCSD, Cheyenne High School, 144,388 sf. converted.
- Christopher Communities at Southern Highlands, 47,154 sf. converted.
- Red Rock Villas, 46,015 sf. converted.

Water Efficient Technologies (WET):

- Las Vegas Spectrum, commercial laundry retrofit saves ~ 4.9 million gallons annually.
- Southpoint Hotel & Casino, cooling tower drift reducer saves ~ 3.7 million gallons annually.
- American Mechanical/Collins 12K LLC evaporative cooling retrofit saves ~ 180,000 gallons annually.



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