

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

Amended 8/20/2026

CALL TO ORDER 9:04 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Chair
Dan Stewart, Vice Chair
Scott Black
Olivia Diaz
Jim Gibson
Justin Jones
Steve Walton

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT None

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

OTHERS PRESENT None

Unless otherwise indicated, all members present voted in the affirmative.

Item 6 was removed from the agenda.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

For full public comment, visit snwa.com/apps/snwa-agendas/index.cfm

Laura McSwain asked if item 6 would be brought back at a future meeting. John Entsminger, General Manager, said that the Authority needed to further discuss the item with the Bureau of Reclamation before possibly bringing an item back to the Board for consideration.

Diane Henry spoke concerning item 6. She objected to a proposed water agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, saying that it would require Nevada water users to conserve an additional 50,000 to 100,000 acre-feet of water annually. She said that details were not available, making it difficult to fully evaluate the proposal. She said that Nevada had already achieved significant conservation and any additional conservation measures would place increasing burdens on the community.

Ed Uehling spoke concerning item 6. He said that he pays \$3,000 per acre-foot of water at his home. He said that his tenants pay \$6,000 per acre-foot where they live. He disagreed with the Authority entering into an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation to sell a portion of Nevada's unused Colorado River allocation for \$300 per acre-foot.

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 meeting of May 21, 2026.***

Mr. Entsminger requested that item 6 be removed from the agenda.

FINAL ACTION: Director Jones made a motion to approve the agenda for this meeting with the removal of item 6, and to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 21, 2026. The motion was approved.

2. ***For Possible Action: Appoint a Chair and Vice Chair to preside over the Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2026/27.***

FINAL ACTION: Director Gibson made a motion to reappoint Marilyn Kirkpatrick as Chair and Dan Stewart as Vice Chair. The motion was approved.

3. ***For Possible Action: Appoint three directors to serve as commissioners of the Colorado River Commission of Nevada for two-year terms.***

FINAL ACTION: Director Gibson made a motion to reappoint Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Dan Stewart, and Steve Walton. The motion was approved.

BUSINESS AGENDA

4. ***For Possible Action:*** Receive a presentation from the Authority's Youth Conservation Council and direct staff accordingly.

Nevina Minnalez and Sarah Chen gave a presentation. A copy of their presentation is attached to these minutes.

Following the presentation, Chair Kirkpatrick thanked the members of the Youth Conservation Council for their efforts and asked all those YCC members present to stand and be recognized.

Director Jones thanked the YCC for their dedication and said that their school principals were extremely proud of the work that they were doing.

Director Gibson asked how much time the YCC members spent each week participating in the program. Ms. Minnalez said that the group met every Thursday for one hour, but there were opportunities to participate in council leadership and to help prepare for the Springs Preserve's Earth Day event, so she spent on average about 2 to 3 hours a week with YCC.

Other Board members also commended the YCC members for their hard work and dedication, recognizing that some council members have participated for as long as three years. They said that they would like to be of assistance in helping recruit students for the YCC by having information in their newsletters and approaching schools directly.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

5. ***For Possible Action:*** Ratify the General Manager's execution of an interlocal agreement with the Nevada Department of Wildlife for delivery of Colorado River water from the Alfred Merritt Smith Water Treatment Facility to a fish hatchery located in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

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

6. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve a system conservation implementation agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Authority through which the Authority will create up to 50,000 acre-feet of System Conservation Water in exchange for \$16,250,000 in federal funding and authorize the General Manager to approve future modifications if such modifications do not fiscally impact the Authority.

REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

7. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve a cooperative funding agreement, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, between California's Six Agency Committee, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Utah Division of Water Resources, Wyoming Water Development Office, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, and the Authority to establish programmatic funding for Colorado River Basin precipitation enhancement activities for an amount not to exceed a total of \$6,375,000 over the 10-year term of the agreement.

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

Items 8 and 9 were taken in one motion.

8. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, an agreement among Lhoist North America of Arizona, Inc., the Las Vegas Valley Water District, and the Authority providing for the assignment of a portion of Lhoist North America of Arizona, Inc.'s Colorado River water rights to the Authority and establishing the framework for permanent water service to Lhoist North America of Arizona, Inc., within the Black Mountain Industrial Complex.
9. ***For Possible Action:*** Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, an agreement among Pioneer Americas LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, d/b/a Olin Chlor Alkali Products and Vinyls, the Las Vegas Valley Water District, and the Authority addressing the assignment of a portion of Olin Chlor Alkali Products and Vinyls' Colorado River water rights to the Authority and the framework for permanent water service to Olin Corporation within the Black Mountain Industrial Complex.

Greg Walch, General Counsel, said that in 2022, Lake Mead water levels fell so low that existing infrastructure could no longer divert water for certain industrial users. In response, the Authority and the Las Vegas Valley Water District provided emergency water service through the City of Henderson to keep the companies operating. To create a long-term solution, the companies have agreed to dedicate a portion of their Colorado River water rights to the Authority. In return, the Authority will provide water to the companies delivered by the City of Henderson.

Before the agreements can be finalized, they must receive a recommendation from Nevada's Colorado River Commission and approval from the Bureau of Reclamation to transfer the contract rights.

Vice Chair Stewart asked for clarification regarding how the water rights that would be retained by the companies would be conditioned. Mr. Walch said that the companies historically used larger amounts of water but have since implemented conservation measures to reduce their demands. Any water rights they no longer need will be subject to contractual restrictions if transferred to a third party. These restrictions would limit future uses to those approved by the Authority or its member agencies and prohibit less efficient uses, such as evaporative cooling.

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

10. ***For Possible Action: Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an agreement between Spring Valley Associates, LLC and the Authority for professional staffing services at the Authority's Northern Resources properties, for an amount not to exceed \$1,400,000 annually, for a three-year term with an option to renew for another three-year term.***

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

11. ***For Information Only: Receive an update from staff on water resources including, but not limited to, drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin, conservation programs and initiatives, activities on the Colorado River, and water resource acquisition and development.***

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

Vice Chair Stewart asked with the deadline for removing non-functional grass approaching, what was going to happen to those properties that have not complied with the law. Mr. Entsminger said that staff would need to get a recommendation from the Board before moving forward with any compliance measures.

NO ACTION REQUIRED

Public Comment

Laura McSwain commented regarding AB 356 and the removal of non-functional grass. She also provided a copy of her written comments, which are attached to these minutes. She talked about the Water Fairness Coalition initiating a cease-and-desist demand regarding a proposed memorandum of understanding to explore water transactions. She said that this action was taken because the Authority's actions had resulted in devastating consequences to the environment, residents' investments and overall quality of life. She said that the timing of the MOU was concerning since it followed Nevada's proposal to voluntarily reduce the state's Colorado River allocation, and the federal government's efforts to reduce releases from the Upper Basin. She said that the federal government needed to address the structural deficit and acknowledge Nevada's conservation investments before curtailing its allocation further.

Tera Anderson spoke concerning item 6, the proposed agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation that was removed from the agenda. She said that the Board should pursue conservation solutions that do not require Nevada to surrender control over its water resources. She said that water was a finite and valuable Nevada asset and that relinquishing control of approximately 50,000 acre-feet was unnecessary to achieve conservation goals. She expressed concern about expanding federal involvement in Nevada water management, citing the state's long-standing tensions with the federal government over land and resource issues. She said that Nevada has demonstrated strong stewardship of its water resources compared to other Colorado River Basin states and that the state should preserve its authority and decision-making power rather than transfer additional control to federal agencies.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:04 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.



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ABOUT

What is the Youth Conservation Council?

- Created in 1999 by the SNWA Board of Directors
- Program for Southern NV high school students focused on water resource education and environmental stewardship
- Introduces students to careers and expertise in STEM
- Explores water management, conservation, sustainability, and community outreach
- Develops leadership, teamwork, and community-building skills through hands-on projects and volunteer activities
- Culminates with students planning and hosting the annual Earth Day Celebration at Springs Preserve

South City Conservation - Family Engagement Booth
San Vegas Wash Tour
River Mountains Water Treatment Facility

2

PROGRAM IMPACT

Molasky Corporate Center - students learn about public affairs

The 3-tiered approach to educating our community!

Expert Speakers	Field Trip Experiences	Culminating Project
- Colorado River - Public Affairs - Climate Change - Conservation	- Hoover Dam - LV Wash - RMWTF - Republic Services - Molasky Center	- Earth Day Celebration - Community Event!

Hoover Dam Field Trip

3

EXPERT SPEAKERS

River Mountains Water Treatment Facility Channel speaks about Water Treatment

Student Quotes

"It reminded me how much I love community and education; how impactful it feels to share what we care about with others." - Emma B.

"I joined YCC because I would be able to learn more about the actual inner-workings of how water is managed and cleaned as well as meeting with actual professionals who could explain their own roles in the whole process." - Sarah C.

Hoover Water Filtration Plant in Boulder City - Original speakers spoke to YCC students

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FIELD TRIPS

Science Field Trip
Hoover Dam Hard Hat Tour
Students learn about tracking species populations at the LV Wash
River Mountains Water Treatment Facility Field Trip

Student Quote

"YCC has changed my perspective on Nevada and has shown me all the amazing things we do for our people to ensure we not only preserve the land but also keep finding new ways to better our communities."
 -Abigail S.

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CULMINATING EXPERIENCE

Earth Day Celebration - Community Event

Conservation Efforts
Resource Management
Water Resources
Community Engagement

Students work on the Water Conservation Booth

6



(Maple Service Recycling Plant field trip)

Hopes for the Youth Conservation Council

- Increase visibility through student-led, technology driven outreach
- Diversify field trip experiences for returning members
- Enhance member engagement through experiential learning and year-round activities
- Offer flexible engagement opportunities



(Students work on a poster for the Water Treatment Plant)

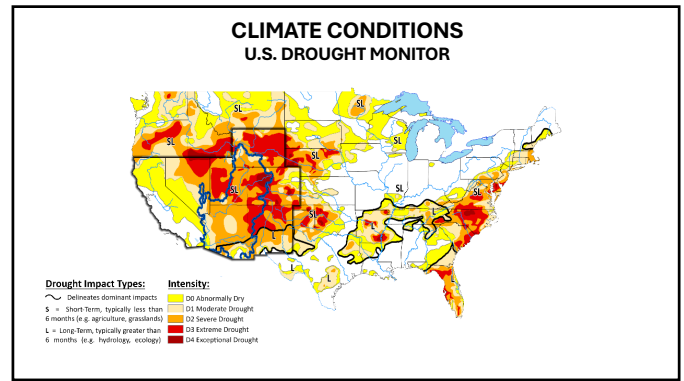
THE FUTURE OF YCC

THANK YOU!

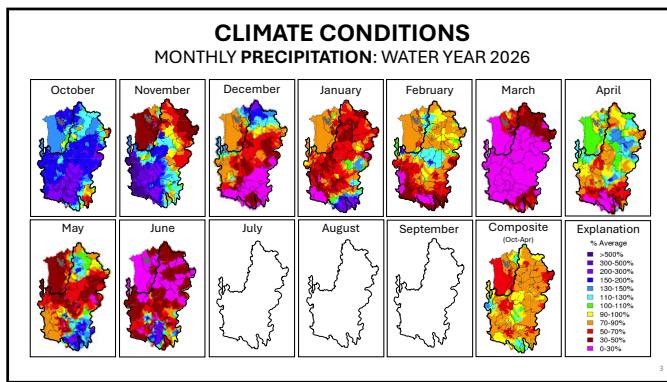




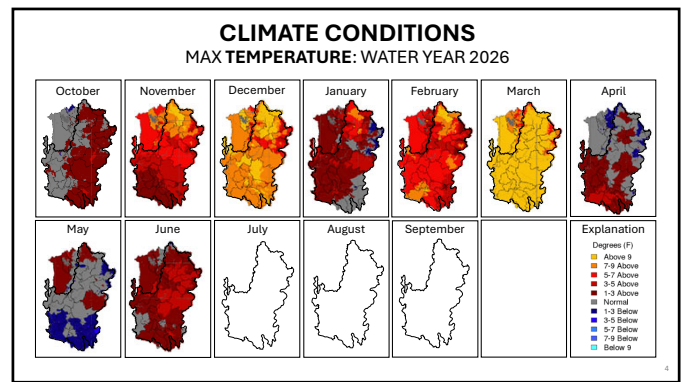
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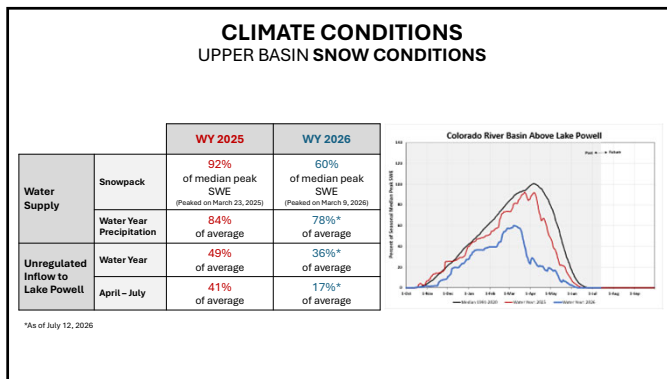
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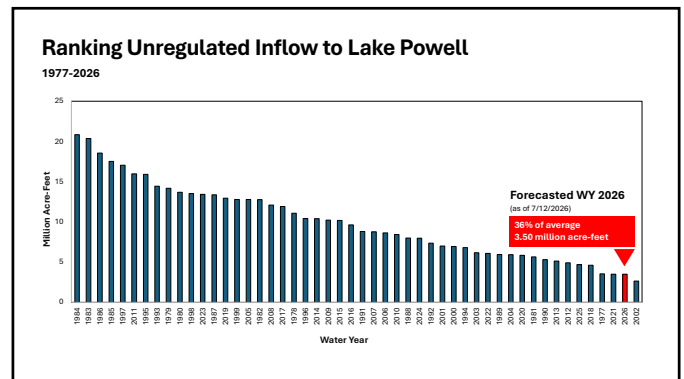
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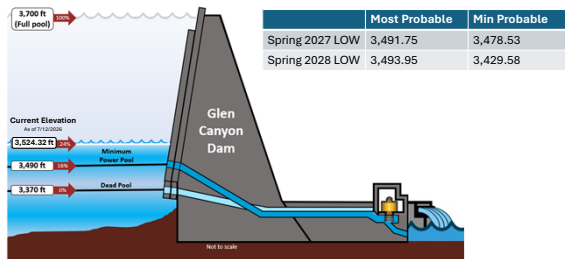


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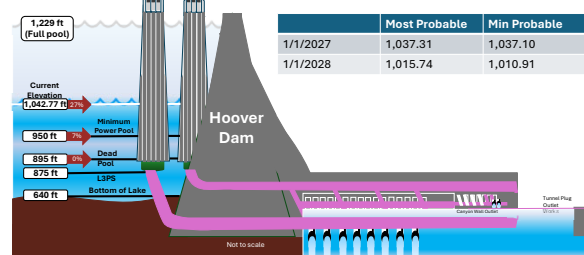


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Lake Powell Key Elevations

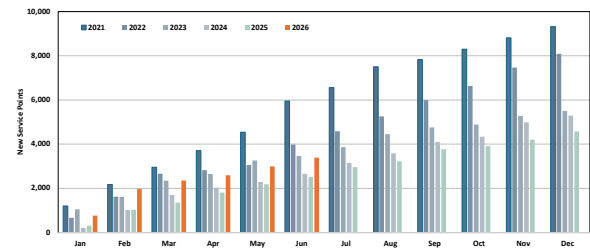


Lake Mead Key Elevations



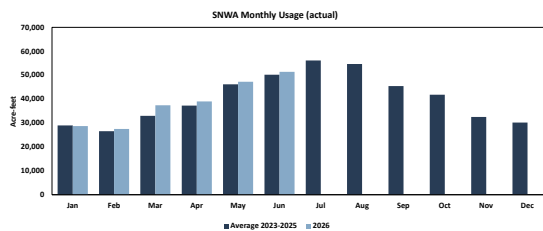
WATER USE UPDATE

NEW SERVICE POINTS (LVVWD)



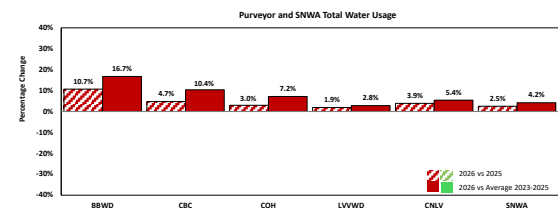
SNWA WATER USE

June 2026 SNWA water use was higher than 2025 and the 3-year average.

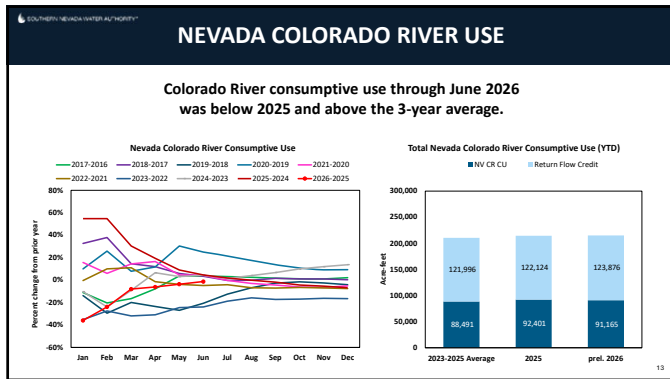


SNWA WATER USE

January-June 2026 SNWA water use was higher than 2025 and the 3-year average.



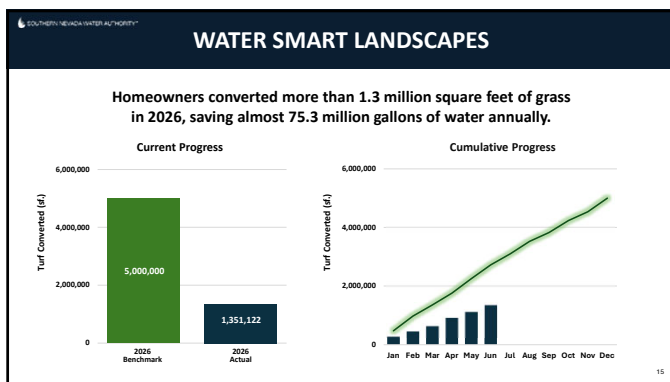
* The change in Henderson and SNWA water usage would have been lower without the addition of service to Black Mountain Industrial Complex, which was previously served by Basic Water Company.



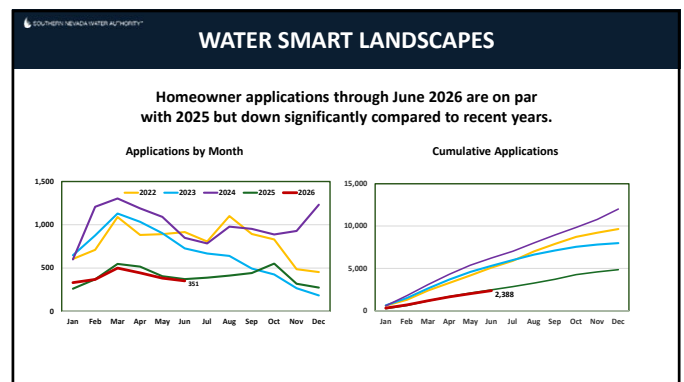
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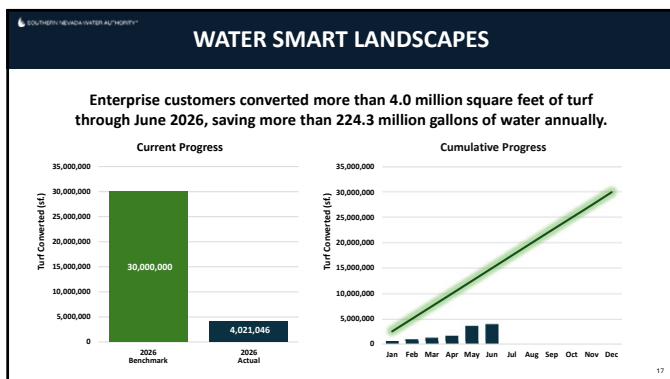
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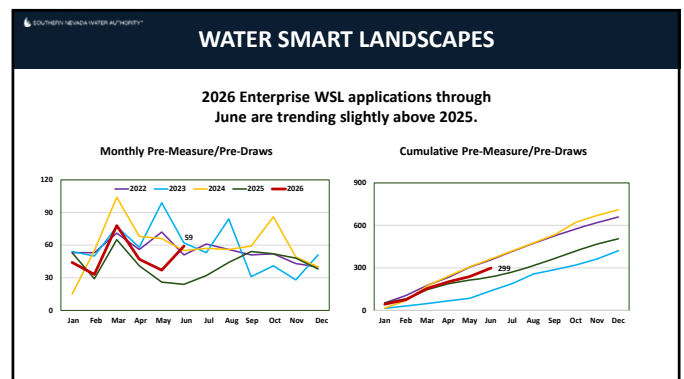
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TREE PROGRAMS

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 10,780 new trees since program launch, creating nearly 4.7 million sf. of new tree canopy at maturity (2,606 trees installed to date in 2026).

Nonprofit Partnership

- ImpactNV installed approximately 1,660 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 June

Water Smart Landscapes (WSL):

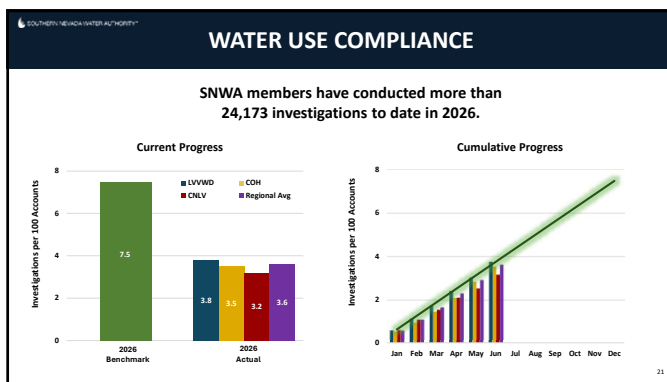
- Lake LV Sports Club & Golf School, 69,910 sf. converted.
- Montgo Bay Apartments, 38,308 sf. converted.
- Southern Highlands Community Assn., 35,269 sf. converted.

Water Efficient Technologies (WET):

- Big League Dreams, alternative sporting surface saves ~ 25.0 million gallons annually.
- City of Las Vegas Cragin Park, alternative sporting surface saves ~10.8 million gallons annually.
- War House Gym, evaporative cooling retrofit saves ~648,000 gallons annually.



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July 16, 2026

SNWA Meeting – Second Public Comment

Chair and Board,

Members of this Board have created the impression that your hands are tied regarding the removal of "useless grass" because the Legislature passed AB 356. I have heard it said at various meetings, and the media repeated it again just last week.

However, that isn't what the law says.

AB 356 specifically directs this Board to define functional and nonfunctional turf, develop a removal plan, and approve waivers and extensions. The law doesn't even require grass to be removed. It simply prohibits irrigating certain turf with Colorado River water after January 1, 2027. SNWA has also confirmed that replacing irrigation isn't even required.

The Legislature also created the (NTRAC) Nonfunctional Turf Removal Advisory Committee for a reason.

Not as a one-time exercise.

Its job was to discuss issues, make recommendations, and document differing opinions for this Board's consideration.

A review of the NTRAC meeting minutes and final report reflects that the members selected arguably lacked expertise in several of the scientific disciplines essential to evaluating a program intended to save water while protecting the quality-of-life concerns repeatedly raised during legislative hearings.

The answer to urban heat, mature tree loss, artificial turf injuries, neighborhood impacts, and legitimate questions about implementation is **not** to simply promote free tree giveaways and tell residents to wait for another legislative session.

The answer is to reconvene the advisory committee the Legislation created and examine these issues publicly before this Board.

SNWA sponsored this legislation, so it is disingenuous to suggest this was simply a legislative act. SNWA developed the definitions. The NTRAC committee essentially blessed the definitions SNWA put before it. Those are your definitions. That is your implementation. And the consequences are your responsibility to address – not Carson City

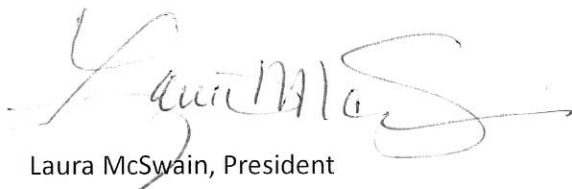
When government leaves its citizens with litigation as their only remedy, it has failed one of its most fundamental responsibilities.

Do better than that.

Reconvene NTRAC. Restructure it to include the expertise that was missing. Examine the unintended consequences. Protect both water resources **and** the quality of life this community deserves.

I respectfully challenge you to place that item on your next agenda and restore the balance between water conservation and the quality-of-life protections the Legislature intended.

WATER FAIRNESS COALITION, INC

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Laura McSwain', is written over a horizontal line.

Laura McSwain, President

Attachment: Chapter 364, AB356