

**LAS VEGAS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
OCTOBER 1, 2024  
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER 9:00 a.m., Commission Chambers, Clark County Government Center,  
500 South Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Marilyn Kirkpatrick, President  
Jim Gibson, Vice President  
Justin Jones  
William McCurdy II  
Ross Miller  
Michael Naft  
Tick Segerblom

STAFF PRESENT: John Entsminger, Doa Ross, Greg Walch, Kevin Bethel

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

**COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

*For full public comment, visit [www.lvwwd.com/apps/agenda/lvwwd/index.cfm](http://www.lvwwd.com/apps/agenda/lvwwd/index.cfm)*

Laura McSwain, 2727 Ashby Ave., commented on items #4 and #5 and stated that she understands the needs to maintain equipment, but expressed concern because she could not locate the original agreement or bid for these items. She is concerned about the amount and the length of the agreement, and the contractor's ability to keep up with technological advances and improvements. She discussed the trust that she feels the Board of Directors has lost with the community.

**ITEM NO.**

**1. Approval of Agenda & Minutes**

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Vice President Gibson to approve the agenda and the minutes from the joint meeting of September 3, 2024. The motion was approved.

**CONSENT AGENDA Items 2 – 5 are routine and can be taken in one motion unless a Director requests that an item be taken separately.**

- 2. Approve and authorize the President to sign, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, an interlocal agreement between the City of Las Vegas and the District for installation of water facilities for the Pickleball Complex at Wayne Bunker Park Project.**
- 3. Approve and authorize the President to sign, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, an interlocal agreement between Clark County and the District for the installation of water facilities for the Maslow Park New Fire Station #62 Project.**
- 4. Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign Amendment No. 1 to the existing agreement between Kamstrup Water Metering LLC and the District, increasing the current funding amount for the supply of ultrasonic meters, metering equipment, and associated warranties by \$5,460,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$6,500,000 per contract year for 7 years, and authorize increases not to exceed 10 percent per contract year.**
- 5. Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign Amendment No. 1 to the existing agreement between Badger Meter, Inc., and the District, increasing the current funding amount for the supply of positive displacement meters, metering equipment, and associated warranties by \$1,660,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$2,700,000 per contract year for 7 years, and authorize annual increases not to exceed 10 percent per contract year.**

John Entsminger, General Manager, stated that the original contracts for items #4 and #5 were entered into under the signature authority previously delegated to the General Manager by the Board of Directors.

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Vice President Gibson to approve staff's recommendations. The motion was approved.

**BUSINESS AGENDA**

6. **Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an agreement between Westwood Professional Services, Inc., and the District to provide professional design engineering and construction support services for the Vegas Heights Subdivision Project in a total amount not to exceed \$2,086,007.**

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Vice President Gibson to approve staff's recommendations. The motion was approved.

**COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

Laura McSwain, representing the Water Fairness Coalition, spoke about Las Vegas' current high temperatures and asked for some flexibility in the mandatory fall watering schedule, as many in the community are trying to preserve their plants and trees, but are being hit with penalties for watering outside their scheduled days. She also spoke about the dangers of artificial turf. Ms. McSwain submitted some materials which are attached to these minutes.

Sharon Seely, 6475 Darby Ave., stated that she is concerned for the future of the valley as plants and trees are dying and building is rampant. She asked if there is any oversight for growth and construction. She stated that she feels that the board is making decision without looking at data and listening to experts. She added that her quality of life has been greatly impacted due to the board's decisions.

Diane Henry, 7525 Coley Ave., spoke about the dangers of artificial turf and the District's promotion of it to the community, the school district and through videos and other materials. She spoke about the toxic materials that are used in artificial turf and the hazards to the community, especially children. She spoke about banning artificial turf.

Carol Reynolds, 2740 Mann St., gave a list of reasons why she takes the board's conduct personally and spoke about how the decisions that have been made by the board regarding water use have negatively impacted her quality of life.

Pete Foley, 4512 Fernbrook Rd., continues to ask a series of questions. He asked for a report on what is being done with the revenue earned from the Excessive Use Charge. He asked why the charge is only applied to LVVWD customers and not other purveyor customers. He also asked why a one-size-fits-all water use policy was implemented and added that it is unfair and inequitable.

Ed Uehling, Las Vegas, spoke about the dangers of artificial turf. He stated that the District allowed usable water to go downstream and be used to feed cattle in California and expressed his displeasure with the District borrowing money and not focusing on increasing revenue through the sale of water.

Stephanie and John Steffen submitted public comment in advance of the meeting. Their comments are attached to these minutes.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:24 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.**

**Public Comment received from Laura McSwain for the**

**10/1/24 LVVWD Board of Directors Meeting**

**(6 pages)**

## Turf wars: The courtroom battle over artificial turf safety may be closer than we think

By Jennifer Steinmetz and Lucy Richman


July 5, 2023 8:06 AM PDT · Updated a year ago



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 **Tucker Ellis LLP**

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July 5, 2023 - Many may remember a dramatic moment from the 2022 Super Bowl, when star wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. suffered a serious non-contact knee injury while catching a pass. Beckham Jr. took the following season off to recover, and his injuries reignited a longstanding debate about the

safety of artificial turf fields. Many National Football League (NFL) players and their supporters took to social media, speaking out against turf and supporting a campaign, #FlipTheTurf, to pressure NFL teams to switch from turf fields to grass.

Artificial turf has long been used in sports as a replacement to natural grass. This alternative has both practical and cost-saving benefits as it does not need sunlight or water, so it can be used year-round in enclosed stadiums.

Turf consists of three components: (1) plastic grass blades bundled into individual "tufts;" (2) a backing material to which the tufts are attached; and (3) an adhesive used to secure the tufts to the backing. The turf is stabilized by the presence of "infill" — typically ground rubber or sand — placed between the artificial blades to provide added support.

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As early as the 1970s, players' observations and concerns about turf sparked research into its safety. A study by K. Douglas Bowers Jr. and R. Bruce Martin at the University of West Virginia in 1974 responded to players' observations that their turf had gotten "harder" over the years and showed that the school's turf field's ability to absorb impact decreased over time. A 1992 study specifically focused on the relationship between turf fields and football injuries, finding a statistically significant increase in injuries in some, but not all, lower extremity injuries during games played on turf. John W. Powell and Mario Schootman, "A Multivariate Risk Analysis of Selected Playing Surfaces in the National Football League: 1980 to 1989," 20 Am. J. Sports Med. 686 (1992).

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Synthetic turf surfaces can be problematic because they do not create the same divot as natural grass and therefore lack the ability to release a cleat in a potentially injurious overload situation. Christina D. Mack, et al., "Higher Rates of Lower Extremity Injury on Synthetic Turf Compared With Natural Turf Among National Football League Athletes," 47 Am. J. of Sports Med. 189, 192 (2019). This generates greater sheer force and torque on the foot and throughout the lower extremity, potentially contributing to increased injuries. Id.

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As turf products have evolved over time, new research findings have followed. Some continue to find that turf is less safe for athletes than natural grass, while others find little to no difference, or even that turf has safety advantages over natural grass. What remains the same is that players and researchers alike continue questioning which surface is safer.

The NFL Players Association (NFLPA) has taken a strong public stance against turf fields, advocating that "NFL clubs should proactively change all field surfaces to natural grass." J.C. Tretter, "[Only Natural Grass Can Level the NFL's Playing Field](#)," NFLPA, (last visited Jun. 28, 2023). In an April 2023 statement, the NFLPA accused the NFL of twisting historical injury data to support the NFL's contention that turf fields are safe. J.C. Tretter, "[Why the NFL's Approach to Field Surfaces is Uneven](#)," NFLPA, Apr. 19, 2023.

In pushing back on the NFL's reporting of synthetic turf safety data, the NFLPA cited to a recent study finding that "[p]lay on synthetic turf resulted in a 16% increase in injuries as compared with play on natural turf...across all lower extremity injuries resulting in any missed football participation." Mack, et al., *supra*.

While some turf-safety studies appear to be independent, the Mack study was funded in part by the NFL. Some studies coming to opposite conclusions — that turf is as safe or safer than grass — have been funded in part by turf manufacturers or other professional organizations. Should the various studies ever be used for authority in litigation, their authors' potential conflicts of interest may become a point of contention.

So when will the turf debate enter the courtroom? At least one turf manufacturer is already facing a number of lawsuits alleging that its product did not live up to durability or lifespan promises represented in advertising and marketing materials. See generally Consolidated Amended Class Action Compl., In re Fieldturf Artificial Turf Marketing and Sales Practices Litig., No. 3:17-md-2779 (D.N.J. Oct. 20, 2017). Counts against the manufacturer include fraud, breach of warranty and violation of consumer protection laws.

Given recent publicity and the NFLPA's involvement in the issue, lawsuits claiming personal injury resulting from play on turf may be just around the corner. This could generate a mass of prospective plaintiff athletes just as we saw with the concussion litigation of years past. An August 2019 settlement required the NCAA to pay \$70 million to fund concussion screens and testing for former college athletes, with an additional \$5 million toward medical research. In October 2021, the NFL reached a \$765 million settlement over concussion-related brain injuries among its 18,000 retired players.

Plaintiffs alleging injuries from artificial surfaces can look to several potential target defendants including: (1) turf manufacturers; (2) companies that manufacture the various component parts of turf; and (3) turf purchasers, particularly high schools, universities and major sports franchises. Expected allegations would follow a traditional products liability model, involving counts for both design defect and failure to warn.

Certain elements of a turf field's design may have an impact on safety, as noted in the Mack study above, in that they do not release a cleat in the same way as natural grass. Players may claim that turf manufacturers failed to design their fields to protect players from foreseeable lower extremity injuries, given the speed and force that high caliber athletes reach while practicing and competing. The availability of a feasible alternative design — natural grass — may also carry weight in some jurisdictions.

Failure to warn claims are also likely, particularly given that turf manufacturers tout safety — some including that their artificial turf is a safer alternative to grass — as a focus of their product development and as a key selling point.

Plaintiffs (and their counsel) will face a considerable challenge, however, identifying sound authority linking turf to non-contact lower extremity injuries. It may be that additional studies are necessary before waging litigation. Plaintiffs may also need to spend resources testing their theories and/or working up credible expert witnesses to back their allegations. Other contributing causes to the claimed injuries, such as a player's weight or choice of footwear, may create additional obstacles for these plaintiffs.

The debate over the safety of artificial turf does not end with lower extremity injuries. A March 2023 report from the Philadelphia Inquirer recently publicized a possible link between glioblastoma, a rare brain cancer, and turf fields. David Gambacorta and Barbara Laker, "Field of Dread," *Phila. Inquirer*, Mar. 12, 2023.

The connection follows the deaths of six former Philadelphia Phillies baseball players, all of whom died from glioblastoma after spending the majority of their careers playing for the Phillies. The Phillies played on a turf field from 1971 to 2003.

The Inquirer article points to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contained in artificial turf as a possible cause of cancer, noting that testing of samples from the old Phillies' turf field found 16 different types of PFAS present in the turf. See Laker and Gambacorta, *supra*.

PFAS, referred to as "forever chemicals" because they are highly resistant to breakdown in the human body and environment, have been linked to a variety of serious health conditions including low birth weight, reduced immune response, liver damage and cancer. While evidence of PFAS in turf fields causing glioblastoma is only anecdotal at this point, plaintiffs' lawyers have latched on to the Phillies story and are using it to solicit clients for "artificial turf cancer" litigation via firm websites and/or social media.

The effects of PFAS are already widely debated and litigated, including through the Aqueous Film-Forming Foams (AFFF) Products Liability Litigation (MDL No. 2873, District of South Carolina). In June 2023, four defendants in that litigation reached settlements of over \$11 billion related to claims that PFAS chemicals contaminated drinking water around the country. This type of result (and publicity) may pave the way for PFAS claims related to artificial turf, and it seems as though plaintiffs' lawyers already have an eye on it.

One thing is clear — the dispute over the safety of artificial turf is not going away. Further studies are needed to better understand the potential health effects surrounding turf fields and, until we have more clarity, plaintiffs are going to face an uphill battle. On the other hand, as many know, the courtroom sometimes becomes a place where the seeds of science are tested. And with the public voice of the NFLPA speaking out and inspiring other injured athletes to do the same, litigation may be closer than we think.

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## Tree Enhancement Program

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### I. Pre-conversion eligibility

**A. Authorization to proceed required:** Do not remove the existing lawn until the Authority completes a pre-conversion inspection and authorizes you to proceed.

**B. Customer eligibility:** Areas to be converted must use water from an Authority water agency or groundwater well within the Las Vegas Valley Groundwater Basin. Applicant's water and/or groundwater account(s) must be in good standing.

**C. Qualifying areas:** Conversion areas must be a living, maintained lawn or permanently installed outdoor water surface which was compliant with applicable laws at the time of installation. **Areas previously deemed ineligible by the Authority will not be reconsidered.**

**D. Minimum project size:** At least 400 square feet of lawn and/or water surface must be converted. At the Authority's discretion, smaller projects may be accepted if less than 400 square feet of lawn and/or water surface exist in the project area.

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### II. Requirements for the converted area

**A. Living plants:** Converted areas must have at least 50 percent living plant cover at maturity (using the Authority's plant list). At the Authority's discretion and upon request of an applicant, the Authority may consider plant coverage for the entire landscaped area of the front or backyard where the conversion occurred, and all areas evaluated must meet requirements of Sections II(B) and II(C).

**B. Efficient irrigation:** Watering systems (if used) must be drip irrigation with a filter, pressure regulator, and emitters rated at 20 gallons per hour or less. Systems must be free of malfunctions and leaks. Required components must be visible for inspection. If part of a lawn is converted, remaining sprinklers must not spray the converted area or create runoff.

**C. Surface treatments:** The conversion area must be uniformly permeable to air and water and covered by mulch, such as rock, bark, ungrouted pavers, permeable artificial turf, and/or living groundcovers (with 100 percent plant cover). Plastic, concrete, and other impermeable materials are not allowed.

#### **Plant coverage exemption with artificial turf**

If installing artificial turf in a Water Smart Landscapes rebate conversion project, existing plants outside of the lawn conversion area can be used to meet the 50 percent canopy coverage requirement. To qualify, the entire landscape area in the front or back yard (where the lawn conversion takes place) must meet the program conditions for plant coverage, irrigation, mulch and weed barriers.



# WEATHER

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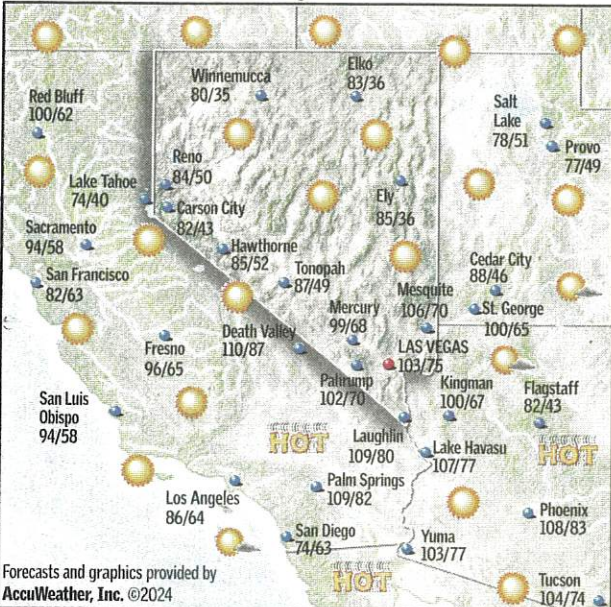
## Seven-day forecast for Las Vegas

TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
HIGH 103°	LOW 75°	103° 77°	102° 74°	103° 74°	103° 75°	102° 72°	102° 73°
Sunny and very hot. Winds ENE 4-8 mph; relative humidity 10-15%.	Clear. Winds W 4-8 mph.	Mostly sunny and very hot.	Blazing sunshine and very hot.	Very hot with blazing sunshine.	Very hot with sizzling sunshine.	Mostly sunny and very hot.	Very hot with brilliant sunshine.

## Sun and moon

Sunrise today	6:35 a.m.
Sunset today	6:25 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow	6:36 a.m.
Sunset tomorrow	6:24 p.m.
<b>New</b> <b>First</b> <b>Full</b> <b>Last</b>	
Oct. 2	Oct 10
Oct 17	Oct 24
Moonrise today	4:36 a.m.
Moonsset today	5:39 p.m.

## Regional forecast today



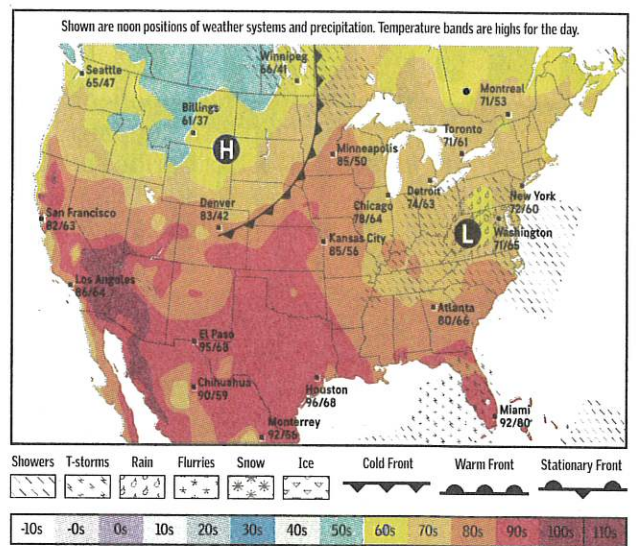
## Air quality

Highest readings through 5 p.m. Sunday

	CO	O <sub>3</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>
Boulder City	—	47	14
Jean	—	45	19
Greater Las Vegas	—	50	19
Green Valley	—	67	16
Paul Meyer Park	—	71	16
Walter Johnson	—	64	18
Palo Verde	—	61	22
Joe Neal Elementary	5	51	36
Jerome Mack	3	—	21
Rancho & Teddy	8	—	35
Sunrise Acres	—	—	—

CO = Carbon Monoxide, O<sub>3</sub> = Ozone, PM = Particulate Matter  
 Air Quality Index: Any one of the above numbers greater than 100 implies unhealthy pollution at a given location and could promote irritation symptoms.  
 Air quality index: <https://desaqmonitoring.clarkcountynv.gov/>

## National forecast



## UV high for today

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. Shown is the high for today.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11+

0-2 Low; 3-5 Moderate; 6-7 High; 8-10 Very High; 11+ Extreme

Sunday's national extremes for the 48 contiguous states:  
 High: 113° Phoenix, Ariz. Low: 26° West Yellowstone, Mont.

## Almanac

Las Vegas through 5 p.m. Sunday:

Temperature  
 High/low 102°/80°  
 Average temperature 91°  
 Departure from normal +13°  
 Normal high/low 89°/67°  
 Record high 102° / 1978  
 Record low 51° / 1940

Precipitation  
 24 hours ending 5 p.m. Sunday 0.00"  
 Month to date trace"  
 Year to date 2.27"  
 Departure from normal -0.91"

## Recreation

Lakes Mead and Mohave:  
 Hot today with plenty of sunshine. High 99 to 107. Clear tonight. Low 71 to 79. Very hot tomorrow.

Lake Mead temperature\* 80°  
 Lake Mead level 1063.70'  
 Lake Mohave level 639.30'  
 Lake Powell level 3578.20'  
 \*Source: <https://lakemonster.com/>

Mount Charleston  
 Brilliant sunshine and very warm today. High 80. A starlit sky tonight. Low 64. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

## Pollen

Trees Low Weeds Low  
 Grasses Absent Mold Low  
 Source: National Allergy Bureau-UNLV

Grand Canyon / North Rim  
 Mostly sunny and very warm today. High 83 to 93. Partly cloudy tonight. Low 42 to 52.

Zion National Park  
 Very warm today with plenty of sunshine. High 81 to 91. A starlit sky tonight. Low 49 to 59.

## The world

	TODAY	TOMORROW		TODAY	TOMORROW
Amsterdam	60/54/sh	60/52/sh	Mexico City	71/56/sh	70/56/sh
Athens	79/62/s	78/62/s	Moscow	52/46/r	62/46/pc
Beijing	68/48/r	64/39/s	Mumbai	89/79/sh	87/81/r
Berlin	60/48/pc	58/49/r	Oslo	55/42/c	56/41/c
Calgary	56/36/c	62/37/c	Paris	63/53/c	64/51/pc
Cape Town	59/43/sh	62/50/s	Rio de Janeiro	81/70/s	88/74/s
Dubai	102/86/t	100/88/s	Rome	74/53/s	74/62/s
Dublin	54/48/r	59/48/s	Seoul	82/66/pc	69/50/r
Hong Kong	94/84/s	92/73/sh	Sydney	68/53/sh	70/58/s
Jerusalem	80/65/s	75/63/pc	Tel Aviv	85/77/s	83/76/pc
London	63/52/r	60/53/sh	Tokyo	79/70/sh	79/73/s
Macau	93/83/s	91/71/s	Toronto	71/61/c	73/52/c
Madrid	84/50/s	81/57/pc	Vancouver	59/49/c	60/48/r

## The nation

	TODAY	TOMORROW		TODAY	TOMORROW
Abilene, TX	91/60/s	91/61/s	Chicago	78/64/pc	72/49/pc
Akron, OH	70/60/sh	73/52/c	Cincinnati	77/63/c	79/53/c
Alamosa, CO	81/36/s	79/38/s	Cleveland	75/62/c	75/56/c
Albany	77/54/c	71/55/s	Colorado Springs	88/43/s	71/52/s
Albuquerque	91/63/s	85/59/s	Columbia, MO	82/59/pc	72/47/s
Amarillo	93/54/s	80/57/s	Columbia, SC	85/67/pc	83/64/s
Anchorage	52/40/s	51/37/s	Columbus, GA	85/67/pc	86/64/s
Asheville, NC	74/60/c	76/59/pc	Columbus, OH	73/64/c	78/54/c
Atlanta	80/66/c	83/65/s	Concord, NH	75/50/pc	66/49/pc
Atlantic City	71/61/c	69/60/r	Corpus Christi	95/69/pc	96/72/s
Austin	95/62/s	96/67/s	Dallas	92/66/s	93/68/s
Baltimore	71/63/r	68/59/r	Dayton	74/62/pc	76/51/c
Baton Rouge	92/69/pc	91/71/s	Daytona Beach	90/74/t	88/74/t
Billings	61/37/pc	76/52/pc	Denver	83/42/s	77/53/s
Birmingham	82/63/s	82/63/pc	Des Moines	85/52/s	69/47/s
Bismarck	67/37/pc	70/46/pc	Detroit	74/63/c	76/49/sh
Boise	69/46/pc	78/51/s	Dodge City, KS	92/52/s	75/51/s
Boston	67/58/pc	64/56/c	Duluth	78/44/pc	62/46/s
Bridgeport, CT	70/58/s	68/58/c	El Paso	95/68/s	92/64/s
Brownsville	93/71/pc	92/73/s	Elko	83/36/s	83/41/pc
Buffalo	75/60/c	74/54/c	Erie	73/62/c	72/55/c
Burlington, VT	72/56/c	74/57/pc	Eugene, OR	74/41/s	82/52/s
Casper	62/29/pc	80/50/s	Evansville, IN	79/65/c	83/50/pc
Cedar City	88/46/s	88/53/s	Fairbanks	50/29/s	47/26/s
Charleston, SC	89/70/pc	87/69/pc	Fargo	75/44/pc	68/52/s
Charleston, WV	76/61/r	74/63/sh	Flagstaff	82/43/s	84/46/pc
Charlotte	81/67/c	80/64/pc	Flint, MI	75/59/pc	73/44/sh
Chattanooga	80/61/c	83/62/pc	Grand Junction	93/57/s	89/54/s
Cheyenne	68/34/s	70/50/s	Grand Rapids	77/61/pc	69/46/c

	TODAY	TOMORROW		TODAY	TOMORROW
Great Falls	60/39/s	73/53/pc	Miami	92/80/s	92/78/s
Green Bay	80/58/pc	67/39/s	Milwaukee	75/62/pc	71/49/pc
Greensboro	77/65/sh	74/62/c	Minneapolis	85/50/s	65/50/s
Harrisburg	71/61/sh	67/61/sh	Mobile	89/67/s	92/69/s
Hartford, CT	76/55/pc	69/55/c	Nashville	79/64/pc	80/58/pc
Helena	62/34/s	73/51/c	New Orleans	88/71/s	91/74/s
Honolulu	86/75/sh	87/76/pc	New York	72/60/c	69/58/r
Houston	96/68/s	94/70/s	Newark, NJ	74/60/c	71/61/r
Huntsville	80/62/c	81/61/pc	Norfolk, VA	76/70/sh	76/68/r
Indianapolis	76/62/pc	78/48/c	Oklahoma City	89/61/s	84/54/s
Jackson, MS	85/66/pc	88/65/s	Omaha	89/50/s	71/47/s
Jacksonville	89/73/pc	87/70/pc	Orlando	93/76/t	91/75/t
Janeau	48/43/r	50/39/c	Paducah, KY	79/65/c	83/50/pc
Kansas City	85/56/s	73/47/s	Palm Springs	109/82/s	112/84/s
Klamath Falls, OR	78/36/s	83/39/s	Pendleton	65/41/pc	76/54/s
Knoxville	76/63/sh	78/62/c	Peoria	81/62/pc	71/44/s
Lake Charles	92/69/s	92/70/s	Philadelphia	73/61/c	68/60/r
Lansing	75/60/pc	73/45/c	Phoenix	108/83/s	111/85/s
Las Vegas	103/75/s	103/77/s	Pittsburgh	68/62/r	71/57/sh
Lexington	77/64/c	79/57/pc	Portland, ME	71/54/c	64/49/pc
Lincoln	92/51/s	74/46/s	Portland, OR	75/50/pc	77/54/s
Little Rock	85/68/s	89/60/s	Providence	71/55/pc	68/54/c
Los Angeles	86/64/pc	87/64/s	Pueblo	95/46/s	78/43/s
Louisville	79/66/c	80/55/c	Raleigh	82/68/c	76/63/sh
Lubbock	92/58/s	87/57/s	Rapid City	66/35/pc	74/49/pc
Macon	86/64/s	87/62/s	Red Bluff	100/62/s	103/62/s
Madison, WI	79/56/pc	67/42/s	Reno	84/50/s	93/55/s
Medford	85/44/s	91/50/s	Richmond	76/67/r	71/62/r
Memphis	80/68/pc	85/60/pc	Roanoke	75/64/r	73/62/pc

Legend: W-weather, S-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, r-rain, t-thunderstorms, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, f-ice, tr-trace

Las Vegas forecast: 263-9244 Recreation forecast: 736-3854 NOAA weather radio: 162.55 MHz on special frequency

# Public Comment received for the 10/1/24 LVVWD Board of Directors Meeting

**From:** [Stephanie Steffen](#)  
**To:** [&PublicComment](#)  
**Cc:** [John Steffen](#)  
**Subject:** {External} Urgent request to view water policy results at Village Center Circle.  
**Date:** Sunday, September 8, 2024 8:46:30 PM

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[Some people who received this message don't often get email from [stephsteffen@hotmail.com](mailto:stephsteffen@hotmail.com). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Sent from my iPhone

>

> Hello Commissioners,

> We are Stephanie and John Steffen and live at 2021 Grouse Street, 89134. We both grew up in Las Vegas since the early 60's and have raised our 5 children and lived within a few blocks of Village Center Circle near the Summerlin 4th of July parade route for 33 years. The trees lining the streets here have always provided a beautiful green canopy. Occasionally, one would be marked by the community landscapers with a big red slash of spray paint, and we knew that meant it was marked for removal. It would be difficult to the untrained eye in years past to even tell why. This year the "mandated turf removal" signs reached this area of Village Center Circle. The strip of grass along the sidewalk in which the large trees grew was removed. Please come and see for yourself the results of this policy. The large trees are dying all along the promenade. Red spray paint is everywhere, marking the dead and dying, others have had large dead limbs cut off, forming unnatural a grotesque shapes. Please understand that horticulture experts such as Norm Schilling are correct. The strip of turf where these legacy trees grow is not useless. It is serving to cool the roots and keep them alive. The resources that have gone into growing them are an investment which we in this area have all paid. They are part of our pride we all share in our lovely city. It takes many years of nurture to grow a large tree. It takes only a few months to die after the turf is removed. Please come see for yourself. The results of this policy are before our eyes. The trees are dying. They have started removing the dead trees and replanting with the exact same tree. The baby trees take so much water to get established! It is so much better to save the existing long-established trees! Please consider a moratorium on this water policy while you research what is happening. The evidence is right outside our development at the intersection of Village Center Circle and Hills Street and the north and south stretches on either side of the entrance to TPC Summerlin. The sight of dead and dying trees is the impression with which people who come to Las Vegas from all over the world for the Shriner's Invitational Golf Tournament at TPC in October will be greeted. We wish we had a before picture to show you how it used to look for comparison. You would be surprised. Please take the time to come see for yourself. It's truly shocking and mind-boggling that this is happening. We feel sick every time we pull out of our development. We feel so sad for our home town of Las Vegas. The sad state of the trees is in direct proportion to which group of trees had the turf around them removed first. The north part of the semi-circular promenade just underwent the turf removal and is just starting to show the ill effects. The southeast side was first, and the trees are dead or dying. I have watched them die in front of my eyes, incredibly fast.

> We also are sick about the one size fits all excessive use fees that are so unfair for those with large families or larger square footage properties. We have zero turf in our backyard and our front yard is mostly hardscape, yet when our 12 grandchildren visited us this summer, like last year, we are hit with a water bill well over \$900. Inside water is taxed at the same rate as outside water. There is no differentiation. The blatant unfairness of a one-size fits-all approach is staggering.

> As far as the dead and dying trees go, please consider a commissioner field trip to Village Center Circle outside TPC to see for yourself what is happening with our trees. It is unfathomable to us that this has been allowed to occur. Please consider modifying the definitions of what constitutes "useless turf." A 3-foot turf strip is a lifeline to these majestic, beautiful, shade-producing, cooling trees. We feel sick watching them die, when they were lush and green such a short time ago, before the "mandated turf removal" signs went up. It's not a sign of weakness to walk back a mandate that has unintended consequences. It's a sign of integrity and care for our community, a willingness to listen and abide the mandate of the commission to care for and advocate for the Las Vegas we all love, and the citizens who call Las Vegas home.

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> Thank you so much for your time,

> Stephanie and John Steffen