

**LAS VEGAS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
BIG BEND WATER DISTRICT
KYLE CANYON WATER DISTRICT
JOINT BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2024
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER 9:04 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, Colby Pellegrino, Dave Johnson, 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.lvvwd.com/apps/agenda/lvvwd/index.cfm

Laura McSwain, 2727 Ashby Ave., representing the Water Fairness Coalition, commented on item #16, the adoption of the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) Joint Water Conservation Plan. She stated that there have been no modifications to the conservation philosophy and considers that a missed opportunity. She stated that Las Vegas' climate continues to warm and the cooling elements throughout the valley, such as grass, are being removed, and that there are and will be significant consequences as a result. She expressed confusion over the Conversation Plan draft, review and approval processes, and requested more information. She submitted several documents which are included in these minutes.

Diane Henry, 7525 Coley Ave., commented on item #16 and expressed concern that the SNWA Joint Water Conservation Plan is part of the consent agenda, adding that it is not a routine or inconsequential document. She stated that despite increasing consumptive water needs due to a warming climate, Southern Nevada's gallons per capita per day is down and she questions when the community will be asked to conserve even more. She concluded by asking the board to rescind the excessive water use penalties.

Serena Kasama with Carrara Nevada spoke on behalf of the Red Rock County Club, Siena, and Sun City Summerlin golf courses on item #25. She stated that the golf courses appreciate the constructive conservations with SNWA, adding that the conversion from non-potable to potable rates is difficult for the golf community, but they support the timeframe and rate implementation plan.

Margaret Ann Coleman spoke about Southern Nevada's water quality.

Ed Uehling, Las Vegas, spoke on item #16 and stated that there is no consideration to bring additional water supplies to Las Vegas. He added that the community cannot conserve its way out of the drought.

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 regular meeting of October 1, 2024. The motion was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA Items 2 – 21 are routine and can be taken in one motion unless a Director requests that an item be taken separately.

Las Vegas Valley Water District - CONSENT

2. **Approve and authorize the President to sign an interlocal agreement between the Clark County School District and the District for installation of water facilities as part of the CCSD - South Career Technical Academy Project in an amount not to exceed \$521,180.**
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 construction of water facilities as part of the Las Vegas Boulevard Improvements Project, Phase C and D for an amount not to exceed \$21,640,089.**
4. **Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an amended and restated agreement between Canyon Walk, L.L.C., and the District to include staff augmentation funding in support of the design of the 3355 Zone North Facilities.**
5. **Approve a resolution authorizing the submission of a grant proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects grant program seeking \$1,262,825.**
6. **Approve and authorize the President to sign an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement among Clark County, Clark County Water Reclamation District, University Medical Center of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Las Vegas Valley Water District, Clark County Regional Flood Control District, Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, Southern Nevada Health District, Henderson District Public Libraries, Mount Charleston Fire Protection District, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Moapa Valley Fire Protection District, and Eighth Judicial District Court, establishing the rates for the Self-Funded Group Medical and Dental Benefits Plans, effective January 1, 2025.**
7. **Approve and authorize the President to sign an amendment to the Self-Funded Group Medical and Dental Benefits Exclusive Provider Organization Plan among Clark County, Clark County Water Reclamation District, University Medical Center of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Las Vegas Valley Water District, Clark County Regional Flood Control District, Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, Southern Nevada Health District, Henderson District Public Libraries, Mount Charleston Fire Protection District, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Moapa Valley Fire Protection District and the Eighth Judicial District Court, effective January 1, 2025.**
8. **Approve and authorize the President to sign an amendment to the Self-Funded Group Medical and Dental Benefits Preferred Provider Organization Plan among Clark County, Clark County Water Reclamation District, University Medical Center of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Las Vegas Valley Water District, Clark County Regional Flood Control District, Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, Southern Nevada Health District, Henderson District Public Libraries, Mount Charleston Fire Protection District, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Moapa Valley Fire Protection District and the Eighth Judicial District Court, effective January 1, 2025.**
9. **Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an agreement between The Howard Hughes Company, LLC, and the District for construction of the 4125 Zone South Reservoir.**
10. **Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an agreement between Parsons Water and Infrastructure Inc., and the District for Parsons Water and Infrastructure to provide staff to augment capital improvement program management in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 per term and authorize six additional one-year renewals.**
11. **Approve and authorize the General Manager, or his designee, to sign, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, a line extension agreement between Nevada Power Company dba NV Energy and the District to construct an electrical power service line for the Rome 2745 Zone Reservoir, 2975 Zone Pumping Station, and 2975- 2860 Zone Pressure Reducing Valve in an amount not to exceed \$833,868.**
12. **Award a contract for the installation of trihalomethane removal systems at the Beltway 3090 Zone Reservoir to J. A. Tiberti Construction Co., Inc., in the amount of \$1,471,604, authorize a change order contingency amount not to exceed \$140,000, and authorize the General Manager to sign the construction agreement.**
13. **Award a contract for the installation of trihalomethane removal systems at the Elkhorn 2975 Zone Reservoir to J. A. Tiberti Construction Co., Inc., in the amount of \$1,484,302, authorize a change order contingency amount not to exceed \$140,000, and authorize the General Manager to sign the construction agreement.**

14. Award a contract for the installation of trihalomethane removal systems at the Cactus 2538 Zone Reservoir to J. A. Tiberti Construction Co., Inc., in the amount of \$1,620,533, authorize a change order contingency amount not to exceed \$160,000, and authorize the General Manager to sign the contract.
15. Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign a Funding Agreement and authorize the payment of up to \$500,000 per year to the City of Las Vegas to provide financial assistance to eligible homeowners for the detection and repair of purveyor-identified excessive and/or ongoing leaks.
16. Adopt the Southern Nevada Water Authority Joint Water Conservation Plan for 2024 through 2029.
17. Adopt the Small Systems Conservation Plan for 2025 through 2029.

Big Bend Water District – CONSENT

18. Adopt the Southern Nevada Water Authority Joint Water Conservation Plan for 2024 through 2029.
19. Adopt a resolution that delegates administrative authority to the Las Vegas Valley Water District's General Manager and his designees, and ratifies previous actions taken in accordance therewith.

Kyle Canyon Water District – CONSENT

20. Adopt the Small Systems Conservation Plan for 2025 through 2029.
21. Adopt a resolution that delegates administrative authority to the Las Vegas Valley Water District's General Manager and his designees, and ratifies previous actions taken in accordance therewith.

John Entsminger, General Manager, spoke about item #16 and noted that under Nevada Revised Statutes, the five-year submission of the Conservation Plan is required under both State and Federal law. He also provided information and notice dates on the public input process for both the Joint Conservation Plan and the Small Systems Conservation Plan.

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

BUSINESS AGENDA

Las Vegas Valley Water District

22. Waive a minor bid irregularity and award a contract for the drilling, construction, and development of a production well to Stonehouse Drilling & Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$1,823,000, authorize a change order contingency amount not to exceed \$180,000, and authorize the General Manager to sign the construction agreement.

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

23. Determine that the proposed changes to the Blue Diamond Water System's Service Rules adding charges and fees for water theft are not likely to impose a direct and significant economic burden upon a business, or directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business; consider and approve the attached Business Impact Statement; and direct staff to set a public hearing for possible adoption of the proposed changes for December 3, 2024.

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Director Jones to approve the Business Impact Statement and set a public hearing for December 3, 2024. The motion was approved.

24. Determine that the proposed changes to the Searchlight Water System's Service Rules adding charges and fees for water theft are not likely to impose a direct and significant economic burden upon a business or directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business; consider and approve the attached Business Impact Statement; and direct staff to set a public hearing for possible adoption of the proposed changes for December 3, 2024.

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Director Naft to approve the Business Impact Statement and set a public hearing for December 3, 2024. The motion was approved.

- 25. Determine proposed changes to the Las Vegas Valley Water District’s Service rules affecting rates for golf courses may impose a direct and significant economic burden upon a business, or directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business; consider and approve the attached Business Impact Statement; and direct staff to set a public hearing for possible adoption of the proposed changes for December 3, 2024.**

Mr. Entsminger stated that the District has had several meetings with the golf course business community and staff’s recommendation is to support the alternative implementation plan provided by the consortium of golf courses as a method to reduce or mitigate possible impacts.

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Vice President Gibson to approve the Business Impact Statement and set a public hearing for December 3, 2024. The motion was approved.

- 26. Accept the Las Vegas Valley Water District’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, including the corresponding Independent Auditors’ Report on Financial Statements and Other Supplementary Information for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2024, and authorize its submission to the Nevada Department of Taxation.**

Mr. Entsminger stated that the audit’s findings were clean. Kevin Bethel, Chief Financial Officer, added that the required auditor’s communications is included in the supporting documents and that a representative from Baker Tilly US, LLP is in attendance if there are any questions.

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Vice President Gibson to accept the District’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The motion was approved.

Big Bend Water District (Las Vegas Valley Water District Board of Directors sitting as the Big Bend Water District Board of Trustees)

- 27. Determine that the proposed changes to the Big Bend Water District’s Service Rules adding charges and fees for water theft are not likely to impose a direct and significant economic burden upon a business, or directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business; consider and approve the attached Business Impact Statement; and direct staff to set a public hearing for possible adoption of the proposed changes for December 3, 2024.**

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Chair Naft to approve the Business Impact Statement and set a public hearing for December 3, 2024. The motion was approved.

- 28. Accept the Big Bend Water District’s Annual Financial Report, including the corresponding Independent Auditors’ Report on Financial Statements and Other Supplementary Information for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2024, and authorize its submission to the Nevada Department of Taxation.**

Mr. Entsminger stated that the audit’s findings were clean. Mr. Bethel added that the auditor’s required communications were included in the supporting documents.

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Chair Naft to accept the District’s Annual Financial Report. The motion was approved.

Kyle Canyon Water District (Las Vegas Valley Water District Board of Directors sitting as the Kyle Canyon Water District Board of Trustees)

- 29. Determine that the proposed changes to the Kyle Canyon Water District’s Service Rules adding charges and fees for water theft are not likely to impose a direct and significant economic burden upon a business, or directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business; consider and approve the attached Business Impact Statement; and direct staff to set a public hearing for possible adoption of the proposed changes for December 3, 2024.**

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Chair Miller to approve the Business Impact Statement and set a public hearing for December 3, 2024. The motion was approved.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Sharon Sealy, 6475 Darby Ave., stated that the community's quality of life has been impacted by recent water conservation decisions of the board, specifically the excessive use charge and the removal of grass and subsequent installation of artificial turf. She said the District's excessive charges are unfair and is concerned about the urban heat island in Las Vegas and added that the removal of grass and trees is a major cause of this.

Laura McSwain stated that artificial turf is hazardous, contains toxic chemicals and is dangerous. She stated that some of the information provided to the community by the District is misleading and inaccurate. She added that she could not find any supporting information or documents in the meeting where the Excessive Use Charge Business Impact Statement was presented to the board for acceptance. She submitted several supporting documents which are included in these minutes.

Diane Henry stated that there is a need for new water sources and read from the SNWA's Joint Water Conservation Plan. She stated that finding more water for Southern Nevada, which should be a large part of the equation, is merely a possible future consideration. She said there is little regard to the quality of life for the residents of Southern Nevada.

Ed Uehling, Las Vegas, spoke briefly about the Business Impact Statement process.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:37 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
11/5/24 LVVWD Board of Directors Meeting
(7 pages)**



Public Comment: LVVWD Board of Director's Meeting
November 5, 2024

#16 – The development of the 2024 - 2029 Joint Water Conservation

Plan being approved under the consent agenda is currently a mystery. In the notes it says that the Plan was developed with input from the “Authority’s purveyor members, was made available to the public for review and comment and accepted by the Nevada Division of Water Resources. The Final plan is to be submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation.” No evidence at SNWA’s website, including review of meetings going back to January of this year refers to this plan. **According to Boulder City’s website the following review schedule is provided:**

- 7.22.24: Member Agency Review complete
- 7.24.24 - 8.12.24: Public Review (as required, concurrent with State review) (When and in what form was this document provided to the public?)
- 7.24.24 - 9.31.2024: State Review (Can’t find on their website)
- 10.1.24 - 11.30.24: Member Agency Adoption (LVVWD Consent Item 16)
- 11.21.24: SNWA Board Adoption (Can anyone say foregone conclusion?)

While searching for clues, a [PLAN INTRODUCTION](#) page came up. Scrolling down the document there is a section with a heading “Planning for the Future” touting SNWA’s “integrated resource planning process that involves public stakeholders...and its **long history of engaging the public in major**

planning decisions and has formed a number of citizen advisory committees over the years.....on critical issues.”

Going to [SNWA Citizen Advisory Committee](#) page there are two committees listed: **Nonfunctional Turf Removal Advisory Committee (2021)** and **Infrastructure and Water Resources Committee (2019-2020)**.....Apparently there is another one referred to as the Integrated Resource Planning Advisory Committee (IRPAC 2020) but isn't on the same page as the others.

Reviewing the 2024- 2029 Joint Water Conservation Plan, there have been no modifications of Conservation Philosophy.

THIS SEEMS A MISSED OPPORTUNITY considering that Las Vegas is heating up faster than the rest of the US, yet the plan indicates on page 13 of the JWCP THAT OUR WARMING IS CONSISTENT WITH GLOBAL TRENDS.

CNN REPORTS THAT Las Vegas has HAD THE BIGGEST INCREASES IN DAYS ABOVE 95 DEGREES - 18 MORE THAN OUR AVERAGE OVER THE PAST DECADE.

As we continue to remove cooling elements it is expected that we will get hotter and our heat island more intense. The goal of 86 gallons of water per person per day must be reevaluated for what this portends in terms of quality of life and human dignity. Our heat trajectory is not a coincidence, it is a consequence to water policy and treating grass as a villain.

The WaterSmart Landscapes program reflects annual average savings of 38,355 AF/yr. If water service facilities leaks were fixed the water savings would be half this number (see Appendix 4: Water Audits). And this does not count the commercial water waste of businesses and government facility landscaping that is being paid for.

Nothing in this document speaks to the environmental impacts to these “conservation goals” that you are being required to adopt.

The Report identifies additional water resources that are expected to be available in the future and that 2,243,000 AF (730,769,400,000 billion gallons) before recycling. Why would you accept a plan that puts out environment in jeopardy? AB356 alone is estimated to cost residents over \$1Billion. The Excessive Use Penalties are putting a financial burden on residents attempting to hold on to their investments and those who cannot are now unable to contribute to the protection of our urban forest. The WaterSmart Landscapes program reflects a questionable average water savings of 38,355 AF/yr; 13% of our allocation from the Colorado, an insignificant number in light of the damage to the environment.

The plan speaks about how “projected conservation achievements impact short-and long-term water demands.....**existing residents should not be bearing the brunt of “future plans that include accommodating another million residents”.** BLM land sales and new development must come with its **own water supply.** Lake Mead levels are not part of the Colorado River Compact, our allocation is 300,000 AF. What people are being misled to believe is that the ring around the lake is what is driving the destruction of existing ecosystems in the valley.....**if the lake were overflowing, Nevada would still only be entitled to 300,000 AF.**

Evidence is mounting on the impacts of water policy and continued reductions in the prescribed goal of “ 86 gallons of water per person per day”, including, but not limited to **thousands of dead and thousands more dying trees, record heat deaths (400 ytd 2024), record daytime temperatures (120 degrees in July 2024), [second degree burns](#) from 180 artificial turf during a football practice (August 2024), displaced and diminishing wildlife (look around everywhere), and the [Las Vegas Metro Area ranks 9th for worst Ozone](#), or smog, in the nation.**

So, after failing to recognize a responsibility to study the potential impacts of what has been described as water reductions to a point below human dignity BEFORE they were adopted, it is unfortunate that the requirement for an updated plan with the advantages of hindsight failed to inspire additional “stakeholder” input.

A major concern is the initiative to replace grass athletic fields and is included as a water conservation measure in this document.... **“The Clark County School District replaced 2.4 million square feet of grass with artificial turf at two dozen high school athletic fields in 2019 and 2020 with funding support from the WET program. The project will save about 135 million gallons of water annually. Additional conversions are underway.”**“ (414 AF) LV Sun, Sept 9 2022 Does that include or exclude the water that is placed on these fields for cooling purposes?

But, what’s a little extra heat in the valley along with a side of toxins in the air, plastics in our water, and death to the soil below?.....then there are the burns and heat burden to our children’s bodies and future health.

This is a sad commentary on how average residents are being treated, how their quality of life is being compromised, and yet still being expected to contribute to the economic vibrancy of the community.

Laura McSwain, President



WATER FAIRNESS COALITION, INC

October finishes as warmest in Vegas history

Average temperature tops record by degree

By Marvin Clemons
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Another record month of 2024 heat is in the weather records for Southern Nevada.

The average temperature at Harry Reid International Airport for October was 76.5 degrees, easily surpassing the previous record of 75.3 degrees set more than two decades ago in 2003.

Other Octobers in the top five are 1988 at 74.8, 2014 at 74.7 and 2020 at 74.6, according to the National

Weather Service.

The month started with the first six days each exceeding 100 degrees or hotter with Oct. 4 reaching 104.

Rain also was not to be felt other than a trace on Oct. 18. The airport failed to receive measurable precipitation during October, and Thursday marked the 110th straight day without moisture.

Summer, as we all can recall, was one with record heat, including 11 stifling days in early July that included the all-time high temperature of 120 set on July 7.

The months of June through August ended with an average daily temperature of 96.2, easily surpassing the 2018 record of 93.7, accord-

ing to National Weather Service records that date to 1937.

This June and July were the warmest such months, respectively, while August was the fourth-warmest August and this September ranked as the fifth-warmest September.

During the summer, Death Valley National Park experienced an average 24-hour temperature of 104.5 degrees, topping its previous record of 104.2 degrees, which was set in 2021 and 2018.

Heat has been a factor in more than 400 deaths this year, according to the Clark County coroner's office. The total is expected to rise as more death investigations are completed, officials said.



Rachel Aston Las Vegas Review-Journal
October 2024 went down in the Las Vegas weather records as the hottest October ever, according to the National Weather Service.

Figure A-1: Water Smart Landscapes program, projected vs. actual performance 2019 - 2023

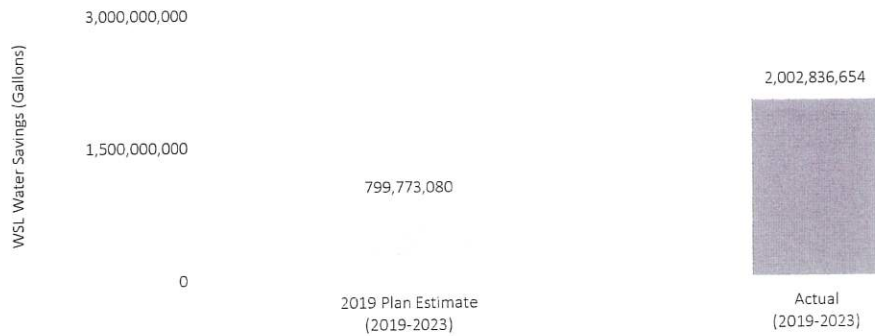


Figure A-2: Water Smart Landscapes program performance summary, 1999-2023

Year	Projects Completed	Annual Savings (Gallons)	Cumulative Savings (Gallons)	Annual Savings (AFY)	Cumulative Savings (AFY)	Dollars Rebated	Turf Converted (SF)
1999*	308	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$308,961	N/A
2000	340	26,039,070	26,039,070	80	80	\$386,822	466,650
2001	509	152,435,277	178,474,347	468	548	\$951,725	2,731,815
2002	615	187,529,125	366,003,472	576	1,123	\$1,413,047	3,360,737
2003	2,375	638,107,317	1,004,110,789	1,958	3,082	\$10,297,729	11,435,615
2004	8,714	1,912,335,923	2,916,446,712	5,869	8,950	\$28,819,765	34,271,253
2005	5,749	873,642,381	3,790,089,093	2,681	11,631	\$14,407,768	15,656,674
2006	3,468	598,157,140	4,388,246,232	1,836	13,467	\$10,973,873	10,719,662
2007	5,862	1,031,129,662	5,419,375,894	3,164	16,631	\$23,961,354	18,479,026
2008	5,172	1,572,958,593	6,992,334,488	4,827	21,459	\$43,429,127	28,189,222
2009	7,293	954,021,695	7,946,356,183	2,928	24,386	\$22,876,432	17,097,163
2010	3,180	482,660,123	8,429,016,306	1,481	25,868	\$10,742,984	8,649,823
2011	2,712	362,741,627	8,791,757,933	1,113	26,981	\$8,289,927	6,500,746
2012	2,436	303,992,541	9,095,750,474	933	27,914	\$6,991,166	5,447,895
2013	2,275	269,549,991	9,365,300,465	827	28,741	\$6,213,367	4,830,645
2014	2,188	245,048,881	9,610,349,346	752	29,493	\$5,722,132	4,391,557
2015	2,105	245,755,699	9,856,105,045	754	30,247	\$6,071,928	4,404,224
2016	2,269	243,026,131	10,099,131,176	746	30,993	\$7,037,221	4,355,307
2017	2,016	197,415,880	10,296,547,056	606	31,599	\$5,952,132	3,537,919
2018	2,326	198,632,041	10,495,179,097	610	32,209	\$8,525,761	3,559,714
2019	3,127	266,218,898	10,761,397,995	817	33,026	\$13,004,369	4,770,948
2020	2,842	252,254,000	11,013,651,995	774	33,800	\$12,011,829	4,520,681
2021	3,256	238,550,301	11,252,202,296	732	34,532	\$11,834,647	4,275,095
2022	5,777	531,068,186	11,783,270,482	1,630	36,162	\$24,552,746	9,517,351
2023	6,145	714,745,269	12,498,015,751	2,193	38,355	\$31,826,962	12,809,055
Totals	83,059	12,498,015,751	176,375,151,697	38,355	541,275	\$316,603,771	223,978,777

* The SNWA began tracking grass removed/gallons saved under the program in 2000.



Expedite Non-functional Turf Removal

The SNWA expects WSL program enrollment among non-single family residential customers to ramp up exponentially over the next few years to support the implementation of AB356. To increase the efficiency of fieldwork and project closeouts, the SNWA augmented staff with contract labor and deployed new technologies to expedite nonfunctional turf mapping.

To accelerate large projects, streamline program administration and manage total program costs, the SNWA approved new program conditions in 2021 that remove the annual per-project cap for WSL projects (\$500,000). The SNWA made changes to its WSL rebate amount in 2023 for non-single family residential customers to encourage properties to act now rather than later. Effective January 1, 2025, the incentive will decrease from \$3 to \$2 per square foot for the first 10,000 square feet of turf converted and to \$1 per square foot thereafter. The SNWA will continue to evaluate the community’s progress in removing non-functional turf and may make further WSL program changes to ensure compliance with AB356.



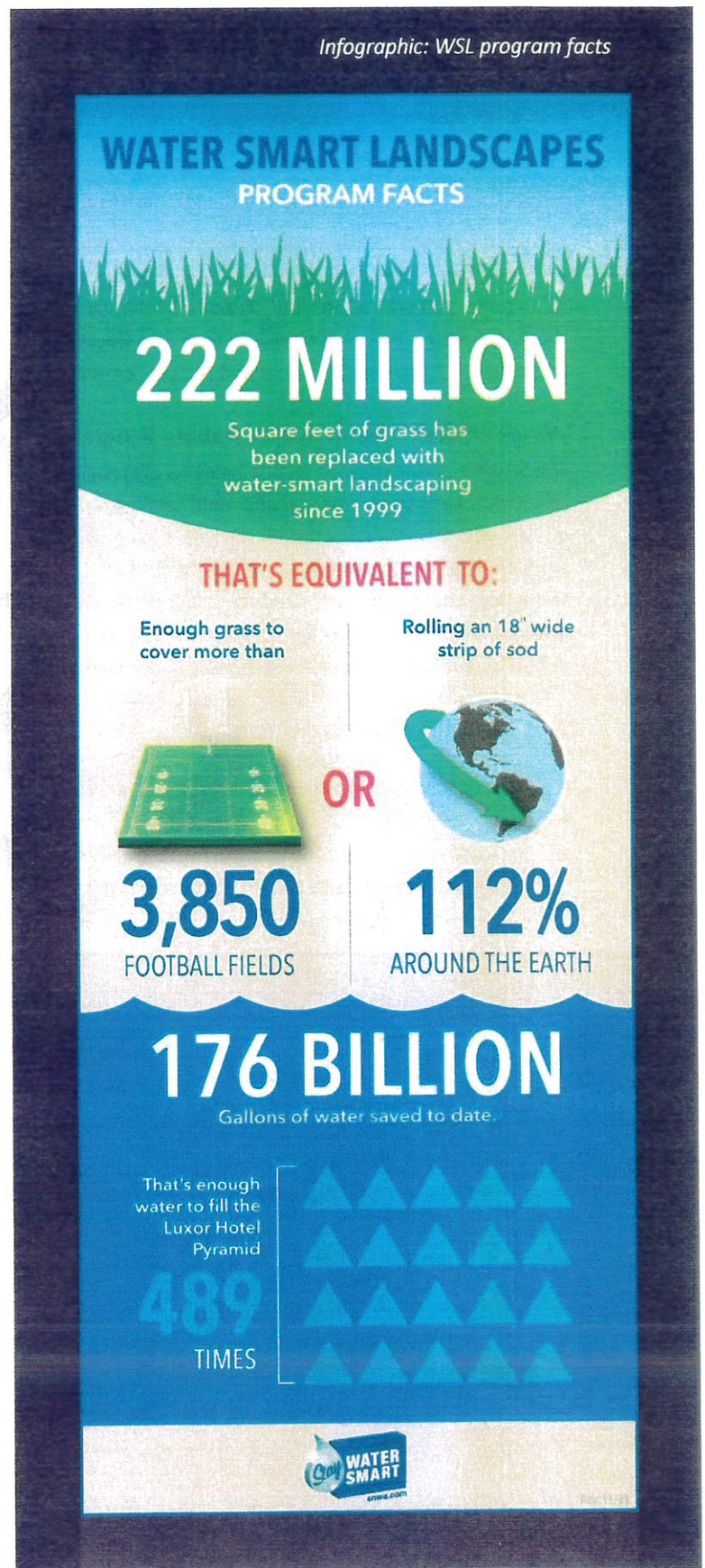
Boost Residential WSL Participation

Increase Incentive Amount. The SNWA monitors and adjusts its incentive programs to maintain public interest and participation over time. In 2024, the SNWA authorized a temporary increase to the program rebate for single-family residential properties from \$3 to \$5 per square foot for the first 10,000 square feet of grass converted and \$1.50 to \$3.50 for every square foot thereafter for projects completed during calendar year 2024. This limited-time offering was possible through the State of Nevada’s Water Conservation and Infrastructure Initiative grant, which is expected to be fully utilized by the end of 2024 or early 2025.

The City of Henderson offered a WSL supplemental incentive program that provided an additional \$1.50 in rebates for turf conversion projects between 10,000 – 40,000 square feet. In FY23, Henderson distributed

\$953000 supplemental rebates, supporting the conversion of more than 1.3 million square feet of grass.

Infographic: WSL program facts



**Public Comment received from Laura McSwain for the
11/5/24 LVVWD Board of Directors Meeting
(6 pages)**



DECISION 2024 | On-the-ground election coverage by local reporters in all 50 states. Fair. Fearless. Free.

NATIONAL COVERAGE


ECONOMY ENVIRONMENT HEALTH

More states ban PFAS, or 'forever chemicals,' in more products

In total this year, at least 16 states adopted 22 PFAS-related measures.

BY: **SHALINA CHATLANI** - OCTOBER 22, 2024 5:00 AM



 A person shops at a home improvement store in New York City in January. Many states have enacted laws this year to restrict the use of PFAS — often called “forever chemicals” — in a wide array of consumer goods or firefighting foam. (Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

Legislative momentum against PFAS has surged this year, as at least 11 states [enacted laws](#) to restrict the use of “forever chemicals” in everyday consumer products or professional firefighting foam.

The legislation includes bans on PFAS in apparel, cleaning products, cookware, and cosmetic and menstrual products. Meanwhile, lawmakers in some states also passed measures that require industries to pay for testing or cleanup; order companies to disclose the use of PFAS in their products; and mandate or encourage the development of PFAS alternatives, according to Safer States, an alliance of environmental health groups focused on toxic chemicals.

In total this year, [at least 16 states adopted 22 PFAS-related measures](#), according to the group. Since 2007, 30 states have approved [155 PFAS policies](#), the vast majority of them in the past five years.

The thousands of chemicals categorized as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, do not naturally break down and are found in the blood of 97% of Americans. Some PFAS compounds can harm the immune system, increase cancer risks and decrease fertility.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released new standards limiting PFAS in drinking water. Water systems have five years to comply with the rules. Even before the EPA action, [11 states](#) had set their own limits on PFAS in drinking water, starting with New Jersey in 2018.

Water utilities and chemical manufacturers are [challenging the new EPA standards](#). But states also are heading to the courthouse: So far, [30 states have sued](#) PFAS manufacturers or key users for contaminating water supplies and other natural resources, according to Safer States.

PFAS

At least 11 states enacted PFAS bans on some products this year:

- Alaska
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- Rhode Island
- Vermont

“Over the past two decades, the knowledge of PFAS health effects has really exploded,” Jamie DeWitt, a professor of environmental molecular toxicology at Oregon State University, told Stateline.

“We now know that they’re linked with different types of cancer, suppression of the vaccine antibody response, liver damage, elevated cholesterol and developmental effects,” said DeWitt, who is also director of the university’s Environmental Health Sciences Center.

But the chemical industry and some companies that use PFAS in their products argue that states are going too far. PFAS compounds have properties that make them nonstick, stain-repellent, waterproof or fire-resistant. In addition to being used in everyday consumer goods, they are critical to renewable energy, health care and electronics, defenders say.

States need to keep PFAS ‘forever chemicals’ out of the water. It won’t be cheap.



In recent years, Michigan has spent tens of millions of dollars to limit residents’ exposure to the harmful “forever chemicals” called PFAS. And some cities there have spent millions of their own to filter contaminated drinking water or connect to new, less-polluted sources. “We’ve made significant

investments to get up to speed,” said Abigail Hendershott, ... Continue reading



“PFAS are a diverse universe of chemistries. They have differing health and environmental profiles. It is not scientifically accurate or appropriate to treat all PFAS the same,” Tom Flanagan, a spokesperson from the American Chemistry Council, told Stateline in an email.

“Consumers should also know that PFAS chemistries in commerce today have been reviewed by regulators before introduction, are

subject to ongoing review, and are supported by a robust body of health and safety data.”

In California, which has enacted 19 PFAS-related laws since 2007, the state Chamber of Commerce “opposes any blanket ban on all commercial products containing PFAS,” according to Adam Regele, vice president of advocacy and strategic partnerships. There are more than 15,000 chemicals in the PFAS category, Regele said, and there aren’t viable alternatives for all of them.

Scott Whitaker, president and CEO of AdvaMed, a trade association representing medical technology companies, [told a congressional committee](#) last year that “it is hard to imagine the medical industry without the many important products that contain fluoropolymers,” a type of PFAS. Whitaker noted that CPAP machines, prosthetics, IV bags, surgical instruments and many other medical products contain PFAS.

The semiconductor industry also has [expressed concern](#) about far-reaching bans on PFAS, which it uses to manufacture computer chips. It wants exceptions to the new rules as well as time to develop alternatives.

But Sarah Doll, national director of Safer States, said one reason states have been so successful in enacting PFAS limits is that more companies are willing to stop using the chemicals.

“When California restricted PFAS in textiles, all of a sudden you saw companies like REI saying, ‘We can, we’re going to do that. We’re going to move to alternatives,’” Doll said.

In Vermont, state lawmakers in April [unanimously approved a measure](#) banning the manufacture and sale of PFAS in cosmetics, menstrual products, incontinence products, artificial turf, textiles and cookware.



A Slew of State Proposals Shows the Threat of 'Forever Chemicals'

In rivers and groundwater, in human bloodstreams and products ranging from cosmetics to food packaging to carpets, researchers are increasingly finding “forever chemicals” that don’t break down naturally and are shown to cause myriad health issues. State lawmakers across the country want to tackle the growing problem. Several states have passed landmark laws in recent ... Continue reading

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“The same as everyone else, like Democrats, we want to make sure that we remove PFAS and get it out of products as soon as we can,” said Vermont Republican state Rep. Michael Marcotte, who said his district includes cosmetics manufacturer Rozelle Cosmetics, in Westfield.

Democratic state Sen. Virginia Lyons, the chief sponsor of the Vermont bill, said it is particularly important to get PFAS out of products that are essential to consumers.

“There are some consumer products where you can say, ‘I don’t need to buy that, because I don’t want PFAS,’” Lyons said. “But it’s really tough to say that [about] a menstrual product.”

California’s [latest PFAS measure](#), which Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom signed last month, specifically bans the use of PFAS in menstrual products. Democratic Assemblymember Diane Papan,

the author of the bill, said it was particularly strong because it covers both intentional and unintentional uses of PFAS, so “manufacturers will have to really be careful about what comes in their supply chain.”

While more states enact laws focused on specific products, Maine is preparing to implement the world’s first PFAS ban covering all consumer goods. The Maine law, which is scheduled to take effect in 2030, will include exceptions for “essential” products for which PFAS-free alternatives do not exist. Washington state has also taken a sweeping approach by giving regulators strict timelines to ban PFAS in many product categories.

Staff writer Alex Brown contributed to this report.

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SHALINA CHATLANI

Shalina Chatlani covers health care and environmental justice for Stateline.

Stateline is part of [States Newsroom](#), the nation’s largest state-focused nonprofit news organization.

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