

**LAS VEGAS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2025  
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER 9:43 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  
April Becker  
William McCurdy II  
Michael Naft

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Justin Jones  
Tick Segerblom

STAFF PRESENT: John Entsminger, Doa Ross, Ken Albright, and Greg Walch

*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, representing the Water Fairness Coalition, commented on items #1 and #4. She stated that the way the minutes are posted on the District’s website is confusing to the public. On item #4, she expressed concern about the lack of detail and financial information within the supporting documents of the item. She also talked about Hispanic Heritage month and discussed the naming of Las Vegas, meaning “the meadows,” adding that we should honor the Hispanic Heritage and protect the area they discovered.

Diane Henry, 7525 Coley Ave., commented on item #9, a development project near Kyle Canyon Road in the northwest, and stated that with extensive growth comes extensive water needs. She stated that no matter how water-efficient and how much grass is removed, even a WaterSmart landscape uses more than a negligible amount of water. She added that construction is also very water intense and stated that the board continues to stimulate the water needs of future development by draining existing residents dry.

**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 August 5, 2025. The motion was approved.

**CONSENT AGENDA Items 2 – 7 are routine and can be taken in one motion unless a Director requests that an item be taken separately.**

- 2. Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an amendment to the existing agreement between Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., and the District to provide additional professional design engineering and construction support services for the Rome 2745 Zone Reservoir, 2975 Zone Pumping Station, and 2975-2860 Zone PRV, increasing the existing agreement by \$433,660, and resulting in a total amount not to exceed \$4,875,097.**
- 3. Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign, in substantially the same form as attached hereto, a letter agreement between the Nevada Department of Transportation and the District for the adjustment of a meter box, valves, and manholes in State Route 562 (Sunset Road) between Las Vegas Boulevard and Annie Oakley Drive for an amount not to exceed \$55,720, and authorize the General Manager to sign any ministerial documents necessary to effectuate the transaction.**
- 4. Approve and authorize an increase in funding for the existing joinder agreement between Vermeer Mountain West, Inc., and the District for the purchase of emergency generators of an additional \$2,000,000 over the term of the agreement.**

5. **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, and Eighth Judicial District Court, establishing the rates for the Self-Funded Group Medical and Dental Plans, effective January 1, 2026.**
6. **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, 2026.**
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, 2026.**

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

#### **BUSINESS AGENDA**

8. **Waive a minor bid irregularity and award a contract to Las Vegas Paving Corporation for the replacement and installation of meter vaults, various small diameter pipeline, and fire hydrants in the amount of \$2,689,840, authorize a change order contingency not to exceed \$260,000, authorize up to two additional renewal terms, and authorize the General Manager to sign the construction agreement.**

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Director Naft to approve staff's recommendations. The motion was approved.

9. **Approve and authorize the General Manager to sign an agreement between Tri-Pointe Homes Nevada, Inc., and the District for design of pipeline oversizing within the 3090 Pressure Zone.**

FINAL ACTION: A motion was made by Director Naft to approve staff's recommendations. The motion was approved.

#### **COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

Lindsay Glazer Woloshin, 9105 Eagle Hills Dr., spoke on behalf of her neighbors regarding excessive water use fees. She reported that one of her monthly water bills was over \$1,300, an amount that used to only occur during summer months. She stated that despite regular leak checks and good landscaping practices, her community continues to face high water charges. She asked why the District and the board give incentives to plant trees, but not to save them, citing that many trees throughout her community have recently died. She questioned why other jurisdictions throughout Southern Nevada are not held to the same excessive use fees.

Lisa Ortega, 4626 La Fonda Dr., expressed strong concern over the loss of trees in the Las Vegas Valley, particularly due to pests and removal of turf. She asked about a stipulation for "legacy" trees to try and save them, emphasizing their importance, and suggested creating waivers to protect them. Ms. Ortega concluded by urging consideration of tree preservation in policy decisions.

Diane Henry shared an experience with a water leak at her property, which, although minor, still added about \$50 to her bill. She expressed frustration over the high excessive water use fees, which she described as distressing and unfair. She also noted a delay in the District's real-time reporting and welcomed any upgrade to that system. While she appreciated leak adjustment programs, she opposed funding them with the revenue from excessive use funds. She concluded by implying that a legal process might be in the future as she referenced federal court proceedings.

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Carol Reynolds, 2740 Mann St., expressed concern about how water policies appear to be disproportionately harming residents of older neighborhoods with larger lots. Initially dismissive of a friend’s theory that the county was trying to drive out longtime residents for redevelopment, she now finds that idea possible. Ms. Reynolds said that there are many homes in her neighborhood listed for sale, mostly because her neighbors can no longer afford to maintain their properties. She questioned whether Las Vegas still values its history, older neighborhoods, and local wildlife.

Stephanie Steffen, 2021 Grouse St., expressed concern over the excessive use charge, stating that it is unfair and poorly designed. She questioned how “excessive” use is defined, noting that the system doesn’t account for lot size or family size. She stated that the policy is not equitable across all Southern Nevada jurisdictions and added that hospitality visitors can use water freely, while locals are penalized. She spoke of the negative impact of AB 356, believing older neighborhoods should not be subject to these rules. Ms. Steffen stated that the City of Phoenix has successfully prioritized urban greenery despite similar desert conditions. She concluded by urging the board for immediate change.

Laura McSwain expressed strong concern over current District water policies, particularly their negative impact on existing homeowners, the environment, and the future of the region. She spoke of a failed attempt to amend AB 96 to recognize grass under trees as functional. Ms. McSwain argued that residents are unfairly blamed for the death of trees following landscape conversions. She also spoke about California's AB 1572 and said it is a better model, which includes protection for grass under trees to support tree health. A copy of her written comment is attached to these minutes.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 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 for the 9/16/25 LVVWD Board of Directors meeting



September 16, 2025 LVVWD Board of Director's Meeting -Public Comment

To: Las Vegas Valley Water District Board of Directors

The only thing more troubling than the disregard for existing homeowner investments and the financial burdens placed on existing residents is the impact that current water policies are having on our environment and quality of life in Southern Nevada, both now and most emphatically in the future. The lack of moral clarity from this board on these two issues is astounding.

During the recent legislative session an attempt was made to have "grass under trees is functional" added to AB96 in an attempt to protect our existing urban forest. Trees that have grown to full maturity providing the full benefits intended by Mother Nature and by the way, require more water than grass. The attempt failed, for reasons not given, only that the bill's presenter stated that "the powers that be" don't agree with WFC concerns. They were referring, of course, to the Executive Team for SNWA and LVVWD.

The common blame for tree death during conversions is placed on the residents and not protecting their tree's watering needs, which is nothing more than piling on insult to injury while also being scientifically inaccurate.

Included with my comments are some bullet points regarding California's Assembly Bill 1572 that was recently passed and has a lot in common with AB356, with one exception; an exception for turfgrass growing under trees exists to ensure the health of trees and other perennial plantings.

Also included is a letter from the Southern Nevada Arborist Group supporting this approach. In it there is a line that states "Water conservation and tree preservation must go hand in hand."

Please do not continue to allow a crisis of conscience to cause an environmental crisis to be inherited by future generations.

WATER FAIRNESS COALITION, INC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura McSwain", is written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Laura McSwain, President

Public comment received for the 9/16/25 LVVWD Board of Directors meeting



Southern Nevada Arborist Group- SNAG

March 29, 2025

To: Nevada State Legislature – AB96

Re: heat mitigation that GRASS UNDER TREES be classified by SNWA under the guidelines of AB356-the mandatory non-functional turf removal bill passed in 2021.

The Southern Nevada Arborist Group has a mission-

**Our Mission**

The Southern Nevada Arborist Group is a collection of tree care professionals and dedicated tree friends striving to provide improved tree care and promote the appreciation of trees in the Southern Nevada Region by sharing knowledge and experiences.

To our Esteemed State Lawmakers:

There is keen public interest in keeping grass for beauty, cooling, and emotional well-being etc. The urban tree canopy provides multiple benefits. Unfortunately, there are many challenges in maintaining that tree canopy post turf conversion. Considering the Desert Research Institute study regarding reduced water use by grass under trees, you may not recognize the OPPORTUNITY this provides to achieve the goal of reduced water use AND the preservation of tree canopy.

Research indicates that maintaining a grass turf environment under trees can reduce the overall watering demand and save water compared to watering open space grass. The benefit is that maintaining a more bio-active environment under the trees supports a diverse community of beneficial life forms such as birds, reptiles, insects, beneficial fungi and bacteria, all of which provide natural controls against invasive species that can wreak havoc on trees stressed by turf conversion and reduced irrigation. With the goal of water conservation, the cooling effect of tree canopy becomes paramount.

Experience has shown that in turf to rock only conversions, even with efforts to compensate with drip irrigation, trees become stressed and attract invasive pests that lead to tree deaths and loss of canopy. Further, efforts to protect them with pesticides introduce hazardous chemicals into the equation with other downside risks associated. Therefore, protecting healthy trees that have been established in turf areas creates an environment with beneficial species that act as natural controls against these invasive pests. Thus, we get water conservation plus preservation of tree canopy without the downside of toxic agents or loss of property value.

We STRONGLY encourage the support of legislation to provide an exception for grass under trees as a separate classification in the drafting of guidelines regarding turf removal.

Sincerely,

**Joe Noriega, President of SNAG**



*ISA Board Certified Master Arborist WE 9982B*

## Public comment received for the 9/16/25 LVVWD Board of Directors meeting

*Trees and grass plants don't usually coexist in nature as they tend to compete for various elements. However, when used as understory plants, grasses can provide a benefit to the tree(s) growing in it.*

*Lawn grass helps to stabilize the soil around tree roots, reducing erosion and maintaining soil structure. The grass, and resulting thatch buildup, also acts as a natural ground cover, protecting the soil from temperature fluctuations and helping to retain moisture, which can be beneficial to a tree's root system. Additionally, as grass clippings decompose, they add organic matter to the soil, improve soil structure, and increase fertility through "Nutrient Cycling". A healthy lawn can also support beneficial organisms, such as earthworms and microbes, which contribute to overall soil health and, in turn, promote healthier tree growth.*

Russ Thompson



Certified Arborist WE 2105A

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### Preservation of Existing Tree Canopy

Over the last two decades, arborists have witnessed an unprecedented decline of urban trees not only due to the stress induced by extreme shifts in climate, but also the unintended consequence of turf removal projects and suboptimal water management.

What if we reimagined our approach to community trees - working together to keep our urban forests healthy and resilient? What if we became stronger advocates ensuring that trees have the resources required to endure longer, hotter summers? Why not value the preservation of our urban tree canopy just as highly as water conservation?

To better protect our existing trees, let's explore the following:

- **Recognize and preserve healthy mature trees** as "urban tree veterans" and exempting them from mandatory turf removal requirements. This is especially important for species like ash and mulberry, which struggle to transition well from turf-based landscapes to non-turf environments.
- **Provide water credits to consumers with large trees**, recognizing their significant cooling benefits for the community. Consider scaling the credits based on the size of the tree canopy – the larger the tree, the greater the credit.
- **Establish procedures to protect and maintain mature trees**, ensuring they receive adequate irrigation and care to remain sustainable, particularly in neighborhoods where tree canopy loss is accelerating.
- **Leverage technology to improve water management** by using moisture sensors, smart controllers, sub-surface irrigation, and local weather monitors. Trees respond to environmental conditions, not a calendar – scientific water management should guide irrigation practices rather than rigid scheduling mandates. Let's fund the available technology to conserve water yet sustain trees.
- **Investing in research and alternative landscape solutions** to reduce dependence on high-water-use grass while maintaining cooler landscapes that support tree health. The introduction of more arid-adapted turf and groundcover species will allow trees to thrive without the heat stress associated with rock mulch.

Water conservation and tree preservation must go hand in hand. Working together, let's ensure that our policies reflect the critical role of trees in sustaining healthy, livable communities. The Southern Nevada Arborist Group is prepared to help achieve these goals.

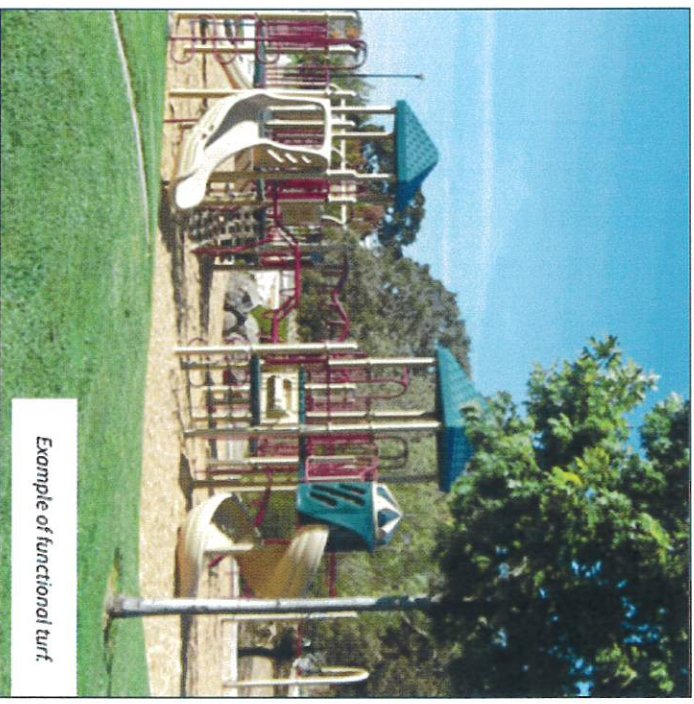
Dennis Swartzell



ISA Board Certified Master Arborist WE 309B

# California's Assembly Bill 1572

- Potable Water: Nonfunctional Turf Bill
- Commercial, industrial, institutional, properties (including common areas of HOAs)
- Phased implementation beginning in 2027
- NFT-turfgrass not needed to serve a human function including recreational, civic, or community events



IC: El Toro Water District, Lake Forest, CA

## California's Assembly Bill 1572

- Does not apply to single family residential properties including those in HOAs
- Does not apply to multi-family residential
- Does not apply to recycled water
- **Exception for turfgrass growing under trees** to ensure the health of trees (and other perennial plantings)
- Additional exception to address immediate health and safety needs



IC: El Toro Water District, Lake Forest, CA