



AB356 – “USELESS GRASS” REMOVAL

OVERVIEW

Where we find ourselves in this century's water discussion is very similar territory to our forefathers. How to sustain growth in the desert..... And it is not by happenstance that there was a push to bring people west in the 1800s. To build a country requires labor and there were many people migrating to the US looking for opportunity. Investors looking to capitalize on the opportunities of the west ultimately developed the railroad. As part of the government's compensation to the railroad, swaths of land were given along their routes. Land grant maps were used by land speculators to advertise railroad lands for sale to the public. Based on promises of prosperity and the lure of open spaces, people came West, built a railroad, settled their families, eked out an existence, and made investments in property. Today.....the growth continues and rather than expand technologies that would create water abundance and security, those in power are exerting control and eroding property rights through scarcity.....

IS LAS VEGAS OUT OF WATER???



WATER FACTS- PICTURES DO NOT TELL THE WHOLE TALE



- NV COLORADO RIVER ALLOCATION IS 300,000 A/F
- IN 2023 SOUTHERN NEVADA USED 188,000 A/F
- WITH RECYCLING SNWA HAS 135 YEARS OF WATER
- THERE ARE 100,000 A/F OF CO RIVER WATER FOR SALE!
- SNWA WATER BANK IS 2.3 MILLION ACRE FEET
- IF LAKE MEAD WAS OVERFLOWING NV ALLOTMENT WOULD STILL BE 300,000 ACRE FEET
- NEVADANS HAVE DONE MORE THAN ANY OTHER STATE TO SECURE ITS WATER FUTURE



SNWA WATER RESOURCES

	SUPPLY	CONSUMPTIVE USE	AVAILABLE IN SHORTAGE
PERMANENT	Colorado River (SNWA and Nellis Air Force Base)	276,205 AFY	Yes. Subject to shortage reductions
	Nevada Unused Colorado River (Non-SNWA)	13,662 (2024) to 0 AFY in 2031	Yes. Subject to availability
	Tributary Conservation ICS	31,104-36,000 AFY	Yes
	Las Vegas Valley Groundwater Rights	46,961 AFY	Yes
TEMPORARY	Southern Nevada Groundwater Bank	343,813 AF (20,000 AFY max.)	Yes
	Interstate Bank (Arizona)	613,846 AF (40,000 AFY max.)	Yes
	Interstate Bank (California)	330,225 AF (30,000 AFY max.)	Yes
	Intentionally Created Surplus (storage in Lake Mead)	1,038,765 AF (300,000 AFY max.)	Yes, varies by Lake Mead elevation
FUTURE	Colorado River Transfers/Exchanges Permanent Future Supply (Desalination and Colorado River Partnerships)	20,000-40,000 AFY	Yes
	Colorado River Transfers/Exchanges Virgin River/Colorado River Augmentation	Up to 108,000 AFY	To be determined
	Garnet and Hidden Valleys Groundwater	2,200 AFY	Yes
	Tikaboo and Three Lakes Valley North and South Groundwater	10,605 AFY	Yes

FIGURE 4.1 SNWA Water Resource Portfolio



ACTUAL WATER USE IN 2023

SNWA COLORADO RIVER USE	2023
NV COLO ALLOCATION	300,000 AC
SNWA ALLOCATION	276,205 AC
SNWA 2023 USE	188,000 AC
60% NON RECYCLED	112,800 AC
40 % RECYCLED	75,000 AC
1% RECYCLED LOSS	750 AC
NET RECYCLED	74,250 AC
SNWA USE - NET RECYCLED	113,750 AC
% OF SNWA USED 113,750/276,205	42%

SNWA has significantly more Colorado River water than the 276,205 AFY



WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS MANDATE?

AB356 – “Useless” Grass Removal

Began as...

An initiative to remove non-functional grass from road medians & places the state determined served no purpose.

Escalated into ...

The taking of private property protections and the reduction of quality of life.



Brought to you by the SNWA



IMPACT OF AB356

- 3,900 ACRES OF TURF REMOVAL WILL COST RESIDENTS CONSERVATIVELY \$1.2 BILLION
- LONG ESTABLISHED SANCTUARIES FOR WATERFOWL, REPTILES AND RABBITS ARE BEING DESTROYED
- LAS VEGAS HAS AN ABOVE AVERAGE RATE OF INCREASED TEMPERATURE RANKING #2
- REMOVAL OF GRASS AROUND TREES COMPROMISES THEIR VIABILITY.





AB356 IS THE PROBLEM!

- 41,000 ac BLM LAND SALE – 1 MILLION NEW RESIDENTS
- OZONE AIR QUALITY ALERT THROUGH SEPT 30
- SOUTHERN NEVADA QUALITY OF LIFE WILL DETERIORATE
- MANY MATRUE TREES REQUIRE 97% AS MUCH WATER AS TURF, AND 100% TURF REMOVAL WILL KILL OUR URBAN FOREST
- XERISCAPE SURFACE TEMPERATURE IS HOTTER THAN ASPHALT
- SYNTHETIC TURF CAN BE 175 DEGREES IN SO NEVADA AND IS TOXIC
- TURF REMOVAL WILL DEPREICIATE HOME VALUES AND INTRODUCE BLIGHT



POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO REDUCE IMPACT



- WAIVER REQUEST <https://www.snwa.com/apps/watersmart-landscape-commercial-waiver/>
- ASK FOR CALCULATION OF WATER SAVINGS BASED UPON TURF REMOVAL
- USE TREE CANOPY COVER WATER REQUIRED TO PRESERVE TURF
- DEMONSTRATE AREAS TO PRESERVE AS BEING USED FOR EVENTS/ADD PARK BENCHES.
- APPLY FOR NATIONAL WILDLIFE HABITAT CERTIFICATION IN AREAS THAT ARE PART OF MAGRATORY PATHS OR SUPPORT WILDLIFE



WAIVER GUIDELINES

WAIVER ELIGIBILITY & REVIEW PROCESS

REVIEW PROCESS:

- SNWA staff will review applications to determine if the turf substantially complies with the functional turf definitions and if the turf provides a recreational benefit to the community.
- SNWA staff may condition the approval based on irrigation efficiency, presence of public use facilities, accessibility, proximity to roadways, and overall turf acreage (based on recreational use and number of persons served) and any other requirements that ensures turf remains functional.
- SNWA staff will document all decisions and correlate outcomes to the established functional/non-functional turf definitions.

RECONSIDERATION AND APPEAL:

- If an entity is not satisfied with the staff decision, it may file a written notice of appeal to the SNWA General Manager within 10 days. The General Manager shall conduct and complete a review of staff's decision within 30 days of receipt.
- If an entity is not satisfied with the General Manager's decision, it may file an appeal to the SNWA Board within 10 days of receiving the General Manager's decision.
- Appeals to the SNWA Board will be scheduled for the next available meeting date, subject to processing and posting timelines.



TREE CANOPY COVER

Gallons of Water Per Week (S. Nevada)

Water-use Factor (WF)	Diameter of Root-zone Area in Feet					
	8	10	15	20	25	30
High-water-use (WF 0.8)	83	130	292	520	812	1,170
Low-water-use (WF 0.5)	52	81	183	325	508	731



RUN TIME FOR EMITTERS

Weekly Irrigation Run Times for Southern Nevada

Size of Tree	Clayey Soil .6 gph emitters 18 in. apart	Sandy Soil .9 gph emitters 12 in. apart
Large tree	133 emitters for 7.75 hrs.	200 emitters for 3.45 hrs.
Medium tree	66 emitters for 6.4 hrs.	100 emitters for 2.8 hrs.
Small tree	33 emitters for 3.4 hrs.	50 emitters for 1.5 hrs.



ARBORISTS AND HORTICULTURISTS OPPOSE THE APPROACH BEING TAKEN TO “CONSERVE” WATER

...“while proud of SNWA’s conservation programs over past 25 years, they are now risking doing severe and highly consequential damage to Southern NV economically, environmentally and in quality of life”

- *Norm Schilling,
Horticulturist &
Arborist*





WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- WRITE TO GOVERNOR JOE LOMBARDO-TELLING HIM AB356 IS NOT NECESSARY AND AN ECONOMIC DISASTER TO RESIDENTS
- WRITE/GO TO SNWA MEETINGS AND DEMAND THEY PROVE THE WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH WATER AND CALCULATE THE COST OF TURF REMOVAL
- JOIN WATER FAIRNESS COALITION SUPPORT EFFORTS TO REVERSE, AB356, AB220 AND EXCESSIVE USE CHARGES
- ASK YOUR LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE TO ADJUST AB356 TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT RESIDENTIAL AREAS.
- LOOK UP YOUR REPRESENTATIVES <https://waterfairnesscoalition.com/elected-officials/>



LVVWD/SNWA IS EMPOWERED BY THE STATE!

Regarding AB 356, reach out to your legislators – both the State Assembly & the Senate and to Governor Lombardo.

Nevada Legislature: [Nevada Legislature \(state.nv.us\)](http://state.nv.us)

Governor Lombardo: [Joe Lombardo, Governor \(gov.nv.gov\)](http://gov.nv.gov)

“Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, IT IS A FORCE, LIKE FIRE, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master. Never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action”

~George Washington

Make Your Voices Heard!



CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Clark County Commissioners & Board of Directors Las Vegas Valley Water District

- **Marilyn Kirkpatrick, President** District B Term Expires in 2024
Email – DistrictB@clarkcountynv.gov
- **James Gibson, V-President** District G Term Expires in 2026
Email – DistrictG@clarkcountynv.gov
- **Justin Jones** District F Term Expires in 2026
Email – DistrictF@clarkcountynv.gov
- **William McCurdy II** District D Term Expires in 2024
Email – DistrictD@clarkcountynv.gov
- **Ross Miller** District C Term Expires in 2024
Email – DistrictC@clarkcountynv.gov
- **Michael Naft** District A Term Expires in 2024
Email – District A@clarkcountynv.gov
- **Tick Segerblom** District E Term Expires in 2026
Email – DistrictE@clarkcountynv.gov

All Commissioners can be reached by phone at 702-455-3500



WATER FAIRNESS RESOURCES

- **Urban Heat Island Effect** By Kim Passoth published April 19, 2023

<https://www.fox5vegas.com/2023/04/19/urban-heat-island-effect-silent-killer-has-major-impact-las-vegas/>

- **RJ-ProPublica -Won't find water in Lawns**

https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/local-las-vegas/las-vegas-needs-to-save-water-it-wont-find-it-in-lawns-2790181/?utm_campaign=widget&utm_medium=topnews&utm_source=homepage&utm_term=Las%20Vegas%20needs%20to%20save%20water.%20It%20won%20%238217%3Bt%20find%20it%20in%20lawns

- **Cortez Masto-Sloan Conservation Area Pipeline Bill**

<https://www.kolotv.com/2023/06/17/cortez-masto-asks-congress-ok-vegas-area-water-pipeline-through-us-conservation-area/>

- **Doomberg-Wet Blanket "The Magic of Water"**

<https://doomberg.substack.com/p/wet-blanket>

- **Nevada Current – Removing Grass may increase urban heat**

<https://www.nevadacurrent.com/2022/09/19/removing-grass-may-increase-urban-heat-study-finds/>

- **Boston Bans Artificial Turf**

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/sep/30/boston-bans-artificial-turf-toxic-forever-chemicals-pfas>

- **Victor Joecks – July 22 Interview with John Entsminger**

<https://www.reviewjournal.com/opinion/opinion-columns/victor-joecks/victor-joecks-las-vegas-isnt-running-out-of-water-2612231/>

- **NY Times-Regrets Tree planting Gift**

https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/14/opinion/climate-change-trees-global-warming.html?unlocked_article_code=SBpfB9sO9BLzszm-nLerqKIGI6G3rBwcXoGajpLqw5v5V5lfl-RC3Gqvz2v2oMouMRmeAZApINIHgv7xKivbUaRbwy1ImcswcqlJjnenqql-rLCtp-mkmCboDcOBYz0lnapmNEAO3JottnOGUWo-LPWobsdRtk2CX6h6aqRTc6tAjYkxP2G3d5FepcXelZcZj6WGACPKAhfuOZtTow27ixdx1WtLBeQGsxCvl3ughZRMr25bnZx7gosrs1WHo1WmFlAZQ204r-JdcAVVi2HvEwKzXy7no4oSe2ANi5M5gxHTEmpnaNABa7lo4yYQy1oJBa1_UrpJLjoxOZYJ1kn6_RmxxgeTaa1oNdHk&smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare

- **Trees Could start hurting us, We forgot how important they are**

<https://www.thecooldown.com/outdoors/trees-creating-carbon-pollution-in-future/>

Find more information and additional articles at our website:

WaterFairnessCoalition.com



TAKE BACK YOUR POWER

Share what you have learned

Participate in meetings -

Clark County Commission / LVVWD / SNWA

Organize YOUR NEIGHBORS

ASK CANDIDATES WHAT POLICIES THEY SUPPORT?

One size does not fit all.....grass is NOT useless

****All Contributions are confidential****

CONTRIBUTE GENEROUSLY

www.WaterFairnessCoalition.com

