SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY

Nevada's Water Resources, Infrastructure Investment and Facing the Drought

Corey Enus, Public Information Coordinator

## MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Seven of every 10 Nevadans rely on the SNWA to supply water to homes and businesses.







## **MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES**











#### **CONSERVATION**

Incentives, Programs, Regulation and Pricing

#### WATER SUPPLY

PLANNING

Developing and managing regional water supplies

#### WATER QUALITY

Maintaining and protecting water quality

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

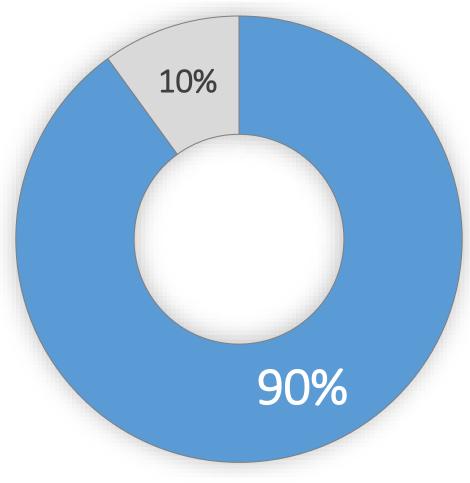
Building and operating major facilities

#### **STEWARDSHIP**

Protecting environmental resources

## WATER RESOURCES

Southern Nevada is nearly fully reliant on the Colorado River to meet the community's water demands.

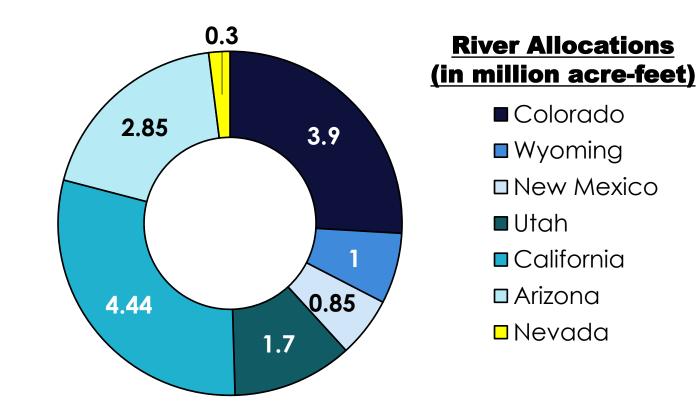


Colorado River Other



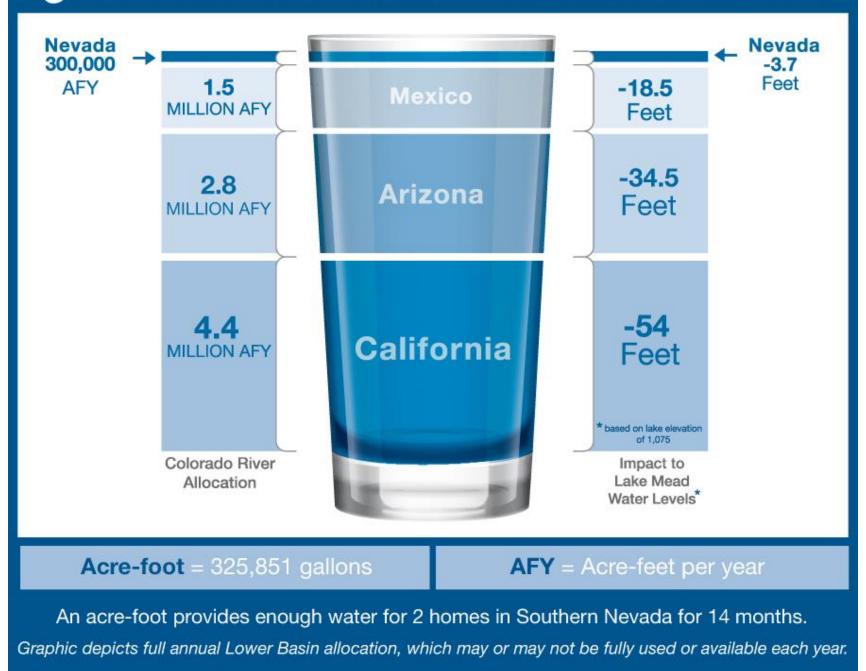
## **COLORADO RIVER**

# Nevada receives 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water annually.

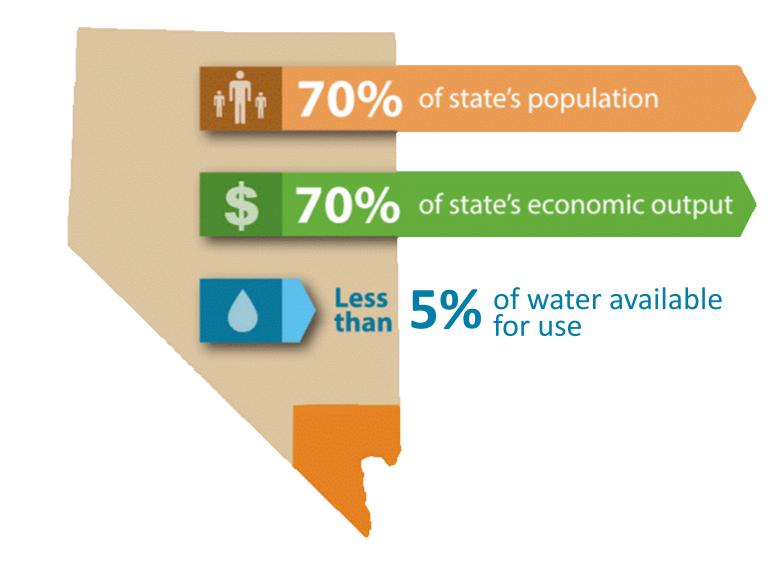


#### SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY\*

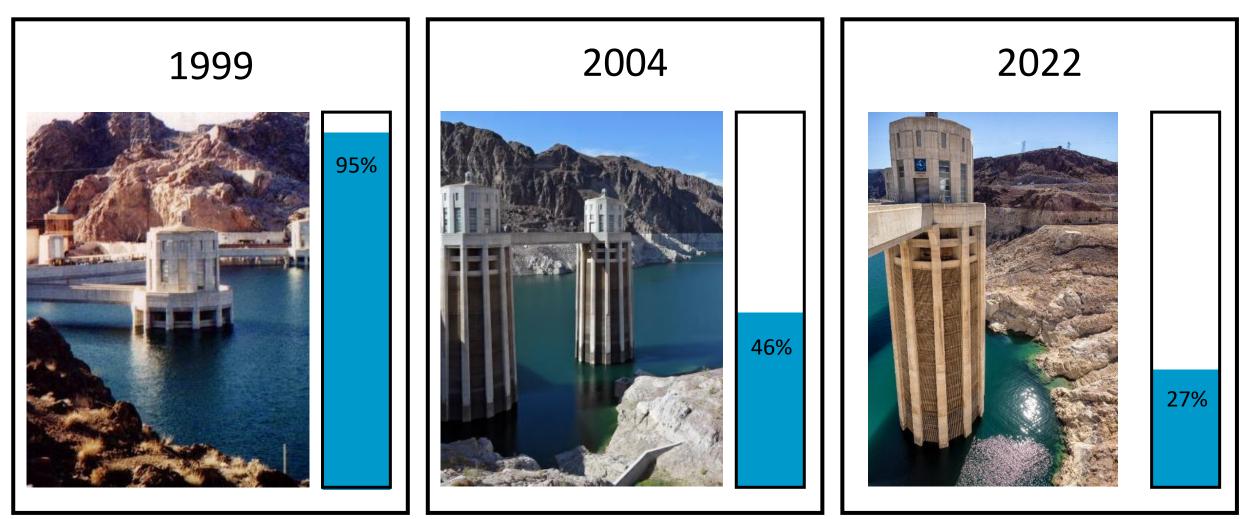
#### LAKE MEAD WATER LEVEL IMPACTS



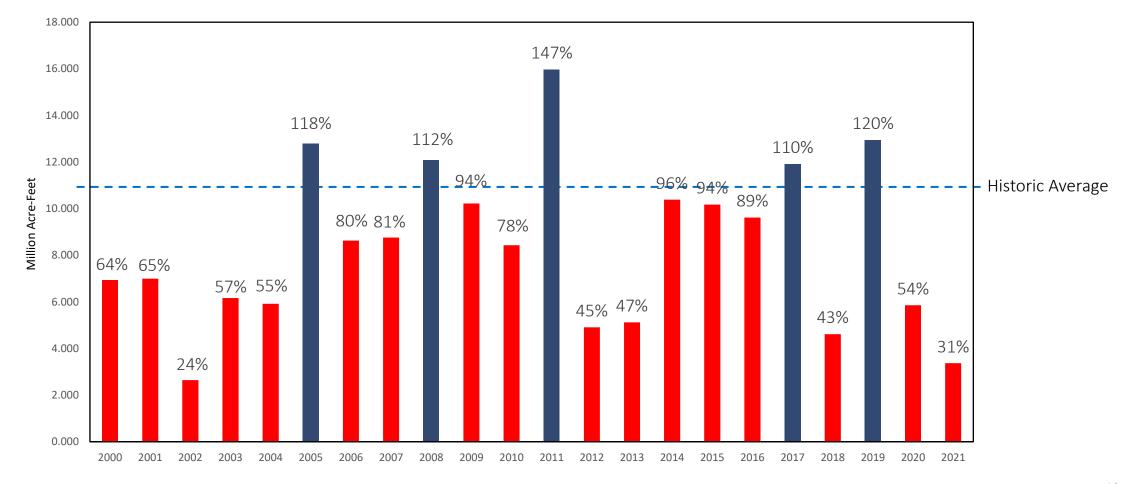
## WATER USE



#### Drought conditions have significantly depleted Lake Mead storage.



# Since 2000, cumulative Colorado River natural inflows have been approximately <u>16 trillion gallons</u> below the historical average.



SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY

### TIER 2 SHORTAGE DECLARATION JANUARY 2023

#### **CURRENT ELEVATION** 1041 ft.

Intake No. 1

1041ft.

Intake No. 2

**Dead Pool - Elevation 895 feet** 

860 ft.

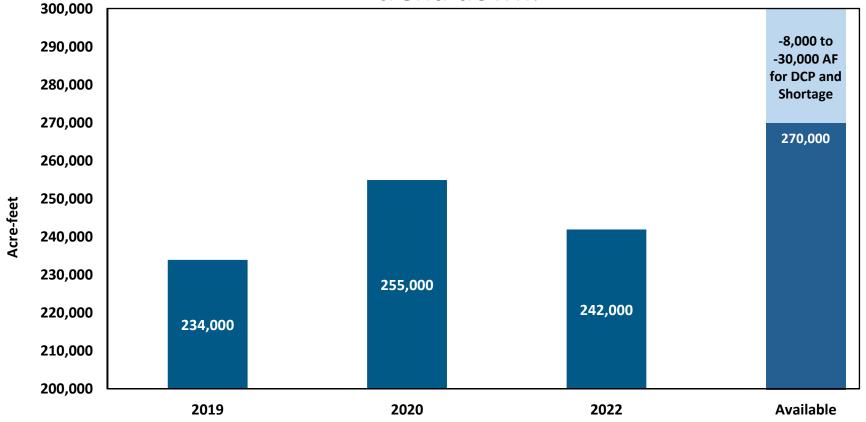
Intake No. 3

## LAKE MEAD SHORTAGE LEVELS

| Lake Mead Elevation | Shortage Reduction | Available   |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1,090+ feet         | 0                  | 300,000 AFY |
| 1,075 – 1,090 feet  | -8,000 AF          | 292,000 AFY |
| 1,050 – 1,075 feet  | -21,000 AF         | 279,000 AFY |
| 1,045 – 1,050 feet  | -25,000 AF         | 275,000 AFY |
| 1,025 – 1,045 feet  | -27,000 AF         | 273,000 AFY |
| < 1,025 feet        | -30,000 AF         | 270,000 AFY |

## **COLORADO RIVER WATER USE**

#### Consumptive was up significantly for 2020. That trajectory was not sustainable, beginning to trend down.



## **DROUGHT RESPONSE**

Southern Nevada has spent **decades** preparing for drought and climate impacts to ensure the reliability of water supplies for Southern Nevada



#### **ADVANTAGE:** Decades long commitment to conservation

- Mandatory watering schedule
- Water efficient development codes
- Water waste fees
- Tiered water rate pricing
- Golf course water budgets
- Rebate programs
- Significant investments in public outreach

#### Southern Nevada Xeriscapes -- Homeowner

We offer this rebate to encourage residents to convert some or all of their water-thirsty grass to xeriscape, a lush yet water-efficient landscape. Follow these easy steps to qualify for up to a \$1,000 credit on your water bill.



Photograph your current grass yard. Be sure to include the total area you're planning to convert. If necessary, take several photos. We want to see what your landscape looks like BEFORE you convert.



#### Step 2

Plan your xeriscape (see Themes and Plant Palettes or visit the **Desert Demonstration Gardens**). Complete the **SNX Residential Application** and submit it. Mail the photos with a printout of the application. Within three weeks of receiving your application and photos, the Water Authority will contact you to let you know they have received your application. (You may prepare the application online, but you'll still have to print out and sign a copy and mail it in along with the photos).

#### Step 3

Convert your landscape.

#### Step 4

Contact SNWA when your conversion is complete. SNWA will schedule an appointment to measure your landscape and verify you have met all the requirements for the program.

Online Advertising for the program that became today's Water Smart Landscapes Program, 2001 NEVADA'S ADVANTAGE: Consistent regional policy enactment across jurisdictions and elected officials willing to make tough decisions



















## INFRASTRUCTURE

- Intake No. 3 preserves system capacity and protects customers from water quality issues
- The Low Lake Level Pumping Station (L3PS) ensures water deliveries down to 875 feet
- Our \$2.5 billion capital improvements program will help protect the community against drought and climate impacts



## LAKE MEAD INTAKE NO. 3

Intake No. 3 ensures system capacity and protects customers from water quality issues.

**Operations began September 2015.** 

**Project details:** 

- 3 mile tunnel underneath Lake Mead
- Approximately 2,400 concrete rings each weighing more than 32 tons—used to line tunnel
- Elevation 860 feet
- Cost: \$817 million



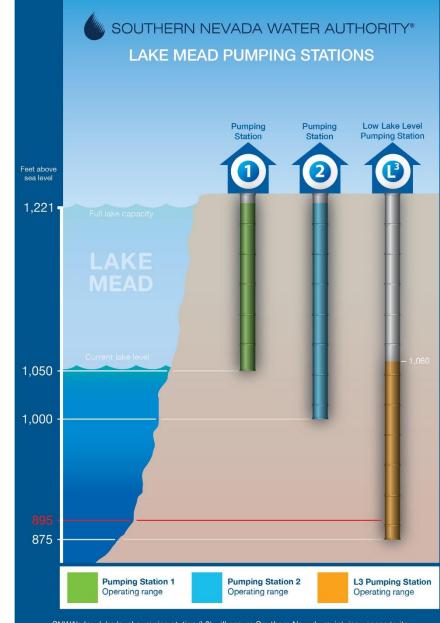
**Before Intake No. 3 was put into service** 

## LOW LAKE LEVEL PUMPING STATION

Construction of the Low Lake Level pump station ensures water deliveries down to 875 feet.

Operations began April 2022

Budgeted at \$650 million Estimated cost: \$522 million



SNWA's low lake level pumping station (L3) will ensure Southern Nevada maintains access to its primary water supplies in Lake Mead, even if the lake dips below elevation 895' — the point at which Hoover Dam can no longer release water downstream to California, Arizona and Mexico. Low-lake elevations also may require additional water treatment.

## L3PS FOREBAY

This was the underground excavation of the forebay which is now filled with water



## LOW LAKE LEVEL PUMPING STATION

Construction was completed in 2020 and put into operation in April 2022



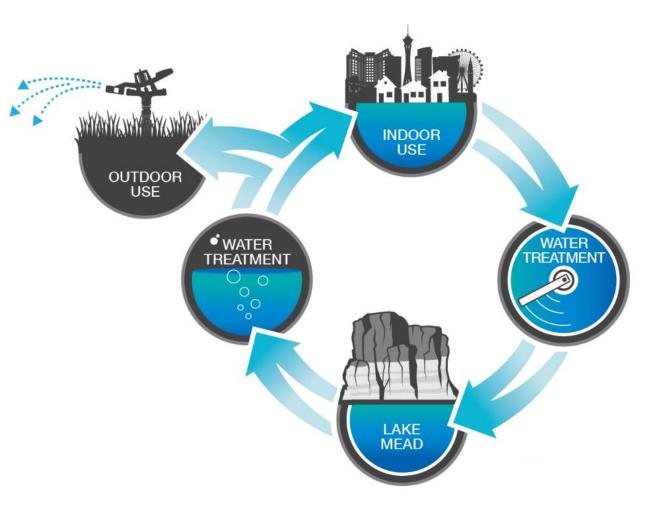
#### Between water banks and agreements among other Colorado River users, Southern Nevada has 2.1 million acre-feet of water stored for future use.

That amount represents the amount needed to meet demands in Southern Nevada for more than next 8 years.

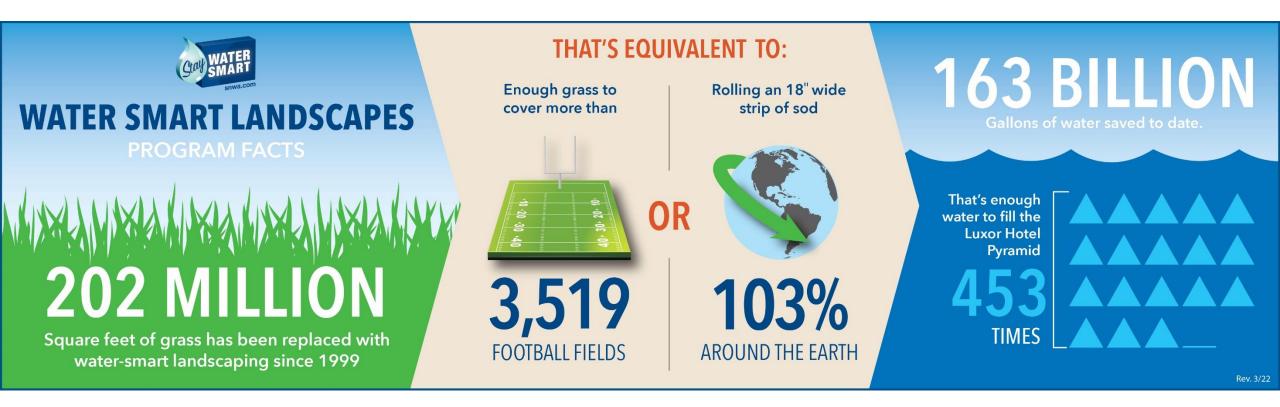


## **RETURN-FLOWS**

Southern Nevada recycles 99% of water used indoors, thereby extending the availability of its resources.



The Water Smart Landscapes program pays residents and businesses to convert grass to more water-efficient plants and trees.





# The community has adopted a "culture of conservation" through programs, rebates, policies and education.









## **REPORT WATER** WASTE AS IT HAPPENS

## Report water waste.



- Examples of Water Waste:
  - Watering on Sunday
  - Spraying in the street
  - Sprinklers on between 11 AM and 7 PM in the summer
  - Draining pools in streets
- Report online at SNWA.com or call 702-258-SAVE



## HOW YOU GROW MAKES THE DIFFERENCE:

Southern Nevada consumptively used about <u>27 billion gallons</u> less water in 2021 than in 2002, despite adding 750,000 new residents and serving nearly 40 million annual visitors.







# No one would question developing to earthquake safety standards in San Francisco or hurricane standards in Florida.

#### In Southern Nevada, water scarcity is our natural disaster





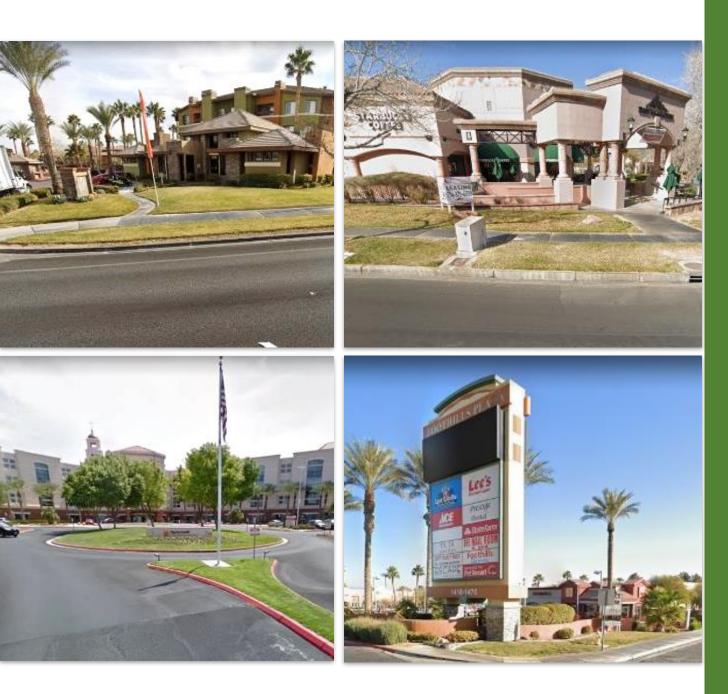


## **CONSERVATION INITIATIVES – AB356**

#### Non-functional turf removal







## What is nonfunctional turf?

- Streetscape turf
- Median turf
- Residential community entry turf
- Turf at commercial and industrial properties
- Turf on slopes
- Narrow or small areas of turf

#### May also include:

- Multifamily turf
- HOA managed turf

#### **Consumptive Use: New turf installations**



In Dec. 2021, the SNWA Board approved a resolution supporting the prohibition on new turf installations in all new development except in schools, parks and cemeteries.

## **NO NEW GOLF COURSES**

The Las Vegas Valley Water District will not provide municipal water service to new golf courses in its service area.



## LIMIT POOL SIZES

Some area pools exceed 3,000 square feet and evaporate more than 145,000 gallons of water per year.

Reducing pool size will reduce wasteful development practices and reduce consumption due to evaporation.



#### **Consumptive Use: Evaporative cooling**

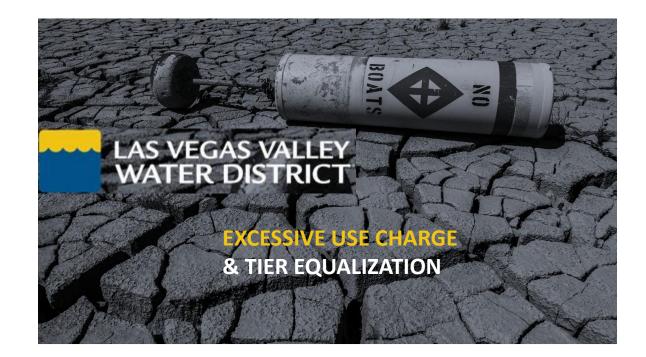
Behind irrigation, evaporative cooling represents the largest consumptive water use.

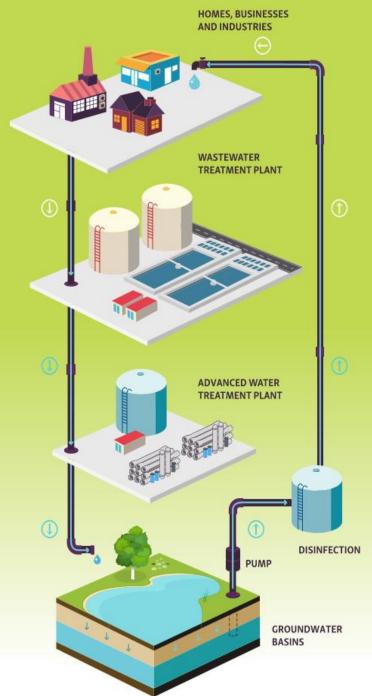
In Dec. 2021, the SNWA Board adopted a resolution that would propose a moratorium on cooling towers and water-cooled HVAC systems.



## CONSERVATION RELATED RATE CHANGES

Excessive Use Charge and Tier Equalization will effectuate measures that reduce, mitigate or prohibit the consumptive use of the community's largest water users.





## **FUTURE RESOURCES**

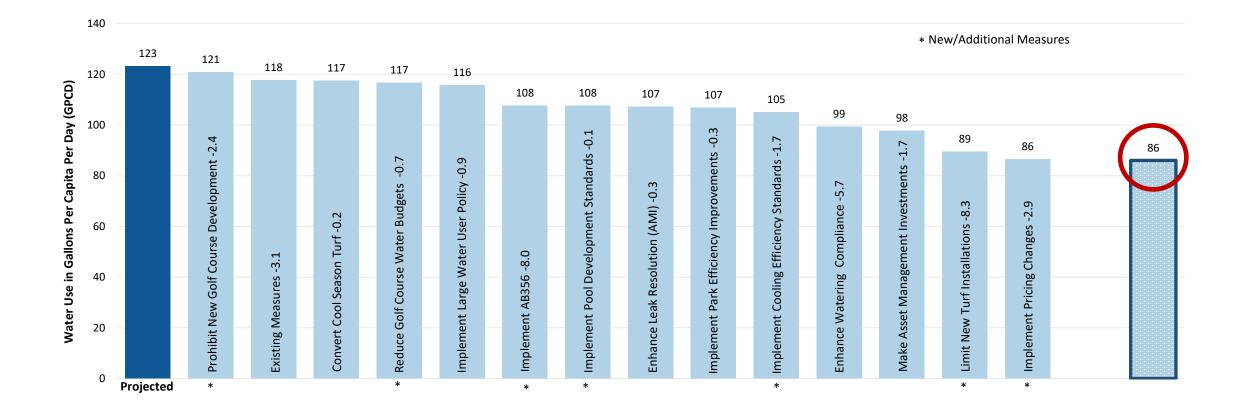
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California – Recycled Water Project

Additional water resources are needed to meet Southern Nevada's long-term demands.

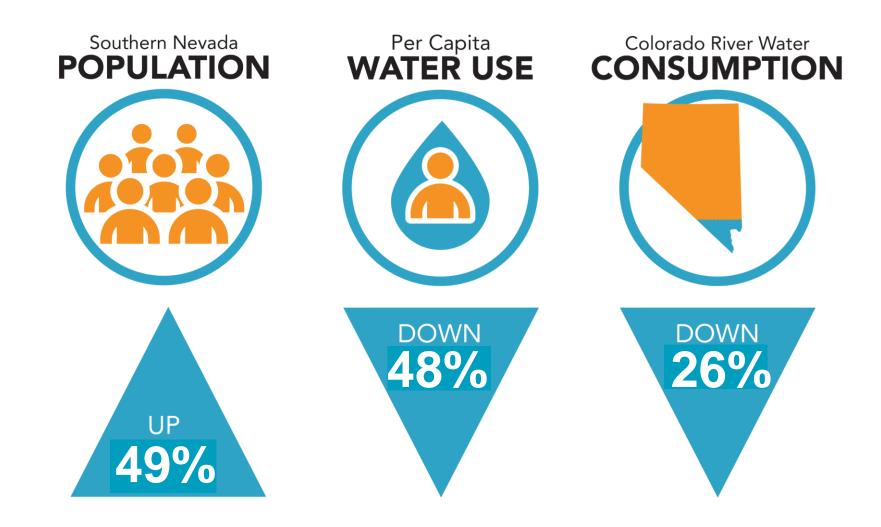
- The SNWA has been successful working with Colorado River partners to manage shared resources
- An opportunity to invest in a new, large Southern California water recycling project could yield 25,000 acre-feet per year
- Future projects take time to evaluate, negotiate, fund and construct

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California recycling project example

Achieving higher levels of efficiency will extend the availability of current resources and reduce the need for temporary and future resources.



#### Southern Nevada Population and Water Conservation 2002-2021



# Continue to be a leader in water conservation.

## **CONSERVATION INITIATIVES**



- 1. Remove ornamental turf
- 2. Change your clock
- 3. Report Water Waste

