



### Current Advisory Committee members

**Frank Beers** – Municipal rate payer

**Bob Coache** – State Engineer's office representative

**Leon Coburn** – Domestic well owner

**Todd Croft** – Nevada Division of Environmental Protection representative

**John Hiatt** – Domestic well owner

**Rob McLaughlin** – Municipal well operator

**Larry Miller** – Commercial/industrial well owner

**Ray Preston** – Community well owner

**Dirick Van Gorp** – Private water company representative

*Groundwater Update* is published by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA). Comments or questions should be directed to:

#### SNWA Public Information

1001 S. Valley View Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89153

You may also call **258-3930** or log on to **snwa.com**.

#### Board of Directors

Amanda Cyphers  
*Chair*

Rory Reid  
*Vice Chair*

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Shari Buck  
Steve Wolfson  
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Patricia Mulroy



Southern Nevada  
Water Authority

## Advisory Committee seeks members

The Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) is seeking nominations to its nine-member Advisory Committee for Groundwater Management. The committee includes seven well users representing groundwater interests throughout the Las Vegas Valley, as well as non-voting representatives of the State Engineer's office and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. Each voting committee member serves a 2-year term and attends quarterly meetings to discuss groundwater issues and develop recommendations to the SNWA Board of Directors. The SNWA is seeking nominations for:

- Two domestic well representatives
- One quasi-municipal (community) well representative
- One commercial/industrial well representative

If you are interested in serving on the advisory committee, please send a letter of interest to:

#### Southern Nevada Water Authority

Attn: Management Services Division  
1001 S. Valley View Blvd. MS 760  
Las Vegas, NV 89153

In the letter, please provide your name, address and telephone number and type of well you have, in addition to other qualifications that would benefit the advisory committee. Current committee members are also eligible for reappointment.

The letter must be postmarked by **Aug. 18**, to be considered. The SNWA Board will make the appointments before the end of the year. For more information, please call the Groundwater Information Line at **258-7288**.

## Upgrade to a Water Smart Landscape

Last year, the State Engineer's office sent letters to about 1,300 well owners asking them to reduce their water use to comply with the terms of their permits. One of the most effective ways to reduce water use is to replace grass with water-efficient plants and trees. Each square foot of grass uses more than four times the amount of water as the same square foot of plants or trees. A well owner who removes 2,500 square feet of grass could reduce his or her annual water use by more than 130,000 gallons (more than one-third of an acre-foot).

Well owners are eligible to receive \$1 for each square foot of grass replaced with water-smart landscaping, up to \$2,500 each year. To participate in the program, please visit **snwa.com** or call **258-SAVE**.

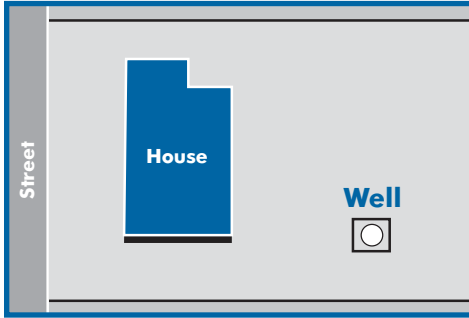


Getting started on a landscape conversion can be a daunting challenge. To help meet the challenge, SNWA has partnered with local landscape architects to develop sample landscape designs. The designs provide simple schematics, plant lists and information on landscape conversions to make the process a little easier. Visit **snwa.com** for more information on sample landscape designs.

# Focus on water law: Domestic and community wells

Nearly 10,000 homes in the Las Vegas Valley rely on groundwater as their sole water supply. Most groundwater is pumped to homes through two types of wells: domestic wells and community wells. Since different rules apply to each type of well, it is important for well owners to know what type of well they use.

## Domestic well

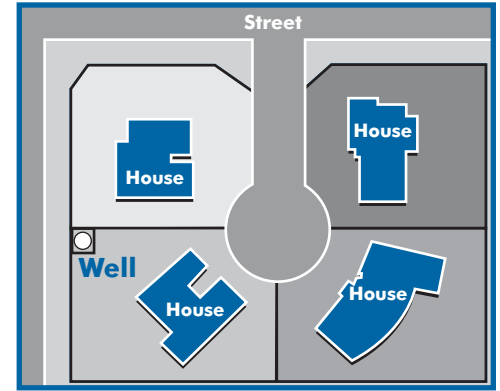


A domestic well serves only one home. Domestic wells are exempt from the water right permitting process as long as the well does not use more than 1,800 gallons per day and water cannot be furnished by an entity such as a water

district or a municipality. Domestic wells are not subject to forfeiture or revocation. A domestic well owner cannot be required to cease pumping as long as the domestic well is operating properly. If the well fails and the property served by the well is within 180 feet of a municipal water line, the State Engineer may deny a petition to redrill the well and require the domestic well owner to plug the well and connect to a municipal water system.

A community well serves more than one home. Community wells, also called quasi-municipal or public supply wells, serve two or more homes and are issued permits by the State Engineer. If the permit was granted on or before March 24, 1955, the permit is probably irrevocable. A well owner with an irrevocable permit cannot be required to connect to a municipal water system. However, the State Engineer can forfeit an irrevocable permit if the water associated with the permit is not pumped for five consecutive years.

## Community well



If the permit was issued after March 24, 1955, the permit is probably revocable, meaning the State Engineer can revoke the permit if the well fails and any property served by the well is within 180 feet of a municipal water line. Community wells must be metered and the well owners must stay within the allocation of water granted through the permit.

For more information concerning the status of your well, please call the State Engineer's office at **486-2770**.

