



Nevada State Engineer

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Nevada Division of Water
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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**.

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Southern Nevada
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Water law focus: temporary or revocable permits

The Las Vegas groundwater basin is the most comprehensively managed basin in Nevada—and, with good reason.

The basin has been over-appropriated for nearly 50 years. As early as 1949, Las Vegas residents were drawing from the groundwater basin faster than nature could replenish it. The excessive demands resulted in the State Engineer's decision that same year to close the basin to new irrigation rights.

In 1955, demand continued to outpace the valley's natural recharge rate; however, state officials knew that Las Vegas would have access to Colorado River water once facilities were built to deliver water from Lake Mead. Consequently, the Nevada Legislature authorized the State Engineer to issue temporary water permits, also known as revocable permits, with the express understanding that permit holders could use groundwater only until the time when a municipal purveyor could deliver Colorado River water to their properties. This action allowed the Las Vegas Valley to continue to grow.

In the decades that followed, the Office of the State Engineer issued a series of orders to restrict the issuance of revocable water permits within the Las Vegas Valley. These orders culminated with Amended Order 1054 on April 15, 1992. Under this order, with rare exception, the Office of the State Engineer



will deny all applications requesting water rights filed after March 23, 1992.

Under state law, the State Engineer can only revoke a temporary permit if:

1. A municipal water line is within 180 feet of the permit's place of use, and
2. The well fails and requires work that involves a drilling rig.

Financial assistance is available through the SNWA Well Conversion Grant Program. Visit **LasVegasGMP.org** or call the Groundwater Information Line at **258-7288** for more information.

Meet the State Engineer



In summer 2006, Tracy Taylor, P.E., was appointed by the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to serve as the 20th State Engineer for Nevada.

As State Engineer, Taylor heads the Division of Water Resources, created in 1903 by the Nevada Legislature, and is responsible for administering and enforcing Nevada water law.

Born in Blackfoot, Idaho, Taylor has resided for most of his life in Carson City, Nev. He

earned a degree in Civil Engineering in 1982 from the University of Nevada, Reno, and has worked for the Nevada Division of Water Resources for more than 20 years.

Taylor's representative in Southern Nevada is Deputy State Engineer Robert Coache, P.E. Among the duties of his office, Coache ensures that the division's mission to conserve, protect, manage and enhance the State's water resources for Nevada's citizens is carried out. Visit <http://water.nv.gov> to learn more about the Office of the State Engineer.

Top 10 list for well owners

As a well owner, you should know certain details about your well. Here are 10 key items you should know or have regarding your well.

1. Know your well type.

- Domestic wells serve one home.
- Community wells, or quasi-municipal wells, serve two or more homes.

2. Know how much water you're allowed to use.

- Domestic well use is limited by state law to 2 acre-feet per year, or an average of about 1,800 gallons per day.
- Community well use is determined by permit and usually is limited to 1.1 acre-feet per home, per year, or an average of about 1,000 gallons per day.

3. Have a copy of your well drilling report.

4. Store the name and phone number of your well drilling company.

5. Keep a copy of a water quality test done within the last two years.

Community well users also should have a copy of the following:

6. Your well permit.

7. Well user agreement among the homes on the well.

8. A log of your well's meter reading history.

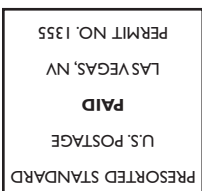
9. The name and phone number of the homeowner handling the well permit requirements.

10. The Proof of Completion of Work, Proof of Beneficial Use or an Extension of Time required to be filed with the Nevada Division of Water Resources, and the name of the person responsible for filing the required documents.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Nevada Division of Water Resources at **486-2770**.



Well users should become knowledgeable about how their well works and keep organized records.



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