



Attend annual GMP public workshop

Learn more about groundwater at the GMP's annual public workshop on **Oct. 6** at **6 p.m.** The workshop will be held at the Las Vegas Valley Water District offices at 1001 S. Valley View Blvd.

Representatives from the State Engineer's office, Southern Nevada Health District and Southern Nevada Water Authority will be present to answer questions about water conservation, health and water quality, and other programs available.

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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SNWA Board reduces annual fee

In 1999, the Nevada Legislature authorized the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) to impose a fee to support programs that benefit well owners in the Las Vegas Valley. The fee was approved at \$13 per domestic well or per acre-foot of permitted water, or \$30 if the SNWA operates an artificial recharge program.

The SNWA does not intend to conduct permanent recharge in 2009 and has reduced the billing amount from \$30 to \$13, as required. This fee reduction is reflected on your annual groundwater bill, which was issued in late August.

Since 2000, the SNWA has permanently recharged approximately 17,000 acre-feet of treated Colorado River water into the Las Vegas Valley groundwater basin for the Groundwater Management Program (GMP). Artificial recharge

supplements the valley's natural recharge, allowing well users to benefit from more stable groundwater levels and more efficient wells.

The GMP funding balance is expected to be sufficient to support ongoing program activities. These include financial assistance programs, the Well Plugging and Abandonment Program, public education, water-conservation programs and water-quality efforts. The SNWA will continue to evaluate opportunities for artificial recharge and other program expenditures, and adjust the annual fee accordingly in subsequent years.

An acre-foot equals 325,851 gallons. The quantity of water needed to cover 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot.

Get financial help when you connect to municipal water

The SNWA Well Conversion Grant Program offers well users financial assistance to connect to a municipal water system. The program is available to those required by the Nevada State Engineer to connect to a municipal supply and well users who decide to voluntarily connect. In fact, more than 90 percent of past program participants have chosen to voluntarily connect to a municipal system.

The Well Conversion Grant Program provides grants for up to 85 percent of the total costs associated with extending water service to the property line. In addition, 100 percent of the costs to safely plug and abandon the unused well are covered, and up to \$500 is

provided to help offset onsite plumbing costs.

The program is available to domestic and community well users.

"Before initiating the process, community well owners should arrange a meeting with neighbors to discuss connecting to a municipal system," suggests Judy Currier, a program analyst for the SNWA.

Every user on the community well must complete an application to be considered for grant funding. To request an application, contact the SNWA's Groundwater Information Line at **258-7288**.

Monitor water use with a sub-meter

Since March 2009, nearly 150 well users in the Las Vegas Valley have taken advantage of the SNWA Sub-meter Assistance Program. The program provides free 1-inch water meters to help well users monitor and reduce water use.

In 2007, the Nevada State Legislature authorized the Nevada Division of Water Resources to assess penalties and fines as early as July 2009 to well owners who overpump their groundwater permits. In anticipation of this change, the Advisory Committee for the GMP recommended implementation of the Sub-meter Assistance Program. Meters are useful in helping well owners track water use against their permitted water rights, and make changes necessary to avoid overpumping or incurring fines.

It's easy to get started: Visit LasVegasGMP.org to fill out the meter application and review program details, or call the Groundwater Information Line at **258-7288**.



The Sub-meter Assistance Program provides well users with a 1-inch water meter to help monitor water use.

DID YOU KNOW

Abandoned wells can represent a significant risk to groundwater quality. If you are aware of any abandoned wells, please contact the Groundwater Information Line at **258-7288**.

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