



Groundwater Update

SUMMER 2001

PUBLISHED FOR WELL USERS BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AND THE SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY

Save water, save power

It's no secret: Power is in short supply this summer in Southern Nevada. You can effectively save power by reducing the amount of water you use in your home.

As a valley well user, your water-conservation efforts can help free up electricity for you and your neighbors and lessen your own water bills. During summer, it takes as much energy to treat and pump one day's worth of water into the Las Vegas Valley as it does to power 50,000 homes. Power also is needed to pump water from domestic and quasi-municipal wells for individual use.

Every gallon of water you save in your well-using home means less power is required

to pump that water into your home. The most effective way to conserve water (and power) is to monitor your outdoor watering patterns. About 90 percent of water used at home this time of year is consumed outside, and much of that is wasted due to inefficient landscape watering. By setting your sprinkler clock correctly, you can make a big difference.

Although we're all familiar with common ways to save energy around the house, such as monitoring the thermostat and turning out lights that are not in use, there is also a natural connection between saving water and saving power in Southern Nevada.



For a free landscape watering guide, call the Southern Nevada Water Authority's Conservation Helpline at **258-SAVE**. For more water- and energy-saving tips, visit www.snwa.com.

Southern Nevada Water Authority's



WATERING GUIDE

Lawn

Summer
May, June, July, August

7 days per week

3 times a day

4 minutes each watering

Plants

Summer
May, June, July, August

3 days per week

1 time a day

12 minutes* each watering

Lawn

Spring / Fall
March, April / Sept., Oct.

4 days per week

3 times a day

4 minutes each watering

Plants

Spring / Fall
March, April / Sept., Oct.

2 days per week

1 time a day

12 minutes* each watering

*The time provided is for high-flow emitters. For more information call **258-SAVE** or visit our Web site at www.snwa.com

Conversion program attracts valley well users

Following the suggestions of local well users, the Well Conversion Grant Program was established in 1999. The Nevada Legislature recommended the program, established by the passage of Assembly Bill 408, to help provide financial assistance to well users required by the Nevada State Engineer to connect to a municipal water system.

But since its inception, the bulk of the program's business has come from well users volunteering to connect to municipal water systems.

"We have had a steady flow of voluntary participants since we started offering the service," said Judy Laws of the Southern Nevada Water Authority, who helps administer the program. "In the last year, we've seen only four cases where the Nevada State Engineer has required mandatory hookup to a municipal system. To date, 51 wells have been converted voluntarily."

Eligible well users receive grants through the program to help pay:

- Up to 85 percent of the costs to extend water service to a well user's property (up to 180 feet)
- 100 percent of the well plugging and abandonment process
- \$500 toward costs related to the water-service connection on a well user's property

Individuals on public assistance may qualify for 100 percent of the costs, depending on the type of assistance being received.

The Well Conversion Grant Program is funded by the groundwater management fee. For more information, visit the Groundwater Management Program Web site at www.LasVegasGMP.org.

Groundwater Update

Groundwater Update is published tri-annually by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA).

Comments or questions should be directed to:

SNWA Management Services
1001 S. Valley View Blvd.
Mailstop 460
Las Vegas NV 89153
You may also call 258-7288 or e-mail us via snwainfo@snwa.com

The SNWA was established in 1991 to address water issues on a regional, rather than local basis, and to ensure a safe, reliable water supply. The SNWA is committed to managing the region's most precious resource and developing solutions to ensure water quality and adequate future water supplies for Southern Nevada. In addition, the SNWA educates customers to use water more efficiently, promoting conservation to help ensure the long-term viability of our region's water supply. With the help of an active citizen's advisory committee, the SNWA has established an ambitious annual water conservation goal of 25 percent by year 2010.

The SNWA is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of one representative from each of the seven SNWA member agencies: the cities of Boulder City, Henderson, Las Vegas and North Las Vegas; the Big Bend Water District; Clark County Sanitation District and Las Vegas Valley Water District.

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Well Conversions

Conversion approvals	Las Vegas Valley Water District	City of Henderson	City of North Las Vegas	TOTALS
Domestic wells	38	2	4	44
Quasi-Municipal wells	11	0	0	11
Total wells	49	2	4	55
Total Residences	94	2	13	109
Mandatory conversions	3	1	0	4

New law protects domestic well owners

Domestic well owners have increased protection thanks to a new state law. On May 17, Governor Kenny Guinn signed legislation extending the protectible interest in domestic wells to well owners in Clark County. Senate Bill 159 was introduced in response to recommendations from an interim legislative subcommittee that had studied well issues for the past two years. Both the Senate and the Assembly unanimously approved the legislation.

SB 159 establishes noticing and reporting requirements for proposed municipal, quasi-municipal or industrial wells that would be expected to divert more than one-half cubic foot of water per second. Before an application for this type of well could be approved, the applicant must notify all domestic well owners within a 2,500-foot radius of the proposed well.

The State Engineer must reject the application if the proposed well conflicts with

existing water rights or with protectible interests in domestic wells. If the State Engineer approves the application, he may require periodic testing to determine the effect of the new well on existing wells within 2,500 feet.

For more information on Senate Bill 159, visit the Nevada Legislature's Web site at www.leg.state.nv.us. 


Well user billings coming soon

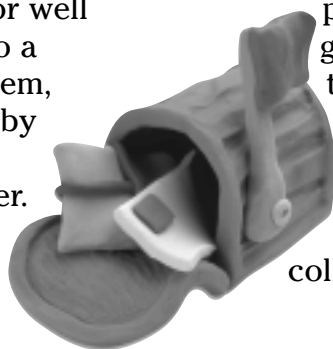
As a valley well user, you can expect to receive your billing for the 2001 annual Las Vegas Valley Groundwater Management Program fee in late August or early September.

Revenue from the mandatory fee funds the Groundwater Management Program to help stabilize the water table, prevent groundwater

contamination, encourage well users to properly plug abandoned wells and to provide financial assistance for well users who connect to a municipal water system, either voluntarily or by mandate from the Nevada State Engineer.

Domestic well users pay \$30 per year, while all other

well users pay \$30 annually per acre-foot of permitted water use. Municipal water purveyors and other government entities—the largest water-right holders in the valley—pay about 60 percent of the total program fees collected. 



Did you know?

- Most groundwater in the Las Vegas Valley comes from surrounding mountain ranges. Rain and snow seep into the ground and may travel for thousands of years before reaching the center of the valley.
- The Las Vegas basin has two major aquifers—the principal aquifer, which most area wells draw from, and the shallow aquifer. The principal aquifer is located between 100 and 1,000 feet below the surface. The bottom of the shallow aquifer is located 50 feet or less below the surface.
- Domestic and community wells generally pump water from the upper zone of the principal aquifer—around 100 to 300 feet below the surface—while larger municipal wells generally pump water from below 300 feet.


Groundwater protection plan in the works

Groundwater protection is a vital concern for all valley residents, since both municipal customers and well users rely on groundwater. That's why the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) is working with other state and local agencies to prepare a plan that will help protect groundwater sources throughout the Las Vegas Valley.

"The goal of the project is to identify and improve protection for those areas of groundwater that are particularly vulnerable to contamination," said Susan Selby, SNWA resources planning manager. Major

sources of groundwater contamination can include gas stations, malfunctioning septic tanks and industrial chemical users.

Thousands of Las Vegas Valley well users rely on groundwater for their residential and commercial needs. Additionally, as much as 15 percent of municipal water supplies come from groundwater.

Working in cooperation with about a dozen other agencies, the SNWA hopes to have a list of groundwater protection recommendations within one year. 



Visit

www.LasVegasGMP.org
to learn about:

- Advisory Committee meetings
- Financial assistance for well users
- Legislation that could affect you

**Or call the
Groundwater
Information Line
258-7288**

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