

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF GROUNDWATER  
IN THE LAS VEGAS VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN**

Meeting No. 74  
4:30 P.M.  
September 11, 2018  
Springs Preserve  
333 S. Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas, NV

Members Present:	Cynthia Alejandre	John Hiatt
	Richard Avila	Stacey Lindburg
	John Guillory	Chris Magee
	Justin Harrison	

Members Absent:	Todd Croft	Robert McLaughlin
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Also Present:	Andy Belanger	Natalia Londono-Arroyo
	Katie Horn	Omar Saucedo

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

The Advisory Committee for Groundwater Management (Committee) met for the 74th time on September 11, 2018. The meeting began at 4:30 p.m. and ended at 5:32 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 7, 2017 MEETING**

Mrs. Lindburg made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 7, 2017. The motion was approved.

**NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

New committee members Cynthia Alejandre, Justin Harrison and Chris Magee introduced themselves to the rest of the group. They also explained how they heard and became interested in serving on the Advisory Committee for Groundwater Management.

The rest of the committee members also introduced themselves to the new committee members by providing similar background information.

**RECEIVE UPDATES FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mr. Hiatt asked Mr. Guillory whether the Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD) had pumped their full water allocation for 2018.

Mr. Guillory replied that although he did not have exact figures with him, he believed that LVVWD got very close to full pumpage in 2018. Mr. Guillory added that he could provide Mr. Hiatt with exact figures at the GMP Public Workshop Meeting as John's colleague would have a copy of the Annual Groundwater Pumpage Inventory for the workshop meeting.

## **RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

Natalia Londono-Arroyo provided an overview of the three financial assistance programs offered to well users through the Groundwater Management Program.

Below are highlights from the presentation:

- The Well Conversion Grant Program helps well owners who want to convert to municipal water by paying up to 85 percent of connection costs
- 98 percent of well conversions have been voluntary
- The Water Smart Landscapes Program is available to well users and currently pays \$3.00 per square foot of turf replaced with water efficient technology. Since inception, this program has completed 736 turf conversions
- The Well Plugging and Abandonment program plugs abandoned or unused wells free of charge. The program has plugged over 700 wells since inception
- The Sub-Meter Assistance Program provides a free one-inch meter and a \$150 rebate to help well owners offset meter installation costs. The program has issued 416 meters and distributed 223 rebates

Mr. Guillory asked if there had been circumstances where the program paid less than 85 percent? Mrs. Londono-Arroyo noted that all properties that have been approved for a well conversion have received 85 percent of connection costs.

Ms. Alejandre asked about the average cost for a well conversion and the average number of annual applicants for the program. Mrs. Londono-Arroyo reported that several factors contribute to the overall cost to connect and that a typical well conversion is approximately \$25,000. In 2017, there were 17 well conversions and so far in 2018, there have been approximately 12 well conversions.

Mr. Magee asked if any surplus funds from the annual groundwater fees were rolled over to the following year and applied to the financial assistance programs. Mrs. Londono-Arroyo confirmed that leftover funds are rolled over and applied to financial assistance programs.

Mr. Harrison asked if a community well user would be able to use the well conversion grant to connect their homes individually. Mrs. Londono-Arroyo noted that to qualify for the grant, all well users sharing the well must agree to connect to municipal water.

Mr. Hiatt asked if there was an open pipe sticking out of an abandoned well, among surrounding homes around the well, and the property owner did not wish to have his well plugged through the Well Plugging and Abandonment Program despite posing a contaminant risk to the aquifer, does this change the Groundwater Program's ability to mandate that this well be plugged and abandoned,

Mrs. Londono-Arroyo responded that the Groundwater Management Program does not have the authority to mandate anyone to plug an abandoned well. The program is offered as a voluntary program to well users.

Mr. Guillory added that Division of Water Resources can only mandate a well plugging if the well cannot be used. However, if the well is deemed a viable well, Division of Water Resources can mandate that the well be capped but not plugged.

Ms. Lindburg asked how the GMP Program was doing in terms of collecting annual groundwater fees. Mrs. Londono-Arroyo indicated that the program currently collects approximately 70 percent of fees issued.

The committee discussed delinquent GMP fees and whether a delinquent account should be penalized and not rewarded for coming into compliance. Committee members noted that it would make sense to consider reducing the amount of well conversion grant dollars available for any well user that had been delinquent on their GMP bill to influence good standing on annual fees.

Mr. Belanger noted that the financial assistance guidelines provide the SNWA the capacity to issue grants from 50 to 85 percent. Mr. Belanger added that the committee could consider making a recommendation at a future meeting that any well user account that was delinquent would receive a decreased amount of the grant as opposed to the full amount of 85 percent.

Mr. Saucedo indicated that staff would add this topic as an agenda item for the next Groundwater Management Advisory Committee meeting and would also provide more detailed information for discussion.

The Committee had no further questions or comments.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members from the public wishing to speak.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.