

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

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

Public Workshop No. 25  
5:45 P.M.  
October 30, 2019  
Springs Preserve  
333 S. Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas, NV

Members Present:	John Guillory	
Members not Present:	Richard Avila Justin Harrison John Hiatt	Chris Magee Robert McLaughlin
Also Present:	Chaunsey Chau-Duong Nate Diaz	Johann Feller Natalia Londono-Arroyo

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Advisory Committee for Groundwater Management (GMP) held its annual workshop on October 30, 2019. In addition to the guidelines for noticing public meetings established in NRS 241, notice of the workshop was also provided in the fall edition of the Groundwater Update Newsletter, which was distributed to approximately 7,800 well users in the Las Vegas Valley via post mail. Eight citizens attended the workshop meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

Natalia Londono-Arroyo, Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) Public Services, gave a brief presentation regarding the Groundwater Management Program (GMP) accomplishments and described the various program elements of the GMP. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

Jim Prieur, SNWA Hydrology, provided a brief overview of current groundwater conditions in the Las Vegas Valley Aquifer. Mr. Prieur stated that 90 percent of water for the Las Vegas Valley comes from the Colorado River and the remainder of demands is met by groundwater resources. Most groundwater wells are pumped during the summer and they have the ability to be recharged with excess water as this is the most cost-effective use for the water.

Mr. Prieur noted that the western and northwestern portions of the valley produce more groundwater. Most of the recharge from groundwater comes from the mountains in Kyle Canyon, Lee Canyon and the Spring Mountain Range. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

A question and answer period followed the presentation.

A resident asked how much water she can use annually if her property is on a well. Ms. Londono-Arroyo replied that if the resident's property is on a domestic well, the resident could use up to two acre-feet a year which is approximately 650,000 gallons per year.

A resident asked what she can do with an extra water meter. Ms. Londono-Arroyo replied it can be given away or kept as a back-up submeter in case the original one breaks.

A resident asked if there is any type of assistance to replace a master meter from a community well. Ms. Londono-Arroyo stated that the Sub-Meter Assistance program only covers individual sub-meters, not master meters.

A resident asked if there is a recommended location for placement of the submeter. John Guillory, Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR), replied that the NDWR has guidelines for meter placement to qualify for the sub-meter rebate. This includes the sub-meter being installed within the first three feet of where the meter crosses the property line to allow the sub-meter to capture all flow in the property.

A resident asked for clarification regarding the definition of "aquifer." Mr. Prieur noted that an aquifer is basically sand and gravel piled in a big box and it is all one system. Generally, a body of water is categorized as an aquifer if it can be developed in a beneficial way and yield enough water to be useful.

A resident asked about aquifer water testing. Mr. Prieur reported that SNWA collects water samples and then a water lab processes all the chemistry data for the Safe Drinking Water Program.

A resident asked whether when a domestic well user samples their well water, if the sampling results are shared with SNWA. Nate Diaz, Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) replied that water labs are not required to provide a copy of the water sampling to any local agency if it is a private well. However, if SNHD oversees a well that is part of a public water system, then SNHD would require the well owner to provide sampling information to the SNHD.

A resident asked how much of a problem is petroleum-based contaminants in groundwater. Mr. Prieur reported that in terms of the municipal groundwater supply, this is closely monitored. If there are releases of petroleum, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection has strict clean-up guidelines for these types of situations.

A resident asked if there was a potential contaminant found in groundwater (via well sampling) how would well users be notified. Mr. Diaz replied that any recent public notifications issued to well owners by SNHD would have been related to nitrates found in groundwater. Furthermore, SNHD issued notifications to well users last year with information about who to contact if they wanted to do any type of water testing on their wells.

A resident asked if new developments are built close to their properties, if LVVWD would require or pressure a homeowner served by a well to connect to the municipal water system. Ms. Londono-Arroyo replied that LVVWD will not pressure well users to connect to municipal water. The Well Conversion Grant Program, which offers well users financial assistance to connect to the municipal system, is a 100

percent voluntary program available to well users if they need or want to connect to the public water system. Well owners whose wells have failed may be required to connect by the Nevada Division of Water Resources if they are within 180 feet of a municipal water system.

At the end of the workshop, participants were invited to visit the following booths to obtain specific information on program elements:

- Conservation Programs
- Groundwater Management Program
- Nevada Division of Water Resources

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **FINAL NOTES**

Following the workshop, attendees were invited to a tour of the well facilities at the Spring Preserve. The workshop concluded at 7:20 p.m.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Meeting presentation