

Colorado River & Assembly Bill 220 UPDATE

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Severe and sustained drought conditions continue to impact critical storage reserves in the Colorado River Basin.

Drought conditions have significantly depleted Lake Mead storage over the last 20+ years.

Colorado River Conditions have declined significantly over the last 25 years.

Reservoir storage has fallen to dangerously low levels, with only limited improvement in 2023.

Upper Basin snowpack conditions

Water Supply

- WY **2023** Peak Snowpack: 161% of seasonal median
(Peaked on April 7, 2023)
- WY **2024** Precipitation to Date: 89%
- Current Basin Snowpack: 89%
(As of January 16, 2024)

Inflow to Lake Powell

- Preliminary observed WY **2023**: 140% of average
- Observed Apr-Jul **2023**: 166% of average
- Forecasted WY **2024**: 72%
- Forecasted Apr-Jul **2024**: 66%
(As of January 16, 2024)

The Colorado River is shared among seven states and the country of Mexico.

- 40 million people, including various urban populations
- 30 tribes
- 5 million acres of farmland
- Supports National Parks, wildlife refuges, recreation areas and monuments

A warmer, drier climate future means every sector must find ways to conserve.

- Adapting to climate change requires improved efficiency and conservation
- Municipal and industrial users have invested hundreds of millions of dollars to conserve water
- However, less than 20% of consumptive Colorado River water uses are municipal and industrial
- All sectors must become more efficient
- The federal government must fund long-term conservation efforts

Southern Nevada recognized that more adaptation strategies were needed.

Following a period of increasing water use, the SNWA Board established a new water conservation goal in 2021.

Conserving water is a community-wide effort.

GRASS

- No new golf courses
- Golf course water budgets
- Cool to warm season grass
- Non-functional grass
- Park improvements

EFFICIENCY

- Large Water User Policy
- Leak Resolution
- Asset Management
- Septic Conversion Program

NEW DEVELOPMENT

- Cooling Standards
- Pool Standards
- Limit new grass
- Septic Standards

ADAPTATION

- Cooling Rebates
- Grass Rebates
- Tree Incentives
- Tree Canopy Investments



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GPCD

GOAL

**State law requires the
removal of non-
functional grass in
Clark County by 2026.**

**Thanks to a state grant,
SNWA temporarily
increased its cash-for-
grass rebate to \$5 per
square foot for
homeowners.**

Residents converted more than 5.6 million square feet of turf in 2023, saving an estimated 315 million gallons of water annually.

Non-SFR property owners converted more than 7.1 million square feet of turf in 2023, saving an estimated 399.6 million gallons of water annually.

New rebates and grants will fund the upgrade of existing evaporative cooling.

Beginning in September 2023, new installations of evaporative cooling is prohibited in construction.

**SNWA's tree initiative
offers incentives for
more trees in landscape
conversions and new
plantings throughout
the community.**

When everyone contributes to conservation, we see the results.

2024 Initiatives

- **Continue Colorado River negotiations among the seven states**
- **Continue progress towards conservation goal**
- **Support and enhance existing SNWA conservation programs**

AB 220 Water Omnibus Bill

Assembly Bill 220 addresses four major water issues primarily in Southern Nevada:

- Septic Systems in the Las Vegas Valley
- Colorado River Water Conservation
- Water System Development in Outlying Areas
- Septic System Conversions for Well Owners who Connect to Municipal Water

Assembly Bill 220: implementation

Actions already taken:

- **July 2023** – SNWA board approved guidelines for the voluntary septic conversion program
- **September 2023** – SNWA entered into agreement with Bureau of Reclamation for a grant to be used for septic conversion program
- **November 2023** – SNWA board adopted resolution with requirements for no new turf on properties served by the Colorado River

Actions in progress:

- Effective January 1, 2024, WaterSense landscape irrigation fixtures are required in new development

Actions that need to be taken:

- Establish irrigation water efficiency monitoring program for non-single family residential properties

Assembly Bill 220: septic conversion program

Fully funded program

- Work with SNHD on interlocal agreement
- Projected launch: ?????
- Will convert septic systems at no cost to homeowners using grant funding and future SNHD voluntary fee collections
- SNWA will manage contractor(s) directly
- 450+ interested properties; focus on areas with known groundwater issues
- Funding includes an \$11M portfolio of grant funding from the EPA, BOR, and DCNR, in addition to revenue from the SNHD-administered voluntary fee.

Partially funded program

- Launched September 2023
- Reimburses property owners up to 85% of costs (maximum \$40,000 reimbursement)
- Property owners manage the construction process themselves
- Eligible costs: permitting/inspection fees, connection fees, design fees, construction costs), like-for-like landscape replacement costs, and in-place septic abandonment costs

Assembly Bill 220: partially funded septic conversion program

Current funding pool: \$11.5 million

- BOR = \$3.5 million
- EPA = \$3 million
- DNCR = \$5 million

	Municipal Water User	GMP	Total
Total submitted apps	99	29	128
Total apps approved	5	3	8
Total conversions completed	5	1	6
Total reimbursed	\$144,134.00	\$34,197.83	\$178,331.83

Assembly Bill 220: emergency water use limitation

- Goes into effect when Nevada's Colorado River allocation is reduced to 270,000 acre-feet or less
- Nevada's current allocation is 279,000 acre-feet
- This provision is not enforceable in 2024

Questions?