



Nevada Water Conservation and Infrastructure Initiative and Water Right Retirement Program

Joint Interim Committee on Natural Resources
May 10, 2024

Presented by:
James Settlemeyer, Director

NWCII OBJECTIVES AND IMPLEMENTATION

- Authorized by the Interim Finance Committee on October 20, 2022
- Designed to “support investments to reduce water demand by residential, commercial, and agricultural sectors, while supporting investments to repair and replace aging, leaking infrastructure and simultaneously investing in our workforce.”

Key Program Areas:

- Long-term reliability of Nevada’s water resources
- Water Conservation and Climate Resiliency
- Water Demand and Availability
- Health and Safety of Water Resources
- Environmental Justice

NWCII ADMINISTRATION

- Administered by Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Advice and support from the NWCII Technical Advisory Committee:
 - Jeff Fontaine, Central Nevada Regional Water Authority & Humboldt River Basin Water Authority
 - Andy Belanger, Las Vegas Valley Water District
 - Sean McKenna, Desert Research Institute - Division of Hydrologic Sciences
 - John Zimmerman, Truckee Meadows Water Authority
 - Laurel Saito, The Nature Conservancy
 - Jacob Brinkerhoff, Nevada Association of Counties
 - New Member Pending, Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development
 - J.J. Goicoechea, Nevada Department of Agriculture

NWCII PROGRAM BUDGET

\$100,000,000 - ARPA

- Drinking Water, Wastewater, Storm Projects = 73%
- Groundwater Retirement Program = 25%
- Program Administrative Costs = 2%

ENHANCING DRINKING WATER, WASTEWATER, AND STORMWATER SYSTEMS

Must qualify under the EPA Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, or Treasury Rules .

Eligible Projects:

- Integrated Water Resource Planning/Regionalization
- Drinking Water Systems Improvements
- Water Conservation (wastewater, stormwater, drinking water)
- Groundwater Protection and Restoration
- Re-establishment of riparian vegetation
- Watershed protection projects and plantings
- Septic/well conversion projects
- Surface water protection including conservation acquisitions
- Dam and culvert removal
- Invasive species mitigation
- Contaminated site cleanup
- Streambank stabilization
- Agriculture best management practices

NWCII DRINKING WATER, WASTEWATER, AND STORMWATER PROJECTS

Funding Awarded Verse Total Funding Requested

Awarded = \$72,624,156

Total Funds Requested = \$606,357,257

**The SRF prioritized an additional \$1,013,475,557 in Clean Water Projects and \$1,058,018,399 in Drinking Water Projects*

NWCII AWARDED PROJECTS

Humboldt County Grass Valley Nitrates - \$5,000,000

Baker Water & Sewer-Lehman Creek Residential Area Water Supply - \$1,662,657

Southern NV Water Authority- Water Smart Landscapes Topper - \$24,000,000

NV Western Heritage Alliance- RSLEC Water Infrastructure Improvements - \$5,500,000

Truckee Meadows Water Authority – Advanced Meter Installation - \$9,500,000

Town of Tonopah- Lead and Galvanized Pipe Replacement - \$1,876,280

Churchill County – Secondary Water Treatment Plant - \$6,000,000

Southern Nevada Water Authority – Septic Conversion Program - \$5,000,000

Eureka County – Kobeh Valley Transmission Line - \$2,500,000

Gabbs Water System – Water Transmission Improvements - \$3,873,038

Nevada State Parks- Drinking Water and Wastewater Improvements - \$7,050,000

Silver Springs GID- Replace Aeration System - \$662,181

Total = \$72,624,156

NWCII GROUNDWATER RETIREMENT PROGRAM

Groundwater Right Retirement Priorities:

- Purchase of groundwater right from willing sellers.
- Focus on over-pumped or over-appropriated groundwater basins.
- Address known conflicts with existing water rights.
- Address impacts on natural resources.
- Reduction of consumptive use in over-appropriated basins.
- Prioritize basins taking active steps to mitigate groundwater use.
- Ensure sustainable mitigation plans that prevent noxious weed/environmental impacts of groundwater retirement.
- All groundwater rights must be in good standing.

NWCII GROUNDWATER RETIREMENT PROGRAM

Funding Awarded Verse Total Funding Requested

Awarded = \$25,000,000

Total Funds Requested = \$65,484,070

NWCII GROUNDWATER RETIREMENT PROGRAM GRANTS

Central Nevada Regional Water Authority:

- Diamond Valley (153): ~ 11,469.59 AFA

Humboldt River Basin Water Authority:

- Middle Reese River Valley (058): ~ 3,675.67 AFA
- Antelope Valley (057): ~ 2,404.4 AFA

Southern Nevada Water Authority:

- Muddy River Springs Area (219): ~2,329.55 AFA

Walker Basin Conservancy:

- Smith Valley (107): ~ 500 AFA (Additional TBD)
- Mason Valley (108): TBD
- East Walker (109): TBD

NWCII GROUNDWATER RETIREMENT ANTICIPATED IMPACT

*Perennial Yield is shared among basins 206, 210, 216, 217, 218, 219, and a portion of 215

** Doesn't include system yield.

NWCII GROUNDWATER RETIREMENT REQUIREMENTS

1. Non-revocable Deed Restriction with the following elements:
 - a) All groundwater associated with a parcel has been retired.
 - b) Up to the retention of 2 AFA per 160 acres of land for stock water or domestic use is permitted.
 - c) Drilling a new well in excess of 2 AFA is prohibited unless water is transferred to the property.
 - d) Replacement or reconditioning of existing well is permitted.
 - e) Department can verify compliance with groundwater retirement.
 - f) Civil penalty for violation of deed restriction.
2. Filing a groundwater retirement with the State Engineer.
3. Filing a change application where appropriate.
4. Deed Restriction and Retirement are filed with State Engineer and County.
5. Additional protections can be established by defining water right retirement in NRS.

Questions?

Contact

James Settelmeyer, *Director*

Nevada Department of
Conservation and Natural Resources

Phone: 775-684-2700

Email: jsettelmeyer@dcnr.nv.gov

<https://dcnr.nv.gov/nwcii>