



**AGENDA MEMO**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 6, 2006**  
**DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**ITEM DESCRIPTION: DIR-15448 - APPLICANT/OWNER: CITY OF LAS VEGAS**

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**\*\* CONDITIONS \*\***

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL, subject to:**

**Planning and Development**

1. For subsequent years in which Drought Watch or Drought Alert is declared, an annual fee of \$250.00 shall be paid.
2. The applicant shall post a sign at the water feature to indicate an exemption has been received allowing its operation.

**\*\* STAFF REPORT \*\***

**APPLICATION REQUEST**

This is a request to allow the operation of a 62 square foot water feature at an existing cultural facility located at 400 South Las Vegas Boulevard.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The request from the applicant would allow the operation of an existing 62 square foot water feature, which is located in the main courtyard of the historic Fifth Street School. The 62 square foot calculation is derived from the area of the water feature that comes into contact with water.

**ANALYSIS**

The applicant is proposing to re-activate an existing 62 square foot water feature, which is located at 400 South Las Vegas Boulevard. The applicant is converting approximately 3,100 square feet of turf to xeriscape in conjunction with the re-activation of the water feature. The removal of the turf is credited as a savings of a 50-to-1 ratio. The conversion allows 50 square feet of turf removal to count as one square foot of the proposed water feature. The applicant is converting 3,100 square feet of turf, which equals a savings of 62 square feet. Therefore, a fee of zero dollars will be required to re-activate the fountain if the exemption is approved. The applicant has been advised of the fees associated with the re-activation, and has agreed to pay the fees if approved. Additionally, the applicant will be required to pay an additional yearly fee of \$250.00 when either the Drought Watch or Drought Alert is declared.

Pursuant to Title 14.11.190, the City Council may approve exemptions to allow the operation of water features during Drought Watch and Drought Alert as defined by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA). On sites where turf exists at the time of the exemption request, 50 square feet of turf shall be converted to drought tolerant landscaping (such as desert landscaping) to allow for each square foot of water feature area. In cases where there is not enough turf at the time of the request to meet this ratio, a fee of \$10 per square foot of surface area shall be paid for the remaining portion of the water feature area not covered by the turf conversion. In cases where there is no turf on the subject site, the \$10 per square foot of water feature area shall be applied.

The SNWA notes that there are no outstanding violations regarding this water feature.

Title 14.11.190 states; that a water reduction plan is required for exemption eligibility. The submitted plans for this site indicate that the subject water feature contains 62 square feet of surface area. The applicant is proposing to convert 3,100 square feet of turf as part of this request.

The applicant has mitigated the re-activation of the 62 square foot water feature by removing 3,100

square feet of turf. Therefore, the amount of the fee the applicant shall be required to pay to allow for the operation of the water feature during the current declaration of

Drought Alert is zero dollars. In subsequent years when either Drought Watch or Drought Alert is declared, the property owner shall pay an annual fee of \$250 to allow for the continued operation of the water feature.

In order to inform the public that an exemption has been received for the subject water feature, the applicant shall post a sign adjacent to the subject water feature indicating such. This is in conformance to Title 14.11.

### **FINDINGS**

The re-activation of the 62 square foot water feature is minor in nature and does not impose an undue hardship on the Southern Nevada Water Authority. Therefore, staff can support the proposed water feature exemption as conditioned.

**NOTICES MAILED**      N/A

**APPROVALS**              0

**PROTESTS**                0