

City of Las Vegas

Agenda Item #



AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: SEPTEMBER 5, 2007

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR: M. MARGO HELLMAN

Consent Discussion

SUBJECT:

Discussion and possible action to adopt the revised Southern Nevada Water Authority Drought Plan - All Wards

Fiscal Impact

No Impact Augmentation Required
 Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

On April 19, 2007, the Southern Nevada Water Authority Board of Directors adopted revisions to the SNWA Drought Plan. Originally adopted on March 5, 2003 and revised in April 2004 and January 2005, this plan is a regional effort to address water conservation during periods of drought.

These revisions remove restrictions regarding the planting of cool season and warm season turf under Drought Watch conditions, and delete specific language regarding the turf removal incentive program to allow flexibility in its administration. Upon adoption of the revised Drought Plan by the City of Las Vegas, an ordinance amendment will be forwarded to make the appropriate changes.

The goal of the SNWA is that each entity will adopt the revised plan and the associated changes to local ordinances.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Southern Nevada Water Authority Drought Plan

Motion made by GARY REESE to Approve and accept the report

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

RICKI Y. BARLOW, LOIS TARKANIAN, LARRY BROWN, OSCAR B. GOODMAN,
GARY REESE, STEVE WOLFSON, STEVEN D. ROSS; (Against-None); (Abstain-None);

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(Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-None)

Minutes:

MITCH BISHOP and PATRICK WATSON of the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) were present. MR. WATSON highlighted the changes to the SNWA Drought Plan that were approved by the SNWA Board in the spring. Mainly, the cool season grass planting restrictions are being lifted, because enforcement was very difficult and economically disruptive to the green industry. The other changes were minor administrative changes to assist the SNWA in running the landscape program more effectively.

COUNCILMAN REESE stated that he has had to contact the Water District on numerous occasions to report water overflow down the streets and sidewalks, but he has never seen anyone respond or any enforcement. MR. BISHOP replied that the Water District has wastewater investigators that respond during given timeframes. The regular patrols are done early in the morning. He offered to meet with COUNCILMAN REESE to obtain additional information.

MAYOR GOODMAN requested that PAT MUIRO make a presentation to the Council, because an article he read in a San Diego newspaper regarding the interminable water drought really alarmed him. He would like to get clear information on whether there is a drought issue and where Las Vegas stands on the issue. MR. BISHOP indicated he would relay the information and schedule it.

TOM McGOWAN, Las Vegas resident, commented that the drought is real and more serious than people think. It has to do with global warming and it might be too late for remediation. He recommended approval of this matter.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN said that the water issue is very complicated. As the appointed representative of the SNWA Board, she receives monthly updates on the status of the water drought and the many possible solutions; the problem is that the drought situation is quickly worsening, faster than anyone could imagine.