

LAS VEGAS VALLEY WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2007, water and wastewater agencies in Southern Nevada came together establishing the Las Vegas Valley Watershed Advisory Committee (LVVWAC). The committee was formed to enhance overall watershed management efforts and to develop a regional water quality plan for the Las Vegas Valley watershed. Members include:

- City of Henderson
- City of Las Vegas
- City of North Las Vegas
- Clark County
- Clark County Regional Flood Control District
- Clark County Water Reclamation District
- Clean Water Coalition
- Las Vegas Valley Water District
- Southern Nevada Water Authority

The 2009 Regional Water Quality Plan represents these efforts and recognizes the dynamic and interrelated nature of human and environmental influences on the valley's watershed. The plan also details the important role water and wastewater agencies have in protecting critical watershed resources including municipal drinking water supplies, wildlife habitat and recreation.

There are a number of state and federal laws that govern water management practices and safeguard important natural resources in Southern Nevada. Some of these include the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Nevada Administrative Code, Endangered Species Act, National Historical Preservation Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

As it has in the past, meeting these laws will require that water and wastewater agencies coordinate efforts closely for the benefit of the community. This plan serves as a roadmap for continued collaboration among the agencies and establishes goals and strategies to help the LVVWAC meet its mission to:

“Protect, preserve and enhance the quality and quantity of water resources in the Las Vegas Valley Watershed and to sustain economic well-being and protect the environment for present and future generations.”

To achieve its mission, the LVVWAC has developed seven goals (below) and a number of supporting strategies. A detailed discussion on each goal and goal strategies is provided in Chapter 1.

LVVWAC regional watershed goals include the following:

1. Protect Lake Mead as a source of water for Southern Nevada and downstream users.
2. Meet or surpass federal, state and local standards and regulations.
3. Preserve and enhance the natural, cultural, historic and recreational values of the watershed and Lake Mead.
4. Coordinate water resource management.
5. Manage flood risks.
6. Sustain water and energy resources for future generations.
7. Build community awareness and support for regional watershed management.

This Plan details these implementation efforts for these seven goals and associated strategies. The implementation plans will be incorporated into future operation plans of the LVVWAC regional agencies. In addition, this Plan contains candidate policy concepts for evaluation and future action by LVVWAC members.

By working together, the LVVWAC can address watershed management efforts in a more coordinated manner. Doing so will help to protect vital public, environmental and recreational resources and help to ensure these resources are maintained for generations to come.