

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF GROUNDWATER
IN THE LAS VEGAS VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN

Meeting No. 73

1:00 P.M.

November 7, 2017

Las Vegas Valley Water District
1001 S. Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas, NV

Members Present: Richard Avila Stacey Lindburg
 John Guillory Robert McLaughlin
 John Hiatt

Members Absent: Todd Croft Kelli Ross
 Kumiko-Katie Moore Trent Scarlett

Also Present: Andy Belanger Natalia Londono-Arroyo
 Katie Horn Omar Saucedo

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The Advisory Committee for Groundwater Management (Committee) met for its 73rd meeting on November 7, 2017. The meeting began at 1:00 p.m. and ended at 2:02 p.m. Natalia Londono-Arroyo, Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA), facilitated the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members from the public wishing to speak.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 17, 2017 MEETING

Mr. Hiatt made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 17, 2017. The motion was approved.

RECEIVE UPDATES FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Hiatt commented that while he didn't have any updates to share, he did want to remind committee members of the long-standing issues with groundwater and subsidence in the Las Vegas Valley.

RECEIVE UPDATE ON STATUTORY CHANGES FROM THE 79TH NEVADA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. Belanger provided an update on enacted legislation from the 79th Nevada Legislative Session that related to water. Bills of interest included:

- **SB47** – This bill adopted changes to the charter and committee terms for the Groundwater Management Program (GMP) and the Committee.
- **SB51**— This bill revises proof of appropriations, adjudications and stream assessments.
- **SB74** – This bill clarifies water conservation plans.

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Mr. Belanger mentioned that SB271, SB272 and AB298 all failed to meet required statutory deadlines. Mr. Belanger discussed related changes to the GMP addressed in SB 47, which included adding more flexibility to GMP Advisory Committee meetings.

Mr. Belanger noted the Committee would now have greater flexibility to address groundwater issues in the valley. The changes also allow the Committee to go into abeyance until issues arise. Mr. Belanger further explained that if the Committee stopped meeting, regular reports would be given during annual groundwater workshops.

Mr. Hiatt asked if the SNWA considered the last legislative session a success. Mr. Belanger indicated that it was a successful session.

DISCUSS FUTURE INITIATIVES FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Belanger took agenda items number four and five in conjunction. Mr. Belanger sought the Committee's recommendation on whether to continue meeting or reconvene at a later date if so desired by the Committee. Mr. Belanger added that it would be helpful for the Committee to set parameters on how often it ought to meet.

Mr. Hiatt reiterated that groundwater remained an important issue and he would like to continue discussions surrounding basin recharge. Mr. Belanger indicated that the Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD) conducted recharge in the past. The practice resulted in basin capacity and California using SNWA's unused apportionment of the Colorado River.

Mr. Hiatt commented that because water from the California water bank was surface water, it didn't address the groundwater issue. Mr. Belanger responded that from a groundwater perspective, staff looked at the capacity of the aquifer. Currently, more than 300,000 acre-feet of water is stored in Southern Nevada's Groundwater Bank. A portion of that water is dedicated as permanent recharge. The rest could be utilized as needed.

Mr. McLaughlin also commented that the City of North Las Vegas also has a recharge program. He stated that North Las Vegas has stored approximately 49,000 acre-feet in the aquifer. He further explained that there are limitations in place on how much water can be pumped or withdrawn annually.

Mr. Hiatt inquired if there was an inventory of the amount of water pumped. Mr. Guillory responded that the Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR) publishes an annual inventory of the amount of water pumpage of every valley.

The Committee discussed the definition of perennial yield as defined by the State Engineer's Office. It was noted that the perennial yield number in Nevada was established many years ago. Based on the discussion, the Committee suggested to the State Engineer's Office to periodically evaluate the perennial yield in the Las Vegas basin and update those figures accordingly.

Mr. Guillory reported that NDWR has looked at perennial yield studies and will continue to update and evaluate any changes. He also noted that the perennial yield in Pahrump was changed two years ago.

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Mr. Belanger mentioned that it might be beneficial to show graphs of monitoring wells as part of the annual GMP public workshop presentation. The graphs would illustrate permitted water and pumpage estimates. This information could also be included in upcoming newsletters and the GMP website.

Mr. Belanger shared with the Committee the latest projections from SNWA's Water Resource Plan, which showed that under normal conditions, LVVWD would not need to tap any new water resources for at least 35 years. He added it might be challenging to keep the well community engaged given that the potential need to utilize groundwater remains a long term initiative.

The Committee held a brief discussion about the early stages of the Groundwater Management Program, historical issues identified and addressed, and the current lack of interest or concerns in the community.

Mr. Avila noted that he is unsure of what direction the committee should head in the future. Mr. Avila further explained as the president of the Hillcrest Manor Water Users Association for the past eight years, he has observed the disinterest of well users surrounding groundwater issues. He added that even though there was a wealth of information available to them, the interest was not there unless there was an issue or concern.

Mr. Belanger asked if it would make sense to convene the Committee every five years.

Mr. Hiatt noted that he thought it would be wise for the Committee to continue to meet annually. Mr. Hiatt also added that he would like to see SNWA Board Members more regularly updated on groundwater related issues.

Mrs. Lindburg asked if the annual Committee meeting could be held in conjunction with the Annual Public Workshop. Mr. Belanger affirmed that this could be done.

Mrs. Lindburg asked if Committee members could be copied on meeting minutes of future Citizens Advisory Committee processes in an effort to stay informed of potential issues that could impact groundwater. Mr. Belanger affirmed staff will do so moving forward.

Mr. Belanger proposed having next year's Annual Public Workshop in conjunction with the Committee meeting at the Springs Preserve. Also, he added that there might be value in taking a tour of WaterWorks following the workshop. The Committee agreed.

The committee discussed having the 2018 Public Workshop Meeting in September to afford staff the opportunity to discuss any legislative bills related to the upcoming 80th Nevada Legislative Session. The Committee agreed.

The Committee had no further questions or comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members from the public wishing to speak.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

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