

Group

Person

River

Family

City

Neighborhood

Region

State

Source



SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

Community

one

The Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) manages Southern Nevada's water needs on a regional basis. Since 1991, the SNWA has emphasized innovation, vision, sustainability and integrity, establishing itself as a leading model of interagency cooperation, amidst some of the toughest Western water issues of the modern era. The SNWA's seven member agencies are integrated into every process that drives policy development and decisions.

SNWA Member Agencies

Big Bend Water District

City of Boulder City

City of Henderson

City of Las Vegas

City of North Las Vegas

Clark County Water Reclamation District

Las Vegas Valley Water District

SNWA Executive Team

Pat Mulroy, General Manager • Kay Brothers, Deputy General Manager of Engineering/Operations
Richard Wimmer, Deputy General Manager of Administration • Chuck Hauser, General Counsel

When one person steps up, when one family embraces sustainability, when one community chooses to conserve, when one region opts to stand together: There is power in one.

“Individually, we are one drop. Together we are an ocean.”

Ryunosuke Satoro





While our vibrant economy and bright lights often draw headlines, this community is becoming one with its environment, embracing conservation and pressing for greater sustainability in regional water planning.

To our friends and neighbors,

“One.”

When we speak the number out loud, most of us will instantly have several positive associations. One is unity. One is strength. One is wholeness. One is position, a seat at the table.

“One” describes not only how the seven individual member agencies of the Southern Nevada Water Authority come together cohesively on major water issues, it also describes the hard-won unity that the seven states sharing the Colorado River found in 2006, as they negotiated real solutions to managing the river through prolonged drought.

As a community of about 2 million, the Las Vegas Valley has grown quickly. It also is growing up. While our vibrant economy and bright lights often draw headlines, this community is becoming one with its environment, embracing conservation and pressing for greater sustainability in regional water planning.

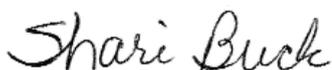
The SNWA was honored nationally in 2006 as a Water Efficiency Leader by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The SNWA earned the honor in the Utilities category, in part for the success of its Water Smart Landscapes program—a true community effort—which now conserves 4 billion gallons of water a year through the replacement of thirsty lawns with water-efficient plants. Increased incentives approved by the SNWA Board in December will pave the way for even more residents and businesses to enjoy the benefits of sustainable living.

The SNWA testified before the Nevada State Engineer in September, demonstrating the case for approval of the SNWA’s groundwater applications in east-central Nevada’s Spring Valley. Along with stringent conservation, securing additional, unused water from within the state is key to reducing Southern Nevada’s dependence on the Colorado River. To maximize water granted by the state, the SNWA purchased more than 23,000 acres of rangeland in Spring Valley to help facilitate and minimize the impact of groundwater development in the basin, as well as explore new conservation methods. The ranch purchases represent one aspect of the SNWA’s resolve to creatively find ways to secure water for our emerging region while preserving the diversity of rural Nevada.

As the steward of regional water supplies, the SNWA realizes the necessity of maintaining the balance nature needs to thrive. One example of that commitment is the SNWA’s partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and federal government to acquire the Warm Springs Ranch in 2006. The ranch is the primary remaining habitat of the Moapa dace, and though this fish is only the size of your finger, its significance to our ecosystem is far larger, and now can be protected.

As the SNWA continues to champion sustainability and collaboration, it is truly fitting to offer a sincere thank you to our immediate past Board Chair Amanda Cyphers, whose cooperative spirit and tireless efforts on the SNWA’s behalf made her an outstanding leader in challenging times. Ever the conservation advocate, Amanda even converted her own home’s lawn to water-smart landscaping during her tenure. As we stand as one to meet the needs of our community, we will continue leading by that example.

Sincerely,



Shari Buck, Chair
SNWA Board of Directors





One voice

For the seven member agencies that form the Southern Nevada Water Authority, speaking as one has given us a stronger voice and wider reach.

To our community, stakeholders and customers,

One mindset matters most when it comes to water issues in the Desert Southwest: the ability and desire to work as one, to stand as one.



The seven states sharing the Colorado River made it clear in 2006 through a landmark accord that unity would be the voice heard throughout our region and in our nation's capitol. New water resources for Nevada and greater flexibility on the river will greatly aid our state, while better protecting the fragile system for all.

One voice. For the seven member agencies that form the Southern Nevada Water Authority, speaking as one has given us a stronger voice and wider reach—but also a heightened responsibility to manage our resources wisely before a watching world. We must responsibly find ways to meet the needs of the present without endangering future generations' abilities to meet their own needs.

As we unite to plan for the region's water-quality, resource and conservation needs, the milestones of 2006 have included:

- A decision by the Nevada State Engineer granting approval for the SNWA under certain conditions to export up to 60,000 acre-feet of unused, available water annually from east-central Nevada. With full utilization, this exportation could yield as much as 120,000 acre-feet of water a year for the Las Vegas Valley in the future.
- In addition to the savings of 4 billion gallons a year through residential landscape conversions, a revitalized business commitment to conservation: Commercial participants in the SNWA's Water Efficient Technologies program now are saving more than 1 billion gallons a year.
- Conservation as a way of life: Aggressive campaigns to educate water customers about mandatory watering restrictions in winter 2006 showed a total reduction in short-term water use of 22 percent.
- Active stakeholder participation in the new federal WaterSense initiative, which will create new product standards for water efficiency.
- A reputation as a worldwide leader in water quality, in particular the study of endocrine-disruptor compounds in water, and a new laboratory to further such advances.

Life in the Mojave Desert is a fragile existence, with water as the great nourisher of thirst. We respect water because we must. And when we respect each others' needs and act as one, we go beyond the "must" to do what we should.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Mulroy'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Pat Mulroy, General Manager
Southern Nevada Water Authority