

Leveraging WaterSMART Grants for Innovative Water Infrastructure Investments



Grants

**August 18th, 2021
12pm PT/1 pm MT**

Today's Speakers



SHERI LOOPER

Drought Coordinator, Bureau of Reclamation



JOSH GERMAN

Program Analyst, Bureau of Reclamation



ROBIN GRABER

Program Analyst, Bureau of Reclamation



MARIBETH MENENDEZ

Program Analyst, Bureau of Reclamation



KATHY FLANAGAN

Senior Management Analyst, Southern Nevada Water Authority



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Project Manager, WaterNow Alliance



VICTORIA ARLING

Colorado Basin Program Manager, WaterNow Alliance

Agenda

- About WaterNow Alliance
- Overview of WaterSMART grants
- WaterSMART grantee case study: Southern Nevada Water Authority
- Exploring the Tap into Resilience Toolkit
- Audience Q&A





View

Q&A

You ask:13:05

How do I use these awesome tools?

Joshua Jones answered:13:06

You are already using one of the most awesome tools. We'll discuss the rest right away.

Please input your question

☐ Send Anonymously

Send



Webinar Participant

PLEASE COMPLETE OUR WEBINAR EVALUATION!



WaterNow Alliance



WHO ARE WE?

WaterNow Alliance is a forum and network of local water leaders advancing sustainable, affordable, equitable and climate resilient water strategies

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY SUSTAINABLE?

Providing safe, healthy, and affordable water services for people while preserving the integrity of water resources and the environment for future generations.



WHAT DO WE MEAN BY EQUITABLE?



Water equity means universal access to secure, affordable, safe, and healthy drinking water, and wastewater and stormwater management services.

Equitable water infrastructure investment should support the long-term sustainability of our waterways, water systems, and utilities.



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

WaterSMART Program

Water Resources and Planning Office

August 18, 2021

WaterSMART Program



Provides a framework for Interior to support water supply reliability for multiple water users.



WaterSMART Program Overview

- Increases water supply reliability through investments and attention to local water conflicts
- Supports water conservation and water management improvements to help meet competing demands for water
- Leverages Federal and non-Federal funding
- Relies on collaboration with stakeholders to develop local solutions to water supply issues



Growing Populations



Restoration Needs



Drought

WaterSMART WEEG, Drought, and EWRP Program Basics



These WaterSMART activities are grant programs



Generally, a 50% non-Federal cost share is required for grants under WaterSMART. However, under the EWRP, non-federal cost-share may be 25% dependent on environmental value



States, tribes, cities, irrigation, water and flood control districts, and conservation nonprofits including watershed groups, located in the 17 Western United States and territories, AK, HI, and Puerto Rico)



Funding is allocated through annual competitive processes



WaterSMART Grants

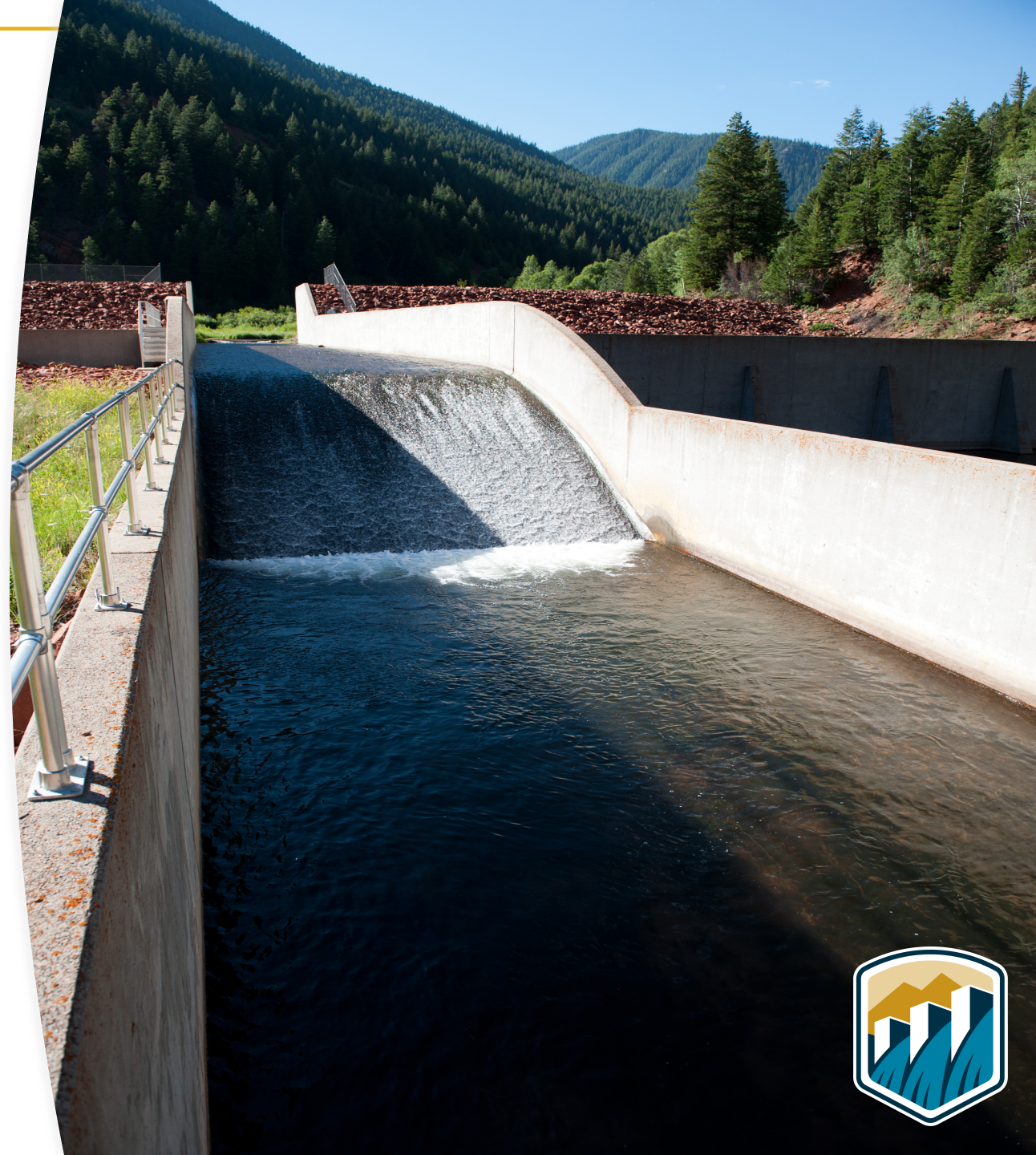
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Eligible Project Types

- Water Conservation Projects
 - Canal lining/piping
 - Municipal metering
 - Irrigation flow measurement
 - Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation (SCADA)
 - Landscape irrigation measures
 - High-Efficiency Indoor Appliances and Fixtures
 - Commercial Cooling Systems
- Renewable Energy Projects
 - Hydropower
 - Solar, wind energy

Funding

- Funding Group I: Up to \$500k in 2 years
- Funding Group II: Up to \$2 million in 3 years



WaterSMART Grants

Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Criteria

- Quantifiable Water Savings (28 points)
- Renewable Energy (20 points)
- Sustainability Benefits (20 points)
- Complementing On-Farm Irrigation Improvements (10 points)
- Planning and Implementation (8 points)
- Collaboration (6 points)
- Additional Non-Federal Funding (4 points)
- Nexus to Reclamation (4 points)



Drought Response Program

Drought Resiliency Projects

Eligible Project Types

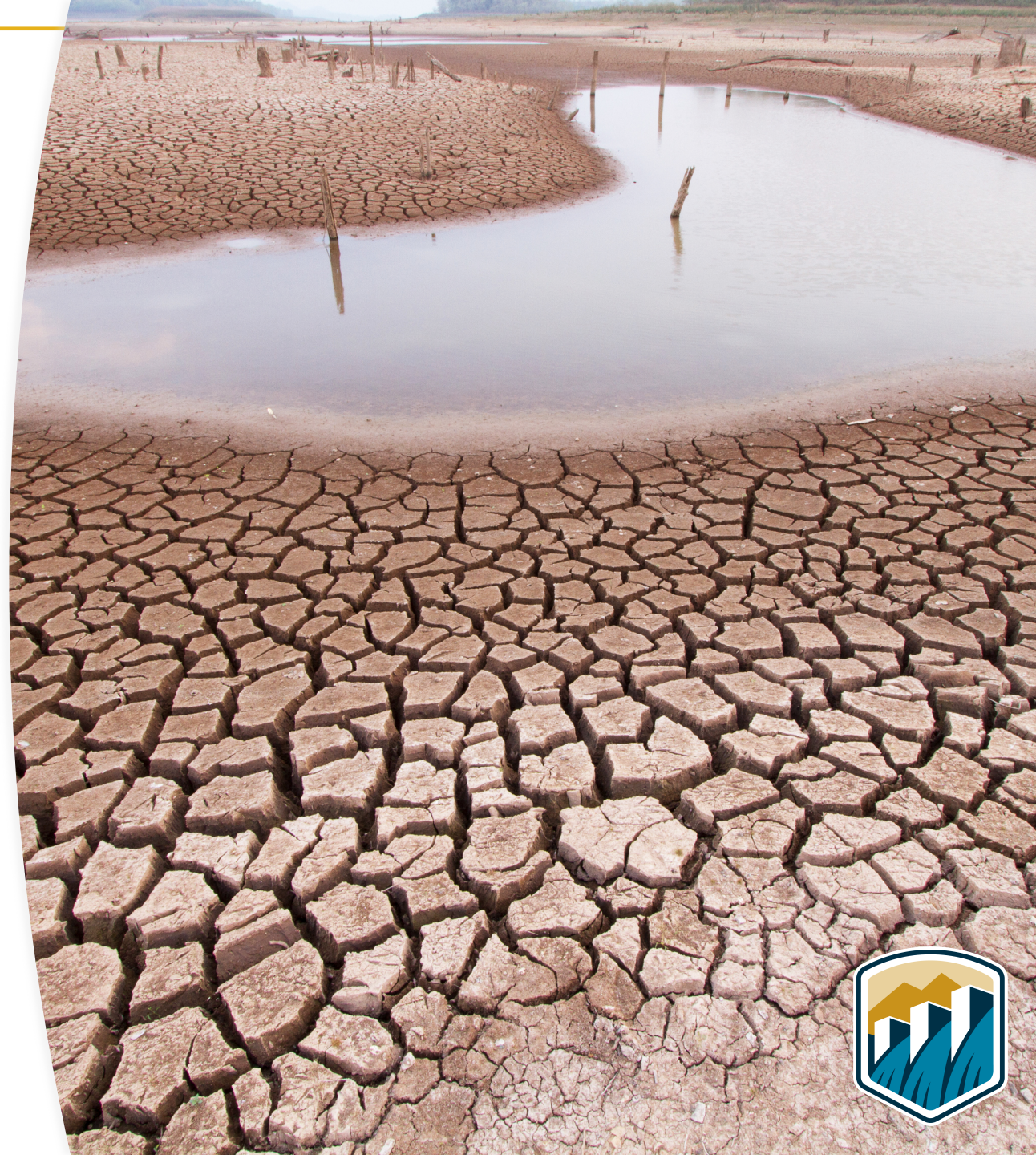
- Infrastructure Improvements
- New conveyance system components
- Additional water storage
- Recharge facilities
- Capture and treat alternative supplies
- Decision Support Tools & Modeling

Funding

- Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater.
- Funding Level I: \$500k 2 years
- Funding Level II: \$2 million 3 years

Criteria

- Project Benefits (30 points)
- Sustainability and Supplemental Benefits (20 points)
- Drought Planning and Preparedness (15 points)
- Drought Impacts to be Addressed by Project (15 points)
- Project Implementation (10 points)
- Nexus to Reclamation (10 points)



New in 2022

Environmental Water Resources Projects

Eligible Project Types

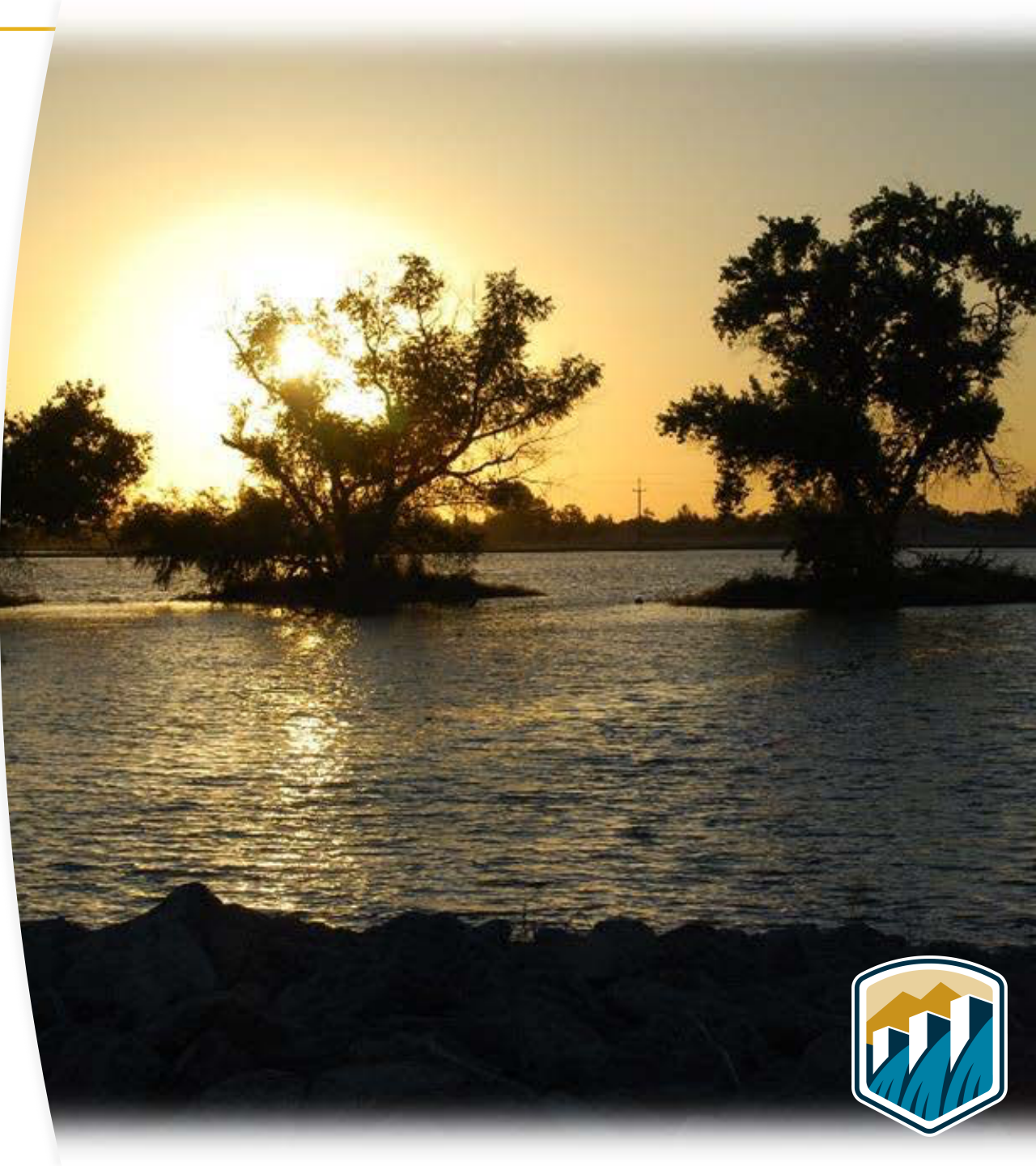
- Broad project eligibility, but focus is on environmental/ecological benefits and multi-benefit projects
 - Projects benefitting habitat, ecosystems, and species
 - Multi-benefit projects
 - Watershed restoration

Funding

- Non-Federal Cost Share: 25% or greater.
- Funding Level: Up to \$2 million 3 years

Criteria

- Project Benefits (35 points)
- Collaborative Project Planning (25 points)
- Stakeholder Support (15 points)
- Readiness to Proceed (10 points)
- Performance Measures (5 points)
- Presidential and DOI Priorities (10 points)



2022 WaterSMART Funding Opportunities Released

Funding Opportunity	Maximum Federal Funding Levels per Project	Deadline	Project Types
Drought Resiliency Projects	FGI: \$500k FGII: \$2M	October 5, 2021	Projects that focus on building long-term resilience to drought
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants	FGI: \$500k FGII: \$2M	November 3, 2021	Water conservation and renewable energy projects
Environmental Water Resources Projects	Up to \$2M	December 9, 2021	Broad project eligibility, but focus is on environmental and ecological benefits and multi-benefit projects

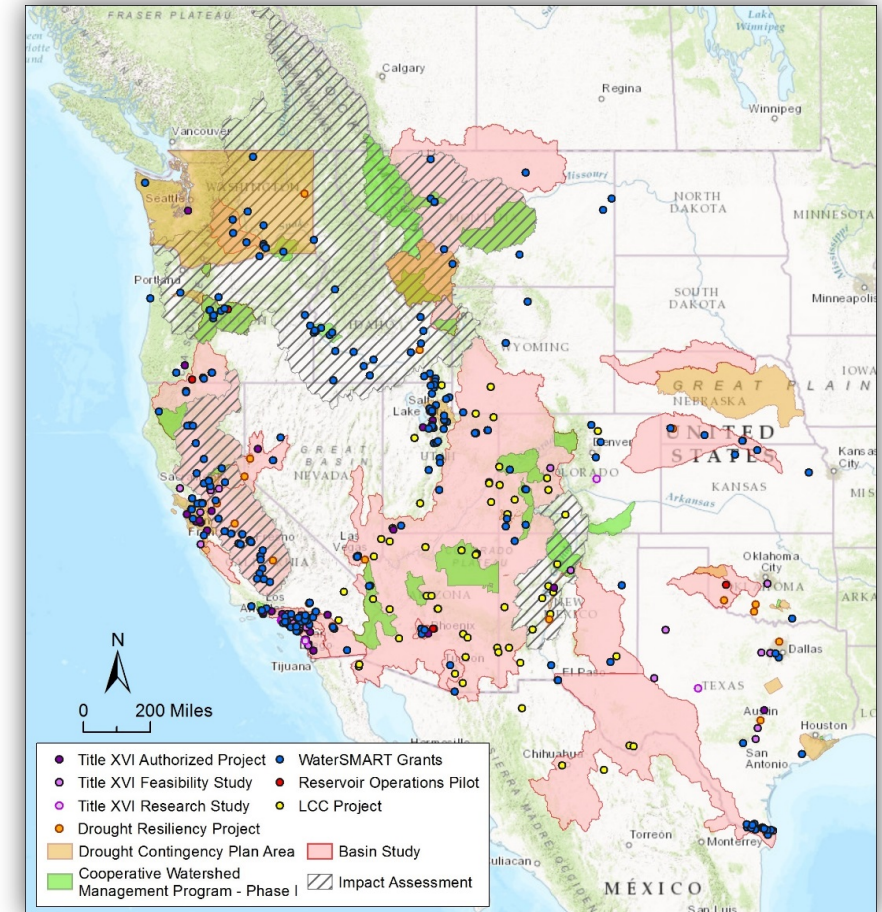


WaterSMART Data Visualization Tool

- Data Visualization Tool is an interactive website with program information including:

- Interactive maps
- Featured project tours
- Program growth over time

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>



WaterSMART Program Resources

- WaterSMART Program Website: <https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/index.html>
 - Note: Successful proposals are available on the website for each program
- For information about upcoming WaterSMART Funding Opportunities, send an email to watersmart@usbr.gov with your name and email address
- Funding Opportunities can be found at: www.grants.gov
- Helpful information for submitting proposals on Grants.gov can be found on the WaterSMART program website





— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Questions?

WEEG

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EWRP

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Drought

Sheri Looper

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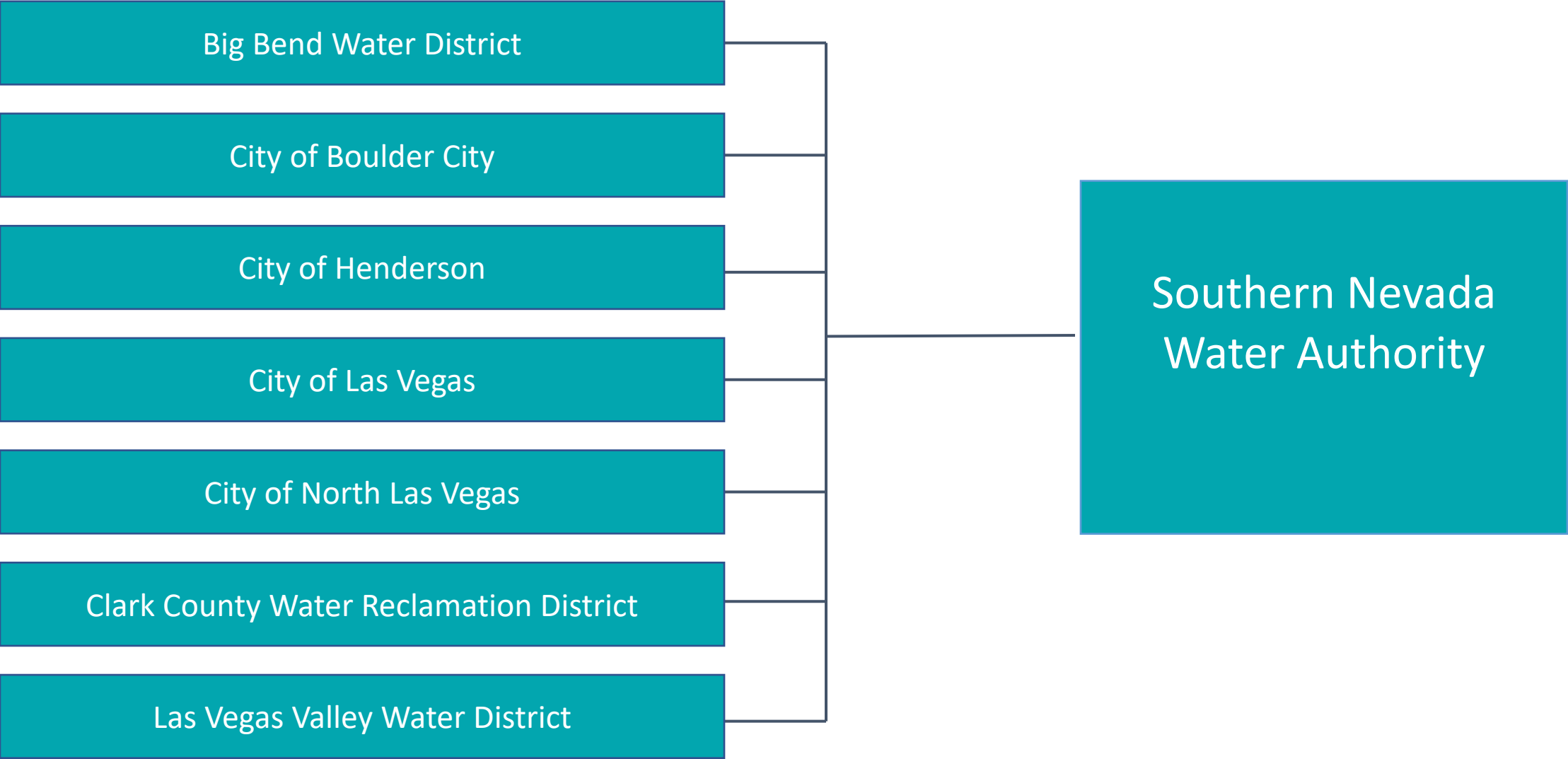
Southern Nevada Water Authority Water Smart Landscapes Rebate Program

Kathy Flanagan

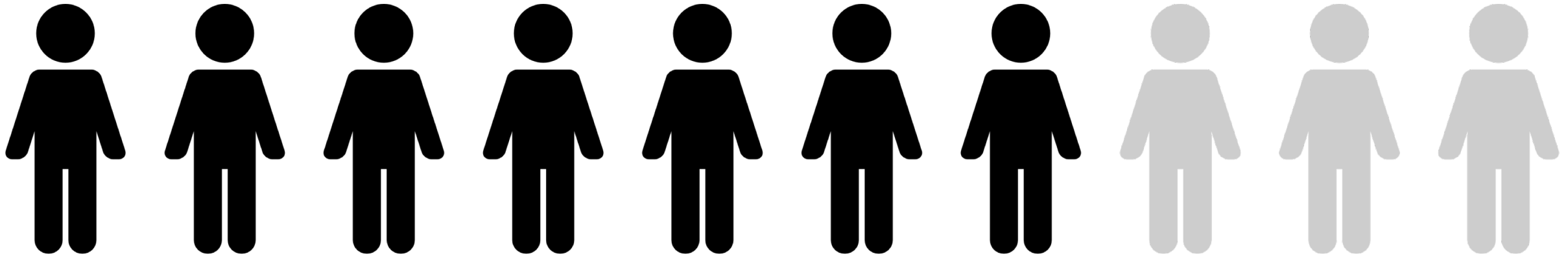
SENIOR MANAGEMENT ANALYST

August 2021

SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY

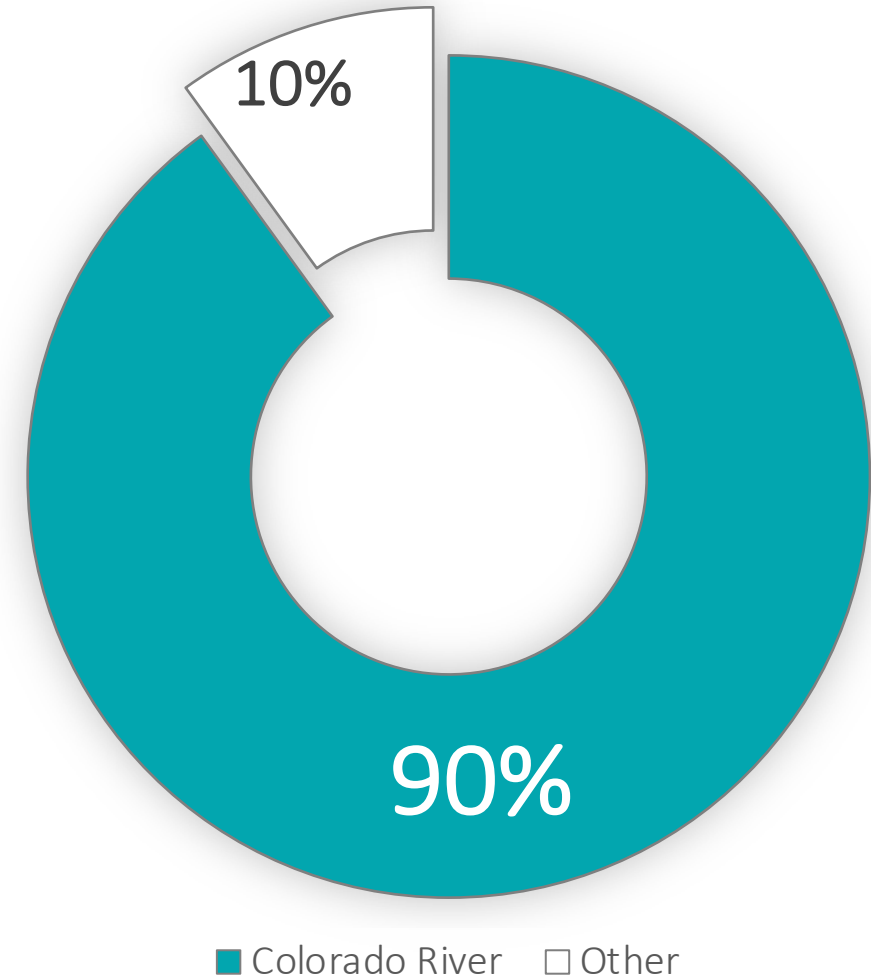


**Seven out of every 10 Nevadans rely on the
SNWA to supply water to homes and
businesses.**



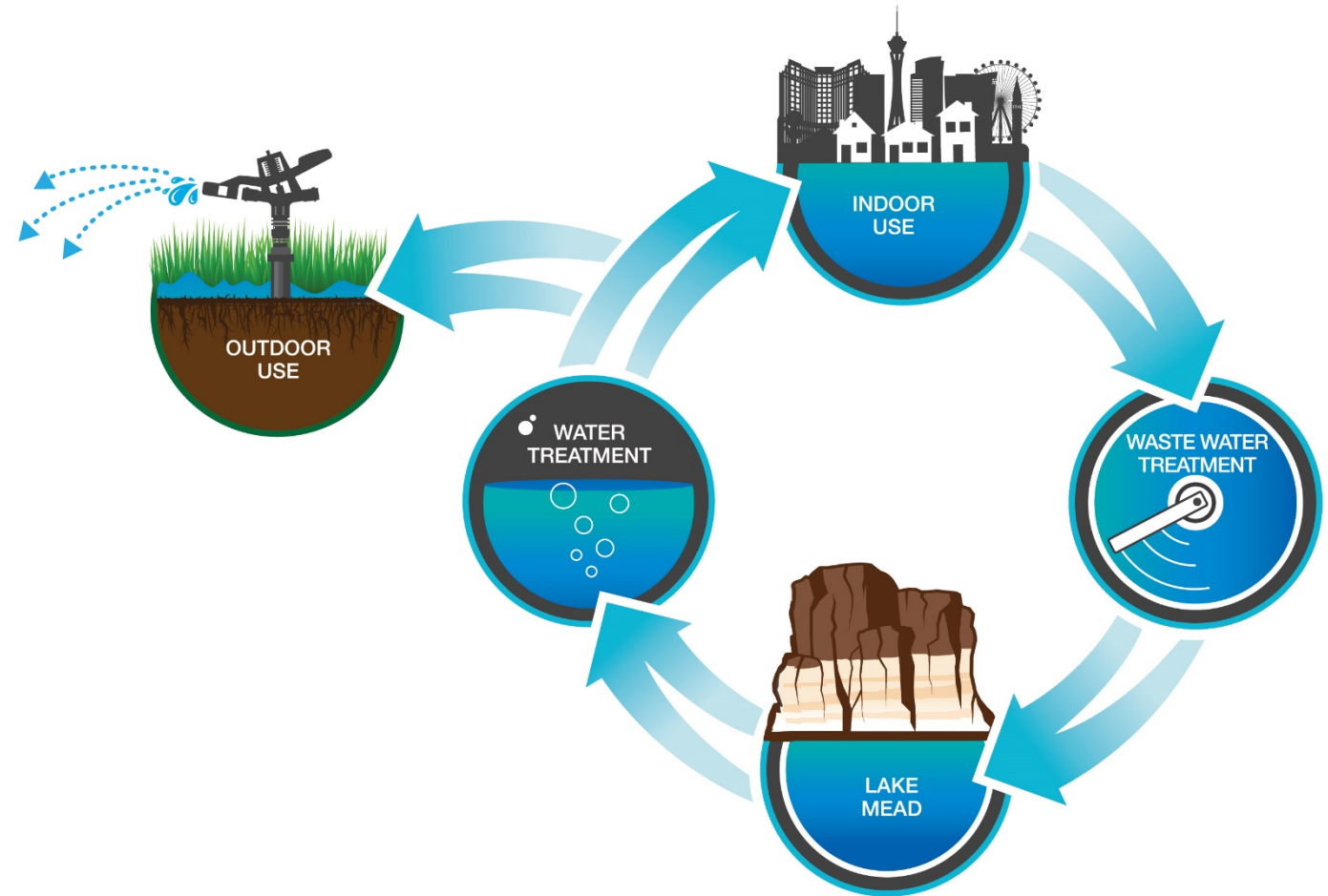
WATER RESOURCES


Southern Nevada is nearly fully reliant on the Colorado River to meet the community's water demands.



RETURN FLOWS

Southern Nevada recycles 99% of water used indoors, thereby extending the availability of its resources.





The SNWA has spent
decades ensuring the
reliability of water supplies
for Southern Nevada



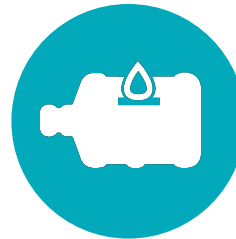
INFRASTRUCTURE

Constructing major facilities and asset management



RESOURCE PLANNING

Working with partners & developing
comprehensive plans to manage supplies



WATER BANKING

Storing water supplies for the future

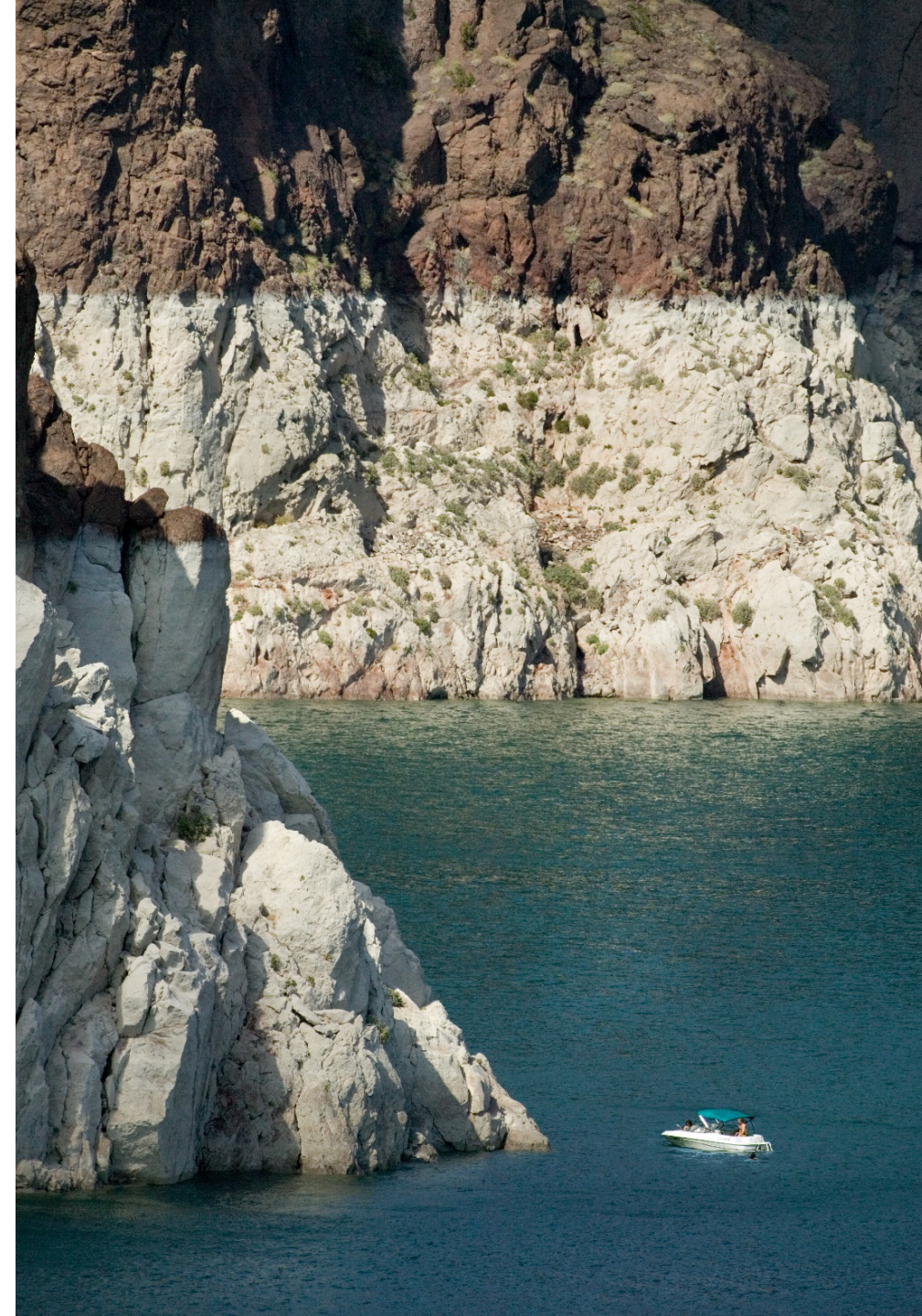


CONSERVATION

Incentives, programs, regulation & pricing

CONSERVATION

Since 2000, the Colorado River has been experiencing severe drought conditions, affecting Lake Mead's water levels.



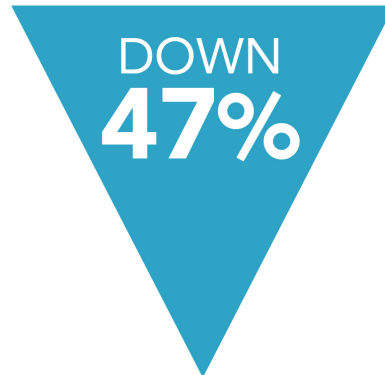
CONSERVATION

Development codes, regulations and conservation programs have allowed Southern Nevada to grow efficiently and sustainably.

Southern Nevada
POPULATION



Per Capita
WATER USE



Colorado River Water
CONSUMPTION





KEY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

- **Watering Schedule (Time-of-Day and Day-of-Week)**
- **Development Codes**
- **Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate Program**
- **Water Waste Reporting App**
- **Leak Detection**
- **Water Smart Landscape Rebate Program**

CONSERVATION



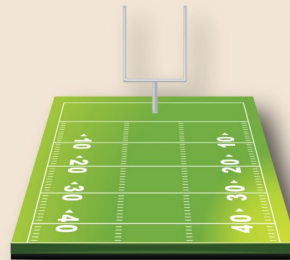
WATER SMART LANDSCAPES PROGRAM FACTS

197 MILLION

Square feet of grass has been replaced with
water-smart landscaping since 1999

THAT'S EQUIVALENT TO:

Enough grass to
cover more than



3,422
FOOTBALL FIELDS

Rolling an 18" wide
strip of sod



100%
AROUND THE EARTH

OR

141 BILLION

Gallons of water saved to date.

That's enough
water to fill the
Luxor Hotel
Pyramid

391
TIMES

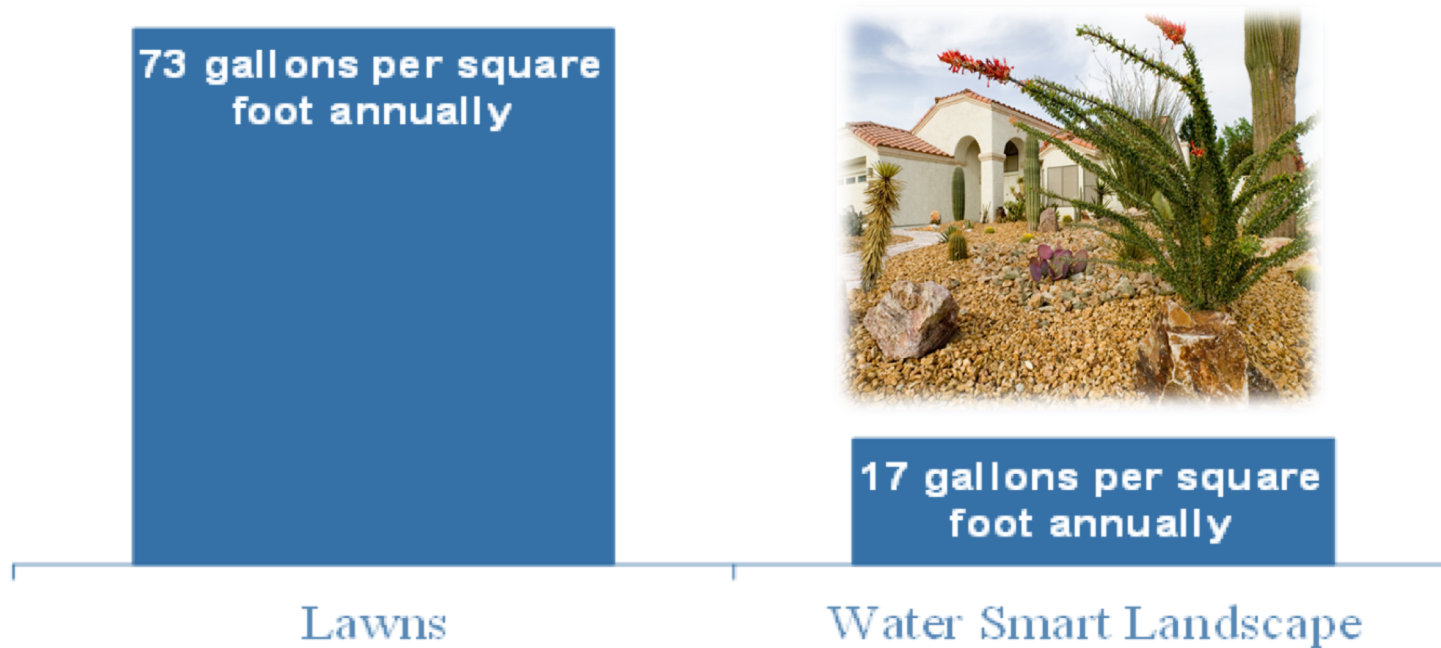


Rev.12/20

**An average 15,000 square-foot conversion saves 825,000 gallons each year
(or \$300 a month)**

WATER SMART LANDSCAPES PROGRAM

Comparison of Annual Water Application Lawn vs. Water Smart Landscape



NON-FUNCTIONAL TURF

Unused turf is wasted water.

- Medians
- Roundabouts
- Neighborhood entries
- Pocket parks
- Front yards
- Unused back yards

**Non-functional turf is aesthetic only;
only walked on by landscapers.**



NON-FUNCTIONAL TURF

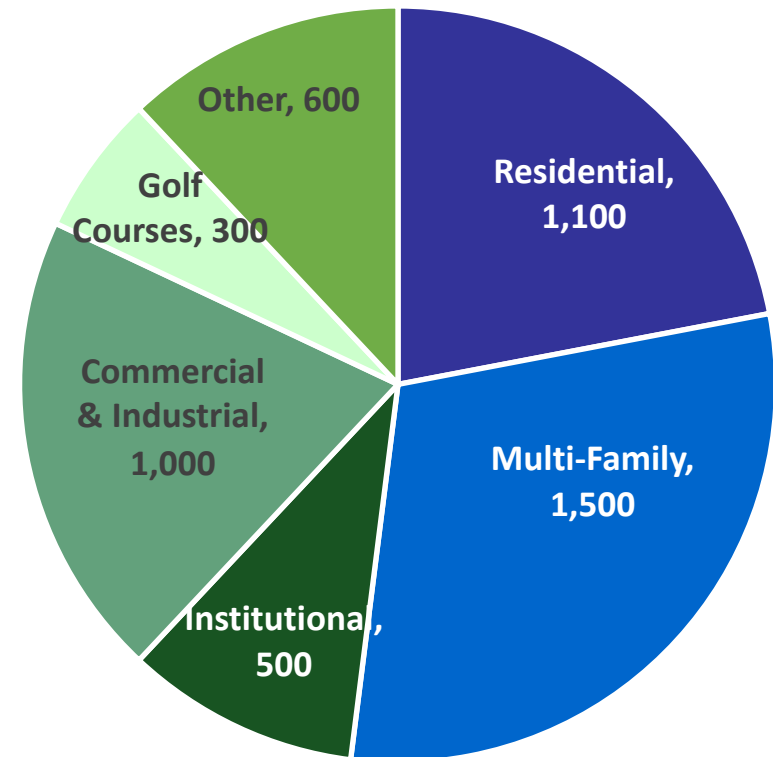
A new law passed during Nevada's 81st Legislative Session prohibits our community's water supplies from watering existing unused grass by 2027.

Single family residential homes excluded.

**ESTIMATED NON-FUNCTIONAL TURF:
5,000 acres (218 million sq. ft)**

**POTENTIAL WATER SAVINGS:
12.2 billion gallons (37,400 acre-feet)**

**Non-Functional Turf
Eligible for Removal (Acres)**



BOR WATERSMART GRANTS: WEEG

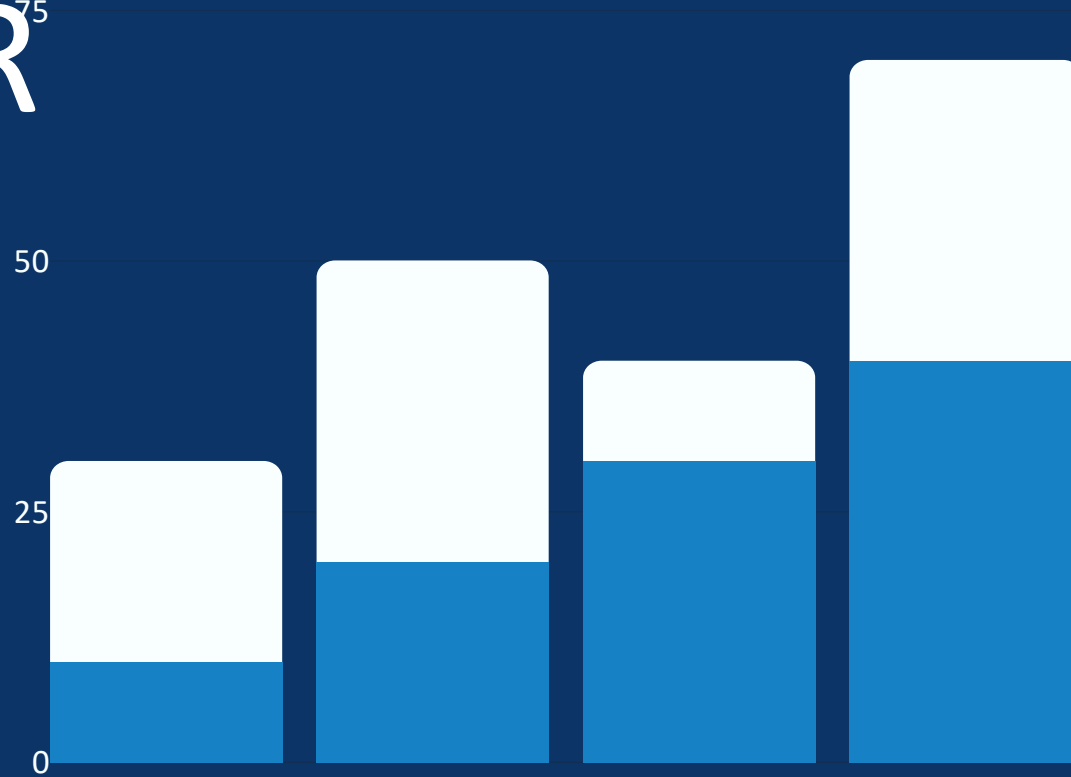
- The SNWA last applied during the Fiscal Year 2019 Grant Cycle
- Awarded \$1,500,000 over three years (2020-2023)
- Estimated results:
 - Conversion of 9,532,374 square feet of lawn to water-efficient landscaping
 - Anticipated water savings of 1,632 acre-feet per year
 - Projected energy savings of 3,456,576 kWh per year

QUESTIONS:
kathy.flanagan@snwa.com
(702) 258-3173



SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY®

TIME FOR A POLL




TAP INTO RESILIENCE



- ✓ Creates pathways and opportunities to invest capital at large scale in decentralized infrastructure
- ✓ Expanding the definition of water infrastructure to include distributed solutions
- ✓ Putting distributed installations on non-utility owned properties in multi-year capital plans along with conventional counterparts

tapin.waternow.org

WATERNOW ALLIANCE



WHAT IS ONSITE, LOCALIZED, DISTRIBUTED WATER INFRASTRUCTURE?

- ✓ Distributed over many properties, public and private
- ✓ Not owned and operated by city/utility/water agency
- ✓ Operate in concert with built infrastructure
- ✓ Paid for by the utility

CATEGORIES OF DISTRIBUTED INFRASTRUCTURE

- ✓ Stormwater and Flood Management
- ✓ Private Service Line Replacement
- ✓ Water Use Efficiency and Conservation



Lead Line Replacement



Onsite Re-use



Conservation and Efficiency Programs



Green Stormwater Infrastructure



Watershed Protection Efforts

BIG PICTURE BENEFITS OF LOCALIZED STRATEGIES

- ✓ Environmentally sustainable
- ✓ Build climate resilience
- ✓ Often more affordable
- ✓ Advance social equity
- ✓ Protect public health
- ✓ Create local, green jobs



TAP INTO RESILIENCE TOOLKIT



Do you have a sustainability vision for your city?

Our toolkit is here to help.





 **Localized Infrastructure Decision-Making Framework**

To explore lessons learned from TIR Case Studies click through WaterNow's **10-part decision-making framework** for deploying localized water infrastructure strategies at larger scale as best fit a community's particular needs.

 **What are my financing options?**

To learn about accessing capital dollars and other revenue streams to pay for decentralized water infrastructure and solutions to common legal, financial and accounting questions that arise when increasing investments in these environmentally friendly programs click through the "What are my financing options" sections.

 **Localized water infrastructure implementation strategies**

To learn about common challenges – and corresponding solutions – for public utilities deploying decentralized strategies on public property not directly owned or controlled by the water utility ("public non-utility property") and private property click through the "Localized water infrastructure implementation strategies" section.

 **Toolkit Quick Reference Library**

Click here for **quick references** to Toolkit resources, example documents, and case studies.

 **Ask an Expert**

Connect with Tap into Resilience **expert panelists**.

[Ask an Expert](#)

Visit tapin.waternow.org/toolkit to view full toolkit

WaterSMART Grants

Established in 2010, the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) program provides federal leadership and financial assistance for the efficient use of water in the Western United States. Each year the Bureau of Reclamation allocates millions of dollars in grant funding through the WaterSMART program to support Western states, tribes and local water providers as they plan and implement actions to advance their water efficiency and supply reliability priorities.

Click through the sub-sections below to learn about [what WaterSMART is](#), the types of [projects eligible for WaterSMART funding](#), [Water & Energy Efficiency Grants](#), [Small Scale Water Efficiency Projects](#), [Drought Resiliency Projects](#), [Water Conservation Field Services Program Grants](#), and [WaterNow's WaterSMART Grant Application Support](#).

What is WaterSMART?

Eligibility & Application Process

Water & Energy Efficiency Grants

Small Scale Water Efficiency Projects Grants

Drought Resiliency Projects

Water Conservation Field Services Program Grants

WaterSMART Grant Application Support

COMING SOON - Environmental Water Resources Projects Grants

Drought Resiliency Projects

The Drought Resiliency Projects (DRP) grant is intended for projects that improve the ability of a water manager to continue to deliver water and power during a drought and should decrease vulnerabilities and costs of drought. Eligible projects fall into three different categories: increasing the reliability of water supplies, improving water management, and providing benefits for fish, wildlife and the environment.



While many DRP projects focus on large-scale infrastructure improvements, funding is also available for distributed infrastructure strategies including:

- ✓ Constructing stormwater capture and reuse systems, including green stormwater infrastructure solutions such as rain gardens, cisterns, and bioswales
- ✓ Installing residential graywater and rain catchment systems

As of FY22, applicants can request federal funding of up to \$500,000 for projects that could be completed in two years (Funding Group 1) or up to \$2 million for projects that could be completed in three years (Funding Group 2) with a 50% non-Federal cost-share match. Click [here](#) to get no-Cost, hands-on assistance to apply for a DPR grant. The FY22 application window will be closing on October 5, 2021.

DRP evaluation criteria for FY22 are included below. More details on each of the evaluation criteria can be found in the FY22 DRP Funding Opportunity Announcement linked below.

Evaluation Criteria Scoring Summary	Points:
A. Project Benefits	30
B. Sustainability and Supplemental Benefits	20
C. Drought Planning and Preparedness	15
D. Severity of Actual or Potential Drought Impacts to be addressed by the Project	15
E. Project Implementation	10
F. Nexus to Reclamation	10
Total	100

In FY21, Reclamation awarded \$15.4 million in DRP funding to 18 communities.



WaterSMART Notice of Funding Opportunity

Notice of funding opportunity for projects that will build long-term resilience to drought and reduce the need for



WaterSMART Federal Forms

Access federal forms required to be submitted with WaterSMART grant applications.



System for Award Management

Access the registration process for the System for Award Management - part of applying for WaterSMART grants.

ral, and philanthropic
s of funding are attractive
obtain, they can offer some

structure Finance and
n Development's Section
ments in localized water

>

WATERNOW ALLIANCE

WaterNow Alliance offers Western water providers pro-bono, hands-on assistance to apply for the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART funding opportunities.

Support includes:

- 1-on-1 calls to explain programs and address specific project questions
- Connections and guidance on calls with relevant WaterSMART staff
- Research on specific application questions
- Application and budget templates
- And more!

bit.ly/WaterSMARTsupport

Pro-Bono WaterSMART Grant Support



WATERNOW ALLIANCE

JOIN THE ALLIANCE

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP

www.waternow.org/join-the-leaders



WATERNOW ALLIANCE

The background of the slide is a dense, overlapping collage of rectangular sticky notes in various colors including blue, purple, green, and yellow. Each sticky note features a large, dark blue question mark. The notes are scattered across the entire frame, creating a textured, layered effect.

AUDIENCE Q&A

WATERNOW ALLIANCE



THANK YOU

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL

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VA@WATERNOW.ORG

WATERNOW ALLIANCE