The background of the slide is a photograph of the Hoover Dam and Lake Mead. The dam's concrete structure is visible on the left, with its iconic tower. The deep blue water of the reservoir stretches across the middle ground, surrounded by rugged, brown desert mountains under a clear sky.

AB-356: Reshaping the Urban Landscape of Southern Nevada

*A Briefing for the METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
of Southern California*

Conservation and Local Resources Committee

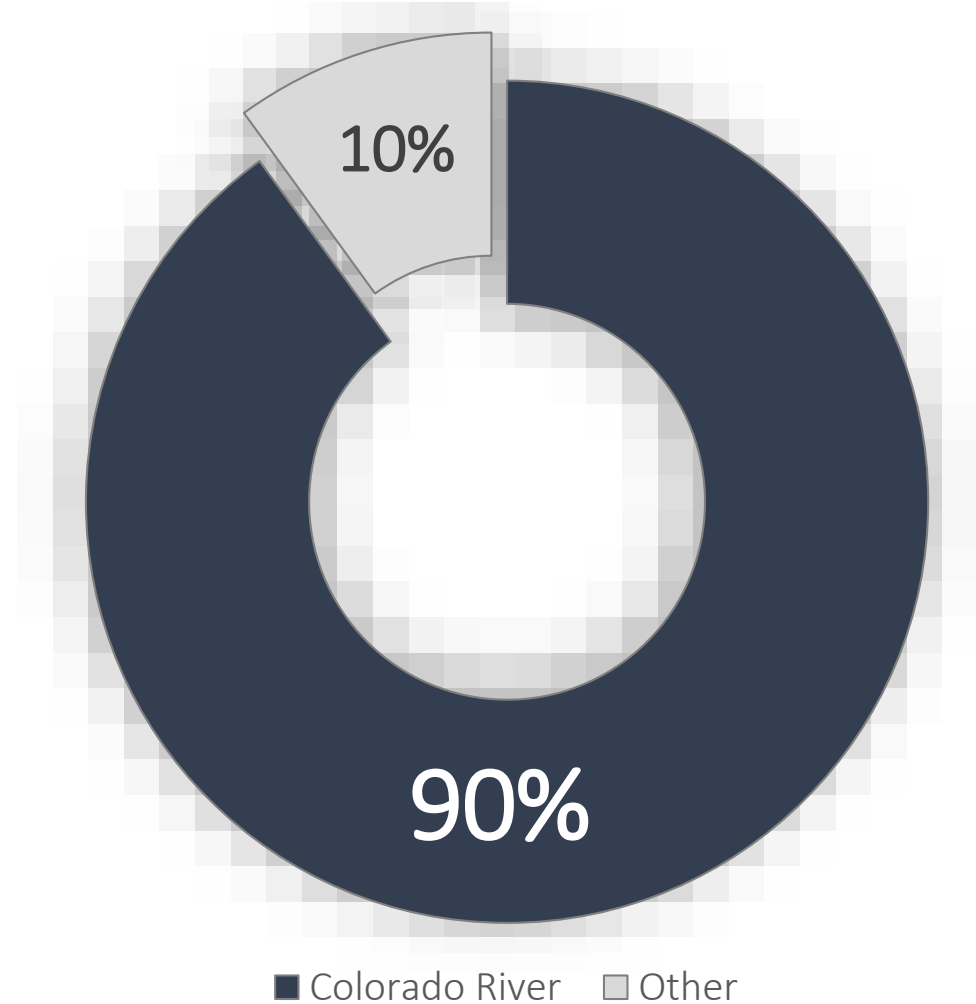


SOUTHERN NEVADA
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September 2021

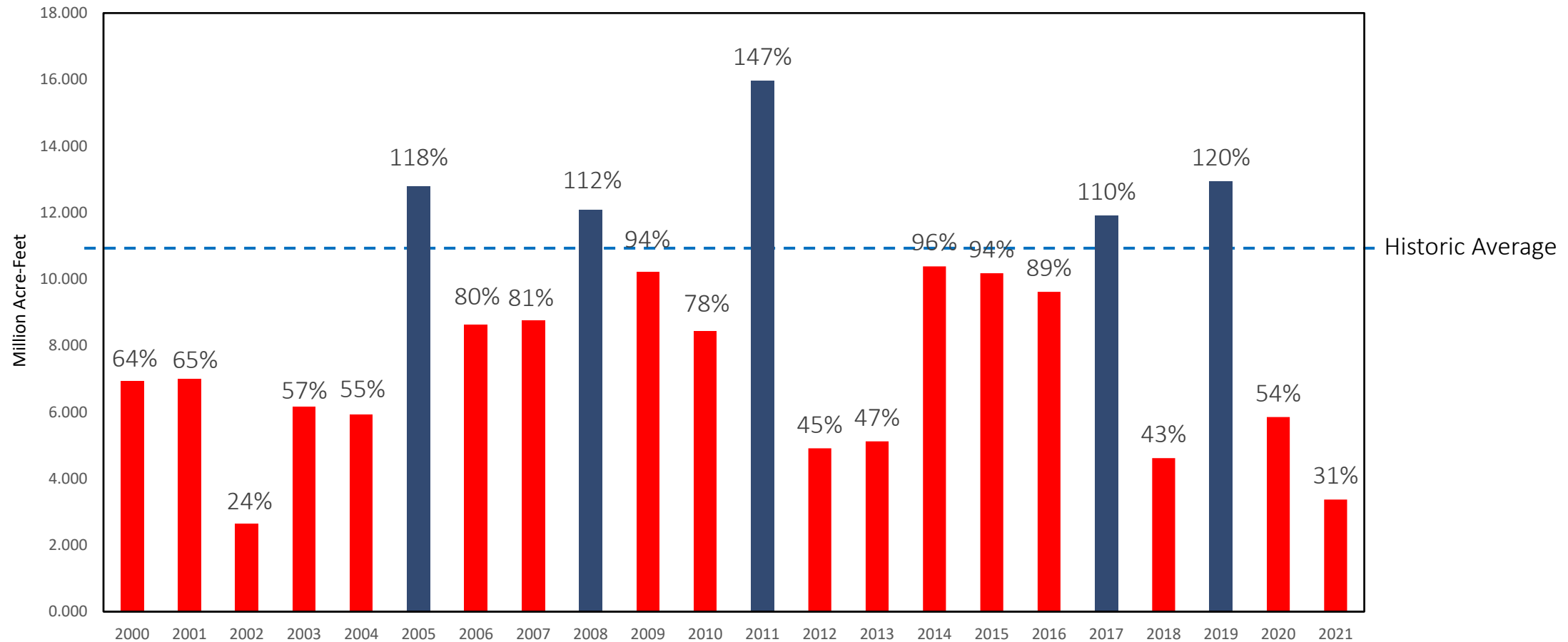
SOUTHERN NEVADA'S WATER RESOURCES

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



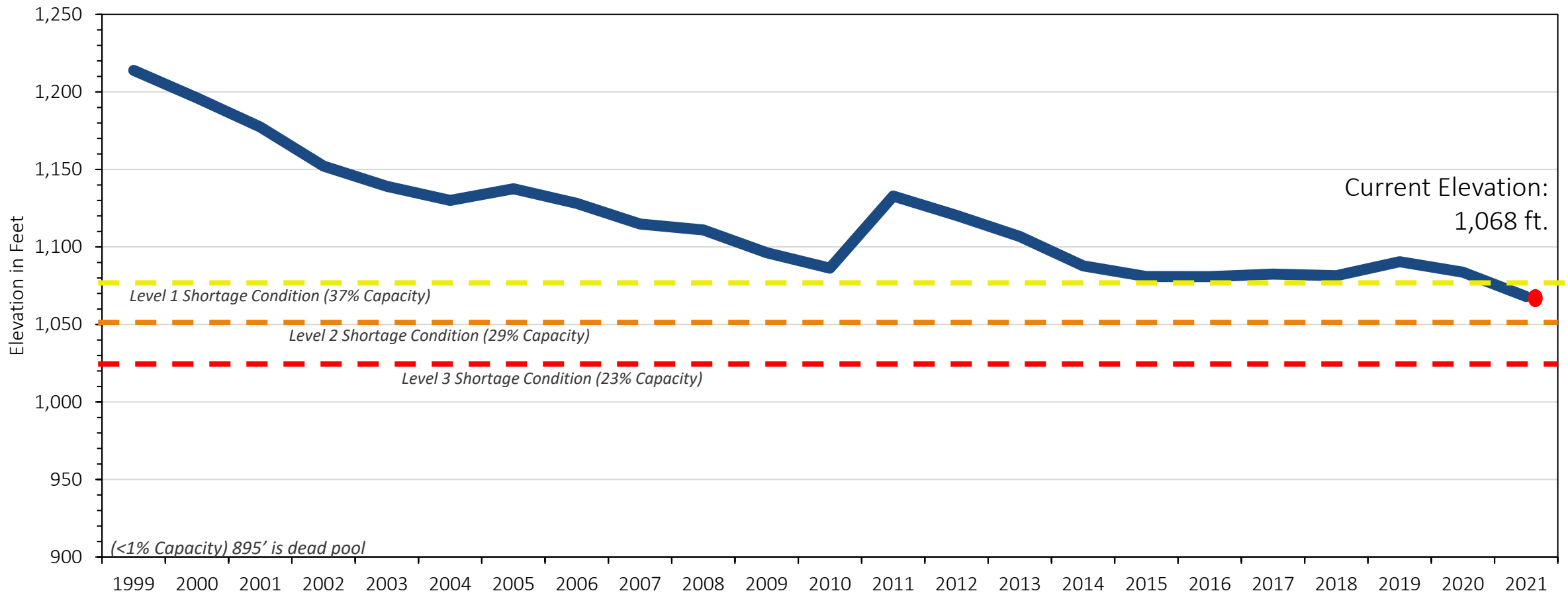
COLORADO RIVER INFLOWS

Since 2000, annual Colorado River inflows have been below average more than 75 percent of the time, causing Lake Mead's elevation to fall more than 130 feet.



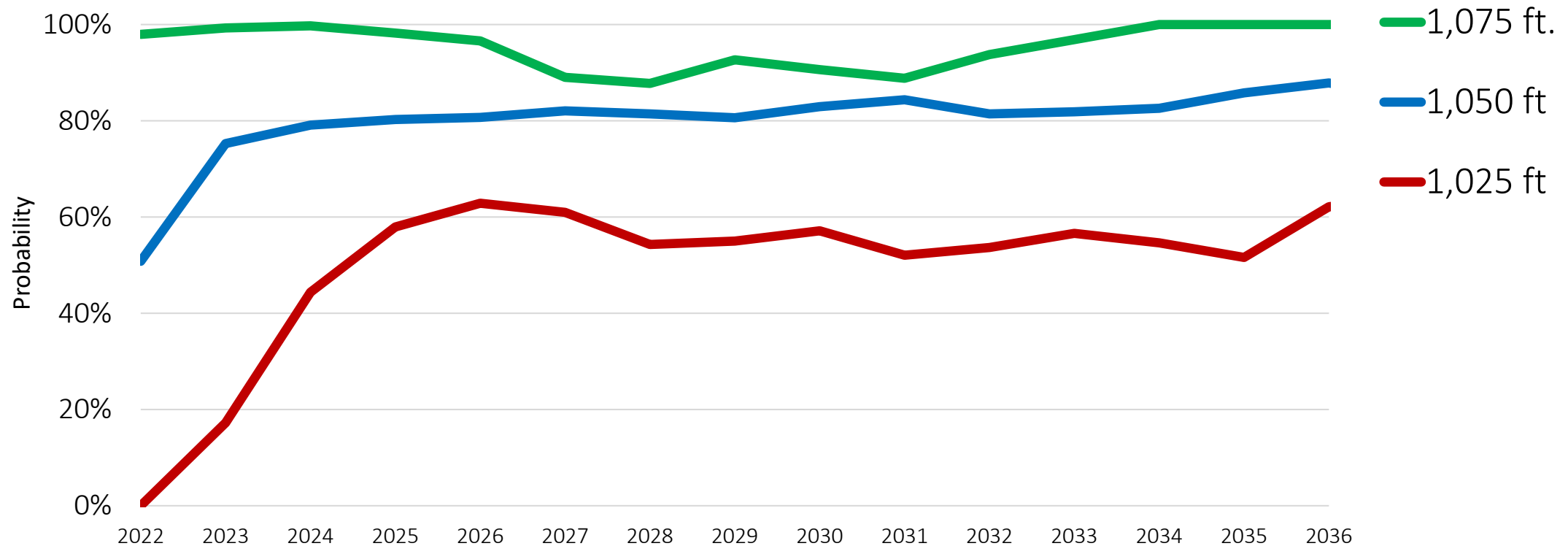
DECLINING LAKE ELEVATIONS

Below average inflows led to declines in Lake Mead water levels.



PROJECTED ELEVATIONS

Lake Mead's elevations will remain below 1,075 in the coming year, and they could fall below 1,050 feet as early as 2023.



DROUGHT RESPONSE



Southern Nevada has spent **decades** preparing for drought to ensure the reliability of water supplies for Southern Nevada



WATER BANKING

Storing water supplies for the future



RESOURCE PLANNING

Working with partners & developing comprehensive plans to manage supplies



CONSERVATION

Incentives, programs, regulation & pricing



INFRASTRUCTURE

Constructing major facilities and asset management

Water conservation remains Southern Nevada's most effective and cost-efficient means to maintain a reliable water supply.



CONSERVATION

Conservation has allowed water agencies to support more than 800,000 new residents since 2002 while using nearly 25 percent less water.

Southern Nevada
POPULATION



UP
52%

Per Capita
WATER USE



DOWN
47%

Colorado River Water
CONSUMPTION

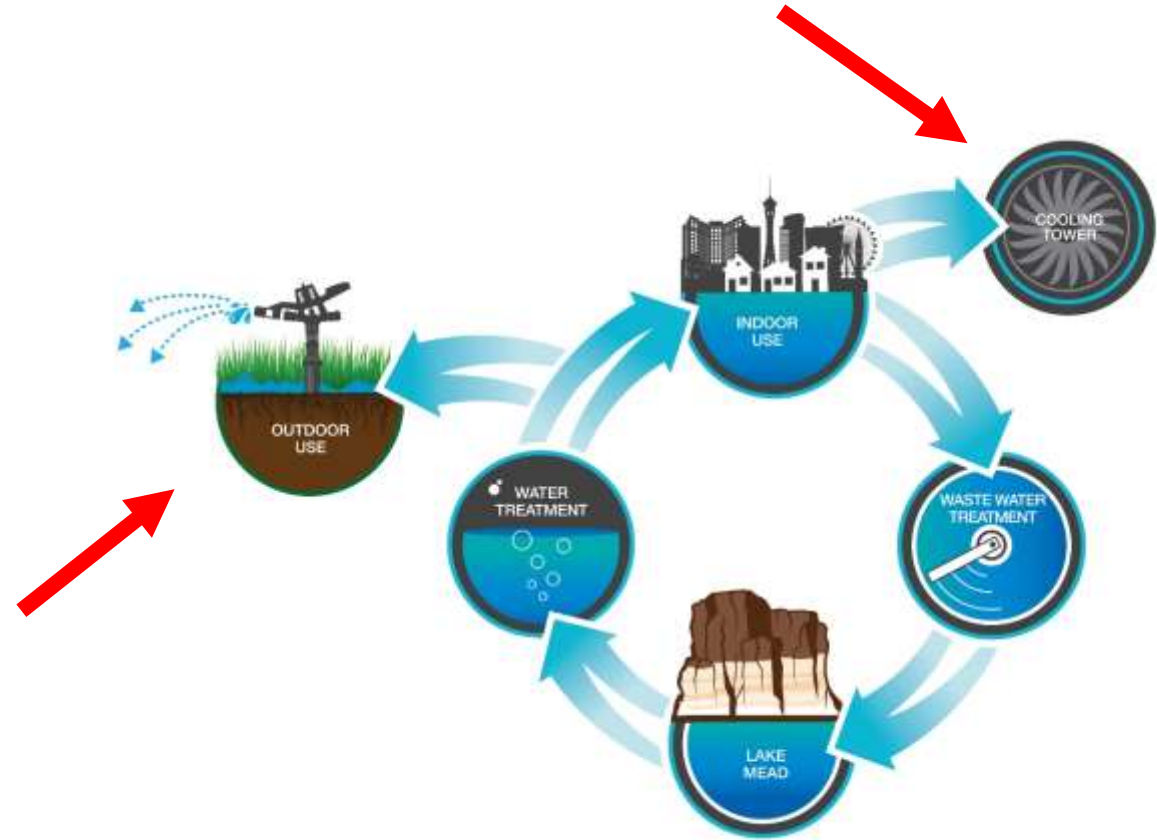


DOWN
23%

One of the key reasons for this is Southern Nevada's ability to capture and recover indoor water

Southern Nevada recycles 99% of all water used indoors

Only “consumptive” uses, primarily landscape irrigation and commercial-scale cooling, deplete our annual Colorado River allocation



CONSERVATION

Last fall, the SNWA Board of Directors approved recommendations from an advisory committee on conservation-related initiatives to further drive down water use in Southern Nevada.

- Reduce existing non-functional turf
- Limit future installations of cool season turf in public spaces
- Implement smart controller technology to automate landscape compliance
- Implement advanced metering infrastructure
- Reduce losses from evaporative cooling
- Develop a Large Water Users Policy

NON-FUNCTIONAL TURF

Unused turf is wasted water

*(72 gallons per square foot used each year
vs. 17 g/sf for drip-irrigated landscapes)*

- Medians
- Roundabouts
- Neighborhood entries
- Streetscapes
- Front yards
- Unused back yards

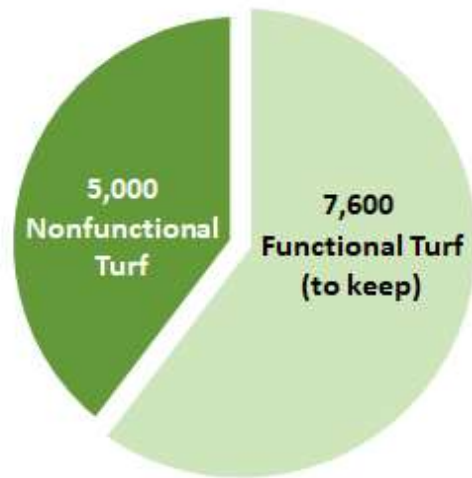
Non-functional turf is purely aesthetic, not being providing any recreational value.



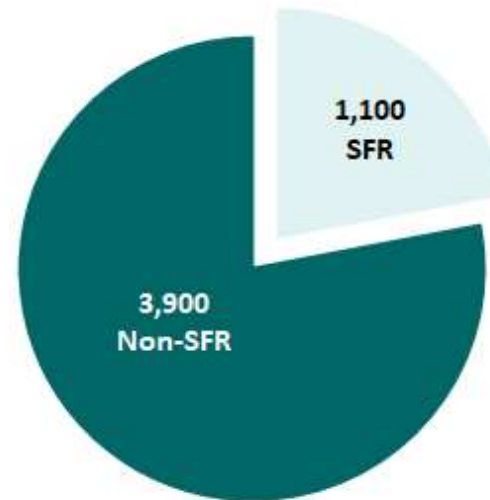
NON-FUNCTIONAL TURF

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

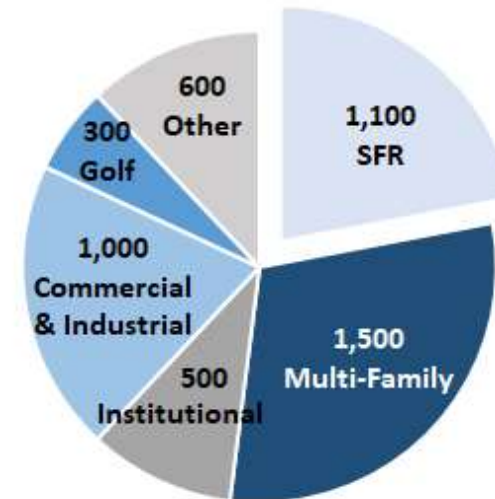
Single family residential homes excluded.



Current Turf Totals



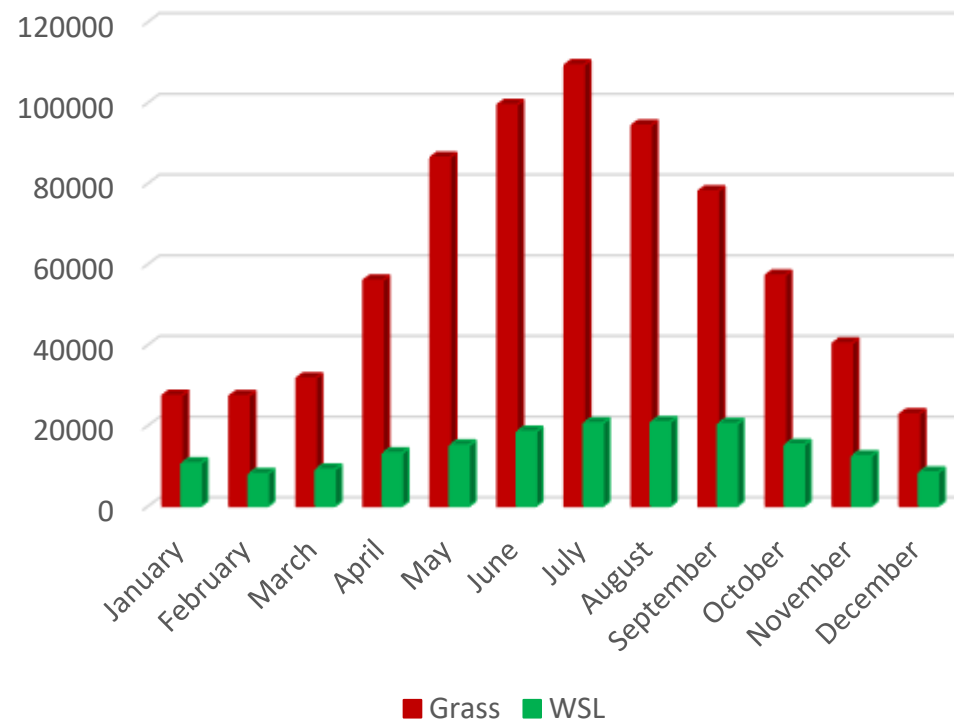
By Sector



By Customer Class

AB-356

A long-term analysis of turf conversion projects shows that drip-irrigated landscapes use an average of ~75 percent less water per year



Potential water savings associated with replacing non-functional turf could reach 9.5 billion gallons (29,150 acre-feet)

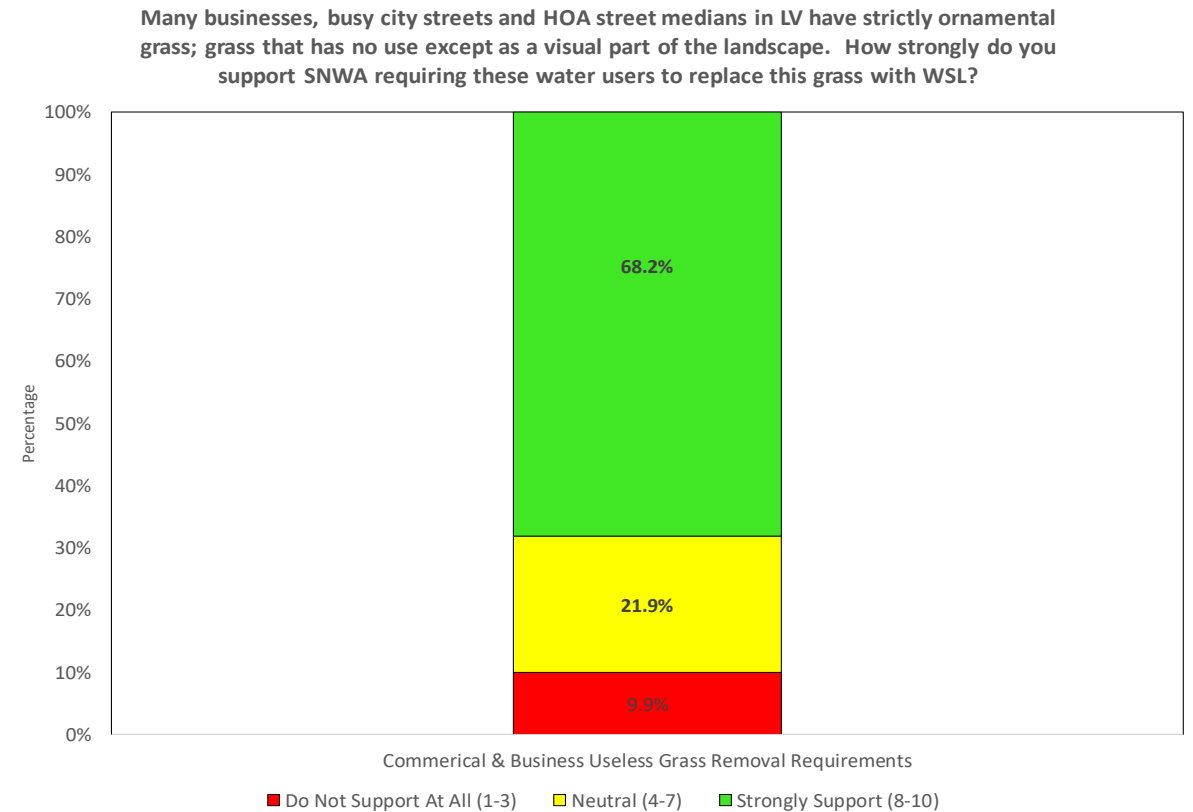


AB-356

Both the public and elected officials overwhelmingly support the legislation

Quantitative research demonstrated that residents—even those living within HOAs with streetscape turf—wanted the SNWA to mandate its removal

State senators voted unanimously in favor of AB-356, while the Assembly approved it with a strong bipartisan majority



AB-356

AB-356 garnered support among a diverse array of stakeholder groups

- Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce
- Southern Nevada Home Builders Association
- The Nature Conservancy
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Nevada Conservation League
- Clark County
- Cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Henderson

Stakeholder Engagement

Per the legislation's provisions, the SNWA formed the Nonfunctional Turf Removal Advisory Committee to help inform the removal plan's development

Represented sectors include:

- Business/commercial
- Common interest communities
- Office parks
- Multifamily housing
- Local government
- Industrial
- Golf courses
- Environmental organizations

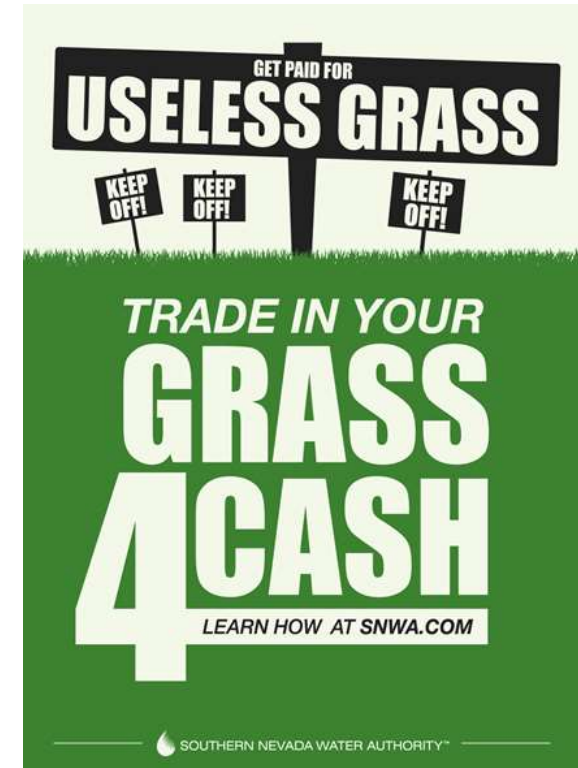
Meetings are already under way, and the committee's recommendations report is expected by early 2022



Implementation

The SNWA is allocating staff and resources to meet the anticipated demand for Water Smart Landscapes projects

- Initial response to the legislation has been a 200+ percent increase in multi-family conversion appointments and a 300+ percent increase in commercial/institutional appointments
- The SNWA has engaged a third-party contractor to support administrative/processing activities; staff at peak levels is expected to surpass 20 FTE
- Incentive outlays over the next five years are expected to surpass \$300 million
- The SNWA will continuously engage affected property owners throughout the implementation period





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