

SUSTAINABLE WATER SYSTEMS

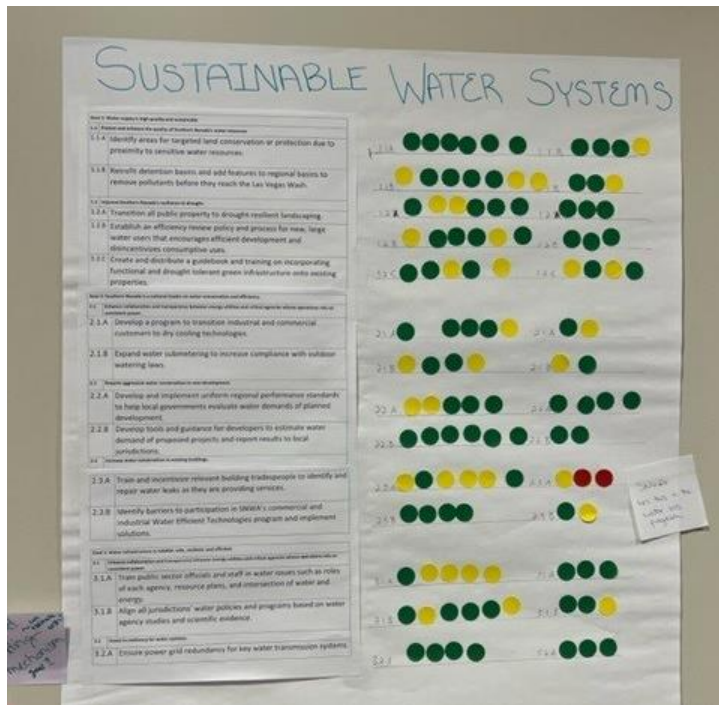
MAIN TAKEAWAYS

- Some general concern for funding and specific action steps, with a desire to make sure actions are set up for implementation success.
- Specific mechanisms and audiences can be altered to achieve desired implementation outcomes of actions, for example training and providing insurance for residents may be more appropriate and realistic than training building tradespeople (2.3.A).
- In general, a desire to see the achievements and successes of current water conservation and resiliency initiatives communicated more robustly.
- Ensuring that County, jurisdictions, and agencies priorities and plans are aligned through more frequent collaboration and education is a priority.
- Some actions are in progress (e.g., 1.1.B detention basins) and these should be reframed to indicate continuation or find mechanism for bolstering County support.
- Some actions should rely on building off and expanding existing resources and programs to not duplicate efforts (e.g., 1.2.C landscape guidebook).

POTENTIAL NEXT STEPS

- Consider making language tweaks that were recommended for a few of the actions/strategies
- Consider reframing audience and mechanism to achieve desired outcomes for several actions
- A few actions are already happening, so may make sense to shift support and resources to those and delete out/re-frame those actions

RESULTS OF VOTING ACTIVITY



DISCUSSION SUMMARY & FEEDBACK

Action 1.1.B: Retrofit detention basins...

- Add 'Continue to' to statement. This program has been around for decades.
- Retrofitting detention basins – already occurring. Active program for past 25 years.
 - Detention basin purpose to protect life and property, also serves water quality
 - Always looking for new basins – what % of water quality capacity do we have
 - Important that plan recognizes existing work (RFCD, SNWA)
 - For those that access/pull water – do they need more water quality?
- Water column changing contaminants with increased air temperatures and based on elevation
 - B/c have wastewater districts regulated so well – limits on phosphorus and nitrogen

Action 1.2.C: Training guidebook for drought tolerant landscaping...

- SNWA board is educating top-level people – maybe need to think about gaps in education – private sector?
- County can be proactive in bringing SNWA into educational opportunities for County staff/jurisdictions
- NAIOP can be a partner
- Change language to “Update/ Expand”
- SNWA new packet include information materials on water usage within 5 ft from retaining walls = causing erosion and consumptive water loss
- How can we enforce these planting guidelines? Who will be responsible? (Look at mulberry tree ban for case study)
- Hesitant to say ‘develop’/‘Create’ due to limited resources and don’t want to duplicate efforts
- SNWA already has list
- Can we tap into relators for education re: water use and plants? Education packet?

Action 2.1.A Program to transition industrial and commercial customers to dry cooling...

- Incentives for this will be important
- Balance with rate changes
- Is this really a true water benefit? How is the water benefit determined?
- Need a cost benefit analysis for the water-energy use for dry cooling (has SNWA done this?)
- Consider mirroring Water Smart marketing campaign for turf removal or next most effective effort for conservation.

Action 2.2.B: Tools for developers to estimate water demand and report...

- Refill development incentivize with density bonus

Action 2.2.A: Develop regional performance standards for local govt. to evaluate water demand of development

- Appendix M UPC – uniform plumbing code to design water demand analysis
- Change this language to “Implement” this code

Action 2.3.A: Train and incentivize building tradespeople to repair leaks...

- If trying to target biggest water saving measures, SNWA has good water loss program relative to rest of country. Don't need to put resources into water leaks. There are water loss issues between sidewalk and house – SNWA is looking into insurance for homeowners to make repairs
- Expand beyond tradespeople to residential
 - Barrier: How to reach renters
 - Already have extensive submeters
- Define incentivize – hesitant to recommend financial incentives
- Water loss program (SNWA) includes this already – maybe not right action for this.
- Some leaks occur on properties with absent landlords, or homeowners/ managers happy to just pay the fine, rather than stop the leak.
 - What mechanism could make people pay the taxes/fees instead of opting for fines?
 - Can roll up water penalties into state taxes?
 - To stop leaks, SNWA is looking into increasing fines
- Who is going to champion and train people?
 - Which tradespeople?

Action 3.1.A: Train public sector officials and staff in water issues...

- Too much employee turnover to be worthwhile
- This relates to reviewing plans every year (proposed action)
 - Education should go further up – Council and Commission need to be included in this
 - SNWA Board of Directors includes County Commissioners, jurisdictions – does a lot of education. Education does happen but County could be more proactive in bringing water staff in for more broad education
 - Is private sector getting any of that education?
 - Make a point to go to housing authority – is it happening enough?

Local versus regional impact and action

- Our share is less than 2% of Colorado River, Allotment - 0.0039% of water with a 3.7 ft impact on Lake Mead
 - Long-term solution is working regionally
 - Local action helps for regional coordination – validating the need
- County and local decision making with regional and national coordination
 - Worth County touting this collaboration!
- NV has offered desalination for CA, turned down

Challenge of balancing economic growth with water supply

- SNWA strategy thus far – do no harm in terms of local community
 - Reduce water use locally
 - Projected growth – balance economic benefits with limited water supply
- SNWA has already have hit low hanging fruit, going to start having impacts on businesses in communities, impacts on HOAs that don't want to transition turf (costs \$\$)
 - What is alternative? Limit new development and new connections
- Issue: selling off BLM land to municipalities

- o Selling it will increase development/water use
- Cost vs benefit – at what point does it break?

Encouraging conservation in large users

- Examine penalty fees, businesses internalize the cost if it's set too low
- Fine often cheaper than retrofitting/changing technology
- News calls out big water users, those are the people that just pay the fine. Looking to increase fine b/c not affecting high rollers.
- Carrot and stick

MISSING ACTIONS & TOPICS

STRATEGY EDIT 2.2: SNHBA would like to see the 'Required' removed from this strategy (already doing this!)

(Strategy 3.1) Action that ensures alignment of regional, agency, and department plans with SNWA Water Resources Plan

- **Action idea:** Reference current/future SNWA water resources plans annually to make sure All-In actions don't get dated quickly with changing annual plans
 - o Review SNWA Water Resources, Southern Nevada Health District, regional Flood Control District Master Plan for progress, alignment and assessing opportunities to collaborate and reinforce action across agencies.
- Has occurred in past where a plan had a water section and never reviewed SNWA plans or collaborated with SNWA – goal is to make sure jurisdictions are aligned. Ensure plans are not siloed
- This proposed action aligns with the training staff/public officials

Action that celebrates success of conservation efforts to date

- In addition to taking credit for work that has already been done, documenting what would happen without them
 - o Most sustainability plans lack monitoring and evaluation framework – by assessing what has already been done, suggesting how to measure/assess
- Educate community that low hanging fruit is done but it isn't enough. Celebrate success but create imperative for future.
- Celebrate achievements and inform community – can County have a robust marketing/education campaigns like SNWA?

Action that promotes exploring new technology

- Consider adding 1.2.3 - Collaborate with orgs/agencies to recruit or identify tech companies that can address drought issues and provide solutions for private sector.
- Prioritize pilot projects to remove water pollution - "Explore innovative technologies for removing pollutants from nonpoint source runoff"

Action that aligns private sector interests with conservation targets

- Consider 2.3.B or creating 2.3.C - to work collaboratively with largest private users to align water consumption with ESP reporting priorities and goals (i.e., gaming)

Action related to funding to support County action prioritization

- Finding funding mechanisms for these actions will be critical to their success.
 - Can we estimate costs so the County can prioritize?
 - Does finding funding need to be it's own goal?
 - What are you going to lose as an agency to implement these
 - Unfunded mandates are often not effective
 - CIDs and LIDs
- This could be addressed in implementation blueprints