

NEVADA LEGISLATURE

## Shutting off water: Bill gives SNWA power to cut supply for Las Vegas valley residents who use too much

by: Greg Haas  
Posted: Mar 2, 2023 / 12:44 PM PST  
Updated: Mar 2, 2023 / 12:47 PM PST



SHARE

LAS VEGAS (KLAS) — Sweeping powers to limit residential water use are part of legislation introduced last week in Carson City.

As Lake Mead continues to shrink and the ominous “bathtub ring” just gets bigger, the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) could get the authority to limit how much water residents can use. It’s one of many powers proposed under Assembly Bill 220 (AB220).

The formal legalese in the bottom half of the 2,723-word “digest” of AB220 says:

“Section 27 of this bill authorizes the Board of Directors of the Authority to restrict the use of water by a single-family residence to not more than 0.5 acre-feet of water during any year in which a shortage on the Colorado River has been declared by the Federal Government.”

The federal government formally declared a water shortage in August 2021, so if the bill becomes law, the effect would be immediate.



The shoreline changes as water recedes at Lake Mead in this photo from early February, 2023. (Duncan Phenix / 8NewsNow)

The loose measurement of 0.5 acre-feet of water translates literally to 162,925.5 gallons — well below the average usage of homes here. The Las Vegas Valley Water District in 2018 said the average home uses just over 100,000 gallons a year. An acre-foot has been described generally as enough water for two to three homes for a year. That’s a description used around the country, and not specific to the desert climate of Southern Nevada.

AB220 also formally establishes a new power for SNWA’s general manager: the authority to restrict water usage during certain water emergencies and shortages. SNWA’s board of directors would review the decision before it goes into place.

The bill is clearly aimed at giving SNWA the power to shut off the water to some of the valley’s biggest users. But who are they?

In 2021, 8 News Now revealed the Top 100 residential water users in the valley, including a home in Spanish Gate owned by the Prince of Brunei that used more than 12 million gallons. Two other homes used more than 10 million gallons.

When the story aired, Bronson Mack with the Las Vegas Valley Water District said 20% of customers use about 40% of water.

See the list of top residential water users here:

**I-Team: Top water users in the Las Vegas valley revealed** ➤

I-Team: Top water users in the Las Vegas valley revealed



Another report detailed the Top 15 water users — both commercial and residential — in Las Vegas, Henderson and North Las Vegas. Find that breakdown here:

**Top Las Vegas valley water users in 2021** ➤

But there’s much more in AB220 that puts teeth into the message of conservation.

Section 31 of the bill outright prohibits the use of Colorado River water for irrigating nonfunctional turf on any parcel of property that is not used exclusively as a single-family residence. Many of SNWA’s

Breaking & Daily News E-mails

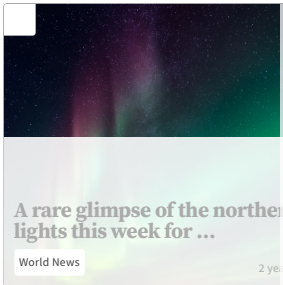


SIGN-UP

### TRENDING STORIES

- VIDEO: Police fire 16 rounds at woman accused in ...**
- Woman in custody, man wanted for murder**
- Family of 13-year-old runaway asks for public’s help**
- Former Raiders QB Carr going to New Orleans Saints**
- School principal frustrated with speeding drivers**

### WORLD NEWS



A rare glimpse of the northern lights this week for ...

World News

2 ye

View All World News

conservation efforts have been directed at accomplishing this over the past few years.

And while it might not appear on the surface to have anything to do with water conservation, the bill requires any property owner with a septic tank within 400 feet of existing sewer lines to get connected to the sewer system by Jan. 1, 2054. Water that travels through the sewers is reclaimed as it is processed on its way to Lake Mead. Septic systems remove water from the system completely. It could be an expensive proposition for any property owner, as AB220 removes language that says the property owner can't be charged more than \$200.

The bill also requires use of irrigation controllers and sprinklers that have been certified under the WaterSense program.

AB220 also revises existing state law about "connecting a well to a municipal water system." Instead, it will provide money to pay some costs for plugging and abandoning a well, and connecting the property to a municipal water system "under certain circumstances."

The bill's sponsor is listed as the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources. It was introduced on Feb. 23.

Copyright 2023 Nexstar Media Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

BESTREVIEWS



Big bags are back in 2023: Here are 20 to fill your ...

HANDBAGS & WALLETSS / 1 Hour Ago

For those who despised the itty-bitty bag, you're in luck. In 2023, you no longer have to sacrifice convenience for chic, because oversized bags are back.



Rinnai tankless water heater vs. Rheem tankless water ...

BATH ACCESSORIES / 2 Hours Ago

When you're looking for unlimited on-demand hot water, a tankless water heater is the way to go. When selecting between Rinnai and Rheem, which is better?



Which Bluetooth speaker is the loudest?

AUDIO & VIDEO ACCESSORIES / 2 Hours Ago

While there are different kinds of wired speakers, the best for mobility are ones that use Bluetooth technology.

View All BestReviews

TOP STORIES



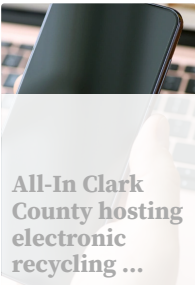
Woman in custody, man wanted for murder



Former Raiders QB Carr going to New Orleans Saints



Drivers express concern ahead of construction project



All-In Clark County hosting electronic recycling ...

Top Stories

MORE STORIES



Animal cruelty punishment increases under AB159



Woman in custody, man wanted for murder



Former Raiders QB Carr going to New Orleans Saints



Drivers express concern ahead of construction project



All-In Clark County hosting electronic recycling ...



Family of 13-year-old runaway asks for public's help



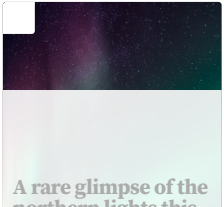
CCFD responds to fire Boulder Station



Politics Now: March 4, 2023

More Stories

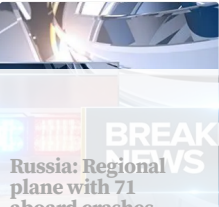
WORLD NEWS



A rare glimpse of the northern lights this



Japan marks 7th anniversary of tsunami that



Russia: Regional plane with 71 aboard smashes

READ NEXT >

VIDEO: Police fire 16 rounds at woman accused in robbery, car chase

READ NEXT >

Next story in 5

Cancel