What We Do:

- Regional water supply planning
- Conservation programming
- Water Quality
- Facility construction
- Operate Major Regional Facilities
Colorado River resources meet 90 percent of Southern Nevada’s water demands.
- 5th largest economy in the world
- 85% water used for agriculture
Nevada receives 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water annually.
The Colorado River Basin has been experiencing severe drought conditions.
Lake Powell’s annual inflows continue to be below normal.
SNWA’s Intakes in Operation (2004)
Lake Mead’s water levels are projected to decline.

Bureau of Reclamation’s March 24-Month Study

Shortage Conditions Begin

Elevation of Intake 1

*Projected end-of-month elevations
Drought conditions are expected to continue.
What We’re Doing:

- Reducing Demands
- Working with Colorado River partners
- Securing temporary and long-term supplies
- Safeguarding our access
Southern Nevada consumptively used about 32 billion gallons less water in 2013 than in 2002, despite annual population increases and millions of annual visitors.
Since Water Smart Landscapes Program inception:

- $205 million invested to date
- 78 billion gallons saved
- 168 million square feet of turf converted*

*Southern Nevada has removed enough grass for a roll of sod to extend 85 percent of earth’s circumference! (Approximately 25,000 miles)
What We’re Doing:

- Reducing Demands
- Working with Colorado River partners
- Securing temporary and long-term supplies
- Safeguarding our access
In the years following the onset of the drought, conflict existed among the states:

Lake Mead/Lake Powell operating plans
Timing/Quantity of Shortages
River Augmentation
Interim Surplus Guidelines timeframes
The seven Colorado River Basin States spent years finalizing an agreement that addressed concerns.

- **Lake Mead/Lake Powell operating plans**
  - Two reservoirs now operated jointly.

- **Timing/Quantity of Shortages**
  - AZ and NV share shortages, based on Lake Mead elevations.

- **River Augmentation**
  - An additional category of surplus was created: “Intentionally Created Surplus”

- **Interim Surplus Guidelines Timeframes**
  - Amended and extended the ISG through 2026
The United States also began working with Mexico to address basin-wide concerns.
What We’re Doing:

- Reducing Demands
- Working with Colorado River partners
- Securing temporary and long-term supplies
- Safeguarding our access
Temporary water supplies will meet interim demands until more permanent supplies are developed.

Arizona Water Bank
California Water Bank
Southern Nevada Water Bank
Virgin and Muddy River Tributary Conservation and Imported ICS
Brock Reservoir ICS
Yuma Desalting Plant
Extraordinary Conservation ICS
Binational ICS
A water supply separate from the drought-stricken Colorado River is necessary.
What We’re Doing:

- Reducing Demands
- Working with Colorado River partners
- Securing temporary and long-term supplies
- Safeguarding our access
The SNWA is constructing a third intake in Lake Mead to access the deepest part of the lake.
- Replaces capacity in the event declining lake levels render Lake Mead Intake No. 1 inoperable
- Accesses water of best quality (deepest part of lake)
- Construction started 2008; to be finished in 2015
Major Project Components

- 3 shafts
  (Up to 30 ft. diameter and 600 ft deep)
- 4 miles of tunnel
  (Up to 20 ft in diameter)
- A 100-ft tall steel and concrete intake structure on the lake bottom
Tunnel Boring Machine

Cutter Discs

Irreparable Cutter Discs

Worn Cutter Disc
Cement trucks for intake structure placement

Intake structure
Current Tunnel Progress - 56%

INTAKE STRUCTURE
Completed Mar 2012

Underground Tunnel Excavation Completed May 2013

Completed Jun 2010

WATER TREATMENT FACILITY
Since its formation in 1991, the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) has actively engaged the public in its decision making processes through integrated resource planning.
In early 2012, the SNWA Board again convened an advisory committee to develop recommendations that address the challenges faced by Southern Nevada’s water utility managers:

**Phase I (concluded September 2013)**
- Review the previous rate increase
- Made recommendations to address future funding requirements

**Phase II (Began February 2014)**
- Long-term facility planning
- Water resource development and management
- Facility construction and maintenance
- Conservation
- Water Quality
SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY®