

NEVADA DIVISION OF
WATER RESOURCES



Nevada Department of
**CONSERVATION &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

Summary of State Water Plan Field Tours

Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting
January 16, 2024

Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR)
Water Planning and Drought Resiliency
Section (WP&DR)

OVERVIEW OF PURPOSE AND PROCESS

Goals: Get a better sense of the water-related issues and challenges across the state, and connect with stakeholders and interested parties in-person to have more in-depth discussions

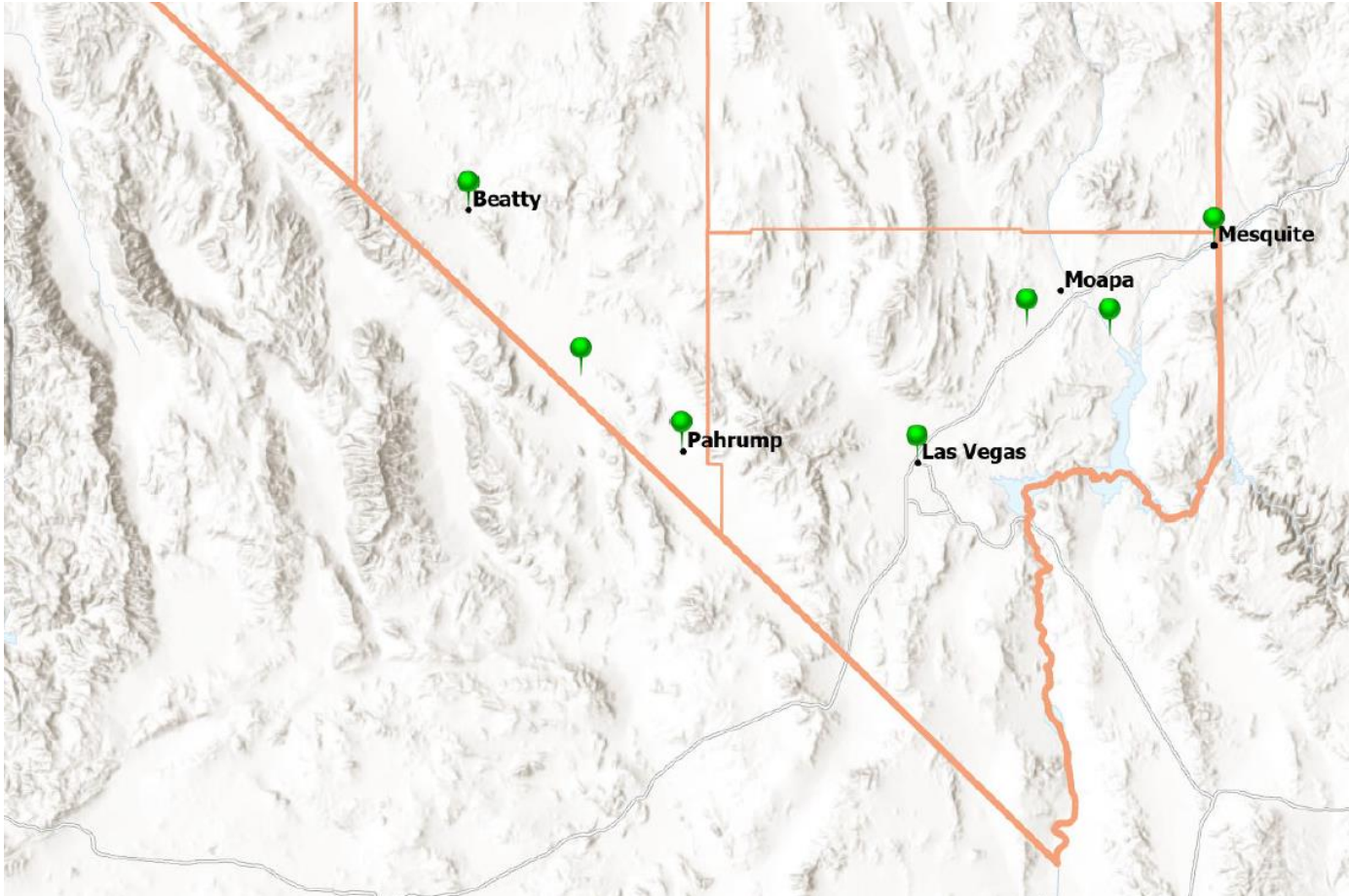
Discussion Topics:

- What are the major water-related *issues and challenges* for your community & the region?
- What do you/your community see as *solutions* to the challenges?
- What, if any, are the *barriers* to addressing these challenges?
- How could the *State Water Plan* help address these challenges?
- What *data & information* could be included in the SWP to make it most useful for you?
- Do you have any water-related *success stories* you want to share?

Process: Synthesized notes within and across field tours and categorized into 1) major themes; 2) additional themes; 3) specific challenges; 4) recommendations for the State Water Plan; and 5) success stories

Outcome: Obtain additional input for the SWP and content for facilitated stakeholder workshop

ITINERARY: SOUTHERN NEVADA (SEPT 25-29, 2023)



- The Nature Conservancy – Oasis Valley
- USFWS – Ash Meadows NWR
- Nye County Water District – Pahrump
- SNWA – Las Vegas Valley, Blue Diamond
- Moapa Valley Water District
- Moapa Band of Paiutes
- Virgin Valley Water District

MAJOR THEMES: SOUTHERN NEVADA

Growth

- Important for local economies
- Threat to existing populations and ecosystems
- Issues can be mitigated with well-planned and controlled development & intentional coordination & communication

Climate Change

- Threatens future water supplies, especially for ecosystems and vulnerable water systems
- Protecting areas for their ecological value is important

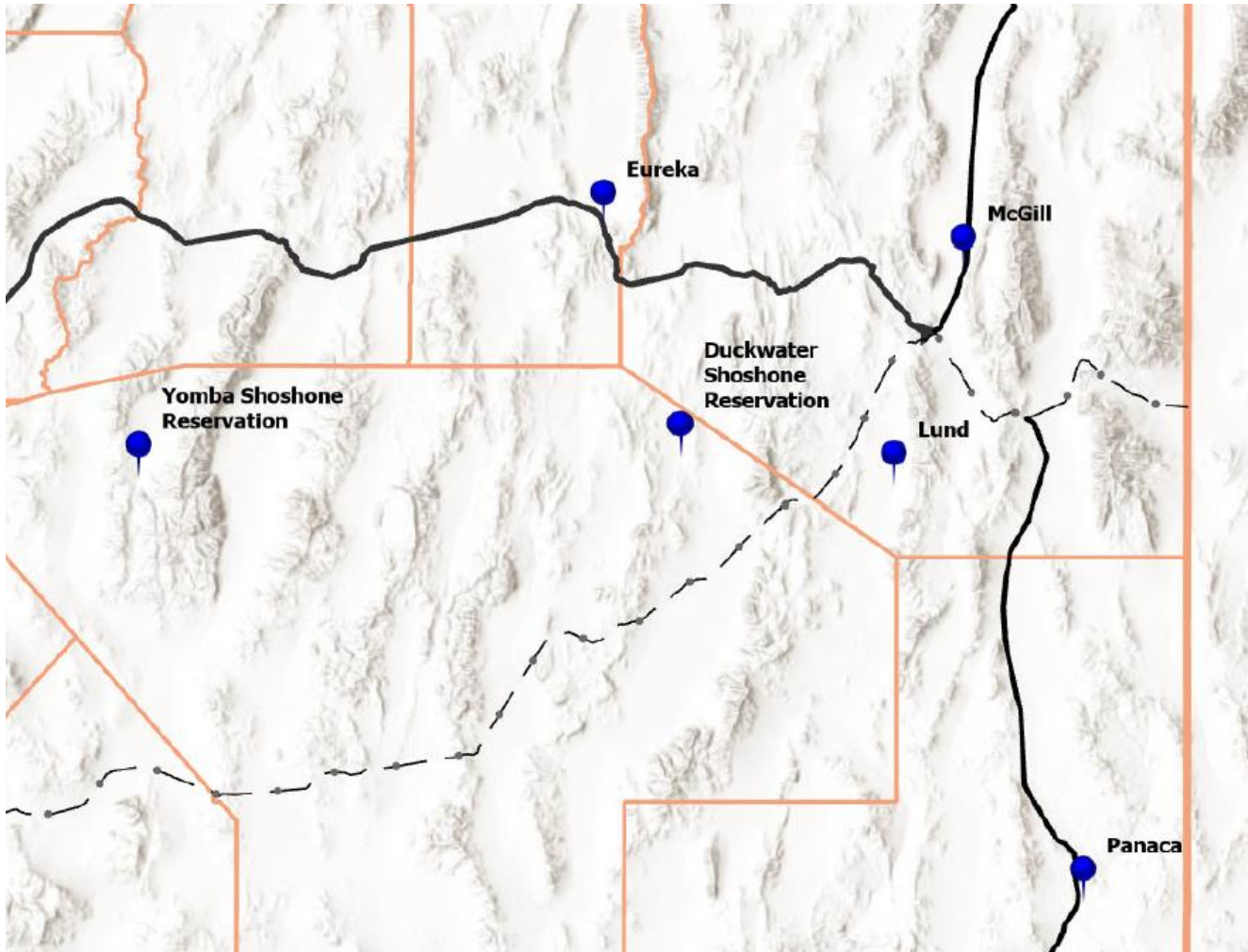
Additional Water Sources

- Access to additional water sources is limited in most areas of the state due to basin hydrology, legal frameworks, funding, and/or water quality challenges

Water Waste & Conservation

- There is still progress to be made with reducing water waste and improving water conservation in populated areas

ITINERARY: CENTRAL/EASTERN NEVADA (OCT 30 – NOV 3, 2023)



- Yomba Shoshone Tribe
- Eureka County Natural Resources Dept.
- Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
- Ruth McGill Sewer & Water
- White Pine County (ag community)
- Lincoln County Water District

MAJOR THEMES: CENTRAL NEVADA

Relationships

- Building and maintaining good relationships can make all the difference; poor relationships leave problems unaddressed

Data

- Data are extremely important for water management, and the data need to be accessible

Funding

- Water-related funding needs vary greatly by community in central and eastern Nevada, but resources for pursuing funding are often limited

Transparency

- Decisions that impact the community need to be made public and transparent

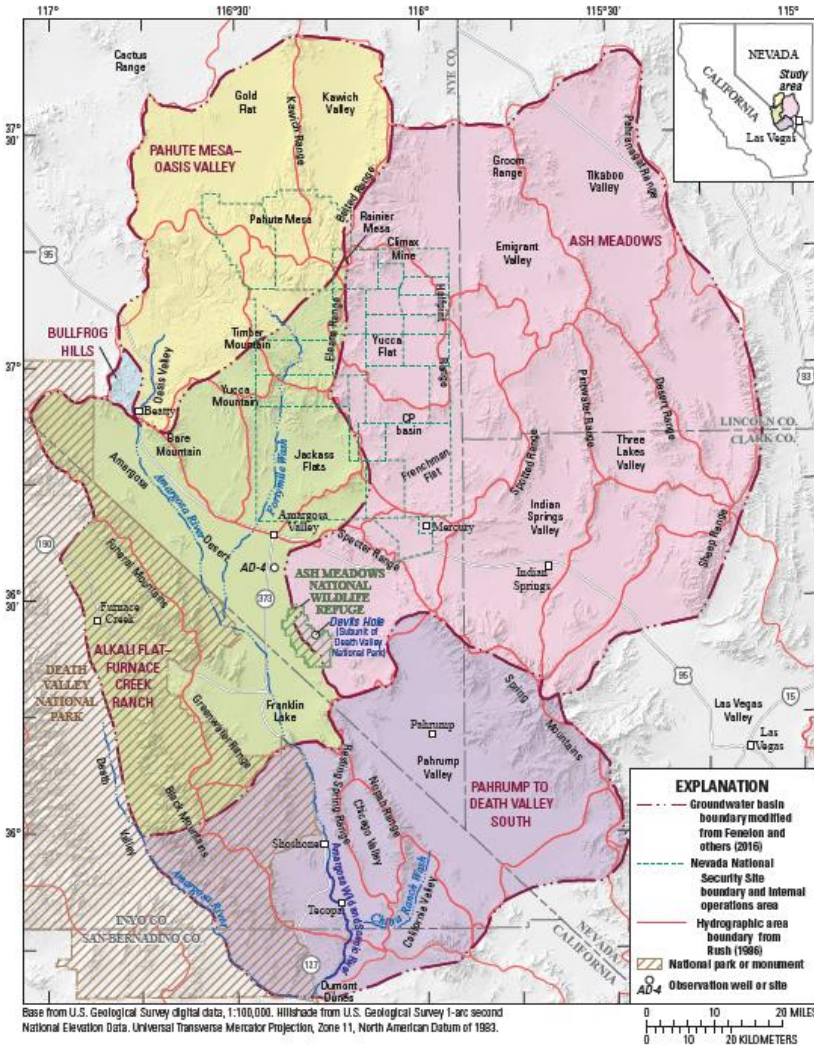
COMMON THEMES

Over-appropriation of groundwater is a concern people want to see addressed

Need to analyze the **cumulative effects** of development

Want to see more **guidance from the State**

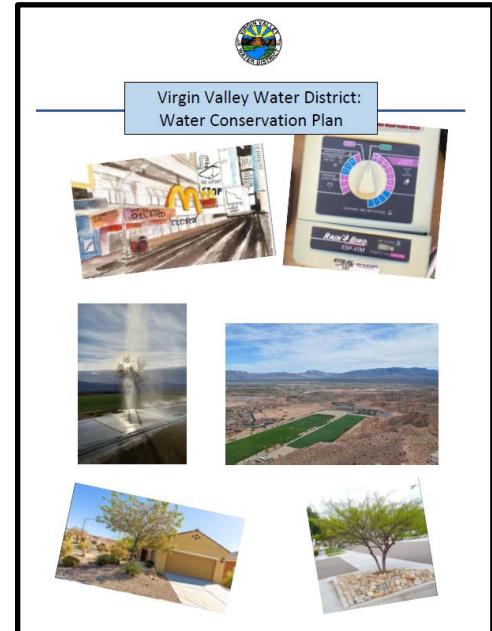
SUCCESS STORIES



Assembly Bill No. 356—Committee on Ways and Means

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to water; prohibiting, with certain exceptions, the use of water from the Colorado River to irrigate nonfunctional turf on certain property; requiring the Board of Directors of the Southern Nevada Water Authority to develop a plan for the removal of nonfunctional turf on certain property; creating and setting forth the duties of the Nonfunctional Turf Removal Advisory Committee; requiring the Legislative Committee on Public Lands to conduct a study concerning water conservation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.



STATE WATER PLAN

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

Transparency

- Science behind agency decisions
- Internal NDWR policies

Guidance

- Local water planning
- Sharing of best practices and consistent methodologies
- “Smart from the Start” development
- Water rights retirements
- Indigenous knowledge

Data

- Accessible and digestible

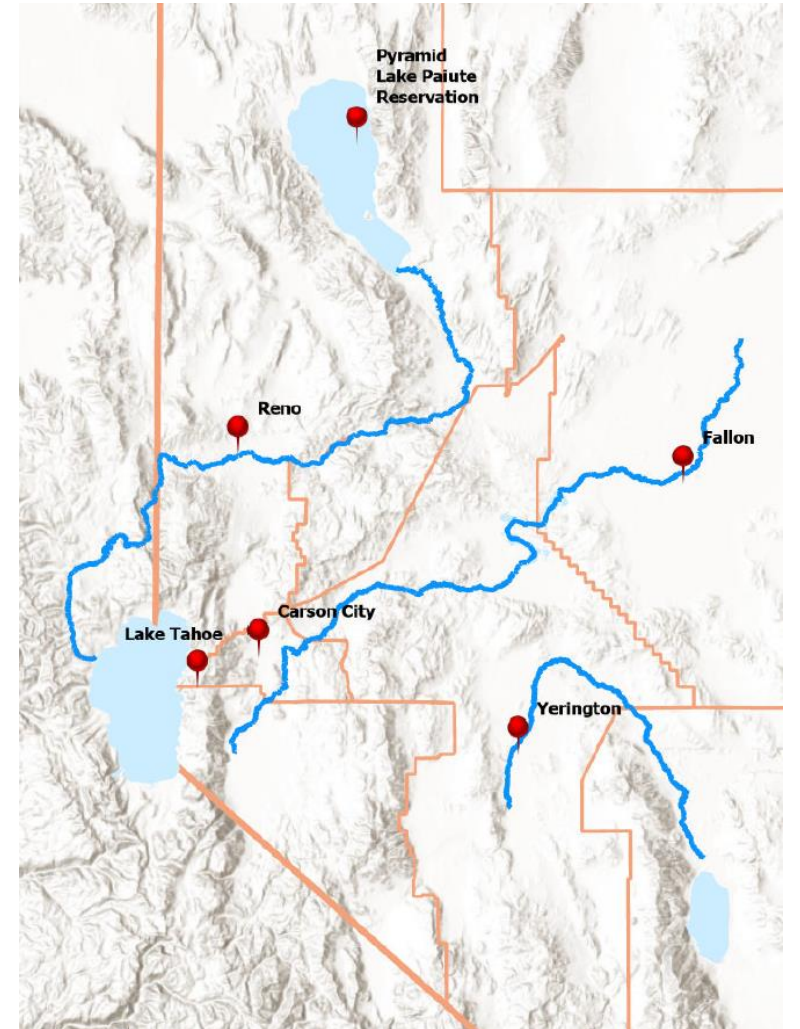
Education

- For legislatures, communities, etc.
- Spiritual and cultural significance of water resources for tribes

NEXT STEPS



- I-80/Humboldt River field tour tentatively slated for April/May 2024
- Local day trips (~1/month) from Jan-May 2024



Questions?

