



Nevada Division of

WATER RESOURCES

State Water Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group Charter

Authority:

The State Water Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) is established through the authority contained in Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 540, which authorizes the Chief of the Water Planning Section for the Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR) to carry out the activities of the Section for the State of Nevada.

Purpose and Mission:

The purpose of the SAG is to represent a diverse set of interests to advise the Chief on water resource planning in Nevada. Specific charges to the SAG are to work collaboratively to provide recommendations for the update of the State Water Plan through the following actions:

- a) Convene meetings that enable effective and efficient sharing of information
- b) Encourage productive conversations that include all perspectives
- c) Foster an inclusive environment where everyone can freely contribute ideas
- d) Develop a comprehensive State Water Plan that represents, and is useful for, Nevadans
- e) Provide a forum to learn about water resource challenges facing different water users
- f) Identify opportunities to improve water resource planning
- g) Identify the best-available science and data
- h) Foster a transparent public engagement process
- i) Create a process for public input that can be replicated for future State Water Plan updates

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Officers of the SAG shall consist of the Chair and Vice Chair. The SAG will be Chaired by the Chief, and the Vice Chair will be a Water Resource Specialist of the Water Planning Section of NDWR.

SAG members consist of individuals invited by the Chief, who serve at the pleasure of and with approval from the State Engineer. Each member represents a unique interest group and brings topical and/or geographic diversity. The roles and responsibilities of NDWR and the SAG are outlined below.

NDWR staff are responsible for:

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- Convening the SAG, facilitating meetings, summarizing discussions, and collating information
- Acquiring and analyzing data related to water resources in Nevada
- Drafting the sections of the State Water Plan
- Soliciting additional expertise when needed (e.g., other state and federal technical partners)
- Ensuring clear and timely communication with SAG members, including notification of meetings
- Considering all comments and concerns expressed by SAG members
- Remaining cognizant of SAG time commitments and adjusting workload as needed

SAG members are responsible for:

- Attending scheduled SAG meetings, unless absence is communicated with NDWR staff
- Actively contributing to discussions in a constructive manner
- Being courteous while others are speaking and providing their perspectives
- Responding to communication from NDWR staff in a timely manner
- Reviewing draft sections of the State Water Plan
- Providing input and feedback for the State Water Plan update, including developing recommendations for improving water resource planning

NDWR recognizes many things can happen over the planning period (2023-2025) that may result in members withdrawing from the SAG. Withdrawal from the SAG needs to be communicated as soon possible so an alternative stakeholder can be identified. Ideally, the SAG member will recommend a stakeholder and discuss the transition with NDWR Water Planning Section staff.

Meetings:

Meetings will be conducted on a quarterly basis (four times a year) as needed and will be dictated by the progression of the State Water Plan update.

All meetings are subject to the Nevada Open Meeting Law contained in Chapter 241 of the Nevada Revised Statutes.

Voting:

A simple majority of voting members present at a SAG meeting constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business pursuant to the Nevada Open Meeting Law.

Proxies are not recognized by the Nevada Open Meeting Law: proxies do not count towards quorum and cannot vote.

NDWR is seeking broad stakeholder input to inform the update of the State Water Plan. The purpose of the SAG is to gain insight on water resource challenges faced by various sectors and water users, and to foster discussion among stakeholders representing different interests. Thus, the SAG serves only in an advisory capacity and is not a decision-making body. SAG meetings will be discussion-based, and no actions involving the content of the State Water Plan will be approved, or voted on, by the SAG. Content

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to be included in the State Water Plan is at the discretion of NDWR and approved by the State Engineer. However, the State Water Plan is intended to be useful and relevant for Nevadans, and comments from the SAG will be vital to shaping the topics, findings, and recommendations.

Communications:

NDWR will maintain a portion of their website to present SAG meeting materials to the public in accordance with Open Meeting Law provisions. This webpage will also include items the Chief and/or the SAG find useful to share with our Nevada community to enhance our water resource planning tools, techniques, and practices.