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Groundwater Update

WINTER 2001

A PUBLICATION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AND THE SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY

Well users benefit from financial assistance program

In 1999, the Nevada State Legislature passed several laws to benefit well users and further the goals of the Las Vegas Valley Groundwater Management Program (GMP). These laws define conditions a well must meet before the Nevada State Engineer can require the well user to hook up to a municipal water supply, including failure of the existing well and existence of municipal service

within 180 feet or less of the well's place of use. The Legislature also mandated a financial assistance program to help well users affected by this well connection policy in the future. The financial assistance is funded in part through the GMP annual fee assessed to all valley well users.

The Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) manages and implements the financial assistance program

for domestic, community, quasi-municipal and commercial wells. Working with our area's municipal water service providers (City of Henderson, City of North Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Valley Water District), the SNWA administers grant monies generated under the GMP to provide assistance to well users hooking up to municipal service. There are three areas of assistance under the program:

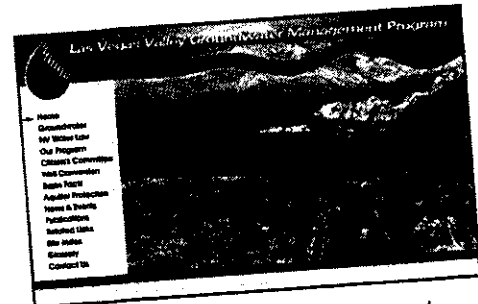
- **Offsite grant** - Offsite grant assistance is 85 percent of the total offsite construction, up to 180 feet.
- **Onsite grant** - Onsite grant assistance is to establish the service between the street and the residence, or from the meter to the residence. The grant assistance is \$500 in all cases; the customer is responsible for any charges over and above \$500.
- **Plugging and abandonment grant** - Plugging and abandonment of the well is provided free of charge to the user. The SNWA has entered into a contract with a well rigger to perform all the plugging and abandonment required for this program. All well users receiving grant assistance for municipal service hookup under the GMP must plug and abandon the well previously serving the property(ies).

As of Nov. 1, 2000, 45 well users had applied for financial assistance under the GMP. While some were mandated by the Nevada State Engineer to connect to municipal water, the majority of these well owners connected voluntarily. G₁

New Web site offers well users online help

The official Web site of the Las Vegas Valley Groundwater Management Program is up and running. Visit www.LasVegasGMP.com to find answers to your groundwater questions, research Nevada water law or learn about well conversion, aquifer protection, the citizens advisory committee and more.

Visitors will be able to view real-time telemetry data used to check water levels in the groundwater aquifer. Information is also available on how to best protect wells from contamination, how to read a water meter, how to search groundwater basin maps or get an application form for the new well financial assistance program. G₁



The Las Vegas Groundwater Management Program Web Site