

Update on Programs and Activities of the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority

Legislative Committee on Public Lands
May 18, 2018

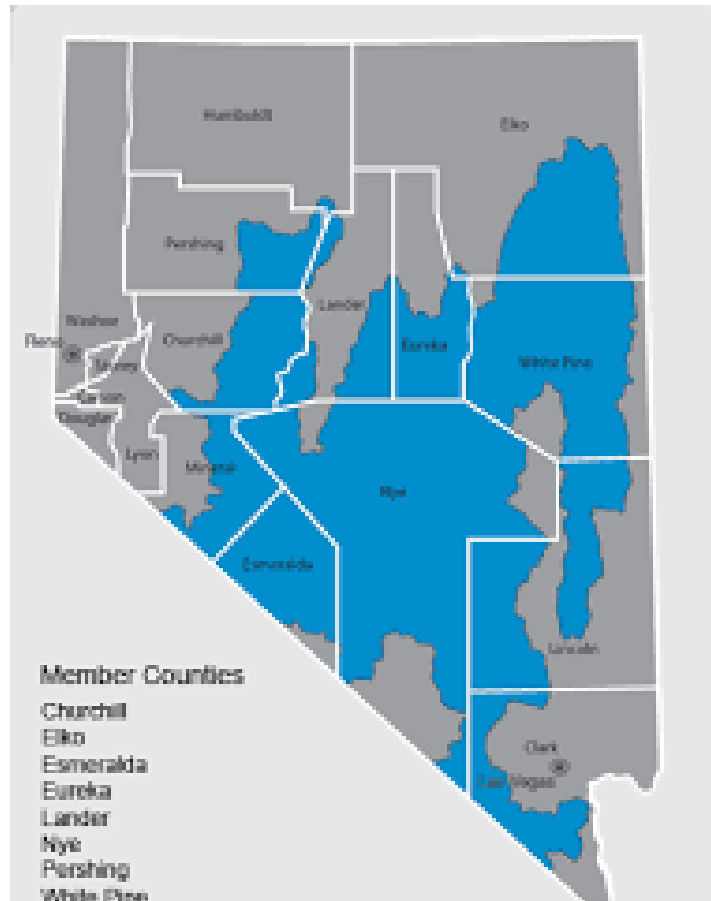
Jeff Fontaine, Executive Director

What is the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority?

- The Central Nevada Regional Water Authority (CNRWA) is a unit of local government established by agreement of member counties in 2005 pursuant to NRS 277 - Nevada's Interlocal Cooperation Act.
- The Authority has 8 member counties (Churchill, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Lander, Nye, Pershing and White Pine) which cover approximately 63 percent of Nevada's land area.
- The Authority has a 24-member board of directors consisting of county commissioners and community members appointed by the county commissions.



What is the Central Hydrographic Region?



- In order for a county to be a member of the Authority it must contain a portion of the Nevada Central Hydrographic Region.
- The Central Hydrographic Region as defined by the Nevada Division of Water Resources consists of 78 groundwater basins in 12 Nevada counties
- The Region is the largest of the Nevada's 14 hydrographic regions, covering much of central, eastern and southern Nevada.
- The Central Hydrographic Region is characterized by: the absence of regional surface water flows, groundwater basins that are often interconnected by subsurface flow, deep bedrock aquifers, and some productive alluvial aquifers.

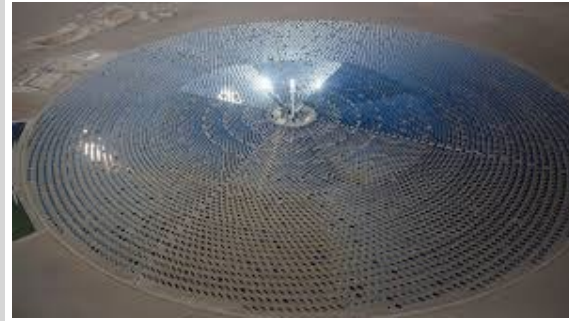
Mission Statement

The Central Nevada Regional Water Authority's mission is to protect the water resources in member counties so these counties will not only have an economic future, but their valued quality of life and natural environment is maintained.

Central Nevada Economy



- Mining
- Agriculture
- Tourism



Central Nevada Economy (cont.)

- Renewable Energy
- Recreation
- Wildlife

Functions of the CNRWA

To combine fiscal and staff resources to obtain technical support, legal counsel and policy advice necessary for sound water resource decisions by the member counties

To formulate and present a united position on water and water-related issues to the appropriate government entity

To monitor, assess and respond to water projects that may adversely impact a member county

To develop and implement a groundwater monitoring program in areas of interest in the member counties

To encourage citizen participation in water and water-related issues of importance to member counties.

CNRWA Groundwater Monitoring Program

- CNRWA collects water level measurements from 51 wells in 12 groundwater basins to: determine temporal trends, identify the occurrence and movement of groundwater and help quantify subsurface flow between basins
- The wells were selected in concert with the USGS and the Nevada Division of Water Resources (DWR) to fill gaps. DWR does not collect groundwater pumping data from wells in these 12 groundwater basins.
- In 8 of the 12 basins in 2018, static water levels fluctuated somewhat, generally in response to drought, or where above average precipitation occurred.
- The other four groundwater basins, (Railroad Valley, Clayton Valley, Alkali Springs Valley and Jakes Valley) experienced noticeable water level changes in the recent past, due in large part, to groundwater pumping and/or drought.

Water Resource Concerns

- Water Demand-Supply Gap
- Balancing Demands among Domestic, Municipal, Agricultural and Industrial Users
- Drought
- Over Appropriation of Groundwater Resources
- Protection of Existing Water Rights
- Interbasin Transfer of Groundwater from Rural Nevada to Urban Nevada
- Water Quality

Over Appropriation of Groundwater Resources

- 34 of the 78 groundwater basins in the Central Hydrographic Region are designated groundwater basins.
- Designated groundwater basins are basins where permitted groundwater rights approach or exceed the estimated average annual recharge and the water resources are being depleted or require additional administration. Under such conditions, a state's water officials will so designate a groundwater basin and, in the interest of public welfare, declare preferred uses (e.g., municipal and industrial, domestic, agriculture, etc.).

Moving
Forward

Monitoring and Data

Technology

Land Use Plan and Sustainable
Water Resources

Nevada's Water Future

Questions?

