



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

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<http://water.nv.gov>

March 7, 2019

RECEIVED  
3-11-19  
mam

Silver Springs Mutual Water Company  
P.O. Box 285  
Silver Springs, NV 89429

Re: Water Conservation Plan

To Whom It May Concern:

Each water supplier that provides water for municipal, industrial, and domestic purposes is required to adopt a water conservation plan that must be updated every 5 years. Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) §540.121 through NRS §540.151 define the required contents of water conservation plans. A copy of these statutes is enclosed for your reference, **including the updated language/new requirements due to the 2017 Legislative Session.**

In addition to the benefits of water conservation for energy savings, water quality and the environment, water conservation planning is important for defining your system's response to drought. NRS §540.141(1)(d) requires that water conservation plans include a contingency plan for drought conditions that ensures a supply of potable water. In view of continuing conditions of below average precipitation throughout much of the state, your water conservation planning is timely and important.

Please review your water conservation plan for Silver Springs Mutual Water Company; if it is older than five (5) years, or does not fulfill the new statutory requirements, then it will need to be updated and resubmitted to this office. If you do not have a water conservation plan, then you will need to create one. All water conservation plans must be forwarded to the Division of Water Resources for review. If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (775) 684-2800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Brownlee".

Amanda Brownlee, P.E.  
Water Planning Engineer

AB/aa  
Enclosure

**NRS 540.121 “Supplier of water” defined.** As used in NRS 540.121 to 540.151, inclusive, “supplier of water” includes, but is not limited to:

1. Any county, city, town, local improvement district, general improvement district and water conservancy district;
2. Any water district, water system, water project or water planning and advisory board created by a special act of the Legislature; and
3. Any other public or private entity, that supplies water for municipal, industrial or domestic purposes. The term does not include a public utility required to adopt a plan of water conservation pursuant to NRS 704.662.

**NRS 540.131 Plan of water conservation:** Procedure for adoption and updating of plan; review of plan by Section; joint plans permitted by certain suppliers; duties of local governing body.

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, each supplier of water which supplies water for municipal, industrial or domestic purposes shall, on or before July 1, 1992, adopt a plan of water conservation based on the climate and the living conditions of its service area in accordance with the provisions of NRS 540.141, and shall update the plan pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 4. The provisions of the plan must apply only to the supplier’s property and its customers. The supplier of water shall submit the plan to the Section for review by the Section pursuant to subsection 3.
2. As part of the procedure of adopting a plan, the supplier of water shall provide an opportunity for any interested person, including, but not limited to, any private or public entity that supplies water for municipal, industrial or domestic purposes, to submit written views and recommendations on the plan.
3. The plan must be reviewed by the Section within **120** days after its submission and approved for compliance with this section and NRS 540.141 before it is adopted by the supplier of water.<sup>1</sup>
4. The plan:
  - (a) Must be available for inspection by members of the public during office hours at the offices of the supplier of water;
  - (b) May be revised from time to time to reflect the changing needs and conditions of the service area. Each such revision must be made available for inspection by members of the public; and
  - (c) Must be updated every 5 years and comply with the requirements of this section and NRS 540.141.
5. Suppliers of water:
  - (a) Who are required to adopt a plan of water conservation pursuant to this section; and
  - (b) Whose service areas are located in a common geographical area, may adopt joint plans of water conservation based on the climate and living conditions of that common geographical area. Such a plan must comply with the requirements of this section and NRS 540.141.
6. The board of county commissioners of a county, the governing body of a city and the town board or board of county commissioners having jurisdiction of the affairs of a town shall:
  - (a) Adopt any ordinances necessary to carry out a plan of **water** conservation adopted pursuant to this section which applies to property within its jurisdiction;
  - (b) Establish a schedule of fines for the violation of any ordinances adopted pursuant to this subsection; and
  - (c) Hire such employees as it deems necessary to enforce the provisions of any ordinances it adopts pursuant to this subsection.

***The Following Bolded/Italicized and Red Language in NRS 540.141 is Required Content to be Addressed in Your Submitted Water Conservation Plan***

**NRS 540.141 Required provisions of plan or joint plan of water conservation; review by Section; posting of plans and joint plans on Internet website.<sup>2</sup>**

1. A plan or joint plan of water conservation submitted to the Section for review must include provisions relating to:
  - (a) Methods of public education to:
    - (1) Increase public awareness of the limited supply of water in this State and the need to conserve water.

<sup>1</sup> The 2017 Nevada Legislature amended NRS 540.131 from 30 days 120 days for submission and approval of a Water Conservation Plan. Revisions in ***bolded italics***.

<sup>2</sup> The 2017 Nevada Legislature has approved the content under NRS 540.141 shown in this attachment. The content is enacted law but not yet codified on the State of Nevada’s official webpage for Nevada Revised Statute Chapter 540. Revisions in ***bolded italics***.

- (2) Encourage reduction in the size of lawns and encourage the use of plants that are adapted to arid and semiarid climates.
- (b) Specific conservation measures required to meet the needs of the service area, including, but not limited to, any conservation measures required by law.
- (c) The management of water to:
  - (1) Identify and reduce leakage in water supplies, inaccuracies in water meters and high pressure in water supplies; and
  - (2) Where applicable, increase the reuse of effluent.
- (d) A contingency plan for drought conditions that ensures a supply of potable water.
- (e) A schedule for carrying out the plan or joint plan.
- (f) A plan for how the supplier of water will progress towards the installation of meters on all connections.*
- (g) Standards for water efficiency for new development.*
- \* *(h) Tiered rate structures for the pricing of water to promote the conservation of water, including, without limitation, an estimate of the manner in which the tiered rate structure will impact the consumptive use of water.*
- (i) Watering restrictions based on the time of day and the day of the week.*
- 2. *In addition to the requirements of subsection 1, a plan or joint plan of water conservation submitted to the Section for review by a supplier of water providing service for 500 or more connections must include provisions relating to:*
  - (a) Measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan or joint plan.*
  - (b) For each conservation measure specified in the plan or joint plan, an estimate of the amount of water that will be conserved each year as a result of the adoption of the plan or joint plan, stated in terms of gallons of water saved annually.*
- 3. The Section shall review any plan or joint plan submitted to it within **120** days after its submission and approve the plan if it is based on the climate and living conditions of the service area and complies with the requirements of this section.
- 4. The Chief may exempt wholesale water purveyors from the provisions of this section which do not reasonably apply to wholesale supply.
- 5. To the extent practicable, the State Engineer shall provide on the Internet website of the State Engineer a link to the plans and joint plans that are submitted for review. In carrying out the provisions of this subsection, the State Engineer is not responsible for ensuring, and is not liable for failing to ensure, that the plans and joint plans which are provided on the Internet website are accurate and current.

**NRS 540.151 Supplier of water required to adopt plan to provide certain incentives; procedure for adoption of plan; adoption of joint plans permitted.**

- 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, each supplier of water which supplies water for municipal, industrial or domestic purposes shall adopt a plan to provide incentives:
  - (a) To encourage water conservation in its service area;
  - (b) To retrofit existing structures with plumbing fixtures designed to conserve the use of water; and
  - (c) For the installation of landscaping that uses a minimal amount of water. The supplier of water may request assistance from the Section to develop its plan.
- 2. As part of the procedure of adopting a plan, the supplier of water shall provide an opportunity for any interested person to submit written views and recommendations on the plan.
- 3. The supplier of water shall file a copy of the plan with the Section for informational purposes.
- 4. The plan:
  - (a) Must be available for inspection by members of the public during office hours at the offices of the supplier of water; and
  - (b) May be revised from time to time to reflect the changing needs and conditions of the service area. Each such revision must be made available for inspection by members of the public.
- 5. Suppliers of water:
  - (a) Who are required to adopt a plan for incentives pursuant to this section; and
  - (b) Whose service areas are located in a common geographical area, may adopt joint plans.