



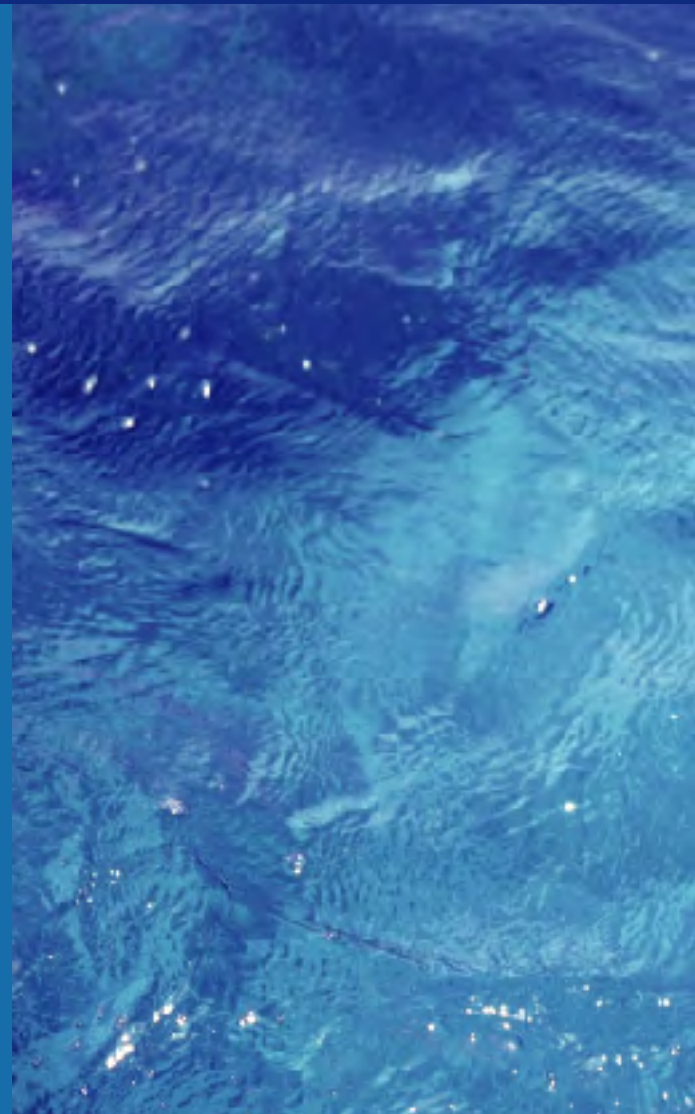
**Southern Nevada Water Authority
Youth Advisory Council**

Project Report
February 16, 2006



SOUTHERN NEVADA
WATER AUTHORITY

Youth Advisory Council



Introduction



About the SNWA Youth Advisory Council

The Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) has a strong history of commitment to public participation through citizen advisory committees and other venues. Because the youth of Southern Nevada represent the future, the SNWA Board of Directors felt it was essential that they be included in making decisions that will affect them in years to come. The inaugural SNWA Youth Advisory Council was formed in January 1999 at the request of the Board. The initial group of students reported to the Board in January 2000. Now completing its seventh year, the Youth Advisory Council is one component of H₂O University, the SNWA's youth education program.

The goal of the Youth Advisory Council is to provide a forum in which the SNWA can receive structured and unstructured input from the youth of Clark County on issues of importance to the SNWA, and on water issues that the youth see as pertinent to this community. The objectives of the council are to include Southern Nevada youth as stakeholders in SNWA activities; gather ideas from a youthful perspective; receive input on current SNWA programs; strengthen the SNWA's relationship with the Clark County School District; and offer learning activities and leadership experience for Southern Nevada youth. The Youth Advisory Council is slated to report and bring recommendations to the SNWA Board of Directors annually.

To this end, the principals of every public and private high school in Southern Nevada are asked to appoint a representative to sit on the Youth Advisory Council for one year. Twenty-five schools participated this year. The list of 2005-2006 Youth Advisory Council members and their high schools follows at the end of this section. The students were selected by their respective school principals on the basis of involvement and leadership qualities, as well as interest

in water or environmental issues. Mitch Bishop, SNWA Management Services, coordinated and facilitated the council.

While the primary purpose in forming the Youth Advisory Council is to receive input from local youth, there is also a desire and need to provide background information and education about water issues to ensure youth input is of the highest possible quality. Therefore, the students begin their tenure on the Youth Advisory Council with a 20-hour educational course on local water issues. Through this process, students learn about water conservation, water resources, water quality, the history of water in Southern Nevada, and the Las Vegas Wash. They also tour applicable sites, including the Gardens at the Springs Preserve, the River Mountains Water Treatment Facility, and the Las Vegas Wash.



*Chelsea Allen and Mheg Villanueva
at the Las Vegas Wash*

After successfully “graduating” from these education courses, the students are equipped with knowledge about the local water situation and the challenges that an arid desert community faces in providing high-quality water for its population. They are ready to think about the issues and challenges associated with water and to determine how best to address them from their unique perspective.

From April 2005 to February 2006, the current Youth Advisory Council met at least monthly to decide its area of focus, develop a plan and carry out a project focused on local water issues. During these meetings, the students developed an innovative project idea and a plan to accomplish their goal. The following report describes the project and related activities of the 2005-2006 SNWA Youth Advisory Council.



2005 - 2006 Youth Advisory Council members (left to right):

Front Row: Alissa-Dette Kirschenheiter, Christine Camama, Mheg Villanueva, Gaby Ruiz, Kim Bollinger, Julia White, Deniese Davis, Kara Robison, Neha Gupta, Amy Winn

Middle Row: Chris Lester, Scott Whitney, Chelsea Allen, Andrew Peters, Jessie Fadely, Young Yim

Back Row: Anthony McParland, RaQuan Snead, Spencer Wilde, John Powell, Clark Harrington

Not Pictured: Michael Cureton, Brittany Hanna, Ardon Lukasiewicz, D'Wayne Myles

2005-2006 SNWA Youth Advisory Council Member List

<i>NAME</i>	<i>HIGH SCHOOL</i>
Kimberly Bollinger	Advanced Technologies Academy
Michael Cureton	Basic
Amy Winn	Bishop Gorman
Clark Harrington	Bonanza
Andrew Peters	Boulder City
Deniese Davis	Centennial
Jessica Fadely	Chaparral
RaQuan Snead	Cheyenne
Spencer Wilde	Cimarron-Memorial
Young Yim	Clark
Anthony McParland	Community College - West
Alissa-Dette Kirschenheiter	Coronado
Christopher Lester	Del Sol
Gabriela Ruiz	Desert Pines
John Powell	Eldorado
Mheg Villanueva	Las Vegas
Ardon Lukasiewicz	Las Vegas Academy
Christine Camama	Liberty
Neha Gupta	The Meadows
Kara Robison	Palo Verde
Julia White	Sierra Vista
Chelsea Allen	Silverado
Scott Whitney	Valley
Brittany Hanna	Virtual / Distance Education
D'Wayne Myles	Western