



## MINUTES

### SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH SPECIAL MEETING

March 11, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting was conducted In-person and via Microsoft Teams

Southern Nevada Health District, 280 S. Decatur Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89107

Red Rock Trail Rooms A and B

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Black, Chair – Mayor Pro Tem, City of North Las Vegas (*in-person*)  
Frank Nemeec, Vice-Chair – At-Large Member, Physician (*via Teams*)  
Joseph Hardy, Secretary – Mayor, City of Boulder City (*in-person*)  
April Becker – Commissioner, Clark County (*in-person*)  
Bobbette Bond – At-Large Member, Regulated Business/Industry (*via Teams*)  
Nancy Brune – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*via Teams*)  
Pattie Gallo – Mayor Pro Tem, City of Mesquite (*via Teams*)  
Marilyn Kirkpatrick – Commissioner, Clark County (*in-person*)  
Monica Larson – Council Member, City of Henderson (*via Teams*)  
Scott Nielson – At-Large Member, Gaming (*via Teams*)  
Shondra Summers-Armstrong – Council Member, City of Las Vegas (*in-person*)

#### ABSENT:

N/A

#### ALSO PRESENT:

(In Audience)

David Anderson, Elva Anderson, Georgina Anderson, Lex Anderson, Michael Anderson, Rick Andrews, Gina Angelone, Greg Austell, Toluwanimi Babarinde, Ed Beaman, Sylvia Beaman, Carole Benner, Gene Belin, Anyssa Bohanan, Mark Borges, Monica Bosworth, Fabian Bray, Clinton Burch, Gwen Campbell, Robert Campbell, Ann Casey, Renee Charles, Judy Chide, Amanda Childers, Barb Clark, Dave Clark, Judy Clark, Joanne Cochran, Georgi Collins, Colleen Correia, Bud Cranor, Shelley Cranley, Maryann Dingman, H.W. Edwards, Kevin Ferguson, Casey Floyd, Leesa Galatz, Zach Gambino, Martha Giles, Marlo Gregg, Cade Grogan, Rannelle Harcourt, Bradley Harrison, David Harrison, Mason Harvey, Emma Hay, Judy Heath, Thomas Heath, Rodney Heiselman, Diane Henry, William Holsclaw, Gabe Hunterton, Larry Ish, Cira Jones, Edwin Kaehler, Demetria Kalfas-Gordon, Gary Kantor, Charlie Keith, Keith Kennedy, Barry King, Felicia Kramer, Janet Lacombe, Cody Lee, Damon Lefever, Jesse Lisle, Tara Lisle, Victor Lundberg, Trish McArthur, Art McBride, Tammy McKenzie, Laura McSwain, Elizabeth Maddox, Sonia Mays, Teresa Mettler, Rick Mills, Sally Minster, Alejandro Molina, CJ Mortensen, Alan Osborne, Phyllis Palmer, Mike Patridge, Cheryl Pastore, Jessica Perez, Vivian Perry, Ed Peters, Mary Peters, Lynne Pfundstein, Tom Pfundstein, Michael Phillips, Alma Pineda, Laurie Priest, Chris Ramsey, Terry Ramsey, Lori Raskin, Victoria Rechester, Cynthia Robaina, William Roberts, Lisa Rogge, Marian Rogge, Cynthia Romo, Dennis Romo, Maylinn Rosales, Dennis Ross, Christian Salmon, Frank Scandura, Catherine Scott, John Scott, Larry Seely, Sharon Seely, Cindy Serdoz, Richard Serdoz, Morgan Shirley, Steve Sidhu, Cindy Simmons, Chris Sollano, Brigitte Solvie, Harvey Starritt, Lisa Starritt, George Steward, Sandra Stewart, DeAnn Stout, Kristen Stout, Laurie Sutton, Frances Swartz, David Tabaczynski, Michele Tombari, Kathryn Taplett, Lois Thompson,

Maria VanderMolen, Patrick Vaughan, Andrew Vickers, Joseph Vigil, Sandra Wade, Jo Watters, Joan Weber, David White, Amelia Wignall, Julie Wignall, Keith Williams, Nilda Williams, Shirley Williams, Will Yepez, Zack Zacharias, Rachel Zalucki

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Cassius Lockett, PhD, District Health Officer

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** Heather Anderson-Fintak, General Counsel

**STAFF:** Adriana Alvarez, Emily Anelli, Tawana Bellamy, Cory Burgess, Daniel Burns, Nikki Burns-Savage, Victoria Burris, Nancy Cadena, Archmiguel Cordial, Andria Cordovez Mulet, Carol Cottam, Cherie Custodio, John DeWolff, Kimberly Franich, Cheri Gould, Heather Hanoff, Maria Harris, Richard Hazeltine, Valerie Herzog, Donna Houston, Dan Isler, Sabine Kamm, Nami Kremer, Theresa Ladd, Dann Limuel Lat, Annie Lin, Marco Mendez, Corey Morrison, Todd Nicolson, Luann Province, Katarina Pulver, Yin Jie Qin, Gary Robinson, Emma Rodriguez, Larry Rogers, Chris Saxton, Dave Sheehan, Karla Shoup, Rosana Silva-Minnich, Jennifer Sizemore, Cameron Smelcer, Greg Tordjman, Renee Trujillo, Jorge Viote, Ashley Wheeler, Edward Wynder

**I. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL**

The Chair called the Southern Nevada District Board of Health Meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Andria Cordovez Mulet, Executive Assistant, administered the roll call and confirmed quorum.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT:** A period devoted to comments by the general public about those items appearing on the agenda. Comments will be limited to two (2) minutes per speaker. Please clearly state your name and address and spell your last name for the record. If any member of the Board wishes to extend the length of a presentation, this may be done by the Chair or the Board by majority vote.

Laura McSwain thanked the Board for holding the meeting and for its willingness to address community concerns regarding the proposed septic regulations. She stated that many residents were unaware of the proposal due to a flawed notification process and noted that the business impact statement process was not widely understood by the public. She emphasized the importance of early and clear notification for policies that may impose significant costs or long-term obligations. Ms. McSwain suggested that regulatory changes should begin with Board discussion in a public meeting to ensure transparency and visibility in to staff activities. She announced that the Water Fairness Coalition will pursue legislative revisions to the notification process and will seek the Board's support. She expressed a desire to work collaboratively to help rebuild public trust and submitted her comments for the record.

*Member Nemece joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m.*

Diane Henry stated that recent revisions to the proposed septic regulations were a positive step but expressed concern that the February 25 press release inaccurately indicated that no action would financially burden existing residential septic owners. She noted that, under the proposal, repairs that classify a system as “altered” could trigger permit revocation, temporary permits, additional fees, reviews, and other new requirements, creating financial impacts. She referenced Section 9-11(B)(1), which she said could require complete decommissioning of a system, even when repair may be possible. Ms. Henry also expressed concern about the combined requirements for new construction and the Southern Nevada Water Authority’s interim waiver program, describing the impacts as burdensome. She urged the Board to withdraw the proposed regulations to avoid imposing financial burdens on existing septic owners. She concluded by expressing appreciation for the Board’s consideration.

Sharon Seeley, residing at 6475 Darby Ave., requested that the Board withdraw all versions of the proposed septic regulations, stating that the regulations would create a financial burden for her family.

Carol Turner stated that many residents were concerned about the high cost of converting from septic systems to sewer. She said that when the idea was first introduced, she understood that the city would cover the cost, but now that appears to have changed. Ms. Turner commented that if the city intends to pursue sewer conversion, it should fund the process, noting that homeowners do not have the option to opt out and many cannot afford the expense.

Richard Serdoz thanked the Board for considering withdrawal of the proposed septic regulations, noting that the proposal has been a burden for many residents. He expressed concern that many community members who attended the prior meeting at the YMCA were unaware of the current meeting and therefore could not participate. Mr. Serdoz stated that broader attendance would have allowed residents to see that their concerns were heard. He also commented on meeting timing and communication, stating that many affected residents were unable to attend due to work schedules. Mr. Serdoz shared his view that repeated discussions on septic and sewer issues have created frustration in the community and expressed skepticism about the need for changes based on groundwater concerns. He concluded by thanking the Board for its consideration.

My name is Christian Salmon, C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N S-A-L-M-O-N. Under NRS 241.035(1)(d), I ask for my remarks to be verbatim in the minutes. Uh and first I'd like to thank Chairman Black for requesting this special meeting and for bringing in this withdraw item forward. Originally AB220 was about a grant program. It's about paying for these septic systems. But it's, this what we're looking at, has turned into regulation. So the legislature spoke And we felt like this has been on deaf ears as far as what is is has come out. So we ask, I ask, please vote yes today to withdraw the proposed septic regulations and let this package end here. Septic owners have shown up, spoken clearly and stayed engaged. We do not want this framework revived later under another name, under another form or another process. We've re-litigated this over and over and over and whoever is pushing this, please listen. We don't want it. And that's that's it. And that the the response you're seeing over and over is everyone speaking for themselves and saying that. So uhm you know, I just asked to, uhm I know some board members aren't present. I'm sorry they couldn't make it. Uhm, so, but even those that are not present and the ones that are, we, I ask you respectively for each of you to state why you are voting the way you are voting. So the public record reflects your reasoning and homeowners can better understand your thinking. We really want to work together on something if it's you know in the future we we we we just want to be heard and and and make it make it happen the right way. And so that's where we're coming from. I appreciate. Thank you for this meeting.

*Member Brune joined the meeting at 9:09 a.m.*

Greg Austell, residing at 1510 Montessori St., stated that after reviewing information on the Health District's website, he understood the proposed septic regulations to be based on nitrate levels and groundwater safety. He noted that nitrate levels in recent years had been below past highs and that only a small number of wells showed elevated readings. Mr. Austell questioned whether nitrates posed a significant health risk, citing the rarity of conditions such as blue baby syndrome. He expressed skepticism about the necessity of the proposed regulations and suggested the effort may be influenced by broader regional water policy priorities. He concluded by stating that, in his view, the proposal did not align with protecting public health.

Gary Kantor, residing at 2816 Vista del Sol, stated that he found no medical or environmental evidence indicating problems associated with septic systems and noted that the original proposal referenced public health as its basis. He expressed concern that potential future requirements to convert septic systems to sewer could create significant financial and practical burdens for homeowners, including construction impacts and temporary displacement. Mr. Kantor stated that such requirements could reduce the market value of homes with septic systems due to uncertainty and possible costs. He requested that the Board withdraw and cancel the proposed regulations.

*Member Kirkpatrick joined the meeting at 9:14 a.m.*

Cheryl Pastore, residing at 1330 Rosanna St., reiterated concerns about the costs associated with connecting a septic system to the sewer, including hookup expenses, property demolition, and the need to vacate the home during construction. She expressed worry about the process required if a septic system were to fail, asking whether a homeowner would need to appear before the Board before being allowed to proceed with repairs or sewer connection. Ms. Pastore noted that delays caused by Board meeting schedules, permitting, and contractor availability could leave a home uninhabitable for an extended period. She requested clarification on whether such requirements could be bypassed in emergency situations.

Michele Tombari expressed agreement with prior speakers and shared concerns about the high estimated costs of connecting homes to sewer, including approximately \$1 million to install a main line near her cul-de-sac and additional costs for individual hookups. She stated that infrastructure funding should be secured if sewer conversion was expected, rather than placing the burden on homeowners. Ms. Tombari noted that many residents, including elderly neighbors, could not afford such expenses. She also expressed concern about potential annexation of county island areas and said the issue had created significant anxiety for residents. She added that she was satisfied with her current septic system but would consider converting to sewer if external funding were provided.

Ann Casey shared her personal experience converting from a septic system to sewer, noting that the process has taken nearly two years due to difficulty obtaining bids, coordinating between city and county jurisdictions, and completing required engineering, permitting, and reviews. She stated that even with favorable conditions the process was expected to take at least eight months. Ms. Casey expressed concern that the proposed regulations required a connection to sewer if a system "fails," without defining what constitutes failure. She asked how homeowners would manage potentially long sewer-connection timelines if their homes became uninhabitable during the process.

Sean Craig, a plumbing contractor and local resident, stated that estimated costs to convert his three properties from septic to sewer ranged from \$300,000 to \$400,000 each. He expressed concern that proposed regulations could require homeowners to undertake sewer conversion when making improvements that currently complied with septic capacity, significantly increasing project costs. Mr. Craig stated that septic systems have long functioned effectively and that homeowners were capable of maintaining them without additional regulation. He described the proposal as burdensome and disproportionate, noting that widespread conversions could cost homeowners collectively billions of dollars while generating relatively limited sewer-service revenue. He asked the Board to consider the financial impact on residents.

Bridgette Solvie referenced NRS 439.3672(1), noting that it authorized that the Board may create a voluntary financial assistance program covering 100% of the cost for eligible property owners to abandon septic systems and connect to community sewer. She stated that was created through AB220. Ms. Solvie expressed concerns about notification shortcomings, the financial impact of proposed regulations, and the lack of demonstrated health risks. She recommended focusing efforts and funding on areas with documented infrastructure issues or elevated nitrate concerns and emphasized the need for an expedited process to assist those specific homeowners.

Victoria Rechester, residing at 1550 Montessori St., stated that she agreed with the concerns expressed by prior speakers and thanked the Board for listening. She expressed worry that the cost of sewer conversion could make it unaffordable for homeowners and create fear of losing their homes. Ms. Rechester also voiced concern about inadequate notification to affected residents, stating that silence should not be interpreted as agreement. She urged the Board not to adopt regulations that, in her view, would place excessive burdens on homeowners.

Alejandro, a property owner at 5001 Reiter, stated that he had been attempting to build a home for two years and had been unable to access the financial assistance program he understood would cover 100% of sewer-connection costs. He noted that connecting to sewer was financially unattainable for him, estimating the cost at approximately \$250,000. He also expressed concern that changes to waiver requirements, from a 400-foot to a 600-foot distance threshold, now make him ineligible for relief. He asked what options were available in his situation and indicated that he supported the concerns raised by other residents.

Sandra Stewart stated that she and her husband installed a septic system when they built their home in the 1970s because sewer service was not available in their area at the time. She noted that the system has functioned properly for decades. Ms. Stewart explained that they are now retired and on a fixed income, and that the cost of converting to sewer would be unaffordable, potentially forcing them to sell their home. She asked the Board to withdraw the proposed regulations.

Al Osborne, residing at 1350 Duneville St., stated that he viewed the proposed septic regulations as financially driven. He noted that residents were previously told that converting septic systems to sewer would increase water availability through recycling, but he expressed concern that homeowners would bear the full cost of conversion while the broader community benefited. Mr. Osborne stated that if sewer conversion was pursued for regional water benefits, the financial burden should be shared rather than placed solely on individual homeowners.

Keith Kennedy, a Henderson resident, spoke on behalf of current and future septic system owners. He expressed concern that many property owners were unaware of AB220 and its

implications, including restrictions on new septic systems and potential future water-use limitations. Mr. Kennedy stated that even local jurisdictions, such as the City of Henderson, were initially unaware of the legislation's passage. He also raised concerns about the Water Authority's interim waiver process and associated costs, noting that estimates for sewer conversion could reach several hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Kennedy suggested that the \$20,000 waiver fee should cover the full cost of installing a sewer lateral and future hookup, with no additional financial burden on property owners.

Nilda Williams, a real estate professional, stated that she did not support the proposed septic regulations. She expressed concern that the proposal appeared driven by water-supply needs and questioned why additional homebuilding permits continued to be issued if water demand was a concern. She asked the Board to withdraw the proposal.

Trish McArthur stated that she viewed the proposed septic regulations as a potential revenue-generating effort. As both a septic and well owner, she noted that homeowners had already invested significant amounts of money to install and maintain their systems and that neither septic use nor well water was "free." Ms. McArthur explained that well owners were subject to strict regulations and substantial fines for overuse. She expressed concern that the proposal aimed at increasing revenue by bringing more homeowners into the sewer and municipal water systems. She concluded by stating that existing systems were functioning properly and did not need additional regulation.

Errol White, residing at 9470 W. Regina Ave., stated that he agreed with the concerns raised by other speakers and emphasized issues related to differing jurisdictional requirements. He noted that the county permits septic systems while the city did not, which he described as inconsistent and unfair to affected residents. Mr. White added that the proposed regulations also impacted other jurisdictions in Clark County. He urged coordination among these jurisdictions and asked the Board to vote to withdraw the proposal.

Stephanie Dooley Ryan, residing at 8784 W. Washburn Rd., stated that she and her family have lived in their home for 12 years and that the cost of converting from septic to sewer would be unaffordable, noting that estimates discussed during the meeting were comparable to the price she originally paid for her home. Speaking as a parent, she said that maintaining a septic system provided her family with stability and control, especially given financial pressures on working families. She expressed concern that many residents, including young families, were unaware of the potential costs of conversion and asked the Board to consider the impact on homeowners like her.

Barry King, residing at 7330 Ullom Dr., stated that he consulted with a relative who works in San Diego's wastewater program to better understand water-reclamation potential. He reported that, according to this information, only a portion of treated wastewater was recovered for drinking water, with additional amounts used for non-potable purposes such as irrigation, while the remainder is discharged. Mr. King characterized the reclaimed portion as relatively minor.

George Stewart, a longtime resident and veteran, stated that he was on a fixed income and expressed concern about increasing utility costs and the financial burden the proposed septic regulations could create. He noted that he and his wife maintained their septic system properly and shared that past changes to water rates had already required costly adjustments to his property. Mr. Stewart recounted prior efforts by residents to oppose annexation and emphasized

that many homeowners could not afford additional expenses. He asked the Board to withdraw the proposed regulations.

Catherine Scott stated that her septic system was compliant at the time she purchased her home. She expressed concern about any future mandates requiring changes, the government should be responsible for covering the cost.

David expressed appreciation for the community turnout and stated that he disagreed with the process being advanced by the Southern Nevada Water Authority and the Health District regarding septic system conversion. He emphasized that homeowners relied on septic systems they maintain responsibly and argued that properly maintained systems could function for many decades. David stated that the financial impact of mandated sewer conversion would be unaffordable for many residents and that septic use should remain a homeowner's choice unless a system fails due to lack of maintenance. He asked the Board to consider the perspective of affected homeowners and to avoid imposing requirements that created significant financial hardship.

Zach Gambino stated that he was speaking on behalf of eight homeowners in his small HOA who shared a well and all rely on septic systems. He noted that the members could not attend due to work but wished to formally register their collective objection to the proposed regulations. Mr. Gambino stated that their homes, built between the early 1980s and late 1990s, had properly maintained septic systems, and that residents had done so knowing that failures could require costly sewer connections. He emphasized that the proposed regulations could impose significant financial burdens if existing permits were changed or revoked, particularly given the varying distances each property would need to connect to sewer.

Clinton Burch, residing at 7785 W. Rosada Way, stated that he and his family relied on a functioning, well-maintained septic system and that the cost of extending sewer service to their property had been estimated at more than \$280,000, not including additional costs if caliche was encountered. He explained that the uncertainty surrounding the proposed regulations had delayed their ability to obtain a permit to build a casita to care for an aging family member. Mr. Burch emphasized that many residents depended on such additions to support relatives and avoid high healthcare costs. He asked the Board not to adopt additional regulations and to allow permits for home additions to move forward.

Kevin Ferguson, residing at 6113 Wittig Ave., stated that his 1969 home, which has two septic systems, received an estimated sewer-conversion cost of approximately \$450,000, an amount he noted was roughly three-quarters of his home's market value. He said the proposed regulations would create significant financial hardship for his family. Mr. Ferguson thanked the Board for its time and stated that, as a voter and taxpayer, he would keep their decision in mind.

Sarah Jones, residing at 6311 Wittig Ave., a homeowner in an older neighborhood built in the early 1970s, stated that her property relied on a well and septic system. She explained that obtaining permits to build a casita for her father required six months and significant assistance navigating the approval process. Ms. Jones expressed concern that the proposed regulations could unintentionally trigger costly sewer-connection requirements when older homes needed routine repairs requiring permits, such as plumbing work. She stated that these potential requirements could make it difficult to sell her home or financially force her out of it. Ms. Jones asked the Board to withdraw the proposed regulations.

Carol Benner, residing at 190 N. Iroquois St., stated that her community did not have a sewer system and did not receive Colorado River water, and she questioned why Sandy Valley was included in the proposed septic regulations. She noted that her household had maintained its septic system for 30 years and expressed concern about potential financial impacts on residents. Ms. Benner stated that the proposal could make it difficult to sell homes if septic renewal became uncertain and asked the Board to withdraw the regulations.

Seeing no one further, the Chair closed the First Public Comment period.

#### **IV. ADOPTION OF THE MARCH 11, 2026 MEETING AGENDA *(for possible action)***

*A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick, seconded by Member Hardy, and carried unanimously to approve the March 11, 2026 Agenda, as presented.*

#### **V. REPORT / DISCUSSION / ACTION**

##### **1. Receive, Discuss and Approve recommendation to Withdraw the Proposed 2025 Individual Sewage Disposal Systems (ISDS) and Liquid Waste Management Regulations; direct staff accordingly or take other action as deemed necessary *(for possible action)***

Chair Black thanked attendees for their input and noted the strong Board participation. He reviewed the communication challenges associated with the proposed regulations, explained that while the Health District followed its standard regulatory process, the predominantly residential impact made outreach more complex. Chair Black clarified the difference between locations for community engagement meetings and formally convened Board meeting. He emphasized that public feedback highlighted concerns regarding cost, property impacts, and quality of life. Chair Black affirmed the Board's responsibility to represent residents and stated his recommendation to withdraw the Proposed 2025 ISDS and Liquid Waste Management Regulations. Chair Black explained that a "yes" vote would stop the process, while a "no" vote would allow it to continue, and then invited comments from Board members.

Member Hardy advised that he was a medical doctor. He discussed the motivations behind the proposed regulations, noting that reducing illness and increasing return-flow credits were key factors. He stated that data on illness associated with septic systems had not been clearly presented and that the potential water-supply benefits, while important, did not outweigh the significant economic burden the proposal would place on homeowners. Member Hardy concluded that the proposal required additional work and expressed support for withdrawing it at this time.

Member Nemecek agreed with prior remarks, noting that septic system failures were rare in Southern Nevada largely due to proper maintenance, unlike conditions seen in some developing countries. He stated he would support the withdrawal of the proposed regulatory changes.

Member Becker apologized to community members for the time and concern the issue had caused and expressed that the situation had not been handled appropriately. She stated she would vote against continuing the regulation process and emphasized her commitment to

representing the public's interests. Member Becker thanked attendees for their consistent engagement and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to vote in alignment with their concerns.

Member Larson stated she would vote yes to cancel the proposed regulation, noting that both she and many homeowners felt blindsided due to insufficient communication and outreach. She emphasized that the proposal could impose significant and unclear financial burdens on residents. While acknowledging the importance of public health and environmental protection, she stressed the need for transparency, fairness, and financial feasibility. Member Larson recommended exploring alternative solutions, improving community engagement, and identifying funding or assistance programs before considering future regulations. She concluded that canceling the proposal was the responsible step at this time.

Member Summers Armstrong acknowledged that while most of her district is on sewer, a group of residents still relied on septic systems and had voiced clear concerns. She emphasized the importance of listening to the community. Member Summers-Armstrong stated she would support not moving forward with the proposed regulatory changes, while noting the broader need to address long-term water sustainability through collaborative and balanced solutions. She recognized shortcomings in communication around the proposal, apologized for the frustration caused, and reaffirmed the Board's commitment to hearing and respecting constituents.

Member Nielson expressed appreciation for public participation and acknowledged that the Board had heard the community's concerns. He thanked staff for bringing the matter back before the Board.

Member Bond thanked the Chair and staff for their work and expressed appreciation for public input. She noted a disconnect between the statute and the resulting proposal, which she said would have created an undue burden on residents. She emphasized the importance of protecting water resources in the valley. Member Bond voiced support for the Chair's recommendation.

Member Gallo expressed agreement with prior comments, thanked attendees for their participation, affirmed that their input had been heard, and stated readiness to proceed to a vote.

Chair Black clarified that a "yes" vote would approve the recommendation to withdraw the Proposed 2025 Individual Sewage Disposal Systems (ISDS) and Liquid Waste Management Regulations, while a "no" vote would continue the revision process. Chair Black also expressed appreciation for the public engagement throughout the process, noting the value of the input received and thanked participants for their thoughtful and constructive contributions.

Member Kirkpatrick stated she had maintained a consistent position throughout the AB220 process. She noted that while efforts were made to improve the legislation, particularly to address concerns of well and septic owners, its implementation created significant community tension. She emphasized that many residents built their properties according to past guidance, and the resulting frustration was never the intent of the Water District or the Health District. Member Kirkpatrick explained that she received complaints about the issue and expressed concern about growing community division. She reiterated her longstanding

stance that funding solutions should be identified, as some property upgrades and landscaping changes represent substantial costs. She also noted ongoing challenges with septic waivers, highlighting problems caused by new property owners installing landscaping or structures that interfere with leach fields. Because of these recurring issues, she stated she was unlikely to support future waiver requests. She stressed the need for accurate and updated records of septic systems, better disclosure during property sales, and clearer information for homeowners. Member Kirkpatrick concluded by expressing support for withdrawing the current regulations, stating they had divided the community and that she does not wish to revisit them unless a better long-term solution was developed.

*A motion was made by Member Kirkpatrick, seconded by Member Hardy, and carried unanimously to withdraw the Proposed 2025 Individual Sewage Disposal Systems (ISDS) and Liquid Waste Management Regulations.*

- VI. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT:** A period devoted to comments by the general public, if any, and discussion of those comments, about matters relevant to the Board's jurisdiction will be held. Comments will be limited to two (2) minutes per speaker. If any member of the Board wishes to extend the length of a presentation, this may be done by the Chair or the Board by majority vote.

Diane Henry thanked the Board for listening.

Demetria Kalfas-Gordon, a homeowner and real estate professional, expressed strong opposition to any future requirement for mandatory sewer connections. She stated that long-term homeowners with septic systems and private wells had responsibly maintained them, noting her own 25 years of experience. She emphasized that septic use was part of the community's way of life, supported property values, and had not been shown to pose a health risk when properly managed. She raised concerns about sewer lines installed near existing homes and asked that the issue not be revisited in the future. Ms. Kalfas-Gordon asserted that while some residents may choose to connect voluntarily, no mandate should be imposed, as most homeowners effectively managed their systems and should not be penalized for the actions of a few.

Alejandro asked whether septic tanks would no longer be permitted and raised concern about the required \$20,000 waiver fee from the Water Authority. The Chair advised that his situation was unique and invited him to speak directly with Dan Burns, Environmental Health Engineer/Manager at the Health District, after the meeting to review his specific circumstances.

Victoria Rechester thanked the Board for voting against the regulations and urged them not to create burdens for residents. She noted accessibility concerns with the meeting podium setup as an example of how government processes can feel unnecessarily difficult for constituents. She asked the Board to avoid bringing forward costly or overwhelming proposals that contributed to public frustration and emphasized that community members wanted to respect and appreciate their representatives.

Carol Reynolds thanked the Board.

*Member Bond left the meeting at 10:27 a.m. and did not return.*

Michele Tombari stated that wastewater from septic systems was not "lost" because it was naturally filtered through soil and ultimately returned to the groundwater aquifer. She referenced

U.S. EPA information and her previously published editorial on the topic, emphasized that while septic water may not qualify for federal reclaimed-water credits, it still remained within the local water cycle. She offered this clarification in response to concerns raised about water loss.

Richard Serdoz thanked the Board for its vote and for listening to community concerns. He agreed that long-term solutions were needed but emphasized that any future changes must be economically feasible for residents. He noted visible water waste in the community, such as fountains and unnecessary water features, while homeowners were asked to conserve. He expressed concern about the lack of notification surrounding the proposal, which he said contributed to the strong public turnout. Mr. Serdoz urged transparency in any future rulemaking and asked that similar proposals not be reintroduced without community involvement.

Keith Kennedy thanked the Board for listening to residents' concerns and acknowledged the community turnout on the issue. He urged the Board and the Southern Nevada Water Authority to re-examine the current septic waiver process under AB220, noting that many homeowners were unaware of the existing requirements. He encouraged using the momentum from recent public engagement to develop fair and reasonable policies for future septic system owners.

Mary Peters thanked the Board for its vote and acknowledged comments about the importance of full funding for any potential sewer connections, noting that such costs would place a significant burden on homeowners. She expressed concern about broader water-use issues, stating that while residents were asked to conserve, ongoing development, pools, and increased urbanization also contribute to water demand and rising temperatures. Ms. Peters urged a more comprehensive approach to addressing drought and water use that considered the impact of continued growth.

Hi, my name is Christian Salmon. Under NRS 241.035(1)(d), I ask for my remarks to be verbatim in the minutes. Thank you members of the Board for your vote today sincerely uh and this is a good first step. Please help cement this decision by placing on a future agenda the possible for possible action the process failures, this issue exposed so that they can be corrected here at the SNHD and where needed through bill draft request to the Nevada Legislature, etcetera. These items include Full disclosure of all records, drafts, authors, influences and agency involvement in this regulatory process and in the future and any future one. We don't want it back. Again, direct homeowners uh notice and outreach from the very beginning. That should have been done. A clear board vote before staff builds a major regulatory package in the first place. So we spent all this time and now all of a sudden we're done. Time wasted. Homeowner protection as a baseline such as a repair replacement rights as well as other times as stated in items stated in the Septic Owners Bill of Rights, uh removal of the current 400 foot requirement, hook up pressure points and any similar language that can be used to push septic owners into sewer conversion and a clear, usable recordings and preservation of the public record, which has not been done through this process. As I said to Chair Black, you know, I I'm standing with my arms stretched out to work through these issues to protect homeowners. And we don't want to have this come back through the back door again like it's happened many times. Uhm and so and that's in earnest. We we we want to work with whoever, but we don't want to get sideswiped again. Uh this happened so many times. This issue has repeated itself already many times. Homeowners should not have to keep looking over their shoulder for the next version, the next round, the next agency effort. Thank you for abandoning your regulations, not our septic. Thank you.

Sean Craig stated that groundwater naturally filtered wastewater and noted that testing on his three properties showed good water quality without fluoride, which he preferred to avoid for his

family. He expressed concern about increased regulation and emphasized trust in natural processes over mandated changes. Mr. Craig also highlighted the value of community unity, saying the public's collective involvement demonstrated how residents could work together effectively.

Laura McSwain thanked the Board for listening to residents and acknowledged the positive outcome of the vote. She appreciated comments noting flaws in the notification process and urged improvements, so the public was informed in advance of any future rule changes, especially those involving potential health considerations. She encouraged broader transparency around regional water policy, noting ongoing Colorado River negotiations and expressing concern that Nevada's current proposal would relinquish 50,000 acre-feet of water unnecessarily. Ms. McSwain emphasized the need for accountability in water management decisions and commended the Board for demonstrating good governance.

Greg Austello thanked the Board for its vote and acknowledged the diverse representation of officials serving on it. He suggested the Board consider a temporary building moratorium to address regional water concerns, noting similar measures were used in Southern California in the 1980s. He also recommended establishing a Citizens Advisory Board composed of community representatives to assist the Board in reviewing future proposals and preventing similar issues from arising.

DeAnn Stout thanked the Board for acknowledging flaws in the proposal. She expressed appreciation for the Health District's historically community-focused approach and noted that the proposed regulations had seemed unusually punitive compared to past practices. Ms. Stout also commented that septic systems inherently encourage water conservation, as overloading them with excess water could lead to system failure. She thanked the Board for its decision and for returning to what she described as the Health District's core values.

Gary Kantor thanked the Board and shared concerns about restrictions on installing septic systems in residential areas without sewer access, stating that prohibiting septic installation could render such properties valueless. He also noted that large hotels used significantly more water than individual properties with septic systems and suggested that any efforts to conserve water should focus on major water users rather than homeowners on septic.

David Anderson thanked the Board.

Cheryl Pastore thanked the Board for its recent vote and shared information about local septic services, noting that Joe Septic charged approximately \$375 for septic tank pumping. She also expressed appreciation for assistance she received from Dan Burns regarding her property's sewer connection options. Ms. Pastore explained that due to the location of existing sewer lines, connecting her home would require obtaining an easement from a neighboring property, as the sewer main was in an alley rather than the street. She also commented on water usage, noting that although her own monthly bill was about \$40 and her yard was desert-landscaped, community-wide outdoor water use resulted in significant unrecoverable water loss, especially for larger properties.

*Member Summers-Armstrong left the meeting at 10:44 a.m. and did not return.*

Edward Peters stated that ongoing construction projects, including new apartment buildings, appeared inconsistent with claims of regional water shortages. He questioned why growth

continued if water supplies were limited. He expressed support for the Board's vote and asked that no additional regulations be adopted. Mr. Peters also remarked that government intervention often created more problems and urged the Board to avoid further mandates.

*Member Larson left the meeting at 10:45 a.m. and did not return.*

David thanked the Board for removing the proposal and urged continued coordination between the Health District and SNWA. He questioned ceding Nevada water to other states amid interstate negotiations, asserting that neighboring states were wasteful with water. He asked local agencies to resist giving away water allocations unnecessarily and to consider tourism needs and overall reclamation efforts within the broader regional water management picture.

Carol Benner stated that she did not initially receive notification about the proposal and only learned of it through her daughter. She appreciated that the Health District later began mailing notices and expressed thanks for being added to the email distribution list. Ms. Benner recommended creating a short educational presentation for new homeowners on how septic systems work, including proper well-to-septic distances and maintenance practices. She noted that accessible educational resources would be more productive than regulatory changes and thanked the Health District for maintaining a list of septic service providers.

Kevin Ferguson thanked the Board for its vote, which he felt was in the community's best interest. He questioned why homeowners on septic systems, approximately 18,000 households, were being targeted for water-related changes when they represented a small portion of the valley's population. He suggested that larger water users should be the focus of conservation efforts rather than individual homeowners.

Seeing no one further, the Chair closed the Second Public Comment portion.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Cassius Lockett, PhD, MS  
District Health Officer/Executive Secretary  
/acm