



**BOULDER CITY
CITY COUNCIL**

MAYOR
JOE HARDY

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
COKIE BOOTH
MATT FOX
SHERRI JORGENSEN
STEVE WALTON



MEETING LOCATION:
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
401 CALIFORNIA AVENUE
BOULDER CITY, NV 89005

MAILING ADDRESS:
401 CALIFORNIA AVENUE
BOULDER CITY, NV 89005

WEBPAGE:
WWW.BCNV.ORG



ACTING CITY MANAGER:
MICHAEL MAYS, AICP

CITY ATTORNEY:
BRITTANY LEE WALKER, ESQ

CITY CLERK:
TAMI MCKAY, MMC, CPO

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR:
MICHAEL MAYS, AICP

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:
GARY POINDEXTER

UTILITIES DIRECTOR:
JOSEPH STUBITZ, PE

POLICE CHIEF:
TIM SHEA

ACTING FIRE CHIEF:
GREG CHESSER, CFO

FINANCE DIRECTOR:
CYNTHIA SNEED, CPA, CGFM

PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR:
JULIE CALLOWAY, CPRP

City Council Meeting

August 27, 2024

Item No. 5

Staff Report

TO: Michael Mays, Acting City Manager

FROM: Joseph Stubitz, Utilities Director

DATE: August 27, 2024

SUBJECT:

For possible action: Matters pertaining to Assembly Bill 356 (AB356)

A. Presentation by Utilities Director Joseph Stubitz regarding City efforts to address non-functional turf on City property

B. City Council discussion and direction regarding the City's non-functional turf removal plan

Business Impact Statement:

This action will not have a significant economic impact on business and will not directly restrict the formation, operation, or expansion of a business.

Action Requested:

That the City Council receive a presentation regarding City efforts to address non-functional turf on City property and provide staff direction.

Overview:

- A law enacted by the Nevada Legislature in 2021 will prohibit the use of Colorado River water to irrigate nonfunctional grass, beginning in 2027.
- The AB356 law applies to Southern Nevada commercial, multi-family, government, and other properties.
- The law does not apply to grass in single family residences, such as grass in front and back yards.
- Boulder City is preparing to comply with the AB356 requirements by removing Non-Functional turf in various areas of the city.

Background Information:

In 2021, the Nevada Legislature enacted Assembly Bill 356 (AB356), a landmark legislation aimed at promoting water conservation in the state. A key provision of this law prohibits the use of Colorado River water to irrigate nonfunctional grass on certain properties, effective January 1, 2027. The law applies specifically to non-residential properties, including commercial establishments, multi-family housing complexes, government buildings, and other similar properties. Single-family residences are exempt from this requirement, thus allowing homeowners to retain grass in their front and back yards.

Nonfunctional turf is defined as grass that does not serve a recreational or functional purpose. This includes grass that is purely aesthetic and not used for activities such as sports, recreation, or community events. In preparation for the 2027 deadline, the City is taking proactive steps to comply with the AB356 requirements. As part of this effort, the City has identified areas where non-functional turf can be removed, thereby reducing its water consumption and aligning with the state's water conservation goals. Staff will work to coordinate the removal of nonfunctional turf in identified areas and facilitate the transition to water-efficient landscaping solutions. This may include the installation of drought-resistant plants, and other sustainable landscaping practices.

The City is also implementing a public outreach and education campaign to inform property owners and property managers about the requirements of AB356. The campaign will provide guidance on alternative landscaping options that are both water-efficient and aesthetically pleasing.

The City is committed to conserving water resources and complying with state legislation aimed at promoting sustainable practices. By proactively addressing the requirements of AB356, the City aims to reduce water consumption, promote environmentally friendly landscaping, and set a positive example for other communities in Southern Nevada. The removal of nonfunctional turf and the adoption of water-efficient landscaping solutions will contribute to the long-term sustainability and resilience of our community.

Financial:

No fiscal impact.

Boulder City Strategic Plan Goal:

Goal B: Invest in Infrastructure

Department Recommendation: The Utilities Department requests that the City Council receive a presentation regarding City efforts to address non-functional turf on City property and provide staff direction.

Attachment:

Presentation