

John J. Entsminger



---

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Las Vegas Valley Water District and Southern Nevada Water Authority**

*2014-Present, General Manager*

Oversee the operations of the Las Vegas Valley Water District, the largest retail water provider in Nevada, and the Southern Nevada Water Authority, including water resource planning and the acquisition, transmission and treatment of water to all retail providers in Clark County.

Responsibilities and accomplishments:

- ❖ Serve as the Governor's lead negotiator for the State of Nevada on Colorado River matters.
- ❖ Implemented and continue to lead conservation efforts designed to reduce Nevada's consumptive use of Colorado River supplies, and oversaw development of new facilities designed to ensure continued access to Colorado River resources.
- ❖ Co-chair, Governor Brian Sandoval's Nevada Drought Forum, 2015.
- ❖ Adjunct Professor, Water Law, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Spring 2014.

*2011-2014, Senior Deputy General Manager*

Assisted the General Manager in the day-to-day operations of the Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Responsibilities and accomplishments:

- ❖ Qualified by the Nevada State Engineer as an expert in Colorado River water resources and the management of those resources.
- ❖ Served as a negotiator on Colorado River matters among the seven Colorado River Basin states, the federal government, the country of Mexico, non-governmental organizations and Indian tribes. Served as one of only two Basin State representatives allowed by the U.S. State Department to participate in final treaty negotiations with Mexico in 2012.

- ❖ Served as lead negotiator for the state of Nevada for the operation of the Yuma Desalting Project. The successful negotiations involved legal, policy, funding and environmental issues among the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Central Arizona Project, the Southern Nevada Water Authority and the country of Mexico.
- ❖ Led the Integrated Resource Planning Advisory Committee and Financial Subcommittee process established by the Authority and District Boards of Directors. Ensured broad-based community involvement in formulating recommendations on issues including future water resources, rate structures, capital facilities, water quality, conservation, and funding requirements.
- ❖ Led strategic planning for the District and the Authority, which established the future direction, including the current Vision, Mission and Goals, of both organizations.
- ❖ Secured water rights and federal rights-of-way associated with the Clark, Lincoln and White Pine County Groundwater Development Project. This project, a contingency against worsening drought conditions on the Colorado River, required extensive approval processes lasting nearly a decade with both the state and federal governments.

*2000-2011, Deputy General Counsel*

Managed and coordinated legal and policy issues related to water resources and environmental compliance.

Responsibilities and accomplishments:

- ❖ Negotiated and developed a complex set of federal guidelines and interstate agreements regarding the coordinated operations of Lakes Mead and Powell. These agreements included shortage regulations implemented in Arizona and Nevada under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior and the banking and recovery of water from Lake Mead by Lower Division Colorado River contractors.
- ❖ Led negotiations for water supply agreements with energy companies to facilitate new electrical power generation capability in Nevada in response to the 2001-02 energy crisis in California and Nevada. These agreements returned 25 percent of the total new generation capacity to Nevada.
- ❖ Represented the District and Authority before the Nevada Supreme Court, various federal courts and state and federal administrative agencies, including the Nevada State Engineer. Practice areas include water law, environmental law, constitutional law, municipal corporations, utilities law and real property.

**United States Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division**  
*1999-2000, Law Clerk*

Work primarily entailed research and writing of memos in the areas of Western water law and the doctrine of reserved rights. Research projects included determining the validity of various methodologies for the quantification of in-stream flows under both state and federal evidentiary standards and the ability of Indian tribes to use “stored” water to satisfy reserved water rights.

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- Board of Directors, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, 2014-Present; Executive Committee, 2017-Present
- Board of Trustees, Water Research Foundation, 2015-Present; Finance Committee, 2018-Present
- Member, Colorado River Salinity Control Forum (appointed by Governor), 2011-Present
- Chair, Colorado River Committee of the Western Urban Water Coalition, 2010-Present
- Member, State Bar of Nevada, 1999-Present

### **Other Memberships**

- American Water Works Association
- American Public Works Association
- Water Education Foundation

## **EDUCATION**

**University of Colorado School of Law, Boulder, CO**  
Juris Doctor, May 1999

Recipient of the Charles N. Woodruff Natural Resources Law Fellowship

**University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO**  
Bachelor of Arts in History with minor in Legal Studies, December 1995

## **SELECTED PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- “Nevada: Portal to the U.S. Water Sector (Overview, Southern Nevada Water Authority)”  
*Governor-Led Trade Mission to Europe, London, 2015*
- “In the Heat of the Drought: Sustaining our Basin Supplies”  
*Colorado River Water Users Association Annual Conference, 2014*
- “Belt, Suspenders and Safety Pins: How America’s Driest City is Preparing for an Uncertain Future”  
*Urban Water Institute Annual Conference, 2014*
- “Sharing the Colorado River” Roundtable  
*Colorado Water Congress, Western State Colorado University, 2014*
- “Water in a Changing West” Roundtable  
*Western Governors’ Association Annual Meeting, 2014*
- “An Era of New Partnerships on the Colorado River”

- Colorado River Symposium, Water Education Foundation, 2013*

▪ “The Las Vegas Story: What Happens in Vegas is Not Staying in Vegas”  
*Keynote, Colorado River District Annual Water Seminar, 2013*
- “Transformational Solutions for Water in the West”  
*The Atlantic Council, 2013*
- “Water Law at International Borders: What is the Law, and Where is it Going?”  
*American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy and Resources, 2013*
- “Sustainability, Law of the River, the Drought, Uses of the River, Value of Conservation, the Road Ahead, and the Power Collaboration”  
*Keynote, California-Nevada Section American Water Works Association Spring Conference, 2013*
- “Mexico Minute 319”  
*Colorado River Water Users Association Annual Conference, 2012*
- “Future Threats to Water Supply Deliveries in the West”  
*Western Water Seminar, National Water Resources Association, 2012*
- “Southern Nevada’s Water Resources, Demands, and Challenges”  
*College of Southern Nevada, 2012*
- “Innovative Solutions to Achieve Water Conservation”  
*Colorado River Summit, The Nature Conservancy, 2012*
- “Adapting to Increased Costs: Who Pays?”  
*Colorado River Symposium, Water Education Foundation, 2011*
- “Fundamentals of Lower Basin River Accounting: The Colorado River and Nevada”  
*13<sup>th</sup> Annual Law of the Colorado River, CLE International, 2011*
- “Strategies for Water Supply Reliability and Sustainability”  
*Roundtable Conference on Water, California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy, 2011*
- “Law & Disorder: Water Law on the Colorado River”  
*Colorado River Water Users Association Annual Conference, 2010*
- “Ups and Downs: An Update on Colorado River Matters”  
*Association of California Water Agencies Fall Conference, 2010*
- “Flexible Water Management Strategies Under Continuing Drought”  
*Colorado River Commission of Nevada Symposium, 2010*
- “Balancing Water Demands on the Lower Colorado River”  
*California Water Needs Conference, The Seminar Group, 2010*