Video title:  Las Vegas water

Short description:  The Las Vegas area has taken several effective steps to conserve water, with more efforts on the way.

Brad Hicks of public broadcasting’s This American Land reports:

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SUPERS:

S /John  Entsminger, Southern Nevada Water Authority   :28 - :xx

S/ David Stoft, Clark County Water Reclamation District  :45-:xx

S/ Joyti Chopra, MGM Resorts 1:43 - 1:xx

S/ Brad Hicks Reporting (no standup)

(--ANCHOR LEAD--)

THE DROUGHT-DRIVEN WATER CRISIS IN THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN IS INCHING TOWARD CATASTROPHE.

40 MILLION PEOPLE RELY ON THE RIVER AND ITS RESERVOIRS FOR WATER AND POWER.

WITH LAKE LEVELS  NOW THE LOWEST THEY’VE EVER BEEN, SOME ARE WONDERING IF DESERT CITIES ARE DOOMED.

BRAD HICKS SHOWS YOU HOW ONE MAJOR METRO AREA IS MAKING SURE IT HAS WATER FOR THE FUTURE.

(-- PKG --)

IN A CITY FAMOUS FOR EXCESS, NOTHING SAYS “OVER THE TOP” LIKE GIANT FOUNTAINS … WHILE JUST OVER THE HILL THE SOURCE OF THE CITY’S WATER, LAKE MEAD, DIPS DANGEROUSLY LOW.

BUT LIKE A MAGIC SHOW ON THE LAS VEGAS STRIP, THE FOUNTAINS ARE NOT AS THEY APPEAR. YOU’LL SEE WHY IN A MOMENT.

OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS, LAKE MEAD HAS DROPPED 170 FEET, HALFWAY TO A DISASTROUS DEAD POOL LEVEL …WHEN NO WATER AT ALL WOULD BE ABLE TO FLOW THROUGH HOOVER DAM.

(-- SOT --)

S/ John Entsminger, Southern Nevada Water Authority (if this SOT is too quick, we can super person later in the pkg)

"You could see the lake getting to dead pool in the next 24 months."

SO THE NEED TO SAVE IN SOUTHERN NEVADA HAS NEVER BEEN MORE URGENT.

99-PERCENT OF THE WATER THAT GOES DOWN AN INDOOR DRAIN GETS CAPTURED, CLEANED, AND RELEASED BACK INTO LAKE MEAD TO BE RE-USED.

(— SOT —) (very quick)

S/David Stoft, Clark County Water Reclamation District

"The motivation is one of survival."

BUT INDOOR USE ACCOUNTS FOR ONLY 40-PERCENT. THE REST …  JUST SOAKS INTO THE GROUND OR EVAPORATES. THE BIG CULPRIT IS GRASS. IT TAKES 78 GALLONS A YEAR TO KEEP JUST ONE SQUARE FOOT OF GRASS GREEN IN THE DESERT. SO THE STATE HAS ORDERED ALL NON-FUNCTIONAL TURF TO BE REMOVED FROM SOUTHERN NEVADA BY 2026.

(-- SOT --)

S/ John Entsminger

"We’ve taken out enough grass in Las Vegas to take an 18 inch wide piece of sod and lay it around the circumference of the earth."

BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH WATER THEY SAVE … IT WON’T SOLVE THE PROBLEM. 80 PERCENT OF COLORADO RIVER WATER IS USED FOR IRRIGATION, MOSTLY IN ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA. IF LAKE MEAD REACHES DEAD POOL THOSE TWO STATES WILL BE COMPLETELY CUT OFF. SOUTHERN NEVADA, ON THE OTHER HANDS, HAS A SAFETY NET … A NEW INTAKE SO DEEP IN THE LAKE EVEN AT DEAD POOL IT WOULD KEEP THE FLOW GOING TO THE STRIP, AND BEYOND.

WHICH BRINGS US BACK TO THOSE FOUNTAINS AT BELLAGIO.

(-- SOT --)

S/ Joyti Chopra, MGM Resorts

"Lake Bellagio does not draw on municipal water or Lake Mead whatsoever."

THE FOUNTAINS ARE FED FROM A PRIVATE WELL. SO NO MATTER HOW DIRE THE OUTLOOK IS FOR LAKE MEAD, TOURISTS CAN STILL HAVE THE ILLUSION OF AN OASIS IN THE DESERT.

BRAD HICKS REPORTING.