



Guide to the Las Vegas Land & Water Company Records from the Las Vegas Valley Water District

This finding aid was created by Tammi Kim and Sarah Jones. This copy was published on September 07, 2021.

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Las Vegas Land and Water Company
Contributor:	Las Vegas Valley Water District (Nev.)
Title:	Las Vegas Land & Water Company Records from the Las Vegas Valley Water District
ID:	MS-00912
Date [inclusive]:	1918 to 1989
Physical Description:	6.31 Cubic Feet (4 boxes, 13 rolls)
Physical Description:	5.8 Linear Feet
Abstract:	The Las Vegas Land & Water Company Records from the Las Vegas Valley Water District (1918-1989) are primarily comprised of contracts, correspondence, and maps that document the establishment of a water distribution system in Las Vegas, Nevada that would provide water using the state's Colorado River allocation. The records include water main extension agreements, correspondence, and bills of sale for water main construction, as well as articles and correspondence documenting the groundwater shortage in Las Vegas. The collection also includes maps for water distribution systems and pipelines throughout the Las Vegas Valley.

Preferred Citation

Las Vegas Land & Water Company Records from the Las Vegas Valley Water District, 1918-1989. MS-00912. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Historical Background

The Las Vegas Land & Water Company was created by the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Company to operate the first water distribution system in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1905. The San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad was eventually sold to the Union Pacific Railroad in 1921. In the mid-1940s Las Vegas was recognized a future groundwater shortage so the Nevada Legislature created the Las Vegas Valley Water District in 1947 to use the state's Colorado River allocation and rely less on groundwater. In 1952, the Union Pacific Railroad officially sold the Las Vegas Land & Water Company to the Las Vegas

Valley Water District. With that sale the Union Pacific Railroad and the Las Vegas Land & Water Company turned over all water distribution properties to the Las Vegas Water Valley District. The Las Vegas Valley Water District officially began operating independently on July 1, 1954.

Sources:

"Nevada." Colorado River Water Users Association. Accessed March 22, 2019. <https://www.crwua.org/colorado-river/member-states/nevada>.

"Walter Bracken and the Las Vegas Land and Water Co.," accessed July 26, 2018. <http://digital.library.unlv.edu/collections/historic-landscape/walter-bracken-and-las-vegas-land-water-company>

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Scope and Contents Note

Las Vegas Land & Water Company Records from the Las Vegas Valley Water District (1918-1989) are primarily comprised of contracts, correspondence, and maps that document the establishment of a water distribution system in Las Vegas, Nevada that would provide water using the state's Colorado River allocation. The records include water main extension agreements, correspondence, and bills of sale for water main construction as well as articles and correspondence documenting the groundwater shortage in Las Vegas. The collection also includes maps for water distribution systems and pipelines throughout the Las Vegas Valley including the original townsite distribution system.

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Arrangement

Materials remain as they were received.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research. Portions of this collection are digital and available online.

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2019 by the Las Vegas Valley Water District; accession number 2019-009.

Processing Note

Rough box-level summaries were created during accessioning and loose papers were foldered by Tammi Kim in 2019. Rolled maps were housed in archival boxes. In 2021, Sarah Jones further processed the collection and updated the inventory in ArchivesSpace.

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Names and Subjects

- Water resources development -- Nevada
- Railroads
- Water rights
- Las Vegas Valley (Nev.)
- Union Pacific Railroad Company
- San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Company