



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

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Las Vegas Land and Water Company
<b>Contributor:</b>	Las Vegas Valley Water District (Nev.)
<b>Title:</b>	Las Vegas Land & Water Company Records from the Las Vegas Valley Water District
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00912
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1918 to 1989
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6.31 Cubic Feet (4 boxes, 13 rolls, 1 flat file)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5.80 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	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

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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

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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

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Materials remain as they were received.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

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

### Publication Rights

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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

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

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Containers
Agreement file volume no. I, 1945 to 1948 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 01
Agreement file volume no. II, 1950 to 1951 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 01
Agreement file volume no. III, 1950 to 1952 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 01

Agreement file volume no. IV, 1952 to 1953 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 01
Agreement file volume no. V, 1953 to 1954 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 01
Agreement file volume no. VI, 1953 to 1954 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 01
Bill of sale, volume no. I, 1947 to 1952 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 02
Bill of sale, volume no. II, 1952 to 1954 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 02
Bill of sale, volume no. III, 1954 to 1959 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 02
Appraisal of Las Vegas water system, 1950 to 1951 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 04
Appraisal of Las Vegas water system, 1952 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 04
Report on results of operation, 1950 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 04
Union Pacific Railroad-Las Vegas Land & Water Co. correspondence (1 of 2), 1952 to 1954 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 02
Union Pacific Railroad-Las Vegas Land & Water Co. correspondence (2 of 2), 1952 to 1954 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 02
Maps of water bearing lands, 1953 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 02
Purchase of Las Vegas Land & Water Co. legal documents (1 of 2), 1948 to 1956 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 02
Purchase of Las Vegas Land & Water Co. legal documents (2 of 2), 1948 to 1956 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 03
Union Pacific administrative file, 1955 to 1956 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 03
Key to water main extension files, 1953 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 03
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Photocopy of 1902 water rights deed from Helen J. Stewart et al to W. A. Clark, 1948 to 1989 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 03
Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Co., Union Pacific Railroad Co., Las Vegas Land and Water Co., and Las Vegas Valley Water District, 1953 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 03
Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Co., Union Pacific Railroad Co, and Las Vegas Valley Water District, 1954 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 03
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Letter to Thomas A. Campbell from O'Melveny & Myers, 1953 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 03
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Draft lease agreements, 1953 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 03
Report on water main extension policy, photocopy of 1954 report, 1978 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 04
Rates, rules & regulations of the water department, 1951 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 04
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Correspondence, 1949 to 1954 ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	box 04
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Las Vegas Land & Water Co. map showing water distribution system in Las Vegas, Nevada, 1946	roll 12
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