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Southern Nevada data centers used a ton of water in 2024. Here's how.



Photo by David Prasad. “Extreme weather seems to make the headlines almost every week, as disasters increasingly strike out of season, break records, and hit places they never have before. Decades of scientific research has proven that human-caused climate change is making some disasters more dangerous and more frequent. The burning of fossil fuels like oil, gas, and coal releases carbon dioxide into the Earth’s atmosphere, where it traps heat, warms the planet, and alters the conditions in which extreme weather forms. These changes are happening more rapidly than at any time in the last 800,000 years, according to climate records. Below, we break down what experts know — and what they don’t — about the connections between climate change and flooding. Flooding is one of the most common natural disasters that can devastate a community. Between 2000 and 2019, nearly 1.6 billion people globally were impacted by floods, according to a [study](#) published in Nature. ... ” [Read more from Grist.](#)

RESTORE THE DELTA: Tribal leaders and environmental advocates demand lawmakers reject Delta tunnel fast-tracking legislation in day of action for water justice

“Tribal leaders and environmental justice advocates met with legislators today for the 2025 Day of Action for Water Justice, urging lawmakers to reject Governor Newsom’s proposed trailer bills that would fast-track the Delta Conveyance Project and bypass critical environmental protections. The day-long event began with power meetings between Tribal members, environmental advocates and legislators to urge support for equitable, science-based water solutions that protect the Bay-Delta and to reject the financially reckless Delta Conveyance Project that threatens ecosystems, Tribal sovereignty, and public health. Advocates cited a recent report published by the California Water Impact Network prepared by ECONorthwest that estimates the project could in reality cost anywhere from \$60 to over \$100 billion – three to five times higher than the approximately \$20 billion that the Department of Water Resources is claiming. These skyrocketing costs would largely fall to ratepayers across California. ... ” [Read more from Restore the Delta](#).

SEE ALSO: [Tribal Leaders, Enviro Urges Legislature to Reject Bills Fast-Tracking Delta Conveyance Project](#), from the Daily Kos

EPA plows ahead with reorg

“EPA has resumed its efforts to reorganize the agency after the Supreme Court earlier this month lifted a lower court’s injunction that stalled the Trump administration’s restructuring efforts. But EPA employees will have less say in where they end up under the restructuring because of the time lost while the injunction was in place, an EPA official told colleagues in an internal email obtained by POLITICO’s E&E News. The apparent move to limit employees’ options about where they land in the agency signals that EPA is hustling to comply with the administration’s directive to restructure the federal bureaucracy. It’s also frustrating staffers who expected to have more of a say in where they landed after the reshuffle, according to EPA employees granted anonymity because they fear reprisal. ... ” [Read more from E&E News](#).

EPA eliminates research and development office, begins layoffs

https://apnews.com/article/epa-zeldin-trump-reorganization-science-research-acf0ad3a649f940e138b2a917169405f?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us

House 2026 budget guts environmental protections

“Republicans are proposing deep cuts to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the fiscal year 2026 appropriations bill, which additionally would limit federal help for farmers dealing with “forever chemical” contamination. The bill, released this week and debated in a US House of Representatives subcommittee on Tuesday, would impact regulations for clean water and air, use and management of public land, wildlife habitats and endangered species protections. In addition to a broad 23% proposed cut to the EPA’s overall budget, the bill seeks to reduce the budgets of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service each by about 6%. All three proposed agency budgets, however, are higher than President Donald Trump requested. ... ” [Read more from the New Lede](#).

One of Berkeley's hottest music acts is a band of city librarians

Kids are flocking to parks and Freight & Salvage to hear librarian Michael Kwende read silly books with perfect rhythm, backed up by his bookish bandmates.



Michael Kwende, Claremont branch librarian and founder of the Story Time Band, holds up a flamingo puppet during a May 8 performance at Live Oak Park while Juan Castille, back-up singer and percussionist, dances along. Puppets, costumes, plush animals are part of every set. Credit: Ximena Natera, Berkeleyside/CatchLight Local

Jumping, singing, squirming or deep-snoozing in the cocoon of a stroller or grown-up's arms, kids and babies by the dozens fill a grassy slope in Live Oak Park, moving to the tunes of a band of Berkeley librarians.

These city librarians staff reference desks, help locate books on shelves, renew library cards and all the usual duties of the profession. But their job descriptions include another gig: making fun, zany music for children as the library's official [Story Time Band](#).

While library storytimes with singing and instruments are commonplace, including in Berkeley, it's rare for them to be led by full, professional bands with so many fans they've outgrown library spaces.

"Love my doggy ice cream, love my doggy ice cream," chants Michael Kwende, Claremont branch librarian, band founder and lead storyteller — reading from the book [Groovy Joe Ice Cream and Dinosaurs](#), accompanied by guitar, keyboard and drums.



The band has outgrown library spaces and now performs mostly in parks, with regular shows at Freight & Salvage. Credit: Ximena Natera, Berkeleyside/CatchLight Local

The band's repertoire, a kind of world music, hip-hop, reggae, blues, sing-along playlist spliced with read-aloud storytelling is intended to boost early literacy or help children learn language skills, Kwende said. Rhyming. Counting. Word repetitions.

If audience size and feedback is a measure, the band is a smash. So popular, it performs today mostly in parks, with regular shows at Freight & Salvage, a downtown venue known for hosting major music acts.

Puppets, costumes, plush animals are part of every set. Fairies, flamingos, foxes. Many little ones — Story Time regulars — giddily greet them as old friends.

"It's such an amazing public resource ... a community event," says mom Rachell, from Oakland, joined by her 1-year-old daughter at the May 8 Story Time Band performance at Live Oak Park, where a lively crowd of children, parents, caregivers and more have gathered. Blankets spread on the grass. Strollers lined up at the rear. Sunhats and sippy cups galore.

The amplified sound makes a big difference, Rachell says. "The music is really good."

"I am me, we are we, we are us, they are them," Kwende rhythmically reads across the Live Oak lawn to a big-eyed (and wiggly) crowd. The words are Mo Willems', from his book [*Me and Other Bunnies*](#), but they are transformed by Kwende's deep baritone voice, backed up by the band's music. Guitar riffs. Rat-a-tat-tats from the drums. Keyboard melodies. "We are a lot of bunnies. And I am still me."

Band of librarians grew out of Claremont branch's storytime, starting in 2014. He was joined by retired librarian Tim DeWolf, on guitar.

Kwende, 52, has worked at other libraries before Berkeley, where he's now been for 12 years. He always knew he wanted to specifically be a children's librarian, he said. And he's always been drawn to the connections of language and music. Pacing, cadence, tone.

His voice, Kwende said, is his instrument. His formal education is in library science.

"Music and stories are inseparable," Kwende said. "Since my first storytime, singing and reading stories rhythmically was always part of how I connected with young audiences and their caregivers. I learned a lot of this from children's television shows such as Sesame Street, Electric Company and Yo Gabba Gabba, among others. I was and still remain a student of legendary children's music singers including Ella Jenkins and Jose Luis Orozco."

"I have noticed that many authors write with a rhythm that is often musical and these are the books I like to share with the children in our musical storytime sessions."

Music isn't his only vehicle: Kwende also launched children's library programs in animation, slime making, and paper craft.

Kwende, who grew up in Seattle, said his family listened to all kinds of music — gospel soul, funk, reggae, jazz, the blues. His first musical love was hip-hop.

Kwende says his voice is his instrument. “Since my first storytime, singing and reading stories rhythmically was always part of how I connected with young audiences and their caregivers,” he says. Credit: Ximena Natera, Berkeleyside/CatchLight Local

His list of musical influences is like a world tour: Black folk, especially of the [Gullah](#) culture of the South Carolina Sea Islands, West Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Calypso, Mento, and Capoeira Angola music of Brazil.

“We use multiple folk songs from these regions in our musical storytime events,” Kwende said. “I bring the musical influences I grew up with and love into my work, which typically shows up as reinterpretations of children’s nursery rhymes and songs and ‘adult music’ too,” he said.

Each musician brings something unique to the band’s sound and selections, expanding its appeal in ways kids seem to adore. Kwende also gives credit to illustrator [Jerome Lu](#), who does the band’s fliers, t-shirts, social media and a [limited edition Story Time Band library card](#).

Over time and based on growing audiences, Kwende added Story Time Band musicians, drawing from the library family of interested and musical staff and volunteers.

In addition to Kwende, better known in the storytime world as “Mr. Michael,” and DeWolf, “Mr. Tim” (who also plays banjo), other members include library specialist Juan Castille as back-up singer and percussionist (from bongos to [djembe](#) to a full drum set); library specialist Donovan Russell on bass guitar; and the newest addition, [Tienne Lee](#), on keyboard. Lee, who also plays drums, is on the [Berkeley Public Library Foundation’s](#) board.

“It’s all interactive. The whole purpose is we’re teaching kids early literacy with music and movement,” said Castille, aka “Mr. Juan,” a longtime musician who grew up in Berkeley and has worked at the library for 25 years.

The band riffs, remixes, invents and ad libs, he said.

“Our brand is a very unorthodox approach to storytime, which some children’s librarians have dismissed as not storytime at all, but that’s OK, because we don’t do what we do for them, we do it for the children,” Kwende said. “As long as they are learning to love books, music, and movement at our events, we have done our jobs.”

Pandemic was the Story Time Band’s big break

The Story Time Band took shape in the pandemic, Castille said, when indoor library activities largely stopped. They started practicing in Strawberry Creek Park around 2020, he said, “improv pop-ups,” and some families took note.

“We had a few moms come up to us, and say, ‘Can we get this on a regular basis?’” he said. “People were starving for music.

Nameless at that point, the band started rotating parks — Bateman and Virginia Tot Lot, as well as Strawberry Creek. Its following grew.

This was great on warmer days. But rain and cold cut playing days short.

Then Freight & Salvage entered the scene in 2022, as the COVID shutdown eased, offering the band a residence, or home base, with regular bookings.

“The Freight was born out of weather,” Castille said. “That’s where the band really kicked off.”

One of the first Freight concerts drew almost 400 people, he said. Soon after, Story Time Band stuck as the official name.

“It started out as routine musical storytime and it transformed into a movement. We haven’t really seen anything like what we do, not in a library,” Castille said.

Performances at parks are in partnership with the city’s Parks and Recreation Department, as part of its [Together Wee Play](#) program for children 4 and under. These events are held at Live Oak Park (every second Thursday) and [Frances Albrier Community Center](#) (every third Thursday) on a regular basis.

The band has also played at the city’s [Tuolumne Camp](#) and partners with the Berkeley Unified School District, playing in elementary school classrooms and libraries.



Mesmerized toddlers know all the songs

Toddlers wander the park during the concert. Credit: Ximena Natera, Berkeleyside/CatchLight

Kwende is crooning: “Let’s go to the moon. Countdown, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 . . . We’re going to the moon. We can do the moon hop.” It’s Story Time Band’s twist of [Zoom Zoom Zoom We’re Going to the Moon](#), by the [Kiboomers](#).

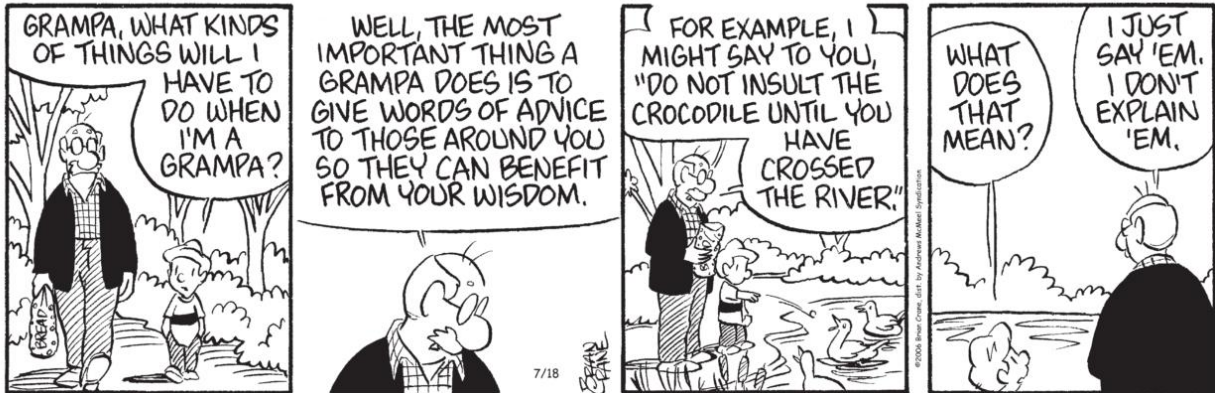
Kids are hopping, watching, mouthing and shouting the words.

Stephanie, a nanny, has been bringing her young charge to Story Time concerts for years, she said, tracking them down whenever they can. Her first concert was at Freight & Salvage, over two years ago.

“For me it was a surprise to have a concert for kids that’s so well structured,” she says. The toddler with her stood mesmerized by the band. “He knows all the songs, and we play them at

home, too.”

PICKLES: By Brian Crane



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The National Endowment for the Humanities has [unexpectedly reinstated a portion of funding to nonprofits and state humanities councils](#) after millions of dollars in previously awarded grants were canceled on April 3.  
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EXPLORE WAYS TO CELEBRATE TOGETHER

There are many ways to immerse yourself in Native culture and appreciation. From social dances to a virtual book club with our President and CEO, Cheryl Crazy Bull, everything you need is below. We have also included resources like discussion guides and videos to create a rich and interactive experience.

[Dance](#) - Learn a traditional Native Social Dance from celebrated musician, Martha Redbone.

[Food](#) - Nourish your heart and soul with these recipes from blogger Alana Yazzie, the Fancy Navajo!

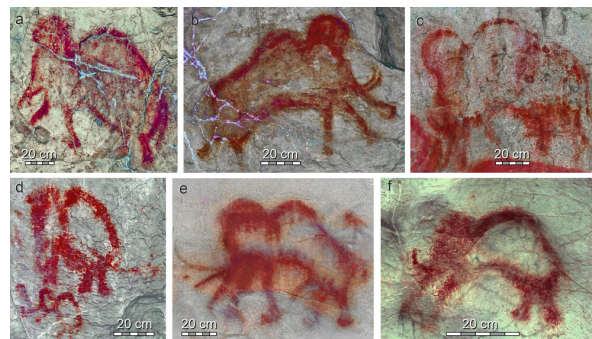
[Read](#) - Travel into the mind of contemporary Native writers and walk alongside them as they share their stories with you.

[Watch](#)

Binge watch TV shows and Movies that truthfully represent Native voices.

Here are some of the newest UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- [Cambodian Memorial Sites: From centres of repression to places of peace and reflection](#) (Cambodia)
- [Coastal and Marine Ecosystems of the Bijagós Archipelago – Omatí Minhô](#) (Guinea-Bissau)
- [Cultural Heritage Sites of Ancient Khuttal](#) (Tajikistan)
- [Diy-Gid-Biy Cultural Landscape of the Mandara Mountains](#) (Cameroon)
- [Faya Palaeolandscape](#) (United Arab Emirates)
- [Forest Research Institute Malaysia Forest Park Selangor](#) (Malaysia)
- [Funerary Tradition in the Prehistory of Sardinia – The domus de janas](#) (Italy)
- [Gola-Tiwai Complex](#) (Sierra Leone)
- [Maratha Military Landscapes of India](#) (India)
- [Megaliths of Carnac and of the shores of Morbihan](#) (France)
- [Minoan Palatial Centres](#) (Greece)
- [Mount Kumgang – Diamond Mountain from the Sea](#) (North Korea)
- [Mount Mulanje Cultural Landscape](#) (Malawi)
- [Møns Klint](#) (Denmark)
- [Murujuga Cultural Landscape](#) (Australia)
- [Peruaçu River Canyon](#) (Brazil)
- [Petroglyphs along the Bangucheon Stream](#) (South Korea)
- [Prehistoric Sites of the Khorramabad Valley](#) (Iran (see below))
- [Rock Paintings of Shulgan-Tash Cave](#) (Russia)
- [Sardis and the Lydian Tumuli of Bin Tepe](#) (Turkey)
- [The Archaeological Ensemble of 17th Century Port Royal](#) (Jamaica)
- [The Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá](#) (Panama)
- [The Palaces of King Ludwig II of Bavaria: Neuschwanstein, Linderhof, Schachen and Herrenchiemsee](#) (Germany)
- [Wixárika Route through Sacred Sites to Wirikuta \(Tatehuarí Huajuyé\)](#) (Mexico)
- [Xixia Imperial Tombs](#) (China)
- [Yen Tu-Vinh Nghiem-Con Son, Kiep Bac Complex of Monuments and Landscapes](#) (Vietnam)



Tracing images of mammoths (*Mammuthus primigenius*) in the Hall of Paintings

Date: 01/01/2018 **Author:** C. Peshkov, N. Grigoryev,

Copyright: © C. Peshkov, N. Grigoryev, State Budgetary Institution of the RB, the Shulgan-Tash Cave Historical and Cultural Museum Reserve **Source:** Nomination File

Blood Feuds: The Fight Over Who Gets to Be Native American

A Rhode Island tribe's quest for state recognition has sparked a bitter fight over who can claim Indigenous heritage, how to prove it—and who gets to decide.

https://www.bostonmagazine.com/news/2025/07/13/rhode-island-seaconke-wampanoag/?utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us

Nevada/California Indian Housing Association And AMERIND Risk

Are Pleased to Announce the

NV/CAL IHA 2025 Scholarship Fund

Available to Support Post High School Education in
2 and 4 year Colleges, Universities, Certified Technical Schools
or Certified Trade Schools

Scholarships will be awarded for the Fall 2025 Semester.

Applicants must submit the attached Scholarship Application
that includes the following information:

1. Name/Address/Telephone/Email
2. Birth Certificate
2. Tribal Affiliation/Tribal Certification/Tribal ID
3. Proof of Enrollment for Fall 2025 semester in a 2 or 4 year college, university, a certified technical or trade school
4. Personal essay statement regarding your need for the funding and how you would use the scholarship funds.
5. Personal Photo (optional)

Please Note: Must submit hard copies only, the Scholarship Committee will not accept emailed or faxed applications.

**Applications are due and must be post marked:
July 31, 2025**

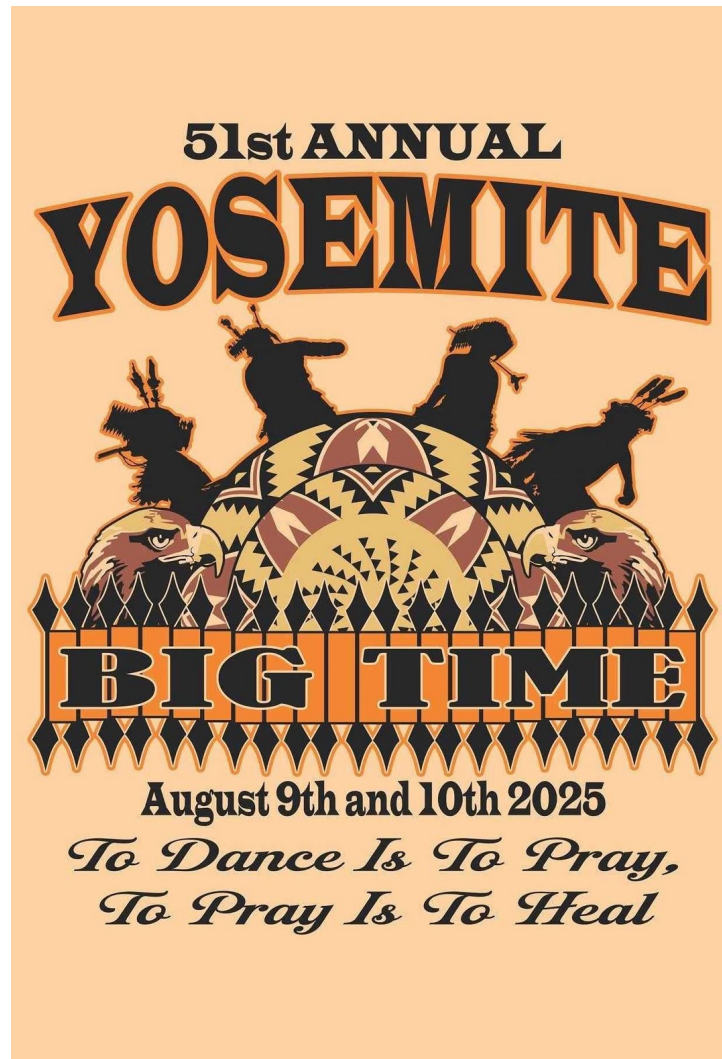
Send to:
Scholarship Committee
c/o Hoopa Valley Housing Authority
PO Box 1285
Hoopa, CA 95546

Questions: Darcy Padilla (530) 625-4759
Applications will be reviewed and the funding decisions are made by the
Nevada California IHA Scholarship Committee

Public broadcasting cuts leave rural Americans in the lurch

President Donald Trump's rescissions package targets public media. The smallest stations serving rural America are set to bear the brunt.

Read in The Washington Post: <https://apple.news/AAKdxVsDXSo2wi-gIVkApsw>



Fed up with rising gas prices, Nita Mexican voted last November for Donald Trump, who is increasingly popular among Native American communities which have long supported the political left."A lot of the younger ones are for him now, including friends of our grandkids," the... | Newsmax

Click here to read more: https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/trump-native-americans/2025/07/20/id/1219333/?ns_mail_uid=3f112939-f28e-4160-966d-77c9a4dedf17

Indigenous voices: Tribal kayakers describe why Klamath voyage was ‘not just a river trip

“Over a hundred family and community members gathered on the sand spit shore below Requa Village on the Yurok Reservation, where the Klamath River meets the Pacific Ocean, to welcome 120 Indigenous youth kayakers over that last 30 days, making history as the first people to descend over 310 miles down the free-flowing Klamath River since dam removal. “This is a historical moment for us,” said Susan Masten, former Yurok Tribal Chair, past president of the National Congress of American Indians, and the president and co-founder of Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations. “We haven’t had the opportunity yet to celebrate the dams coming down as a people.” “This moment in time, with these youth that have traveled 30 days, the river has guided them down to us,” said Masten. ... ” [Read more from Oregon Live.](#)

Sen. Schiff leads California and Nevada Senators in upholding bipartisan EXPLORE Act to benefit Lake Tahoe Basin

“Today, U.S. Senator Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) led Senators Alex Padilla (D-Calif.), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), and Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.) in requesting U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Brooke Rollins and U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary Doug Burgum to ensure Lake Tahoe Basin benefits from the bipartisan *Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act*, which was signed into law last Congress. In the letter, the lawmakers urge the agencies to take action on the opportunities presented by the *EXPLORE Act*, which includes improving outdoor recreation access on U.S. public lands, supporting gateway communities, strengthening conservation efforts, and boosting outdoor recreation economy. “Lake Tahoe is a beautiful, unique environment that both our states cherish and enjoy for its plentiful outdoor recreation opportunities and its precious natural resource value,” the Senators wrote. “We follow a line of previous California and Nevada Senators who have worked with numerous administrations across decades to preserve and protect Lake Tahoe for Californians, Nevadans, and the millions of people from beyond our states who visit Tahoe every year.” ... ” [Read more from Senator Schiff.](#)

Southern Nevada data centers used a ton of water in 2024. Here’s how

“The centerpiece of Flexential’s North Las Vegas data center is a massive room holding server boxes with blue and yellow wires twisting above. Walking between servers sectioned off behind cages and ceiling-high panels, the facility feels oddly chilly. Servers typically generate large amounts of heat, but through different technologies, data centers quickly route it outside. Some of these methods involve evaporating a lot of water. Flexential’s North Las Vegas facility is one of more than 30 data centers spread across the Las Vegas Valley. Other facilities belong to companies such as Switch and Google, which has a site in Henderson. Data centers provide infrastructure necessary to support websites, data storage and even online gaming. In Nevada, the country’s driest state, the recent growth of generative artificial intelligence has put increased attention on data centers’ power demands and the water needed to cool servers. This comes as Lake Mead risks hitting crisis levels, and more groundwater has been signed away in parts of Northern Nevada than is actually available. ... ” [Read more from the Las Vegas Review Journal.](#)