# Low Lake Level Pumping Station (Lake Mead)/ Innovative Underground Space Concept 

Las Vegas, NV USA

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## Project Necessity

- Lake Mead part of Colorado River formed by Hoover Dam
- Southwestern USA has been experiencing severe drought conditions, affecting Lake Mead's (Las Vegas, NV USA) water levels
- Colorado River supplies $90 \%$ of Las Vegas, NV (USA) water (2.2 Million population, 33 Million visitors annually)



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## Lake Mead Drought Impacts to SNWA



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## SNWA Response to Drought

- Low Lake Level Pumping Station (L3PS)
- Objective to complete in the swiftest feasible timeframe
- \$650 Budgeted Cost
- Owner: SNWA
- Design Engineer: Jacobs and Stantec Joint Venture
- Program Manager: Parsons
- Contractor: Barnard of Nevada, Inc.
- Drilling Subcontractor: North American Drillers, LLC


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## Low Lake Level Pumping Station (L3PS)


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## Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) and Construction Manger-at-Risk (CMAR) Contract

- Limited Underground or Tunnel Projects in the USA have utilized ECI or CMAR Contracts
- Two-stage RFP Selection Process based on qualifications, approach, and personnel
- Allowed collaborations between Owner, Design Engineer and Contractor
- Drawings and Specifications
- Geotechnical Baseline Report
- Budget and Schedule
- Contract Terms and Conditions
- Best Value Subcontractor and Materials Selection



## L3PS Project Overview



## L3PS Project Overview

- Well shafts - 34 ea steel-lined 6 ft . diameter, 500 ft . deep
- Access Shaft - 26 ft . diameter, 527 ft . deep
- Riser Shaft Connector Tunnel - 20 ft . long by 20 ft . wide by 20 ft . high Dshape
- Riser Shaft - 26 ft . diameter 45 ft . deep
- Forebay - 33 ft . wide by 36 ft . high by 377 ft . long horseshoe-shaped Cavern

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## Modeling of Large Forebay Cavern, Well Shafts \& Pumps

- Purpose: Verify compliance with Hydraulic Institute standards at pump inlets
- Participants: Owner and Operations, Engineer, Contractor and Pump Manufacturers


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## Submersible Pumps Test Procurement

- Purpose: Test pumps from 3 different manufacturers to verify capability and pump operation (Note: All 3 manufacturers have different design)


Indar pump


Andritz pump


Ebara pump

## Underground Geotechnical Challenges




NOTES:




## Pre-excavation Grouting



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## Pre-excavation Grouting - Underground

- Contractor implemented Preexcavation Grouting Plan
- 5 each 100-foot Pre-excavation Grout Covers in Access Shaft
- 7 each Pre-excavation Grout Covers in Forebay/Tunnels
- Superfine and Type III cement grout
- Air track drill \& Robodrill Jumbo
- Surface operated grout plant



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## Pre-excavation Grouting - Well Shafts



## Primary Grout Hole Layout

Contractor Pre-excavation grouting program:

- Primary -Pre-grout holes were grouted in 100 ft stages starting from the bottom and moving upward
- Secondary - 3D Model and heat map of the formation were used to focus on specific areas that still appeared to be unstable. Grout holes were placed in strategic locations
- Tertiary - Target holes were strategically positioned to reach areas that remained unstable



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## Pre-excavation Grouting - Well Shafts



- 200 Grout Holes to 550 ft Deep
- Drilled 145,000 ft
- Injected 2,600 tons or 100 truckloads of Cement
- Lasted 4 MonthsITA
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## Well Shafts - Surface Casing



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## Well Shafts - Pilot and Blind Bore Drilling

Pilot Hole Rig - Directionally Drilled 8" dia.


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## Well Shafts - Casings and Survey

Well Casing (72" dia, $1^{\prime \prime}$ thick)


Mandrel (Survey Alignment)


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## Well Shafts - Completed Casings

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## Access Shaft - Excavation



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## Access Shaft - Excavation

## Access Shaft - Concrete Lining



## Forebay Cavern - Excavation



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## Forebay Cavern - Excavation



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## Forebay Cavern - Excavation


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## Forebay Cavern - Excavation

## Pumping Station - Aboveground Construction



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## Pumping Station - Aboveground Construction



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## Project Budget, Schedule, and Safety

- Project is on schedule for April 2020 Final Completion
- Underground Excavation completed on schedule and under the original contract amount
- No disputes and claims
- Excellent Project Safety Record



## Special Thanks to All Involved in the Project!



