



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 3, 2020

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WALKER BASIN CONSERVANCY COMPLETES WATER ACQUISITION FOR THE RESTORATION OF WALKER LAKE

Approximately 47.5 percent of the water needed to restore and maintain Walker Lake has now been acquired

YERINGTON, Nev.—November 3, 2020— Walker Basin Conservancy has completed the purchase of 4.731 cubic feet per second (cfs) of decreed water and 126.287 acre-feet (AF) of new land and apportioned storage water in Smith Valley, Nevada. Land associated with this acquisition will continue to be used for agriculture and contribute to the local economy.

The Conservancy acquires land, water and related interests from willing sellers in the Walker Basin to restore and maintain Walker Lake while protecting agricultural and recreational interests. The Conservancy estimates that it has acquired up to 47.5 percent of the water needed to restore Walker Lake to a long-term average of 12,000 ppm total dissolved solids (TDS), levels similar to those that existed in the year 2000.

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About Walker Basin Conservancy: The Conservancy is leading the effort to restore and maintain Walker Lake while protecting agricultural, environmental and recreational interests in the Walker River Basin. The Conservancy manages thousands of acres of land in the basin and conducts revegetation activities, habitat enhancement and ongoing research. The Conservancy protects and monitors acquired water resources to ensure that they are used as intended for watershed stewardship and to increase stream flows to Walker Lake.

In 2017, the Conservancy accepted the lead role in implementing the Walker Basin Restoration Program (Program), previously administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The Program was established by Public Law 111-85 (2009).

About Walker Lake: Walker Lake is a natural lake located in the geographic low point of the Walker River Basin and is the terminus of the Walker River. Decades of water diversions have resulted in declining water levels and dramatic increases in TDS to a level where Walker Lake can no longer support native fish or waterfowl. The Conservancy is working to acquire enough water to reintroduce a stable population of the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout, and other keystone species, in Walker Lake.