

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 9, 2006

NEWS RELEASE

Legislative Commission's Committee to Study the Use, Management, and
Allocation of Water Resources
(Senate Concurrent Resolution 26, File No. 100, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*)

Date: Friday, January 13, 2006
Time: 9 a.m.
Place: Location A: Las Vegas
Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4401
555 East Washington Avenue
Location B: Carson City
Legislative Building, Room 3138
401 South Carson Street

Contact: Susan E. Scholley
LCB Research Division
Carson City
(775) 684-6825

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE TO MEET IN LAS VEGAS

Senator Dean A. Rhoads (R-Tuscarora) is pleased to announce that Nevada's Committee on Water Resources will hold its second meeting of the 2005-2006 legislative interim at the Grant Sawyer State Office Building in Las Vegas on Friday, January 13, 2006, at 9 a.m. An agenda is attached to this news release.

Senator Rhoads, Chairman of the Water Resources Committee, noted that the January meeting will begin with a presentation by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA). **“Understanding the Southern Nevada Water Authority’s short- and long-range plans for water management is critical to the mission of this committee,”** Rhoads explained. **“The current proposal by SNWA to import water from neighboring counties is a matter of statewide concern and the Committee will be discussing the potential impacts of interbasin water transfers in-depth.”**

Also on the agenda is a presentation by the Western States Water Council on water law in other states. **“Nevada is not alone in the problems it faces, and the Committee is looking forward to hearing about how other western states have approached the issues that the Committee will be considering over the interim,”** said Senator Rhoads.

With regard to a presentation by the Administrator of the Water Management Division of the Idaho Department of Water Resources on Idaho's adjudication of water rights in the Snake River, Senator Rhoads noted, **"During the 2005 Session there were proposals to adjudicate water rights throughout Nevada. The State of Idaho undertook a comprehensive adjudication 20 years ago that included most of the state and the Committee will benefit from hearing about Idaho's experience and the current status of the Idaho adjudication."**

Nevada's Division of Water Resources will also be providing the Committee with additional information about domestic well issues, including temporary permits and enforcement issues. **"Nevada's ground water management statutes have been in place for over 70 years and served us well. However, as our water resources are stretched to the limit in the Las Vegas and other valleys, we must carefully review all aspects of water use,"** Rhoads explained.

The Committee will also be receiving an overview of existing data on water resources. **"The presentations at the meeting will focus on the available data on ground water use, including information on recharge, pumping, and perennial yield. This Committee has been asked whether more studies are needed and, if so, what additional data is needed. The Committee must be mindful of the price tag on water inventories and studies, and must balance the desire for more quantification with the cost of such knowledge,"** Rhoads continued.

Noting that interbasin transfers are not new, Senator Rhoads explained, **"We will also be hearing from Carson City about the interbasin transfers that make up Carson City's water management plan. This case study should be informative and provide the Committee with relevant insight into the unique needs of our cities and counties."**

Senator Rhoads looks forward to a productive meeting. **"The Water Resources Committee was created in the 2005 Session to conduct an interim study of water resources in Nevada. We will be holding meetings throughout Nevada and, after hearing from experts, water managers, and the public, the Committee will be considering proposals for future legislation or other action."**

Other members of the Committee are: Assemblyman Jerry D. Claborn, Vice Chairman (D-Las Vegas); Senators Mark E. Amodei (R-Carson City); Warren B. Hardy II (R-Las Vegas); Dina Titus (D-Las Vegas); Assemblymen Kelvin D. Atkinson (D-North Las Vegas); Pete Goicoechea (R-Eureka); and David R. Parks (D-Las Vegas).