

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 14, 2006

NEWS RELEASE

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

Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2006
Time: 9 a.m.
Place: Location A: Carson City
Legislative Building, Room 2135
401 South Carson Street
Location B: Las Vegas
Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4401
555 East Washington Avenue

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STATE WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE TO DECIDE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE FOR 2007 SESSION

Senator Dean A. Rhoads (R-Tuscarora) announced today that Nevada's Committee on Water Resources will hold its final meeting and work session of the 2005-2006 legislative interim at the Legislative Building in Carson City on Wednesday, June 21, 2006, at 9 a.m., with videoconferencing to Room 4401 in the Grant Sawyer State Office Building in Las Vegas. An agenda is attached to this news release.

At the work session, Committee members will consider a list of possible actions that have been suggested to the Committee over the last six meetings. The actions range from bill draft requests for legislation to be considered during the next Legislative Session in 2007 to letters the Committee might send to federal, state, or local agencies or others urging certain actions. **"At this meeting, the Committee will look at the list of suggestions and proposals and decide which ones to pursue,"** Senator Rhoads explained.

“The Committee worked very hard this interim,” commented Senator Rhoads. “We traveled to Caliente, Ely, and Elko to give the residents of Nevada’s rural communities a chance to make their views known. We also held three meetings in Las Vegas and heard from the Southern Nevada Water Authority and numerous experts on water resource issues,” Rhoads went on to say.

“All in all, the Committee received a wealth of information on a range of water resource topics, including the hydrogeology of aquifers, past and present U.S. Geological Survey water studies, administrative procedures for water rights applications, domestic well issues, and water conservation,” Senator Rhoads said. “In addition, the Committee heard from water providers, big and small, and local governments throughout the State, as well as from Nevadans sharing their concerns about water and the management and allocation of this scarce resource.”

“The Committee now has the difficult job of considering what recommendations to make to the 2007 Legislature,” explained Senator Rhoads. “Bill drafts have been suggested on critical issues such as domestic wells, interbasin transfers, and protest procedures for water rights applications. As always, the Committee invites public input on the proposed recommendations,” stated Rhoads.

The Water Resources Committee was created during the 2005 Legislative Session to study water resource issues throughout Nevada. **“As we finish our work for the 2005–2006 interim, the Water Resources Committee wants to thank the many people who took time from busy schedules to testify before the Committee and to share their knowledge and concerns. We must not forget that the water of the State belongs to the public. The Legislature must work together to make wise water decisions and ensure the future prosperity of our State and all Nevadans,”** concluded Senator Rhoads.

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), and Dina Titus (D-Las Vegas); and Assemblymen Kelvin D. Atkinson (D-North Las Vegas), Pete Goicoechea (R-Eureka), and David R. Parks (D-Las Vegas).