

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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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, May 24, 2006
Time: 8:30 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

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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 sixth meeting of the 2005-2006 legislative interim at the Grant Sawyer State Office Building in Las Vegas on Wednesday, May 24, 2006, at 8:30 a.m., with videoconferencing to Room 3138 in the Legislative Building in Carson City. An agenda is attached to this news release.

Senator Rhoads, Chairman of the Water Resources Committee, noted that the May meeting will be the last time the Committee receives presentations. The seventh and final meeting of the Committee will be on June 21, 2006, in Carson City, to conduct a work session and act on recommendations for bill draft requests to the 2007 Legislature.

“After three meetings in the rural counties, the Committee is returning to Las Vegas to wrap up its work and hear several important presentations on matters of statewide interest,” Rhoads stated. **“Among other things, the Committee will be hearing about desalination, the history of water exportation from California’s Owens Valley, and water conservation policies and programs in other western states and in Nevada,”** explained Senator Rhoads.

“Desalination may be the key to solving some of the water problems of the West, although it is not a short-term solution,” Senator Rhoads went on to say. **“Water conservation is also an important part of any long-term solution to Nevada’s need for water, and we are always interested in hearing about what is being tried in other Western states, as well as what is going on in our local communities,”** commented Senator Rhoads. In addition, the Colorado River Commission will be providing the Committee with an overview of its activities.

At the State level, the agenda includes several presentations by the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. **“The Committee heard a presentation on domestic well issues at its January meeting and will be looking to the State Engineer and other interested parties to update the Committee on their recommendations for legislative actions. The Committee hopes to hear that the parties have reached some agreement on appropriate enforcement options for over-pumping of domestic wells. We also hope that there will be some proposed solutions to the concerns raised about the increasing number of domestic wells in some of Nevada’s fastest growing communities,”** Senator Rhoads explained. **“Due to concerns raised at our Elko meeting, I have asked for additional information on water rights applications on seeps and springs by the Bureau of Land Management and others for wildlife purposes,”** said Senator Rhoads.

The Committee will also receive an update on the status of the \$1 million *Water Rights Technical Support Fund* created by Senate Bill 62 in the 2005 Session. **“As the sponsor of S.B. 62, I want the Committee to hear how the money was distributed, and how it will be spent,”** explained Senator Rhoads.

Finally, the Committee will hear a report from Senator Mark Amodei, Chair of the S.C.R. 26 Subcommittee on the Feasibility and Advisability of Consolidating Water-Related Services in Washoe County on activities of the Subcommittee.

Senator Rhoads advised that the Committee is interested in receiving ideas for legislation and encourages members of the public to come forward at the May meeting to present those ideas, or to send ideas to the Committee, in writing, not later than June 2, 2006, for its consideration at the June 21st meeting. **“As we wrap up our work for the 2005–2006 interim, the Water Resources Committee will be acting on recommendations for legislation in the 2007 Legislature to ensure the wise use of water in our lifetime while protecting Nevada’s water resources for future generations. Since the water of the state belongs to all the people of Nevada, the Committee welcomes public input at its meetings.”**

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).