

**Assembly**

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
MARCH 13, 1973  
EVENING MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: CHAIRMAN DINI  
VICE CHAIRMAN ULLOM  
ASSEMBLYMAN BROOKMAN  
ASSEMBLYMAN SMITH  
ASSEMBLYMAN GETTO  
ASSEMBLYMAN COJACK  
ASSEMBLYMAN FORD  
ASSEMBLYMAN YOUNG

MEMBERS ABSENT: ASSEMBLYMAN MAY

ALSO PRESENT: DONALD PAFF, COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION  
ROLAND WESTERGARD, STATE ENGINEER  
FRANK DAYKIN, LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

AB 342 - Reorganizes state department of conservation and natural resources.

Frank Daykin told the committee that the admenements he had prepared did two tings: Remove the natural gas commission from the bill and place the advisory boards of the Colorado River Commission as advisory boards for the Director of the Commission under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Donald Paff told the committe that he had been thinking along the same lines as the Legislative council and presented the committee with his suggested amendments. (SEE ATTACHED)\*

Assemblyman Ford asked if there would be two advisory groups to the Director.

Mr. Daykin answered yes.

Assemblyman Ullom asked if the contracts of the Colorado River Commission would be valid.

Mr. Daykin answered yes, since they were drawn between the State of Nevada and other parties, not the Colorado River Commission.

Mr. Paff suggested that a section be included to make sure the obligations of the CRC were honored.

Mr. Daykin said he did not believe this necessary.

Assemblyman Ford suggested that the bill be amended so that the land function of the CRC be placed under the State Land Registrar.

Assemblyman Smith said now was not the time to get into this, although he agreed with the idea. He stated that the Director of Conservation and Natural Resouces said this division did not have the staff or money at this time to take on this responsibility.

\* Exhibit I

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PAGE 2

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

AB 267 - Assemblyman Smith moved "AMEND AND DO PASS, RE-REFER TO WAYS AND MEANS.

Assemblyman Getto seconded the motion.  
The motion carried.

AB 372 - Assemblyman Dini moved "INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT".  
Assemblyman Getto seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously.

AB 383 - Assemblyman Ford moved "DO PASS"  
Assemblyman Dini suggested that the motion be withdrawn until Mr. Lovell presented the committee with amendments.  
Assemblyman Ford withdrew the motion.

AB 476 - Assemblyman Dini moved "DO PASS".  
Assemblyman Getto seconded the motion.  
The motion carried.  
Assemblyman Gojack did not vote.

AB 329 - Assemblyman Dini moved "INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT".  
Assemblyman Young seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously.

AB 423 - Assemblyman Dini "DO PASS AND RE-REFER TO WAYS AND MEANS"  
Assemblyman Smith seconded the motion.  
The motion carried with Assemblyman Young voting against it.

Assemblyman Smith moved committee introduction of BDR 23-1636\*.  
Assemblyman Brookman seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously.

Assemblyman Dini moved committee introduction of BDR 23-1606†.  
Assemblyman Brookman seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously.

\* A.B. 632

+ A.B. 633

DATE: 3-13  
evening

NAME	DESIRE TO TESTIFY	BILL #	REPRESENTING
Donald McMillan			Seeger (M...)
E. (C...)	No		S... (P...)
Robert A. W... (ed)	No		Ch... (F...)
Ross de... (ed)	No		St... (M...)
DON PAFF	YES	AB-342	Ch. P... (C... of Nev.)
Ch... (P...)			Ch... (D...)
Ch... (P...)			
V			

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 342  
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BILL DATED FEBRUARY 20, 1973  
AMENDMENTS NOT DATED  
TESTIMONY  
BEFORE  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS  
MARCH 13, 1973

\* \* \* \* \*

MR. CHAIRMAN, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. MY NAME IS DON PAFF. I AM THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION OF NEVADA.

THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 342 MODIFY THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION TO A DIVISION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES. I AM NOT PLANNING TO DISCUSS OR ADVOCATE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER THE CONCEPT OF ORGANIZATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT. THAT IS FOR THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO CONSIDER. I WOULD ONLY POINT OUT THAT THE JULY 1972 REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON EFFICIENCY AND ECONOMY - TO CONDUCT THE PUBLIC BUSINESS - RECOMMENDED THE FOLLOWING - "THAT IF THE CURRENT STATEWIDE AUTHORITY OF THE COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION IS RETAINED IT BE ADMINISTRATIVELY INTEGRATED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES. IF THIS AUTHORITY WERE LIMITED TO ONLY SOUTHERN NEVADA, THE COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION SHOULD REMAIN AN INDEPENDENT ENTITY."

I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS UPON THIS COMMITTEE, THE LEGISLATURE AS A WHOLE, AND THE GOVERNOR THAT THE PROGRAMS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES HERETOFORE EXISTING WITH THE COMMISSION ARE NECESSARY AND VITAL AS A CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE. SUCH PROGRAMS AND RESPONSIBILITIES MUST BE CARRIED FORWARD REGARDLESS OF THE TYPE OF STRUCTURE FELT TO BE MOST DESIRABLE. DURING THE OVER 35 YEARS OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION STRONG, FIRM AND IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED WITH THE SEVEN STATES OF THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN AND WITH THE FEDERAL AGENCIES DEALING WITH THE COLORADO RIVER RESOURCES. THE CONFIDENCE AND ACTUAL CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS MUST BE MAINTAINED INTACT AND THE PROGRAMS OF PARTICIPATION, BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, RELATING TO THE COLORADO RIVER RESOURCES, IN MY OPINION, MUST REMAIN.

I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE COLORADO RIVER SHORTLY WILL BE THE MAJOR SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY TO NOT ONLY THE LAS VEGAS VALLEY BUT TO THE ENTIRE SOUTHERN NEVADA AREA. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS OF THIS WATER SUPPLY AND THE OTHER BENEFITS TO BE ACCRUED FROM THE RESOURCE, INCLUDING POWER AND RECREATION, MUST BE ATTENDED WITH GREAT CARE FOR I BELIEVE THEY ARE INEXORABLY TIED TO THE FUTURE OF SOUTHERN NEVADA. THE FUTURE INVESTMENT BY NEVADA AND THE ADVOCACY POSITION NECESSARY FOR NEVADA IN THIS RESOURCE MUST, IN MY OPINION, NOT BE NEGLECTED BUT ENHANCED. ALL OF THE SEVEN COLORADO RIVER BASIN STATES HAVE A STATE AGENCY WHICH CAREFULLY GUARDS THAT STATE'S BENEFITS FROM THE RIVER. SOME OF THESE HAVE THIS RESPONSIBILITY ALONE.

ABSENCE OF THIS PROGRAM FOR THE STATE COULD RESULT IN NEAR AND DISTANT FUTURE PENALTIES THROUGH LACK OF ATTENTION TO THIS MOST UNIQUE AND VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR THE STATE.

THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN WHOLLY SELF-SUPPORTING VIA A SMALL CHARGE APPLIED TO WATER AND POWER ADMINISTERED BY THE COMMISSION. WITHIN THIS ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGE THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES INCLUDED NOT ONLY CURRENT ADMINISTRATION BUT PARTICIPATION WITH THE OTHER BASIN STATES AND THE UNITED STATES IN PROGRAMS FOR THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE COLORADO RIVER RESOURCE. IN THIS WAY THE USERS ARE PROTECTED AND, IN EFFECT, ALLOW FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE. I THINK SUCH A PROGRAM, WHICH IS SELF-FUNDING, IS OF EXTREME VALUE AND, PERHAPS, COULD BE ADOPTED BY OTHER RESOURCE AGENCIES, THUS ALLOWING NOT ONLY CURRENT ADMINISTRATION BUT FUTURE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT, ALL TO BE BORNE BY THE DIRECT BENEFICIARIES - IN THE CASE OF THE COLORADO, THE WATER AND POWER USERS IN SOUTHERN NEVADA.

IT IS MY OPINION THAT HISTORY WILL CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE THE POSITIVE AND BENEFICIAL IMPACTS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA BY AND THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE COMMISSION.

MR. CHAIRMAN, WE HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO A.B. 342 AS THEY RELATE TO THE EXISTING AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES. IN GENERAL, WE FIND THAT:

1. THE PROPOSED DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMISSION AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE DIVISION AND DEPARTMENT REQUIRE CLARIFICATION.

2. THE CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS OF THE STATE IN WATER, POWER AND LAND HERETOFORE ESTABLISHED AND THOSE IN THE FUTURE REQUIRE CLARIFICATION.

THERE ARE MANY OTHER AREAS RELATING TO THE FORT MOHAVE AND ELDORADO VALLEY LAND AREAS THAT NEED TO BE CONFORMED TO THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO A.B. 342.

IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THESE REQUIRED CHANGES AND CLARIFY THE DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMISSION AND THE CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS WE HAVE PREPARED A MARKUP OF THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO A.B. 342 FOR THE COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION. THIS MARKUP ALSO INCLUDES DETAILS OF CONFORMING THE PRESENT COMMISSION LAWS TO THAT OF A DIVISION UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES. WE SUBMIT THIS MARKUP FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND WOULD BE PLEASED AT THIS TIME, OR AT YOUR CONVENIENCE, TO DISCUSS OUR DETAILED COMMENTS.

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

ATTACHMENT