

ASSEMBLY
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
APRIL 4, 1977
8:30am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Murphy
Mr. May
Mr. Craddock
Mr. Jeffrey
Mr. Mann
Mr. Moody
Mr. Jacobsen

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Mr. Robinson
Mrs. Westall

Chairman Murphy called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

COMMITTEE ACTION

ASSEMBLY BILL 535 - Mr. Moody moved to AMEND AND DO PASS, seconded by Mr. May, passed unanimously. Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Westall and Mr. Jeffrey were not present at the time of the vote.

WATER METER LEGISLATION (A.B. 438, A.B. 439, A.B. 440, A.B. 443, A.B. 445)

Mr. Tom Rice, Executive Secretary of the Las Vegas Valley Water District, came at the request of the Chairman to answer any of the committee's questions regarding the use of water meters.

Chairman Murphy asked Mr. Rice what water meters cost (installation and meter) in the LVVWD. Mr. Rice replied: The meter industry is a highly competitive industry and there are a number of manufacturers. We in the LVVWD go to bid on meters annually. The cost of meters varies, however the price of meters has remained down as other products' cost have gone up. For example, our current purchase order on Rockwell meters, magnetic drive meters, cost 23.16 a piece for a 5/8 x 3/4" meter which is a standard size for residential use. The larger meters are higher in cost, for example a 2" meter is \$153.61 on our current purchase order. Meter boxes which you need for the installation vary as to kind of box used. The kind we use is made of concrete with a cast iron lid, these cost us \$7.80 for 3/4" size. For 2" meter size, it is \$58.30. The hardware which goes inside the meter box varies in price if you buy in quantity. We in the Water District install a complete service with a 3/4" meter from the main in the street to the residence including the meter box and everything for \$270.00, but this includes the cutting of pavement and a trench in the street which in the case where the service is already installed the cost would be a good deal less cost.

The main difference in the cost between the 3/4" and the 2" meter box is just a matter of the difference in size because it is a great deal larger and it takes reinforcing steel in the larger one.

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After a question from Mr. Craddock regarding the proper depth of water meters Mr. Rice responded that the meter itself is down 18" on the bottom, the top of the meter will vary but is usually down 6-8" from the top of the lid. In the Reno, because of the freezing problem, the frost line is usually down 6 inches.

Sierra Pacific Power representatives said that they figure with 18".

Mr. Rice continued that there are two ways to go on an installation of this kind. One of them is with a meter box which has a double lid to give insulation and the other way is to use a standard type of box, in some cases with an extender on the bottom of it, where you have the top of the meter down at least a foot from the top of the box and fill the bottom up to the register on the meter with some kind of insulating material like formiculite that will not hold water and will remain loose enough so that you can get to the fittings if you need to but it will insulate. You should put in 8" - 12" of formiculite and it would be a satisfactory installation. This is a much better way to go in the Reno area instead of the double lidded box because the double lidded box has an additional cost in that a meter reader would have to open two lids which would cut down their productivity.

After a question from Mr. Craddock regarding the consideration of having people put in their own meters, Mr. Rice replied that there would be problems with standardization and it would not be the best way to go.

Mr. Mann asked if the LVVWD had shown a decrease in the amount of water used after the installation of meters. Mr. Rice said that the water use was cut by a third. Psychologically it causes people to save water because they are going to see the amount they use. "I know the people in Reno are going to get shocked if they saw how much they really used". Secondly, it is the most equitable way of paying the cost of delivering water, there is no free lunch and there is no drop of water that goes to a person that doesn't cost money to get there because the distribution, storage and treatment of water all cost money. The people who use that water ought to pay on an equitable basis on what it is they take.

Mr. Rice cited a study comparing the amount of water used percapita in California cities with and without watermeters. Sacramento which has no meters has a per capita consumption of 278 gallons per day as opposed to San Jose which has meters and has 155 gallons per day. Marin County 164 normally, with their reduction now they are below that presently. East Bay Mun. Utility District in Oakland - 195 San Diego - 154, Los Angeles - 175, Fresno which is not metered - 322. It is very apparent that in those cities that are not metered the consumptive use per capita is much more than areas with meters.

Mr. Wally White, Sierra Pacific Power Company, asked Mr. Rice to clarify the prices for installing a meter in new residences and in residences that are already built. Mr. Rice replied: If there is a new residence where the meter can be installed at the same time the service line is installed, done by a contractor with his equipment, the cost is a good deal less. In the LVVWD we charge \$85 where we just put in the meter and the box by itself. We charge \$270 if we have to put in a trench in the street.

Mr. White commented that in the Reno area most of the installations would be done in residences that have never been metered before.

Mr. Rice guessed that the average charge for installation in Reno would be \$100-150. If they are done on a contract basis where you have a contractor mobilized to do this with equipment, he will develop skills it would be better this way; as opposed to the utility company doing it where they have to pull that equipment and people off some other job. Where we have a major amount of work to do of this kind, we do better if we go to contract on it, competitively speaking.

Mr. Rice gave the committee a brief history of the water utilization in the Las Vegas Valley.

Mr. Rice added that with the District set up as in Las Vegas the facilities and services are run at cost and not for a profit which helps out the public citizens and obviously lets the water bills be less. There is a sensitivity to people's needs in this non-profit organization whereas in other profit making business you do not have this helpful attitude. Approximately 3/4 of the water systems across the country are municipally owned. People have more input with elected officials running the system than if they had to go up before a Board of Directors of a private industry.

Assemblyman Jacobsen asked Mr. Rice to comment on the repairs and upkeep of meters. Mr. Rice replied that the normal life of meters is about 10 years and usually you work on a 10 year cycle of overhaul and replacement. Most meter companies have service agreements available.

Informal discussion followed.

ASSEMBLY BILL 278

Speaker Dini and Bruce Arkell, State Planning Coordinator, discussed the proposed amendments to the First Reprint of A. B. 278. The amendments are attached as Exhibit 1.

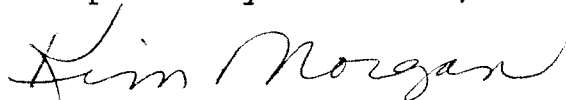
The committee agreed to have the bill reprinted and returned to the committee for further review.

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There was no opposition to having the bill reprinted and returned to the committee.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chairman Murphy adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Morgan, Committee Secretary

Changes to be Made in AB 278
First Reprint

Page 4 - delete lines 30 through 39 inclusive - insert in place of the deleted language the following:

- (a) Provide a vehicle to exchange information and viewpoints between the various users of the federal lands of the State of Nevada.
- (b) Advise federal and state administrative agencies concerning effects the agencies' programs, rules and regulations have on the users of land under the jurisdiction of the federal government.
- (c) Cooperate with the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council in identifying issues that affect both private users and local governments.

Page 4, line 41 - delete bracket

Page 5, line 10 - delete bracket plus all new language in lines 10, 11 and 12

Page 5, line 14 - change assistant director to administrator of the division of state lands

Page 5, lines 16 and 17 - delete

Pages 7 and 8, Sections 25 through 30 inclusive - delete from bill *another bill has passed from ways & means*

Pages 26 and 27 - delete Section 82 in its entirety. Also delete reference to NRS 331.165 in section 371 on page 117.

Page 30, line 28 - change shall to "may"

Page 30, between lines 32 and 33 - add "3. Each appointee shall be a member of the museum"

Page 31, lines 16 and 17 - change purposes and objectives to "policies in non-administrative areas"

Page 31, line 40 - add following appoint "from a list of three names submitted by the board"

Page 31, line 41 - change as to "a"

Page 36, line 18 - change purposes and objectives to "policies in non-administrative areas"

Page 37, line 11 - add following appoint "from a list of three names submitted by the board"

Page 38, between lines 40 and 41 - insert revision of NRS 384.010. The revised language is to change name from Virginia City Historic District Act to "Comstock Historic District Act"

Page 38 - after revision to NRS 384.010, insert NRS 383.030 to change name of commission to the "comstock historic district commission"

Page 38, lines 48 and 49 - delete words Virginia City and insert "comstock"

Pages 41 through 43 - delete sections 139 through 141 inclusive from bill

Pages 45 and 46 - delete sections 154 through 160 inclusive from bill

Page 56, line 5 - change classified to "unclassified"

Page 61 - delete section 202 from bill

Page 62, line 39 - delete period - continue with "within limitation of appropriations"

Page 62, lines 40 and 41 - delete

Page 62, line 46 - after the word to insert words "reactivating idle properties",

Page 63, between lines 10 and 11 - add "6. The state engineer, director of Nevada, bureau of mines and geology and the representative of the general public shall be established as a standing subcommittee of the mineral resources advisory board and shall function as the oil and gas conservation commission."

Page 64, line 12 - close bracket at the end of this line

Page 64, lines 13 through 16 inclusive - revise to read "The state energy resources advisory board consisting of 15 members appointed by the governor, is hereby created. Of the members so appointed, one member shall be designated as chairman by the governor and shall serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the governor."

Pages 74 and 75 - delete section 235

Page 75, line 20 - delete bracket

Page 75, line 22 - delete bracket - also delete new language

Line 75, lines 23 and 24 - delete

Page 75, line 25 - change to read "One member who is a representative of the general public."

Page 75, Section 238 - delete

~~Page 75, line 22 - change word commission to board~~

Pages 75 through 77 - delete section 239, as well as sections 249 and 250

Page 79, lines 1 through 4 - delete

Pages 82 and 83 - delete sections 263 and 264

Page 83 - delete sections 265 through 267 inclusive

Page 86, line 23 - change five to six

Page 86, line 26 - change four to five

Page 87, line 48 - delete the words members who are representatives -
Insert the words "member who is the representative"

Page 93, lines 6 and 7 - delete

Page 94, line 1 - insert word professional before word members

Page 94, line 2 - delete word member

Page 94, Section 297 - delete from bill

Page 94, lines 26 and 32 - delete brackets

Page 94, line 33 - change (a) to (d) and delete words state board of
health, the health

Page 94, line 34 - delete words division and

Page 94, lines 35 through 38 inclusive - delete from bill

Page 94, line 39 - delete brackets and words health division

Page 94, line 41 - delete bracket

Page 94, line 42 - delete bracket and words - The health division may

Page 94, line 46 - delete brackets and words - health division

Page 95, line 3 - delete bracket

Page 95, line 4 - delete bracket and words - health division may approve
or

Page 95, line 7 - delete brackets and words - health division

Page 95, line 8 - delete bracket

Page 95, line 9 - delete bracket and words health division may

Page 95, line 10 - delete bracket

Page 95, line 11 - delete bracket and the word and

Page 95, Section 299 - delete from bill

Page 95, line 40 - delete brackets around word board

Page 95, line 41 - delete words - health division

Page 95 through 98, Sections 301 through 310 inclusive - delete from bill

Page 98, Sections 311 and 312 - delete from bill

Page 99 and 100, Sections 318 through 321 inclusive - delete from bill

Page 101, lines 20 and 21 - delete from bill

Page 102, Sections 324 - delete from bill

Page 102, lines 26 and 27 - delete words to the state board of health, to the health division

Page 102, line 28 - change Recommend to Establish

Page 102, line 32 - change health division to board

Page 102 and 103, Section 326 - delete from bill

Page 103, line 4 - delete brackets and words health division

Page 103, Section 328 - delete from bill

Page 103, lines 34, 36 and 37 - delete brackets

Page 103, line 38 - delete words health division

Page 104, line 5 - delete brackets and words health division

Page 104, line 7 - delete brackets and words health division

Page 104, line 25 - delete brackets and words the health division

Page 104 through 107, Sections 331 through 344 inclusive - delete from bill

Page 109, lines 20 and 23 - delete brackets

Page 109 through 111, Sections 351 through 354 - delete from bill

Page 111, lines 30 and 33 - delete brackets

Page 111, lines 34 and 35 - delete

Page 117, line 16 - delete 612.315 and 612.320 from bill