Assembly Committee on.....

AGRICULTURE Date: April 23, 1981

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#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Hickey

Vice Chairman Rackley

Mr. Dini

Mr. Horn

Mr. Kovacs

Mr. Marvel

Mr. Redlesperger

Mr. Sader

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Banner

#### GUESTS PRESENT:

See guest list attached.

#### WITNESSES TESTIFYING:

Ed Spang, State Director, Nevada State Office Bureau of Land Management Bob Stewart, Bureau of Land Management Tony Frade, Chairman, Walker River Weed Control District Jack Pursel, Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service Stephen Bougon, Southern Nevada Pest Control Association Mark Matisson, Southern Nevada Pest Control Association Beorge M. Basta, A Reno Patroleum Distributor Al Edmundson, Nevada Health Division

Bureau Chief of Consumer Health Protection Services Bob Erickson, Senior Research Analyst, Legislative Counsel Bureau Assemblyman Bill Brady Tom Ballow, Nevada Department of Agriculture

Chairman Hickey called the meeting to order at 3:05 P. M. and introduced Mr. Ed Spang of the Nevada State Office Bureau of Land Management to the committee.

Mr. Spang addressed the committee with reference to dealing with the agriculture and mineral industry. He said they are currently working with the grazing environmental impact statements and the eventual implementation of decisions relating thereto and the increase in the mining activity within the state. Their main objective is the management of the resources properly and effectively.

When Mr. Marvel asked if the BLM had noticed any particular changes with the new administration, Mr. Spang answered they are reviewing many of the policies and regulations now in effect. He told the committee that Secretary Waters is reviewing the process and court decision with NRDC and that Assistant Secretary Dave Russell also had indicated an interest in that regard.

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Chairman Hickey asked about the transfer of land from BLM to the Air Force for the MX System. Specifically he wondered what type of agreement was being developed as to the return of the land for agricultural use.

Mr. Spang informed the committee that the BLM is actually a participant in providing the input into the processes including the invironmental impact statements. They have been asked to take a look at some kind of agreement as to how they will in fact manage the impacts that will take place if the MX Missle does come about. The impacts include livestock, wildlife, mining and other activities. This is unresolved because the BLM is not satisfied that they know what the real impacts are, there is much information still to be obtained. No applications have been filed yet as to the lands. When the Air Force does file these applications, the BLM will process them in the same manner as any other land use applications. MX activity might indicate that the BLM accelerate that application process. If the decision is made to proceed with MX and the environmental impact statement is completed then they anticipate an application would be made by June or July of 1981 for the lands they would like to put under a right of way or withdrawal.

Eventually, if that land reverts back, the decision would have to be made as to whether it would return to the BLM or other use such as agriculture. This stipulation would not be made in the contract with the Air Force at this point.

Mr. Marvel asked whether there could be an executive withdrawal of lands for the test purposes without going through the impact statements Mr. Spang indicated that was possible and that Congress could also proceed along those lines as Congress is ultimately the controller of the land. He explained that was the principle which was applied on the Alaska Pipeline. When Mr. Hickey asked what political pressure the state could bring to bear on the withdrawal process, Mr. Spang stated that hearings will again be held and would be open to the public and interested groups. Stipulations would go along with the granting or withdrawal of lands between the BLM and the Air Force. This is the whole purpose behind the environmental assessments.

Chairman Hickey informed the committee that the bills scheduled for hearing at this meeting were AB-279, AB-479 and SB-288.

AB-279: Revises statutes governing weed control districts.

Tony Frade, Chairman of the Walker River Weed Control District, distributed written testimony to the members of the committee attached hereto as EXHIBIT A.

Mr. Frade introduced himself to the committee and also board member Ralph Nuti and Jack Pursel with the Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service in Yerington.

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Mr. Frade explained to the committee that the Walker River Weed Control District was organized nearly 30 years ago for the purpose of controlling noxious weeds. The weed commonly called "White Top" has been the most persistent weed problem within the district.

This weed has been known to infest areas adjacent to the district and is located on both private and public land that lies outside the district and county boundaries. Infestations lying outside the district must also be controlled, particularly when they are located upstream.

Mr. Frade explained that the wording in  $\underline{AB-279}$  on lines 14 through 20 on page 1 and the new language on lines 30 through 39 on page 2 will give the Weed District the authority to make necessary boundary changes to enable it to effectively carry out its purpose. The changes will also insure that property in another county included in the Weed District will be assessed and that the taxes collected for weed control work are remitted to the district.

When the Walker River Weed Control District was organized some property owners petitioned out of the district. But where noxious weeds are growing on that property, they should be controlled and the owner assessed equally with the other property owners within the district.

Mr. Frade said it is the Board's understanding that property owners may petition into the district but if they do not take the initiative, there should be a method of including infested tracts of land. The fact that an individual other than the Board or the property owner may request that a parcel of property be included is acceptable as long as the language on page 3, subsection 7 of AB-279 is left intact.

In reply to Mr. Marvel, Mr. Frade stated that the people outside of the District are farmers, ranchers, property owners and land developers. Mr. Dini asked about the assessment for the District and Mr. Pursel said the amount was about 8 cents on the tax levy; the assessed value of the land. This generates about \$10,000 and that is roughly what the budget of the District is.

The District itself is defined as the boundaries of the Walker River Irrigation District; that portion of the District that lies within Lyon County excluding any incorporated towns. They have worked in Mason Valley, Smith Valley and East Walker. There is some area north of Artesia Lake which is now being farmed and infestations of "White Top", "Yellow Star Thistle" and "Russion Nap Weed" have been found in that area. People have stated that they would petition themselves into the District but have not done so. This bill addresses itself to the problem of weed control in areas not included at the present time, including portions of Mineral County.

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#### Adding one member to state board of agriculture. AB-479:

Assemblyman Brady explained to the committee that AB-479 requires an amendment which changes the entire bill. The words "agricultural pests" must be changed to "structural pests" on line 10, page 1 and the same change must be made on lines 16 and 17 on page 1.

Mr. Brady explained that he was asked to introduce this bill and has since become aware how important the request was. He said the Board of Agriculture consists of cattle production people, dairy industry people, agriculture people and bee keeping people. Mr. Brady noted that a group of people who are also regulated by the Agriculture Board are pesticide people, and thinks they should have a voice on that Board.

Steve Bougon, President of the Southern Nevada Pest Control Association, spoke in support of the bill. This Association represents over half of the structural pest control companies in the state of Nevada. The bill's primary purpose has been agreed upon by this organization excepting the wording above He explained to the committee that the term "agricultural pest control" would encompass crop dusters, row crop growers or an agricultural pest control company. This is basically the food crop, shade tree, ornamental tree and turf type pest control. "Structural pest control" deals with pests in and around structures; institutional, industrial, hotel, motel and includes health and welfare pest control. For years they have been regulated by the Department of Agriculture and yet have had no professional input as to how their industry is regulated.

He noted some examples of groups of professionals who have representatives on state boards such as realtors, contractors and the medical profession; the structural pest control business has no representatives in government. When regulations or proposed amendments are before the Board of Agriculture they must go plead their case and there is no one on the Board adequately experienced in the field of pest control to give input. They are asking for representation in governing their own industry.

In response to the statement that the Pest Control Association is not notified as to the Board of Agriculture meetings, Mr. Ballow stated that they have now been added to the list of organizations that are notified of Board meetings.

Mr. Redelsperger asked how many members belong to the Pest Control Association and Mr. Bougon said there are 25 member companies, mostly southern. There are about 50 structural pest control companies. The Association feels that some of the licensing and testing regulations prevent a person from working in this industry.

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There was a general discussion about travel expenses incurred by additional Las Vegas Agriculture Board members traveling to Reno for meetings. \$3,000 is what the Agriculture Board estimates additional expenses would be per year for one more Las Vegas Board member to attend the meetings.

Mr. Dini expressed that the \$3,000 fiscal impact seemed small when compared to the estimated \$50 million per year structural pest control business. The Agriculture Board meets six times per year.

George Basta, owner and operator of a Reno petroleum distribution company expressed that his industry feels they too have been neglected by the Board of Agriculture as far as representation. He told the committee that this is a billion dollar per year industry. He mentioned that the people inspecting scales, meters, computers, etc., should have the finest equipment available. He does not feel the Department of Agriculture has this equipment. The petroleum industry should have some representation on this Board as they are regulated by the Board.

Mr. Ballow explained to the committee that they write the rules and regulations for the petroleum industry both for weights and measures and from the standpoint of testing of the petroleum products.

When Mr. Ballow was asked by Mr. Kovacs to speak on the subject of the enlargement of the Agriculture Board he told the committee that the makeup of the present Board of Agriculture is three from the livestock industry, one from the bee keepers, one dairyman, one representing general farming, one representing the nursery industry and one representing row crops.

Mr. Ballow explained that he could not take a strong position on whether to enlarge the Board or not as the Board members are his boss. However, he said, he would be glad to answer any questions from the committee.

The Agriculture Board has taken no position on this bill. In response to various questions from the committee Mr. Ballow stated that the Board can work effectively as an eight, nine or even ten member Board. There are many industries within the state of Nevada which the Board regulates that have no representatives on the Board. But he stressed that the Board is charged with the responsibility of representing all of Nevada and not just individual interests.

Mr. Dini pointed out a technical reference in the bill on lines 11 and 12 stating that no more than two members of the Board may be residents of the same county. Mr. Ballow said that portion applied to livestock representatives only but after some discussion it was decided that particular part of the bill would need revision if additional members from the same counties were to be added at some later date.

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Chairman Hickey asked for some input from the Agriculture Board regarding the Petroleum and Pesticide Industries representatives gaining membership on the Board and other related interests. Mr. Ballow was instructed to have the information available for the Agriculture Committee by the following week.

### SB-288: Abolishes milk inspection revolving fund.

Al Edmundson, Bureau Chief of Consumer Health Protection Services, told the committee that the milk inspection fund is a dormant fund creating paperwork. Its function is no longer needed with the inception of the interstate milk shipments program and with milk inspectors across the nation being standardized and actually looking for the same things. One state no longer goes into another state for inspections although they have the authority to do so.

Mr. Hickey asked if this affected the inspection of raw milk and Mr. Edmundson said this would not affect it because if the need arises to inspect the raw milk out of state, the expense money would be sent from them to the Health Division for the inspection and that money is not refundable. The money now in the revolving fund is approximately \$1,000.

Chairman Hickey concluded the hearing portion of the meeting and informed the committee they would start the work session on pending bills.

### AB-130: Creates Nevada beef council.

Mr. Marvel informed the committee that  $\underline{AB-130}$  and  $\underline{AB-10}$  are combined into amendment number 644. Mr. Marvel made the motion to adopt the amendment as a part of  $\underline{AB-130}$ ; seconded by Mr. Kovacs; carried unanimously by the members present with Mr. Banner absent. (8-0)

Mr. Marvel moved <u>DO PASS AS AMENDED AB-130</u>; Mr. Redelsperger seconded; carried unanimously by the members present with Mr. Banner absent. (8-0)

AB-10: Increases and redistributes proceeds of beef promotion tax.

Mr. Marvel moved <u>INDEFINITELY POSTPONE AB-10</u>; seconded by Mr. Sader; carried unanimously by the members present with Mr. Banner absent. (8-0)

AB-80: Requires certificate of inspection for certain imported bees

Mr. Marvel moved DO PASS; seconded by Mr. Horn; carried unanimously by the members present with Mr. Banner absent. (8-0)

AB-176: Reduces number of acres needed to qualify elector to vote in election of irrigation districts and provides system of weighted voting.

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Mr. Redelsperger moved to adopt amendment number 516; Mr. Kovacs seconded; carried unanimously by the members present with Mr. Banner absent.(8-0)

Mr. Redelsperger moved to <u>DO PASS AS AMENDED AB-176</u>; seconded by Mr. Kovacs; carried unanimously by the members present with Mr. Banner absent. (8-0)

AB-279: Revises statutes governing weed control districts.

Mr. Dini moved DO PASS AB-279; seconded by Mr. Horn; carried unanimously by the members present with Mr. Banner absent. (8-0)

SB-46: Creates metric system advisory council.

Mr. Dini moved  $\underline{DO}$  PASS SB-46; seconded by Mr. Sader; carried unanimously by the members present with Mr. Banner absent. (8-0)

SB-288: Abolishes milk inspection revolving fund.

Mr. Dini moved  $\underline{DO}$  PASS SB-288; Mr. Marvel seconded; carried unanimously by the members present with Mr. Banner absent. (8-0)

AJR-24 of the 60th Session: Proposes constitutional amendment to conform constitutional state boundary to actual boundary.

Mr. Dini moved  $\underline{DO\ PASS\ AJR-24\ of\ the\ 60th\ Session}$ ; seconded by Mr. Kovacs and carried unanimously by the members present with Mr. Banner absent. (8-0)

AB-81: Expands requirement for certificate of brand inspection clearance.

Held for further consideration.

AB-82: Makes administrative changes to law relating to control of pests.

Held for further consideration.

There being no further business, Mr. Hickey adjourned the meeting at 4:30 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Fondi

Committee Secretary

#### ASSEMBLY

# AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE THURSDAY Date APRIL 23, 1981 Time 3:00 P.M. Room 222

Bills or Resolutions to be considered	Subject	Counsel requested*
AB-279	Revises statutes governing weed control districts.	
AB-479	Adding one member to state board of agriculture.	
SB-288	Abolishes milk inspection revolving fund	

WORK SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HEARING

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## ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE ACTION

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Attached to Minutes April 23, 1981

# ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE ACTION

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Attached to Minutes April 23, 1981

## ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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Attached to Minutes April 23, 1981

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DATE _April 23, 1981	
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TESTIMONY OFFERED BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
ON A.B. 279
APRIL 23, 1981

MY NAME IS TONY FRADE. -I AM A DAIRY FARMER IN MASON VALLEY, LYON COUNTY, NEVADA. I AM A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WALKER RIVER WEED CONTROL DISTRICT AND AT THE PRESENT TIME I AM SERVING AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD.

THE WALKER RIVER WEED CONTROL DISTRICT WAS ORGANIZED NEARLY 30 YEARS AGO FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING NOXIOUS WEEDS. THE WEED COMMONLY CALLED "WHITE TOP" HAS BEEN THE MOST PERSISTANT WEED PROBLEM WITHIN THE DISTRICT. FURTHER, THE WEED, WHITE TOP, IS KNOWN TO INFEST AREAS ADJACENT TO THE DISTRICT AND IN SOME CASES THESE INFESTATIONS ARE LOCATED ON BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LAND THAT LIES OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT AND COUNTY BOUNDARIES FOR EFFECTIVE WEED CONTROL WITHIN THE DISTRICT. INFESTATIONS LYING OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT MUST ALSO BE CONTROLLED, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY ARE LOCATED UPSTREAM. I BELIEVE THE NEW WORDING IN ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 279 ON LINES 14 THROUGH 20 OF PAGE 1 AND THE NEW LANGUAGE ON PAGE 2, LINES 30 THROUGH 39, WILL GIVE THE WEED DISTRICT AUTHORITY TO MAKE NECESSARY BOUNDARY CHANGES TO ENABLE IT TO EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSE. WE DO NEED ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE THAT INSURES THAT PROPERTY IN ANOTHER COUNTY INCLUDED IN THE WEED DISTRICT WILL BE ASSESSED AND THAT THE TAXES COLLECTED FOR WEED CONTROL WORK ARE REMITTED TO THE DISTRICT. THE LANGUAGE ON PAGE 2, LINES 30 THROUGH 34 MAY NOT BE POPULAR, BUT OUR BOARD FEELS IT IS IMPORTANT. WHEN THE WALKER RIVER WEED CONTROL DISTRICT WAS ORGANIZED, SOME PROPERTY OWNERS PETITIONED OUT OF THE DISTRICT.

WHERE NOXIOUS WEEDS ARE GROWING ON THAT PROPERTY, THEY SHOULD BE CONTROLLED AND THE OWNER ASSESSED THE SAME AS THE REST OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT PROPERTY OWNERS MAY PETITION INTO THE DISTRICT. HOWEVER, IF THEY DO NOT TAKE THE INITIATIVE, THERE SHOULD BE A METHOD OF INCLUDING INFESTED TRACTS OF LAND. THE FACT THAT AN INDIVIDUAL OTHER THAN THE BOARD OR THE PROPERTY OWNER MAY REQUEST THAT A PARCEL OF PROPERTY BE INCLUDED DOES NOT BOTHER OUR BOARD AS LONG AS THE LANGUAGE ON PAGE 3, SUBSECTION 7, IS LEFT INTACT.