

MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON HUMAN RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

SIXTY-FIRST SESSION
NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE
March 25, 1981

The Senate Committee on Human Resources and Facilities was called to order by Chairman Joe Neal at 8:25 a.m., Wednesday March 25, 1981, in Room 118 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. Exhibit A is the Meeting Agenda. Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Joe Neal, Chairman
Senator James N. Kosinski, Vice Chairman
Senator Richard E. Blakemore
Senator Wilbur Faiss
Senator Virgil M. Getto
Senator James H. Bilbray

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Connie S. Richards, Committee Secretary

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NUMBER 26

Senator Getto told the committee that many of the rural counties in Nevada find themselves without adequate health service. He said one reason the medical school at UNR was established was to encourage medical personnel to practice in the rural areas of the state.

Mr. Ken Newcome, Executive Director, Greater Nevada Health Systems Agency spoke in favor of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 26. He said he felt the bill will insure an ongoing coordination and ongoing responsiveness of the medical school to the health care needs of rural Nevada.

Senator Kosinski asked Mr. Newcome whether the use of the word "transient" within the bill was for a specific reason, or whether the word "tourist" might be used in its place.

Mr. Newcome said the word "tourist" may be used for the same effect.

Senator Kosinski asked Mr. Newcome what services are

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being offered in rural Nevada, albeit insufficient in scope and lacking in coordination.

Mr. Newcome said there are a variety of such services including primary care, utilization of acute care facilities, and mental health and substance abuse programs. He said they usually are not integrated and coordinated into a local and/or state system of health care delivery.

Senator Kosinski said the bill is misleading inasmuch as it directs requests for the medical school to attend to, but does not recognize the fact that the school is already doing some of those same things. He asked Mr. Newcome whether he would object to adding language to recognize the school's efforts.

Mr. Newcome said that he would not object.

Mr. Owen Peck, Associate Dean of the medical school at UNR said the medical school is doing positive things in the direction of encouraging health care personnel to practice in rural areas. He acknowledged the fact that the school can do more and said he felt the resolution addresses that point. He said President Crowley and the new dean have met and both support the resolution. He said he felt the resolution is a step in the right direction toward improving medical care in rural areas. Mr. Peck noted older students taken from rural areas who attend medical school at UNR, tend to return to those rural areas. He mentioned that the UNR medical school is new and has yet to have any students graduate because of this, although many students did attend for two years and complete their medical schooling elsewhere and then return to Nevada to practice.

Senator Kosinski requested Mr. Peck to send information to the committee regarding the efforts of the office of rural health over the past two years. He noted that in his request that the resolution reflect the fact that there has been some effort made, he did not mean to imply that there is enough being done.

Mr. Fred Hillerby, Executive Director, Nevada Hospital Association spoke in support of the concept of the resolution, but said the wording should be made more clear. He

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said he felt the resolution is a reaffirmation of the commitment the school made to the legislature when it was formed. He agreed with Senator Kosinski that it is a reaffirmation and not a new program.

Mr. Mike Madden, Administrator, Churchill County Hospital and President of the Nevada Hospital Association agreed with Senator Kosinski and added that the insufficient scope and improper coordination of medical services in rural areas is caused to some extent by the fact that each of those rural areas runs a different program and therefore has a difficult time coordinating those efforts. Mr. Madden said it appears that the funds from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation may be discontinued for use in the rural areas for medical care; funds those offices have been operating on.

The Chairman asked Mr. Madden what the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is.

Mr. Madden said the foundation is a non-profit foundation set up by the Johnson & Johnson organization, similar to the Fleichmann Foundation, but larger in scope and has been involved in health plans throughout the country for several years. He said the foundation has spent a great deal of money for rural health programs but does not like to do something or provide funds for something that is already receiving funds from another source or is already being done.

Mr. Bjorn Selinder, Churchill County Manager expressed his strong support for the resolution. He said the Churchill County Hospital is in trouble due to the lack of competent medical personnel.

SENATE BILL NUMBER 394

Ms. Audrey Tait, President, National Federation of the Blind of Nevada offered testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 394. This testimony is Exhibit C.

Mr. Carl Clontz spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 394. He said he is a blind person, 78 years old, lives in Hawthorne, and has not seen a counselor for the blind in over 8 years. He said he had a corneal cataract removed and a corneal transplant five years ago. He said he went to the services to the blind and asked for help to

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get the surgery at that time and it took "arguing back and forth" before he received a round trip ticket to San Francisco where he was examined to determine whether surgery should be done to help his condition. He returned to the services after his return and asked for additional assistance. He said he was informed by a counselor in Carson City that if he "was going to do surgery, they couldn't do a thing" for him. He said he was likewise informed that "at his age (73 at the time) he was too old to be rehabilitated".

Sentor Kosinski asked Mr. Clontz what kind of services he requested from the bureau of services to the blind.

Mr. Clontz said he requested no rehabilitation services but was informed that he was too old for rehabilitation and refused help when he was going to have surgery. He added that the Lions Club provided his ticket to San Francisco for his surgery.

Ms. Margaret Dennison spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 394. She said blind students need financial aid and a better reading program (people who read for the blind), help in transportation to and from school, and greater access to aids designed specifically for the blind student.

Ms. Diana Brown spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 394. She reiterated Ms. Dennison's requests for greater aid for students. She stated that she was trained as a secretary but after receiving her training received no help in finding a job. She said the bureau of services to the blind pays for tuition and books, but offers no additional help in getting to and from classes and securing the aid of readers to help with the student's studies. She said the young blind do not want to be tax burdens, but want to be self supporting and self sufficient.

Sentor Kosinski asked Ms. Brown where she received her training as a secretary.

Ms. Brown said she took a course in Washington State that was paid for by the bureau. She said she interviewed for one job there, but preferred to return to Nevada to live.

Mr. James Sampson spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 394.

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He said the bureau of services to the blind has not provided him with a job, though he would like to have one. He said he has been shuffled from counselor to counselor and sometimes doesn't know who his counselor is or who to talk to. He said at one time he waited at the reception desk for "five or ten minutes while they did crossword puzzles". He said he was sent to Washington to be tested but when he got there "all the people that were to give the test had conveniently gone on vacation". He said he was referred to the AFL-CIO but both the man and his secretary who he talked to were rude to him and referred him back to the bureau of services to the blind. He said he received no help from either source with the exception of his education and an operation.

Senator Getto asked how many of these young people are willing to be trained and have jobs.

Ms. Tait said she knew of five.

Mr. Del Frost, Administrator, State Rehabilitation Division spoke in opposition to the bill. His testimony is listed as Exhibit D.

Mr. Frost explained that the division is a small umbrella agency that exists under the Department of Human Resources which is also an umbrella agency, (umbrella meaning that the rehabilitation division is comprised of the bureau of services to the blind, the bureau of vocational rehabilitation, the bureau of alcohol and drug abuse, and the bureau of disability adjudication which adjudicates all of the claims for disability insurance under the social security act. He said the purpose of the bill is to create a separate agency from the bureau of services to the blind, separate and apart from the umbrella organization, changing the bureau of services to the blind to a separate commission. He said the agency would be administered by a commission and the bill sets forth criteria that the membership of the commission would be based on the activity of people in blind organizations. He said his division is a vocational rehabilitation agency, the purpose and intent by law (both state and federal) is to provide vocational rehabilitation services, not welfare, which also has programs to aid the blind including Medicare and other services. He said his division is allowed to provide social services and

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does have a social service grant that it administers for those people who are striving toward a vocational goal.

Mr. Frost said the division does not feel that the creation of a commission in which people are appointed to the administration of the commission based upon their activities in blind organizations is good sound management criteria for running a state agency and achieving the goals that the law requires.

Senator Bilbray asked why two agencies could not work together.

Mr. Frost said separate agencies with separate jurisdictions will not work as was shown (before 1973). He said today, there are two separate services, the bureau of services to the blind and the bureau of vocational rehabilitation, but both bureaus are under the same administration (Mr. Frost) and can be forced to work together under that administration.

The Chairman asked Mr. Frost what kind of services the welfare division provides to blind people.

Mr. Frost said the welfare division primarily provides medical services and grants aid (money).

The Chairman asked what kind of services his division provides.

Mr. Frost said his division can provide the full gamut of services that are required to get a person back to productive employment. He said the division's objective is a vocational one.

The Chairman asked Mr. Frost what eligibility criteria a person must meet to receive aid through the program.

Mr. Frost said the eligibility criteria for the program is that a person must have a substantial handicap to employment, meaning that they must have a physical or mental disability, and in the case of the bureau of services to the blind, they deal only with the legally blind and the severely visually impaired. He said the general program handles all other disabling conditions. He said there is a special education program in the schools that is known as the Education for Handicapped Children Act, which funds the programs for services for children who are handicapped in public schools.

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He said the division cannot help in the schools because of limited funds; they are funded with a greater federal appropriation than the division receives. He said he cannot speak to the effectiveness of that service as it is not under his jurisdiction but said a child is brought into the program of the rehabilitation division at about age 15 when a vocational objective can be established for that child. He said, as a rule of thumb, the division cannot spend the limited funds that it receives unless it can project that the services to be provided can help a person to obtain a job that he or she can stay in for a period of at least five years.

The Chairman asked what the division's responsibility is to the blind person after he or she receives education and training for a job.

Mr. Frost said the division helps a person find a job and keeps the case open for at least 60 days to be sure that the person can stay in the job; by his own policy, Mr. Frost said the division tracks those people for the period of one year.

The Chairman asked Mr. Frost about the problems that Ms. Brown had in obtaining employment after receiving training.

Mr. Frost told the Chairman that he is limited under the law in what he can divulge about a client's case. He said he would have to have a written release from Ms. Brown in order to divulge the information.

Senator Bilbray asked Mr. Frost whether counselors are provided for clients to help them find jobs after they have received their training and are ready to be employed.

Mr. Frost said a person is assigned a counselor when he or she first becomes a client, and that counselor stays with the client throughout the rehabilitation process. He said the counselor and the client develop an individualized written rehabilitation plan which the client engages in as a participant by signing that document and agreeing to the terms and provisions of the plan; what the client will receive, how the client will receive it, and when the client will receive it. He said after a person is trained and ready to be employed, he or she is referred to the Nevada

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State Employment Security Department which is funded and staffed to find people jobs. He said the rehabilitation division makes use of that resource in helping people to find employment whenever it can.

Senator Bilbray asked Mr. Frost how many counselors the bureau of services to the blind has.

Mr. Frost said the bureau of services to the blind has four counselors; two in Reno and two in Las Vegas as well as one supervisor who also carries cases in both of those offices. He said in addition to those, there are parapetologists who assist people in learning mobility skills, home management orientation teachers who teach people how to be homemakers, and recreation therapists who teach people how to recreate.

Senator Bilbray asked whether there are any counselors in the rural counties.

Mr. Frost said the rural parts of the state are serviced through the bureau of vocational rehabilitation because in that bureau there are offices in Winnemucca, Elko, Ely, Fallon, and Carson City as it is easier to serve the people of those rural areas through that bureau rather than having one counselor who must cover all the rural areas of Nevada.

Senator Faiss asked Mr. Frost how many blind clients received employment through the bureau of services to the blind.

Mr. Frost said the bureau provided services to 654 clients during the course of fiscal year 1980 and 156 were rehabilitated. He noted that approximately 46 percent of all cases are closed in "other than productive employment".

Senator Kosinski said he would like to review clients' individual cases and asked Mr. Frost if he would provide release forms to those people with Ms. Tait.

Mr. Frost said he would provide the release forms as requested.

The meeting recessed from 10:00 a.m. until 10:05 a.m.

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SENATE BILL NUMBER 296

Senator Getto spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 296. He offered information relative to the bill. This testimony and information is listed as Exhibit E.

Mr. James Slattery spoke in support of the bill. He said every well from Reno to Fernley, Wadsworth, and Fallon are being polluted. He said city counselors and commissioners in the City of Reno are inept, incompetent, and corrupt. He said permits for 35,000 homes have just been approved outside of Reno, "where the sewer system has already reached its capacity."

Mr. Wendell McCurry, Division of Environmental Protection spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 296. He said the impact of the bill is two-fold: 1) to increase the requirements for public participation of pending action for a permit to discharge to the waters of the state, and 2) to not issue a permit unless the applicant shows the probability of no adverse impact. He said NRS 445.221 requires a permit for point source dischargers. This bill does not address irrigation return flow from agriculture as NRS 445.176 exempts return flows from agriculture. He said there are other procedures which should be adhered to whether they appear in state law or not. In most instances of treatment plant expansion and upgrading, federal construction grant funds are involved and the requirements for this funding include the engineering plant or facility planning and an environmental assessment of each alternative that is considered. The EPA and the division of environmental protection review the environmental assessments and must make a finding of "no significant impact" before the project can proceed; if such a finding cannot be made; the EPA must prepare an environmental impact statement.

Mr. McCurry suggested passage of the bill might foster better communication between upstream and downstream users of the water facilities.

Mr. Charles Osburn, rancher on the lower Truckee River spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 296. He said he opposes the use of the river for industrial purposes and told the committee that some cattle have gotten sick from nitrate poisoning and have had to be destroyed.

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Mr. Lyle Campbell of Lovelock spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 296.

Mr. Steve Hamilton, Silver Springs landowner spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 296.

Mr. Wallace Davis of Silver Springs spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 296. he suggested the word "probability" on page 1, lines 23-25 be changed to "guarantee".

The Chairman asked witnesses who had not had a chance to testify to return on Thursday, March 26 at 8:00 a.m. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Connie S. Richards, Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:


Senator Joe Neal, Chairman

DATE: 4-2-81

SENATE AGENDA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

EXHIBIT A

Committee on Human Resources and Facilities, Room 323

Day Wednesday, Date March 25, 1981, Time 8:00 a.m.

S. C. R. No. 26--Requests University of Nevada to assist in improving health services in rural areas.

S. B. No. 296--Adds requirements for approval of permit for discharge of pollutants.

S. B. No. 394--Creates Nevada commission for the blind.

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EXHIBIT B

NAME	ORGANIZATION & ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Bob Johnson	Self Emp	293-1272
Art Kruger	Self Emp	
Peggy Jones	Librarian, PO Box 193, Silver Springs	
Bob Sullivan	Uniontown Pa 1578	80-45
Paul Field	Douglas Creek	702-5776
C. G. Post	Ch. of Wm. East of Uniontown	784-6007
Edward DeWitt	unloc	577-2460
Wallace Davis	UNLOC	577-2745
Lorraine Davis	UNLOC	" "
Bob Hurlbert	unloc	453-2...
Don Hurlbert	unloc	...
Edna DeWitt	" " "	452-0345
Clude Peterson	" " "	" "
Mary Wild	Sioux in action	453-7178
Norma & Mary Krug	" " "	452-1207
Char Fry	concerned rancher	423-3304
Dr. Wm. J. M. Kirkland	concerned resident of Uniontown	423-4242
Aline Hewitt	concerned resident of Uniontown	423-2047
Mike Menden	CHURCHILL PUBLIC HOSPITAL	423-2151
Self Roewson	Chancellor, Churchill County	422-6005
Charles Osburn	Self Rte I Sparks	359 3818
J. Glatfery	Self Rte I Sparks	357 9459
Paul & Linda W...	7050 E. St unloc	

ATTENDANCE ROSTER FORM

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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EXHIBIT B

NAME	ORGANIZATION & ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
John E. Baker	Senior in Charge #116 Lamb #206	452-4158
Anna Ewing	" " " 1664 Fournelle T.L.	642-3642
Mrs. Mrs. Phil Peters	" " " 867 N. Lamb #26	452-3677
Michael Stoltz	UNLOC	-
John Tolman	Silver Springs Roy 317	577-2153
Creech	SILVER SPRINGS	577-2666
Ken Newcomb	Centre Neuman HSA	323-1791
Jim Wehaver	Walker River Irrigation Dist.	463-3523
BJORN SEINER	CHURCHILL COUNTY	423-5136
Issue LB 1117	" " "	423-4610
James H. [unclear]	Churchill County	423-3775
Bill [unclear]	Cherokee County	867-3334
Diana [unclear]	Clark County	565-9319
Audrey Tait	Clark County	642-6000
Diane Campbell	Lynchburg S/R 296	273-2173
Earl Nygren	F...	...
Bob Sumner	Nev. Dept. of Wildlife Persn	784-6214
Donald G. Cates	New. Div. of Wildlife	320-1024
Wendell M. Curry	Nev Div 1 Env Prot	885-4670
L & S Campbell	Lynchburg S/R 296	273-2175
Ken Newcomb	Centre Neuman HSA	373-1791
Del Frost	State Range Div	5-4440

National Federation of the Blind of Nevada

1001 North Bruce • Telephone 642-6000
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

EXHIBIT C

We hope that you will carefully consider the enclosed material and be prepared to ask us frank questions regarding any doubts which may occur to you retaining to your support of our bill establishing a commission of services to the blind.

BLIND ~~In the past~~ we have experimented with divisions and bureaus which ~~dissapointed~~ people . We believe that a commission for the blind who is directly responsible to the blind people of Nevada, the Legislature of Nevada and the Governor is the only sound answer.

We are convinced that economies of staff, elimination of irrevelent services and wastefull overhead, could result in more meaningfull and practical services to the blind people of Nevada, at no additional cost to the taxpayers.

The blind people themselves are the ones who know best what kinds of services are needed.

We have patiently tried the umbrella approach and found that it just doesnt do the job.

National Federation of the Blind of Nevada

1001 North Bruce • Telephone 642-8000
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

EXHIBIT C

The Best Solution to the Problems of the Blind of Nevada: S.B. 394 Establishing a Commission of Services to the Blind.

The problem of providing a sound program of services to the Blind in Nevada is a very complex one. The State Agency must provide a great variety of services to a relatively small population, of all ages, which is scattered over a vast geographical area, and, without spending too much money.

The best approach to solving this problem is S.B. 394 establishing a Commission of Services to the Blind. The Commission would put state services to the blind under the control of a body of experts in the problems of the blind and whose sole concern is the needs and problems of the blind. The state agency director would be directly responsible to the governor and this Commission for carrying out the policies and practices of the Commission.

Some preliminary suggestions we offer the Commission are:
Secure more money for case service by reducing the number of state agency staff. e.g. The state agency's business enterprises program has more than twice as many supervisors as the national average for the size of its program.

Reduce the number of specialists on the state agency's staff and replace them with generalists who have many rehabilitative skills including teaching, counseling, and the capacity to assist in the vending stand program when necessary. When the needs of the client exceed the capabilities of agency's staff, tutorial services could be purchased of specialists when the needs of the client exceed the abilities of the staff, services of specialists can be contracted as needed. Over and above the obvious economy the councilors will be directly responsible for the progress of his client.

More money for case services in the rural area can be made available by headquartering rural councilors in the heart of the rural area rather than in the city thereby saving money on travel, per diem, as well as the time of the professional.

Utilize and encourage the development of private agencies.

Most important of all- reestablish the practice of hiring blind field workers. They have had direct personal experience with the problems of their clients and will serve as a positive example to them.

The hiring of blind field workers will tell the agencies, clients, prospective employers of the blind, and the world, that the state agency truly believes in the capabilities of the blind.

Audrey Tait, President

Audrey Tait

National Federation of the Blind of Nevada

1001 North Bruce • Telephone 642-6000
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

EXHIBIT C

Why do the Blind Need S.B. 394 Establishing a Nevada Commission for the Blind?

Stated briefly, Nevada's Bureau of Services to the Blind is not doing its job and it is more than likely that it never will as long as it is under the administrative dominance of the State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency.

Over half of the blind population is over fifty-five and another ten or fifteen percent of the blind population are under sixteen years old, which means that the primary thrust of the agency virtually ignores three fourths of the blind population. Vocational rehabilitation laws practically forbid the agency from working with blind children. This means that Nevada's Bureau of Services to the Blind offers no substantial help to blind children at the time in their development when the help would do the most good..

Nevada's revised statutes clearly state that the Agency for the Blind is charged with the responsibility of meliorating the problems of blindness for all the blind, not just twenty-five or thirty percent of them.

Comparative statistics suggesting that Nevada is holding its own with other state agencies merely prove that all of the State Agencies for the Blind are wallowing in the same mud of bureaucratic deceptions and self-aggrandizement and that in some instances Nevada is among the leaders in these misleading efforts.

The number of case closures is a criteria they use for measuring agency performance. The problems of blindness unfortunately are not one time occurrences. People most frequently get blinder as they get older and are barraged with new problems. Blind people's conditions and circumstances change and there are constant technological advances, yet our Agency for the Blind proudly closes cases and destroys client's files after four or five years, thus effectively forgetting them. Is this kind of service something to brag about?

Low average case cost is another criteria the agency uses to demonstrate good performance: this allows the agency to justify its over staffing by closing a great number of cases with minimal expenditures of money. At the same time it neglects the severely blinded individual, who's problems are probably more real, but who's case costs would be greater.

Nevada's Services to the Blind likes to say, "look what we are doing today in comparison with fifteen years ago." The program of fifteen years ago aimed at serving all of the blind; "Service" not "Closures" was the emphasis. Nevada's Bureau of Services to the Blind is really saying, that it is playing the numbers game for its own sake and in ways that were not even possible fifteen years ago, even if numbers had been the main interest.

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Even in the area of vocational rehabilitation, the agency's performance will not bear close scrutiny. There are several young blind people who are capable of working and would like to work but there cases are closed. There are other people who have been trained, but left to find their own jobs and forgotten.

The Agency for the Blind's misleading representations are further unmasked when one examines its program of affirmative action with respect to hiring blind persons within the agency. When Nevada's Services to the Blind was founded, three out of the four professional staff were blind. Today the staff has increased by more than four times and now there are only two blind people employed. The only two blind people employed by the State Services to the Blind are waistfully assigned to desk jobs, rather than being out in the field seeing blind people and hopefully giving them encouragement by their example and spirit. Instead, the agency has sighted counselors going around telling blind clients to cheer up and that they know exactly how they feel. This is ridiculous even if a blind person said it to another blind person. The blind counselor can say "I have been through some of what you are going through and I would like to help you to profit from my experience." The capable blind counselor is a concrete proof that blindness can be overcome. The vending stand program used to afford employment for many totally blind persons; today, the number of totally blind persons in the program is negligible.

For over ten years the Bureau of Services to the Blind has given no support to the Southern Nevada Sightless Blind Center which is a grass roots self help effort of blind people. In fact, the State Services to the Blind has attempted to destroy the Blind Center's basic character, that is an independent organization run by the blind people themselves.

The problems of blindness are uniquely different from those arising from any other physical handicaps. Vocational rehabilitation, education, welfare, health, geriatrics, and preschool training, are just some of the areas of service impinging on the lives of blind persons. Until we have a Commission which cuts across all of these areas and takes an interest in the total individual and his needs, not those of the agency, we will not have effective services to all the blind people of Nevada.

More than one head of the Department of Human Resources has privately admitted that their job was that of a trouble shooter and that they did not have the time or expertise to understand the workings of each bureau. It further stands to reason that the head of the Vocational Rehabilitation Agency is primarily interested in vocational rehabilitation which is only one of the many problems confronting blind people.

The Bureau of Services to the Blind and the blind of our state have been the victims of this neglect because of lack of time and ineptness of department heads and the umbrella approach to state organization.

There are many illustrations of this lack of effective supervision on the Bureau of Services to the Blind.

* The Bureau now employs one blind person only.

EXHIBIT C

We all remember how the Las Vegas City Jail ended up without a kitchen to feed the prisoners because the State Bureau of Services to the Blind did not follow through on its commitments as expected by city officials.

The agency received five or six thousand dollars from Fletcher Jones which was to be specifically used to help blind children. The agency is not even supposed to work with blind children. Further, the glasses that were purchased for a few of the blind children from this money do not appear to be worth six thousand dollars. The law clearly states that money donated for a specific purpose must be used for that purpose. What happened to the rest of the money?

In another instance the Bureau embarked on a sheltered shop program called Home Sight. We understand that the project produced excessive administrative costs and wastage through bureaucratic procrastination, but very little for the blind people it was intended to help. It has been related that a truck costing many thousands of dollars was purchased and there was no money to purchase equipment for the blind people to work with.

Upon the disillusionment of this disaster, the State Bureau Services to the Blind showed little concern it has for helping the blind by failing to offer or even tell the Sightless Blind Center about the subcontracts it was giving up.

There must have been no supervision over the State Services to the Blind when just a few years ago it spear-headed an attempt to take over the Blind Center. To their credit a majority of the Lions Club Members rejected this play of power. Where was the supervision that let this get started?

Nevada's Bureau of Services to the Blind has failed to head-quarter the rural counseling staff in the heart of the rural area where they could serve clients most effectively. Instead, the rural counselors waste their time and energy traveling from an urban area to the site of their work.

Another example of the lack of supervisory review of the agency is shown in its deplorable handling of the vending stand program. Totally blind people are apparently being phased out. Locations have been given to out of staters while Nevada residents twiddle their thumbs. There has been no growth in the program in the last seven years, despite the increases in population. The agency now has three vending stand supervisors for sixteen locations and is seeking two more supervisory positions. This would be a total of five supervisors for sixteen locations. The national average is one supervisor for ten locations. Who approved of this request?

The State Bureau of Services to the Blind is striving for additional space. This is another big boondogal which will allow the agency to look like it is doing something. We think that it would be more appropriate to transfer the agency's office to a telephone booth. This would force the workers to get out in the field and work with the blind

EXHIBIT C

people and their problems. Many of which revolve around their families and their own individual environments. Spirit and self-confidence instilled by an experienced blind person are much more basic than gadgets and techniques taught in a rarified atmosphere by people who too frequently have no real conception of the blind persons problems.

We want a Commission because it is the only way to end this fragmented approach to the problems of blind people. A Commission for the blind also has the most potential for effectively reviewing and directing an Agency for the Blind, since the functioning of the agency will be the Commission's primary concern and the majority of the Commission will have had direct experience with the problems of blindness. We are totally discouraged with our State Services to the Blind program who's main energies are spent on serving twenty-five percent of the blind population and who's goals are measured on the number of cases closed and blind people forgotten, rather than services. We resent the wasting of human and financial resources to build a bureaucracy who's goals seem to be, to frustrate the ambitions of the blind and their efforts to help themselves.

Sincerely yours,
President of National Federation of the Blind
of Nevada

Audrey Tait
Audrey Tait

NEVADA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

TESTIMONY NOTES

EXHIBIT D

1. The bill sets forth Commission membership criteria based on activity in blind organizations (page 1, lines 5 and 6).

If we are to vocationally rehabilitate the blind, then, as a minimum, the Commission should offer expertise in areas of management, personnel, planning, finance, understanding and ability to respond to needs of the blind target population to be served.

2. The Bill requires that all staff be skilled in assisting blind persons (page 4, lines 23-25). Means all employees not just counselors - costly and unnecessary.
3. The Commission will make all decisions relative to services, personnel, and administration, through quarterly meetings. Administrative nightmare. Such activities would require at least monthly meetings. There will not be the flexibility for timely or responsible decisions to management, personnel or program concerns, all of which are necessary for program and service effectiveness.
4. The President has proposed a 25% reduction in federal funds for this program. During a time of fiscal austerity at the state and federal levels, it does not make good management-sense to increase overhead and operational cost by \$100,000 per year, as projected in this proposal.
~~—Yasmer to detail hidden costs.~~
5. The premise upon which the Rehabilitation Division was created, was reduction of administrative costs and coordination of resources to meet common needs. Establishment of separate services will increase costs through duplication of administrative overhead and programs *by an additional 100,000*

EXHIBIT D

Examples are the recreation program which now serves Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation and Bureau of Services to the Blind equally, rent in the Reno building, joint use of motor pool and agency vehicles, telephone and receptionist services, the rendering of blind and visually impaired services by Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation in rural Nevada.

6. The bill implies a service delivery system with emphasis on social services. We strongly support maintenance of a program evolving around the work ethic for benefit of clients and the state's economy. The 153 individuals rehabilitated in 1980 earned \$264,108 more in the first ^{Year of} employment than they earned prior to services. They paid \$52,822 more in state and federal taxes. If all we want is a social service program, welfare can provide it.
6. The merits of ^{Amore integrated} ~~continuing program operation under an~~ organizational structure such as that offered by the Division are reflected ⁱⁿ ~~by~~ performance comparisons for fiscal year 1981 to those prior to movement of the program into the Rehabilitation Division.

Program Performance

<u>July, 1973</u>		<u>July, 1980</u>	<u>Change</u>
Clients served	293	642	119%
Clients rehabed	71	153	115%
Expenditures	\$362,783	\$1,066,972	194%
Cost per case served	1,238	1,662	34%
Cost per case rehabed	5,109	6,974	37%
Served per counselor	59	128	116%
Rehabed per counselor	14	31	121%

Virgil Getto

SB 296

over 50%
use - Reno State Park
Carson

STATEMENT ON SENATE BILL 296

EXHIBIT E

Senate bill 296 deals with control of water pollution. I had this bill drafted to at least partially respond to problems we have been experiencing at Lake Lahontan over the past several years.

The Newlands Project, including Lahontan Reservoir, was one of the first projects constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation, and it has been an asset to the State of Nevada ever since its completion in 1916. Water from the Newlands Project supports the agricultural base of Churchill County, and Lake Lahontan is a major recreational attraction. The Lahontan Reservoir gives the heaviest use of any of our state parks - second only to Lake Tahoe. And more people visitors per year at Lahontan State Park. And more people camp at Lahontan each summer than at all of state parks combined.

1971 worked
for State
Park-

For several years, the algae "blooms" at Lake Lahontan have been getting worse and worse. In 1980, pollution of the lake caused a major fish kill, and water-contact activities had to be prohibited. In effect, the state health division had to close the lake down.

During this same time period, the division of environmental protection was being petitioned by upstream municipalities to lower the water quality standards on the rivers which feed Lahontan. Experts in the field indicate that phosphorus is the pollutant which is causing most of the problems at Lahontan. While the concentrations of phosphorus in the upper Carson River are significantly below the nationally recommended standards, the concentrations below the Carson City sewage treatment plant greatly exceed this recommended standard. The statistics for the Weeks station, nearest the entry point into Lahontan Reservoir, show that phosphorus levels have dropped but are still twice the recommended concentrations for entry into a reservoir.

Lack of Data

I Personally - Saw Dead Fish - Flies -
Stench

EXHIBIT E

Page 2

Senate bill 296 stops far short of giving downstream localities a veto power over upstream projects which may pollute a river. But it does insure that local governments in the downstream areas will be notified of upstream applications and will have a chance to have their comments considered. And it puts the burden on the upstream applicant to show the probability that no adverse effect will occur from their discharge. Lines 20-25 on page 1 of the bill make these points, and lines 21-24 on page 2 make them apply to the public hearing process.

If you have any questions, I will attempt to provide the answers.

STRESS SCARCITY of Water - Multiple
use -

TRPA TO PROTECT LAKE

Bill - TO Provide Mechanism TO fund
And Build Reservoirs SB 351

17,000 people - Live over 1/2 in County

Shallow wells - Fernley - Silver
Springs - Have developed business

DEPT Nat-Resource support

11p3.1.296.1,2

Wendell McClary

LJN
9/11/80

'Don't Turn Lahontan Into A Sewer'—Dini

"Lake Lahontan is the greatest thing in western Nevada," said Assemblyman Joe Dini of Yerington. "It's a crying shame to turn it into a sewer, and I'm going to fight it all the way."

Dini, who jokingly called himself an environmental specialist after co-authoring a bill to limit growth at Lake Tahoe, is turning now to a very serious fight to save Lake Lahontan.

Effluent sewage in Lake Lahontan from upstream communities has increased significantly in recent years, according to spokesmen from the Environmental Protection Agency, and is thought to be a factor in the recent closing of the lake to swimmers because of toxic algae presence

there.

Because of these conditions, Dini said, "we're in a critical period at Lahontan. We need citizen support" to keep the lake from dying.

So far, Dini has spoken his mind at public hearings concerning the Carson City Comprehensive Water Plan, which seeks to lower water quality standards for the Carson River and ultimately, Lake Lahontan. Now, he said, the residents of Carson City are beginning to fear opposition from downstream communities and are pressuring their legislators to fight for the lower standards.

"We need to stir up enough stink for 10,000 outdoor recreationists to come," Dini said.

In addition, he said, "I'm going to run a poll to

see how many people support opposing one county from running effluent into another county without permission."

If his constituents support it, Dini said, he will introduce a bill to the state legislature that would make it law.

Approval of the bill to curb growth at Lake Tahoe will help somewhat, he said. "What we do at Tahoe (to lessen sewer discharge downstream) will effect Lahontan."

Dini said he realizes other local assemblymen meet opposition to solutions such as effluent land runoff by their farming constituents.

Still, the problem exists and must be dealt with. "We've got a helluva fight coming," he said.

EXHIBIT E

Lake Lahontan Closure Extended

By Anne Piffne

"As a preventive measure, we closed all the beaches," said Rod Wilkes, supervisor of public health sanitarians for the Nevada Division of Health after his office barred all of Lake Lahontan from swimming and water skiing late Thursday.

State health officials closed the Churchill Coun-

ty side of the lake two weeks ago due to large numbers of fish dying and complaints of local residents becoming ill after swimming near Lahontan Dam. Now the closure has been extended to Silver Springs shores, Wilkes said, after an Ohio specialist on blue-green algae detected toxicity in water from Lake

Continued on Page 3

✓ Lake Lahontan Closed

continued from page 1
Lahontan, and California specialists found bacterial infection in fish from the lake.

"We think the conditions will get better as temperatures drop," Wilkes said. "We had a

man out to make a survey a couple days ago and conditions had not abated, at least not much. We'll continue to monitor out there at least once a week and possibly every few days," he said.

District Park Super-

visor Darryl Craig said the lake's closure has already decreased the park's total annual visitation figures by five percent, although numbers traditionally decrease greatly after Labor Day.

The number of dead fish along the lake's 70-mile shoreline "has definitely slowed down," he said. Fish are still visible, though, because most summer park employees who were cleaning the beaches have gone. "We're mostly just leaving it to mother nature now," Craig said. "It's too big a problem to handle just walking down the beach."

Questions over the definite cause of the toxicity and fish deaths are still being answered with studies.

CHURCHILL COUNTY ADMIN.
859 S. MAINE ST.
FALLON, NV 89406

EXHIBIT E

No Dam Swimming!

By Anne Pilleo

The Churchill County side of Lake Lahontan was closed to swimmers Tuesday for an indefinite period because of possible evidence of toxic blue-green algae in the water, according to Rod Wilkes, supervisor of public health sanitarians for the Nevada Division of Health.

"We had a man out there this morning who said it's stinking mess," Wilkes told the Lahontan Valley News Monday. An estimated 2,000 dead fish lay on benches and algae covered the lake's surface. "We are to prohibit swimming until the situation improves."

James Cooper, a biologist for the Desert Resources Unit helping to conduct a stratification study at the Lahontan, said he collected water samples Aug. 1 that he suspects carry a toxic blue-green algae, though three possibly toxic algae were identified. Cyanobacterium, is probably the killer of the fish, he said.

Both Wilkes and Wendell McCurry of the Environmental Protection Agency said they received telephone reports of Fallon area residents who recently became ill after swimming in the lake near Lahontan Dam.

Although McCurry admitted that no conclusive evidence connects the sickness with the toxic algae, the symptoms reported included nausea, swollen throats, headaches and cramps. These symptoms, along with diarrhea, fever and in severe cases, death, are those listed in a book on toxic algae, he said.

"If it is toxic, it only takes a gulp to make you sick," McCurry said. "We can't wait till somebody keels over and gets severely sick and pump their stomachs."

Darrell Craig, district park ranger, said that no park employees have become ill from swimming in the lake, but agreed that if health officials suspect toxic algae, they should close the one third of the lake in Churchill County for swimming and water skiing.

"We have no conclusive evidence" of the substance's presence, Cooper said. However, mice in-

jected with water from Lake Lahontan have become ill, although some have died. Cooper said he does suspect the algae is toxic, as most dead fish found have been carp, a plant-eating fish. Still, the problem could also be one of too little oxygen in the lake, due to the recent heat waves.

"I suspect the peak of toxicity is already behind us," Cooper said.

Still, more tests are being conducted to determine whether a problem actually exists.

If the algae is found to be toxic, the only solution is to wait for a change in weather, Cooper said. A problem similar to this one occurred in 1944, and it eventually cleared itself up, he said.

Other experts think the problem could be more serious. Both McCurry and Hob Sumner, a fish staff specialist for the Nevada Department of Wildlife, said the toxicity could be directly related to increased amounts of sewage that flow daily into the lake from both the Carson River and Truckee Canal.

"More sewage in the water produces increased amounts of nutrients, which could in turn cause cer-

tain algae to produce toxic substances," McCurry said.

"In looking back over the past 10 to 13 years, only real change on the system is an increase in loads coming in from sewage plants," McCurry said.

Comparing 1968 data with 1960 data, some of which are evident, Carson City, which dumped one million gallons of sewage per day into the Carson River in 1968 now dumps two million, McCurry said.

Sparks, which dumped 16 million gallons of weak sewage into the Truckee River in 1967, now dumps 20 million gallons of strong sewage, he said. In addition, Incline, Minden and Gardnerville all have been added to the list of river polluters, with dumping more than 800,000 gallons of sewage each, he said.

"If proposed plans for on land sewage disposal were implemented, the problem would decrease considerably," McCurry said. The problem at Lahontan are apt to continue next year, "if a geyser spell happens again, until permanent changes are made to decrease the amount of pollution loads going into the lake."

LAHONTAN STORAGE
IN ACRE FEET

Aug. 28, 1950	303,971
Aug. 28, 1979	192,107
Aug. 28, 1976	187,643

LAHONTAN VALLEY NEWS

FALLON'S LOCAL NEWSPAPER

WEATHER

Aug. 23	84	60
Aug. 24	84	60
Aug. 25	84	63



Nevada/Sierra

Nevada State Journal

Tuesday, September 2, 1969 - 19

866

Lake closed to swimming during investigation

Thousands of fish die in Lahontan

By DOUG MCILLAN
State Editor

FALLON — Lake Lahontan remained closed to swimming and water skiing Monday as state officials tried to explain what killed thousands of fish whose bodies covered its shoreline in recent weeks.

State health officials said early Monday that they had received dozens of reports from persons who became ill after swimming in the reservoir on recent weekends. Ron Wilks and Al Edmondson of the state Consumer Health Protection Service said the symptoms — nausea, cramps, diarrhea, sore throat and respiratory problems — corresponded closely to the ill effects of blue-green algae, which has been prevalent at Lahontan.

But later in the day, State Health Officer Dr. John Carr said those symptoms correspond to a lot of other things, too, like the flu. He discounted the reports as mostly "second and third-hand."

"I have heard from several hands away that people got sick from being out there, but we haven't been able to tie this to anything, there were so many people out there," he said. But Carr said the thousands of dead fish could be as much a health hazard as toxic blue-green algae, so warnings against "water contact sports" would continue in effect indefinitely.

Notices against swimming or water skiing were posted 10 days ago at beaches and boat ramps closest to Lahontan Dam, in Churchill County. The remaining shoreline, including the Silver Springs area beaches in York County, was closed to swimming and water skiing Friday.

Meanwhile, the Nevada Department of Wildlife was attributing the massive fish deaths to a bacteria, columnaris, that also has struck fish populations at large reservoirs like Lahontan. Fisheries biologist Bob

Sumner said Monday that his agency has ruled out blue-green algae as the culprit in the fish kills, which consist almost 95 percent of carp.

Each of the five state agencies trying to solve the mystery had slightly varying theories and versions of the perplexing events Monday.

They agreed that dead fish began showing up on Lahontan's shores about six weeks to two months ago, coincidental with a large bloom of blue-green algae.

The Desert Research Institute, which was conducting water quality and fish studies at the reservoir, sent water samples to Dr. Wayne Cornichale of Wright State University in Ohio, the foremost expert on blue-green algae Aug. 17, according to Desert Research biologist James Cooper. Cornichale discovered a "mild toxicity" in the samples, although it was enough to kill laboratory mice.

Desert Research Institute scientists also found a mild toxicity in their own tests on mice and rainbow trout. The laboratory animals became sick, but did not die.

Cooper said blue-green algae becomes toxic in certain years and harmless in other years and nobody knows exactly why. Apparently the toxicity is related to high temperatures so it should rapidly diminish at Lahontan as the season grows colder, he said.

However, Lahontan State Park Supervisor Bob Franke disagreed that blue-green algae toxically harmed park users. He said hundreds of people swim in the lake with no harmful effects, including the park's six lifeguards, who entered the water daily, and long-term campers. He said the symptoms attributed to blue-green algae sounded like the flu that many persons have had in recent weeks, whether or not they came to Lahontan.

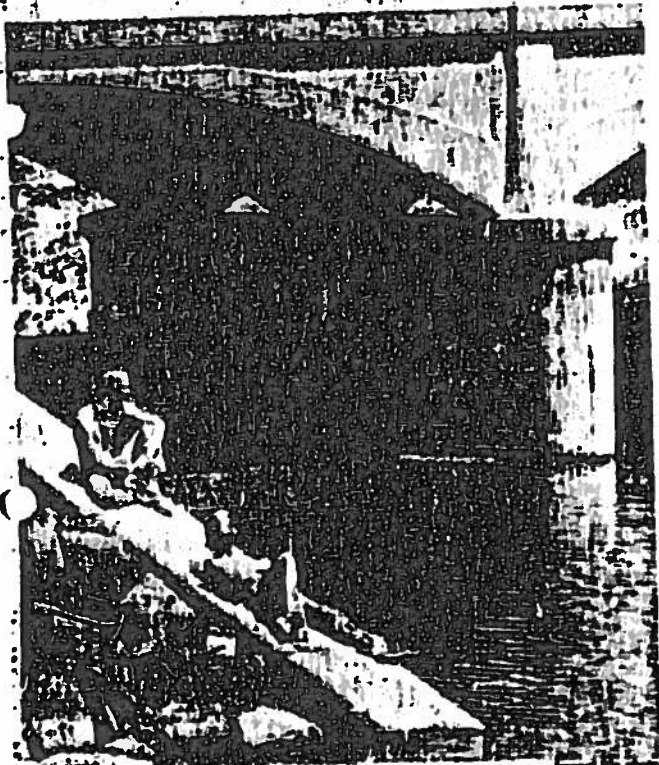
Sumner said the Department of Wildlife had ruled out blue-green algae because only carp seemed to be dying. Wildlife fishery experts have observed that carp have been unable to reproduce this year, which means they are under some other possible stress, he said. Algal toxicity would have killed other kinds of fish, he added.

Virtually untouched by the disease have been walleye, yellow perch, white crappie, catfish and several species of bass, he said. Wildlife agency people and sportsmen value these species as game fish more than the carp.

"We have not conclusively proven it was algae," Cooper agreed. "I don't know if we'll ever know. We would have passed the toxic peak two weeks or a month ago."

Wendell McCurry of the state Environmental Protection Division said samples of Lahontan water taken last week showed toxicity. He blamed the high temperatures and the nutrient content of both the Truckee and Carson rivers for combining to create the algae. Water from both rivers feed the reservoir. Effluent from five sewage treatment plants eventually flows its way into the Carson River while the Joint Reno-Sparks sewage treatment plant empties into the Truckee River. McCurry discounted the impact of the Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Facility, which processes sewage from North Lake Tahoe communities and Truckee, because it is disposed of on land after a high degree of treatment.

Meanwhile, state park rangers were shoveling up dead fish and hauling them to a desert landfill. Franke reported the fish kill has dropped to about 10 percent of what it was two weeks ago.



Thousands of fish have died in Lake Lahontan, near Fallon.

Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined

EXHIBIT E

Getto Calls For Pollution Controls

"I can't see how the Environmental Protection Agency can allow a situation like this to continue." State Assemblyman Virgil Getto said Tuesday, speaking of the polluted water in the Truckee and Carson Rivers.

He said in the past the EPA has been extremely strict in other areas, but as yet has not taken action even though pollution in the Truckee has already forced health officials to close Lake Lahontan to swimming.

Getto said a similar situation arose in Henderson recently and the EPA insisted that a three stage

tertiary treatment plant, which purifies water, be installed there to protect the Colorado River.

Getto labeled the L-1 alternative, a proposal of the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant, a discriminatory measure. Under this proposal, effluent from the Reno/Sparks area would be piped to the Truckee Canal, effectively bypassing Pyramid Lake. "They do not want effluent to flow into Pyramid Lake," Getto said, "and yet they are willing to allow it in Lahontan, which has by far more recreational and multiple use of water than

Continued on Page 3

*Dr. Charles Inoué ?
U of Texas
Pathogenic research
from sewage effluent.*

EXHIBIT E

✓ Getto Speaks About Water

continued from page 1
Pyramid Lake."

"If we allow this to continue, it will destroy the recreational aspects of Lahontan," he stated. In addition, he said piping the effluent to the Truckee Canal would prevent any natural purification of water that would be gained in the normal 22 mile flow of the river.

Proponents of the L-1 alternative contend the farmers should be happy to receive the effluent, because such water contains phosphates and nitrates that could be good for the crops. However, Getto said the wrong proportions of such chemicals could be detrimental to crops, and that the L-1 alternative does not consider the high concentration of pollutants in this area when Truckee River water and Carson River water are combined.

Nor does it allow for relief from more intense pollution as the Reno/Sparks and Carson City areas grow, he said. "Another thing they have not considered is that this was a good water year. In a low water year, the pollution would be just that much more concentrated."

Upstream interests have threatened the Newlands Project, saying that if the project does not accept the piped-in effluent, the water would be diverted to Dodge Flat

and would then be lost to agricultural uses.

"I don't think we could afford such a water loss," Getto said. "Water is our most precious commodity and it cannot be replaced. Above all things we must protect it and we must safeguard the multiple uses of it."

"The only solution is to mandate the installation of three-stage tertiary water treatment installations on the Truckee and the Carson," he concluded.

Getto, who has received more correspondence

from concerned citizens on this issue than on any other, said he fears for the quality of water in surface wells in Lyon and Churchill Counties, and wonders what the long range effects of pollution will be on people in western Nevada who have prolonged or repeated body contact with the water.

If the dam remains closed to swimming, more and more will be in the canals. We have no way of knowing now what dangers those people are being subjected to, said Getto.

When asked what the next move was, Getto said the TCID is still negotiating with exponents of the L-1 alternative. The matter could end up in the courts, but he said he plans to seek legislative intervention at the next session. The ironic thing, he said, is that just a few short years ago, Reno/Sparks fought off a request for a big subdivision in Washoe County because residents there feared its construction would result in polluted water in the Reno/Sparks area.

S. B. 351

SENATE BILL NO. 351—COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES

MARCH 3, 1981

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Directs submission of bond issue to finance certain projects for development of water resources. (HDR 48-896)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: Yes.

EXPLANATION—Matter in italics is new; matter in brackets () is amended to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to water resources; creating a review board for water recreation and resources and providing for its composition and duties; directing the submission of a proposal to issue state general obligation bonds for financing the development of water resources; creating a fund to finance this development; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

1 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada is in need of additional facilities to
2 provide water-related recreational opportunities to its population; and

3 WHEREAS, The climate of Nevada is conducive to enjoyment of water-
4 related activities and sports throughout most of the year for both resi-
5 dents and the patrons of the state's great tourist industry; and

6 WHEREAS, Further development of Nevada's watercourses for recrea-
7 tional opportunities could benefit the state's basic industry of agriculture;
8 now, therefore,

9 *The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly,*
10 *do enact as follows:*

11 SECTION 1. Chapter 540 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
12 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act.

13 SEC. 2. 1. There is hereby created a review board for water recrea-
14 tion and resources composed of:

15 (a) The chief of the budget division of the department of administra-
16 tion;

17 (b) The director of the department of energy;

18 (c) The director of the department of wildlife;

19 (d) The director of the state department of conservation and natural
20 resources, or the state engineer if designated by the director;

21 (e) The executive director of the state department of agriculture;

22 (f) Two members of the legislature; and
23
24

- 1 (g) One member of the public who owns and controls water rights for
2 agricultural purposes, appointed by the governor.
- 3 2. The majority leader of the senate shall appoint one senator to
4 serve on the board and the speaker of the assembly shall appoint one
5 assemblyman to serve on the board.
- 6 3. The members of the board are entitled to receive the subsistence
7 allowance and travel expenses fixed by law for state officers and employ-
8 ees.
- 9 **SEC. 3.** 1. The fund for development of water resources is hereby
10 created as a special revenue fund in the state treasury.
- 11 2. Except as provided in this section, money allocated from the fund
12 may be used to pay all or any portion of the cost of a project, including:
13 (a) Administration of the project;
14 (b) Detailed studies of feasibility;
15 (c) Preliminary design;
16 (d) Studies of environmental effects;
17 (e) Acquisition of the site and access to the site;
18 (f) Final design and engineering;
19 (g) Construction; and
20 (h) Other appropriate expenses related to the project before its com-
21 pletion.
- 22 The expenses of normal operation of the dam, reservoir or other similar
23 structure after the project is completed are not considered costs of the
24 project.
- 25 3. Money allocated from the fund for a project may be used to pay
26 only those expenses incurred after the review board's approval of an
27 application for such money under section 5 of this act. All expenses
28 incurred before that approval must be borne solely by the local entity
29 submitting the application.
- 30 4. Money allocated from the fund for a project must not be used
31 for actual design, acquisition of a site or construction until:
32 (a) All cost-benefit analyses and studies of feasibility have been satis-
33 factorily completed; and
34 (b) The local entity has entered into an agreement for water manage-
35 ment with owners of the water rights required by the project, and the
36 state engineer has approved the agreement.
- 37 5. Money allocated from the fund for a project must not be used to:
38 (a) Acquire water rights for the project through the power of eminent
39 domain; or
40 (b) Match federal money for the cost of federal projects.
- 41 6. The review board shall establish priorities for the allocation of
42 the money in the fund and shall submit annually a list of its priorities
43 and its recommendations for the total amount to be allocated for each
44 approved project to the interim finance committee for its decision on
45 final allocations from the fund.
- 46 7. Except as provided in section 4 of this act, payments made from
47 the fund must be reimbursed to the extent required under the repay-
48 ment plan approved by the review board. The review board shall not
49 require reimbursement of more than 50 percent of the sum received
50 from the fund for the project.

1 **Sac. 4.** *If, after the review board has approved the application for*
2 *a project, the detailed cost-benefit analyses, studies of feasibility, includ-*
3 *ing studies of water management and of the effect on the environment,*
4 *or preliminary studies of the site and design of the project demonstrates*
5 *that the construction should not be undertaken, the money expended by*
6 *the local entity for these preliminary studies and analyses need not be*
7 *reimbursed to the fund pursuant to the repayment plan. The local entity*
8 *must release to the fund for reallocation to other projects all money*
9 *which was allocated for the project and not expended for preliminary*
10 *studies and analyses.*

11 **Sac. 5.** *1. A local entity may submit an application to the review*
12 *board for money from the fund to pay the costs of a project. A project*
13 *is eligible for that money only if the local entity:*

14 (a) *Possesses the water rights to all the water required for the project;*

15 (b) *Has entered into an agreement for water management with the*
16 *owners of the water rights required for the project, and the state engi-*
17 *neer has approved the agreement; or*

18 (c) *Has entered into an agreement with the owners of the water rights*
19 *required for the project to cooperate in a detailed study to determine*
20 *the advisability of entering into an agreement for water management,*
21 *and if the project will not diminish the total acre-feet of water available*
22 *to any other owner of water rights on the same stream system.*

23 **2.** *The application must specify or include:*

24 (a) *How the costs of operation and maintenance of the dam, reservoir*
25 *or other similar structure will be paid.*

26 (b) *A plan for reimbursing the fund without interest over a period*
27 *of 20 years.*

28 (c) *Evidence of permission from the division of water resources to*
29 *store and use the water.*

30 (d) *An agreement for water management entered into by the local*
31 *entity and the owners of the water rights required for the project and*
32 *approved by the state engineer, or an agreement entered into by the*
33 *local entity and those owners to cooperate in studying the advisability*
34 *of an agreement for water management, neither of which would have*
35 *the effect of diminishing the total acre-feet of water available to any*
36 *other owner of water rights on the same stream system.*

37 (e) *Assurance that an appropriate public body will acquire easements*
38 *for the site of the reservoir and access to that site.*

39 (f) *A description of the status of ownership of the land surrounding*
40 *the site of the reservoir.*

41 (g) *Any agreement for financing a portion of the project entered into*
42 *by the local entity and a county fair and recreation board.*

43 (h) *Other sources of money, if any, which the local entity has obtained*
44 *or are available for financing the project.*

45 **3.** *The local entity shall submit with its application a preliminary*
46 *study of the feasibility of the project. The study must include informa-*
47 *tion supporting the anticipated costs of the project and the plan for*
48 *reimbursing the fund, the source and availability of water required for*
49 *the project and the effects of the project on recreation, agriculture,*
50 *power generation and flood control. The review board may require any*

1 additional information it deems necessary properly to evaluate the
2 application.

3 4. If the review board approves the application, it shall submit its
4 most recent list of priorities and its recommendation for the total amount
5 to be allocated for the project to the interim finance committee for its
6 decision on final allocation when the legislature is not in regular or
7 special session or to the legislature for its approval of the final alloca-
8 tion by concurrent resolution when the legislature is in regular or special
9 session. If the total amount for the project exceeds \$10 million, the
10 final allocation does not become effective until the legislature approves it.

11 Sec. 6. NRS 540.021 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 540.021 As used in this chapter:

- 13 1. "Administrator" means the administrator of the division.
- 14 2. "Division" means the division of water planning in the state
15 department of conservation and natural resources.
- 16 3. "Local entity" means a county, a cooperative group of counties
17 and agencies of counties or a special district created by or pursuant to
18 law.

19 4. "Project" means the development of a dam, reservoir or other
20 similar structure to provide water-related opportunities in this state,
21 principally for recreational use but with appropriate consideration for
22 other uses such as agriculture and the generation of low-level power, or
23 the repair or expansion of an existing dam, reservoir or other similar
24 structure to accomplish the same purposes.

25 Sec. 7. NRS 244A.645 is hereby amended to read as follows:

26 244A.645 In connection with any license taxes assigned or appro-
27 priated by any city, town or county [, or any combination thereof,] for
28 use in connection with NRS 244A.597 to 244A.655, inclusive, the
29 county fair and recreation board of any county, upon behalf of the
30 county, in addition to powers elsewhere conferred, [is authorized and
31 empowered (but is not required):

32 1. To collect] may:

33 1. Collect the proceeds of such taxes from time to time, to receive,
34 control, invest and order the expenditure of any [and all moneys] of the
35 money and funds pertaining thereto, to prescribe a procedure therefor,
36 including [(but not limited)] without limitation enforcing the collection
37 of any delinquent taxes and providing penalties in connection therewith,
38 and [to] create an office and hire personnel therefor.

39 2. [To defray] Defray the reasonable costs of collecting and other-
40 wise administering such taxes from not exceeding 10 percent of the
41 gross revenues so collected (excluding from this limitation and from
42 such gross revenues any costs of collecting any delinquent taxes borne
43 by any delinquent taxpayer). The [incorporated] cities collectively and
44 any county may enter into an agreement with the board for the payment
45 of collection fees which may be more or less than 10 percent of the gross
46 revenues collected by a particular city or the county, except that the total
47 payment of collection fees to all the cities and the county [shall] must
48 not exceed 10 percent of the combined gross revenues so collected.

49 3. [To defray] Defray further with the proceeds of [any such] the
50 tax the costs of [the]:

— 5. —

1 (a) The county fair and recreation board and of officers, agents and
2 employees hired [thereby,] by it and of incidentals incurred thereby [

3 of operating]:

4 (b) Operating and maintaining recreational facilities under the juris-
5 diction of the board, including [without limiting the generality of the
6 foregoing,] without limitation the payment of reasonable promotional
7 expenses pertaining thereto [payment of reasonable expenses pertaining
8 to the promotion of];

9 (c) Promoting to a reasonable extent tourism generally, both individu-
10 ally and through grants to the chambers of commerce of the [incor-
11 porated] cities of the county or other nonprofit groups or associations [

12 and of improving.];

13 (d) Improving, extending and bettering any recreational facilities
14 authorized by NRS 244A.597 to 244A.655, inclusive, including [but
15 not limited to] without limitation making annual grants to the state,
16 the county and [incorporated] cities in the county for capital improve-
17 ments for recreational facilities [and of constructing.];

18 (e) Constructing, purchasing or otherwise acquiring any [such] recre-
19 ational facilities [], including the financing of a portion of the cost
20 of a project under sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act under an agree-
21 ment approved by the review board for water recreation and resources.

22 4. [To redeem] Redeem any general obligation bonds of the county
23 issued pursuant to NRS 244A.597 to 244A.655, inclusive, principal,
24 interest and any prior redemption premium, regardless of whether such
25 taxes are pledged as additional security for their payment.

26 5. [To make] Make contracts from time to time concerning [any
27 such] the license taxes, notwithstanding [any such] the contracts may
28 limit the exercise of powers pertaining thereto, including [without
29 limiting the generality of the foregoing,] without limitation the right of
30 any city, town or the county from time to time to increase, decrease or
31 otherwise modify the tax [; but no such change shall be made which
32 shall prejudicially affect] unless the change adversely affects any pledge
33 of tax proceeds as additional security for the payment of bonds issued
34 pursuant to NRS 244A.597 to 244A.655, inclusive, and each other
35 political subdivision assigning or appropriating such taxes pertaining
36 thereto shall consent to any such modification.

37 6. To make rules and regulations concerning such license taxes, and
38 to provide penalties for the failure to comply therewith.

39 SEC. 8. At the general election to be held in the State of Nevada in
40 1982, there shall be submitted to the voters of the state in the manner
41 prescribed by chapter 349 of NRS a proposal to issue general obligation
42 bonds of the State of Nevada for the purpose of developing water
43 resources for recreational and other uses in an amount of not more
44 than \$15,000,000. If the proposal is carried, the bonds may be issued
45 at one time or from time to time.

46 SEC. 9. The proceeds from the sale of the bonds must be deposited
47 in the state treasury for credit to the fund for development of water
48 resources.

49 SEC. 10. 1. The legislature finds and declares that the issuance of
50 bonds pursuant to this act is for the protection and preservation of the

— 6 —

1 natural resources of this state and obtaining the benefits thereof; and
2 constitutes an exercise of the authority conferred by the second para-
3 graph of section 3 of article 9 of the constitution of the State of Nevada.
4 2. The provisions of the State Securities Law, contained in chapter
5 349 of NRS, apply to the issuance of bonds and the acquisition of prop-
6 erty under this act.

B. SELINDER
1505 WOODY LN.
FALLOV, NV. 89406

528

Algae tests toxic

EXHIBIT E

Lahontan closed

By PAT STEVENSON

FALLOV—The State Health Department has extended the closure at Lake Lahontan to include the entire reservoir for swimming and water skiing, according to State Parks District Ranger Darrell Craig. He advised Thursday afternoon the blue-green algae has proved to be potentially toxic and could be harmful.

"The Desert Research Institute took samples last Wednesday and sent some of the water to be tested in Cincinnati,

Ohio," said Wendell McCurry of the Department of Environmental Protection. "They injected samples into mice and the mice died, indicating a high level of toxicity. DRI is doing the same tests and their mice didn't die, but they were so sick you could pick them up," he reported.

McCurry explained the laboratory had used other mice as control subjects and Dr. Carmichael, a foremost expert on blue-green algae, confirmed a high level of toxicity.

"If DRI had taken the test samples a week or so earlier than they did, they probably would have found an even higher toxicity," McCurry said. He added that a total of 42 people reportedly became sick on two different weekends after swimming or water skiing at Lake Lahontan. "Four kids got sick after swimming by the dam."

McCurry blamed the high nutrient content of the water and the high tem-

peratures as combining to create the situation.

"The load of nutrients isn't unusual," he noted. "It has just increased so much in the past years. We have the right conditions of high phosphates and low nitrogens, along with high temperatures so the algae produces this toxin. We had similar conditions last year but there were no toxins. But this year is different.

"According to what I've been told," McCurry continued, "in 1964 they had a similar situation but no one understood what caused it. Last year we ran a survey and there were huge blooms (on the algae) but no dead fish and no real problem."

Ron Wilks of the State Consumer Health Protection Services said Dr. Carmichael is one of the foremost experts on blue-green algae in the country, which is why his laboratory was selected for the testing. Because the toxin proved to be so lethal, and to prevent anyone else from becoming sick, his department ordered the closure of the entire lake.

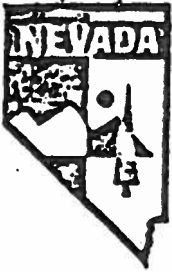
"There are tens of thousands of dead fish," he said. Wilks repeated that nutrients are coming into Lahontan from both rivers, (Carson and Truckee).

Neither would say when the condition might be improved, but apparently, as the weather cools the lake may clear up.



Eagle Standard

Vol. 77 No. 24 Sunday, September 7, 1980 15 Cents



In Reply Refer to:

September 16, 1980

EXHIBIT E

**DIVISION
OF
STATE
PARKS**

JOHN L. MEDER
Administrator

SUITE 210
1923 N CARSON ST.
CAPITOL COMPLEX
CARSON CITY,
NEVADA 89710
(702) 895-4384

Mailing Address:
Capitol Complex
Carson City
Nevada 89710

Mrs. Doris Morin
Secretary-Treasurer
Truckee-Carson Irrigation District
Newlands Project
P.O. Box 1356
Fallon, Nevada 89406

Dear Mrs. Morin:

Your letter of September 12, 1980, requesting information concerning recent closure of Lahontan Reservoir to swimming and water skiing has been forwarded to the State Division of Consumer Protection. This is the agency that made the determination that there may be a human health problem and ordered the lake closed to water contact activities.

State Parks operates the recreation resource only as outline in the Joint-management Agreement. We are also very concerned about the water quality at Lahontan and urge that everything be done to keep it high enough to allow water contact recreation and insure that the waters of Lahontan Reservoir are not allowed to be further degraded.

If you have any questions or desire additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely,

John L. Meder
Administrator

cc: Roland Westergard
Rod Wilkes, Consumer Protection

378



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
DIVISION OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF CONSUMER HEALTH PROTECTION SERVICES

RECEIVED
SEP 22 1980

303 EAST KING STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89710
TELEPHONE: (702) 865-4750

620 BELMOSE STREET
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89158
TELEPHONE: (702) 388-0241

EXHIBIT E

September 19, 1980

Doris Morin, Secretary-Treasurer
Truckee Carson Irrigation District
Newlands Project
Post Office Box 1356
Fallon, Nevada 89406

Dear Ms. Morin:

This concerns your letter about closure of the Lahontan Reservoir.
It was closed to swimming and water skiing for the following reasons:

1. [REDACTED] beaches
2. [REDACTED] re
3. [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED] epidemic.

[REDACTED] to him by Jim Cooper of
[REDACTED] ch Institute.

I am sending you a report of Dr. Carmichael's examination of the
water samples.

We are continuing to monitor the reservoir.

Sincerely,

Roderick D. Wilkes
Roderick D. Wilkes
Supervisor of Sanitarians

RDW:jas

CC: Darrell Rasner
James A. Edmundson

- Water Sample analysis, Lake Lahontan - collected August 28, 1980 received August 29, 1980 from Bioresources Center -Desart Research Institute - Sparks, Nevada.
- Collected by Jim Cooper.

EXHIBIT E

Report:

Two plastic bottles, approximately 100 ml each, were received.

Bottle 1: Water plus some filaments of algae - identified as Aphanizomenon flos-aquae. Isolates (9) of Aph. flos-aquae were made and cultured into ASM-1 mineral medium.

Bottle 2: Bloom concentrate of Aphanizomenon flos-aquae was freeze dried for mouse bioassay; dry weight from the 100 ml was 70 mg. or 0.70 mg/ml. This is a light concentration of bloom material. An average surface concentration would be about 1-3 mg/ml. Salt concentration of the water for lakes in the Canadian prairiss would average 500-700 mg/l. Therefore for the Lake Lahontan dry weight sample about 1/2 would be biomass and 1/2 would be salts. The only reliable method currently existing to detect blue-green toxins is the mouse bioassay. Standard concentrations of freeze dried bloom or culture are prepared and injected intraperitoneally into replicate groups of mice of a standard breed and size. For the sample reported on here ICR Swiss male mice weighing 20-25 g were used.

Sample injections and results:

<u>Concentration</u> (mg/kg i.p.)	<u>Survival</u>	<u>Survival time & signs of poisoning</u>
350	3/3	
700	3/3	
1050	1/3	3-5 h. - internal tissue damage -
1400	0/3	especially liver noted.

Estimated LD₅₀ = 1000 mg/kg(i.p. mouse).

Liver damage is a common sign with certain peptide like toxins of blue-green algae. Aph. flos-aquae is not commonly reported to produce these toxins and this may represent a new toxin type for the species. No tests were run for toxicity to fish nor was oral dosage in mice checked. If further toxicological information is needed other tests will have to be done.

Submitted by: Wayne W. Carmichael, Ph.D. W.W.C.
Assistant Professor
Aquatic Biology/Toxicology
Department of Biological Sciences
Wright State University Dayton, Ohio 45428

September 8, 1980

Pollution forces closure

EXHIBIT E

By United Press International
State Health Officer Dr. John Carr said today Lahontan Reservoir would be closed to swimming and water skiing probably for the rest of the summer because of high contamination in the water.

"These closures usually last until the end of the season," said Carr. "But with the recent rains, it's hard to tell. Maybe it could be re-opened." The health division some ten days ago issued the order closing down the reservoir, one of the most popular recreation sites in Western Nevada.

Carr said the winter season with the extra water flowing in will "help flush out" the high bacteria count.

There have been unconfirmed reports of several persons becom-

ing sick after swimming in Lahontan, said Carr. But these have not been verified, he said.

The recommendation to close the area was made by the state Environmental Protection Division. EPA director Louis Dodgion said the fish were "dying by the thousands of there."

Studies by the Desert Research Institute and the U.S. Geological Survey showed there was a lot of blue green species of algae in the reservoir. When these died, Dodgion said, it gave off a toxic substance in the water.

Samples of the toxin were injected into live mice and rats who died after the experiment, said Dodgion.

"The immediate thing was to restrict the area so we don't have a

health problem," said Dodgion.

He said he didn't know whether the problem would occur next year. But the long range solution, said Dodgion is "to get some of the nutrients out of the water."

"It comes back to the sewage treatment plants and the irrigation and agricultural returns to the Carson River and to Lahontan," said Dodgion.

The division is asking the state Environmental Commission on Oct. 14 to change the standards on the Carson River.

"When the treatment plants are required to meet the 1983 standards, they will have to start removing the nutrients in their discharges or get their discharges out of the river," said Dodgion.

Experts Pinpoint Toxicity In Lake

EXHIBIT F

*Copied to Commission
9-8-80
B.A.*

A blue-green algae specialist has detected mild toxicity in water from Lake Lahontan injected into mice, James Cooper of the Desert Research Institute told The Lahontan Valley News Wednesday.

Dr. Wayne Charmichael of Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, freeze-dried water from Lahontan and injected concentrated amounts into mice. Within three hours, they died, Cooper said.

Charmichael said he suspected toxic algae as the cause of the animals' death, but said he could not be sure what caused the toxicity. Probably, he told Cooper, an ample nutrient supply coupled with unusually high water surface temperatures caused the condition. This, in turn, may have been the cause of the re-

cent death of thousands of fish at the lake.

Bob Sumner, a fish staff specialist at the Nevada Department of Wildlife, said California specialists tested carp from the lake and "definitely found" a bacterial infection present in them. Sumner said the disease is common and caused by stress, possibly due to a colder than normal spring and excess nutrients in the lake.

Both specialists predicted the condition will subside as temperatures cool, but Sumner said it is apt to recur if nutrient levels in the lake, directly attributable to the amount of sewage dumped upstream into rivers that feed into the lake, are not decreased.

Lahontan State Park Supervisor Bob Franke
Continued on Page 2

✓ Lake

Continued from Page 1
said crowds were slightly smaller than usual on the Silver Springs side of the lake over the Labor Day weekend, probably due to warnings of possibly toxic conditions in the lake. The Churchill County side, closed last week by state health officials, was "almost barren," with only eight campsites of 75 campsites in use Saturday night.

7500
BUREAU OF LABORATORIES AND RESEARCH
NEVADA DIVISION OF HEALTH
Reno - Las Vegas

COLL. NO. 10000
PC
PS

SAMPLED BY Hall - CHPS
LOCATION Beach S - Silver Springs
DATE 10-13-80 12:15 COUNTY Lyon

THIS SPACE FOR LAB USE ONLY REC 0 > 20 NOS. > 20° C

RESULTS: UNMEMBRANATED MPN
OTHER: 10/13 11:3 20

NOTE: COLIFORM COUNTS OF 0 (1) MEET USPHS BACTERIOLOGICAL STANDARDS FOR DRINKING WATER. CALL YOUR AREA SANITARIAN FOR EXPLANATION OF RESULTS.

COLIFORMS > 800 / 100 ML. FECAL COLI. / 100 ML.
FECAL STREP. / 100 ML. > 500 OTHER BACTERIA

YOUR RETURN
NAME Consumer Health
ADDRESS SOS E. King - 103
Carson City, NV
WATER BACTERIOLOGY JS 10/16

7500
BUREAU OF LABORATORIES AND RESEARCH
NEVADA DIVISION OF HEALTH
Reno - Las Vegas

COLL. NO. 10000
PC
PS

SAMPLED BY Hall - CHPS
LOCATION Lakeview Dam
DATE 10-13-80 11:30 COUNTY Churchill

THIS SPACE FOR LAB USE ONLY REC 0 > 20 NOS. > 20° C

RESULTS: UNMEMBRANATED MPN
OTHER: 10/13 11:3 19

NOTE: COLIFORM COUNTS OF 0 (1) MEET USPHS BACTERIOLOGICAL STANDARDS FOR DRINKING WATER. CALL YOUR AREA SANITARIAN FOR EXPLANATION OF RESULTS.

COLIFORMS > 800 / 100 ML. FECAL COLI. / 100 ML.
FECAL STREP. / 100 ML. > 500 OTHER BACTERIA

YOUR RETURN
NAME Consumer Health
ADDRESS SOS E. King - 103
Carson City, NV
WATER BACTERIOLOGY JS 10/16

7500
BUREAU OF LABORATORIES AND RESEARCH
NEVADA DIVISION OF HEALTH
Reno - Las Vegas

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LOCATION Beach S - Silver Springs
DATE 10-13-80 12:15 COUNTY Lyon

THIS SPACE FOR LAB USE ONLY REC 0 > 20 NOS. > 20° C

RESULTS: UNMEMBRANATED MPN
OTHER: 10/13 11:3 23

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Reno - Las Vegas

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PS

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DATE 10-13-80 11:30 COUNTY Churchill

THIS SPACE FOR LAB USE ONLY REC 0 > 20 NOS. > 20° C

RESULTS: UNMEMBRANATED MPN
OTHER: 10/13 11:3 18

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COLIFORMS > 800 / 100 ML. FECAL COLI. / 100 ML.
FECAL STREP. / 100 ML. > 500 OTHER BACTERIA

YOUR RETURN
NAME Consumer Health
ADDRESS SOS E. King - 103
Carson City, NV
WATER BACTERIOLOGY JS 10/16



**NEVADA
STATE
PARK
SYSTEM**

MEMO

TO Virgil Getto

FROM Darrell B. Craig

SUBJECT Development Funds Expended at Lahontan
State Recreation Area 1975 - 1981

DATE 8/25/80

Source of Funds, 1975 - 1981

EXHIBIT E

Federal Funds	\$1,503,315
State Allocation	491,201
Marina Gas Taxes	502,133
Economic Development Administration (Federal)	400,000
	<u>\$2,896,649</u>

Distribution of Expended Funds, 1975 - 1981

Churchill County	\$1,501,185
Lyon County	1,395,464
	<u>\$2,896,649</u>

Improvements made, by county:

Lyon County:

- R.V. dump station
- Shop and storage yard
- Residence area for mobile homes
- 3 miles of paved roads
- 2 water systems
- 2 sewage pumping systems
- Entrance station and office
- Day use area with three comfort stations,
paving and irrigation systems
- Campground with two comfort stations -
accommodations for 50 families
- Boat launching ramp and parking area

Churchill County:

- Bridge and access roads (completion by Nov. 1980)
- R.V. dump station
- Water pumping station and storage facility
- ½ mile road paving
- Day use area with comfort station, sewage,
landscaping and irrigation
- Shop, offices and storage yard
- Sewage disposal system for residence area

Development Funds Expended at Lahontan
State Recreation Area 1975 - 1981
8/25/80

EXHIBIT E

Note: Major expenditures were made for utility systems to accommodate the public facilities. Three high volume water pumping, storage and treatment systems were required; two sewage pumping stations; ten septic systems with leach fields and miles of underground power, telephone and water lines. An abnormally high percentage of previous funds were spent on utilities; however, most future development will utilize existing utilities.

Lahontan Budget for Fiscal Year 1980-81

Permanent Salaries	(6 positions)	\$90,400	
Seasonal Salaries	(26 positions)	95,000	
Operating		43,600	
Equipment		10,000	
Trucks		11,480	
Y.A.C.C. (Young Adult Conservation Corps)(Federal)		35,000	{approx.}
Y.C.C. (Youth Conservation Corps)(Federal)		10,000	{approx.}
State Prison Inmate Work Crew		5,000	{approx.}

Annual Visitation 1979

515,00 total visitors
110,000 overnight campers
21,000 boats launched
(1980 is estimated to be up approximately 5% over 1979)

User fees collected 1979, \$95,000.
(1980 user fees collected, \$120,000. - estimated)

EXHIBIT E

Lewis Dodgion, Administrator

John L. Meder

May 20, 1980

**RENO-SPARKS WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT**

State Parks has reviewed the Reno-Sparks Waste Water Treatment Plant Environmental Assessment Report and are quite concerned about the potential adverse impacts to the water quality at Lake Lahontan if the Truckee Canal Option is used.

The State of Nevada has recently entered into a 50-year recreation agreement with the Federal Department of Water and Power and the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District. State Parks has spent over \$3 million on improvements since 1975, and has plans for extensive future development to meet the recreation demand. Lahontan is a very popular recreation area that is heavily used for its water base recreation—boating, fishing, water skiing, sailing, swimming, etc., as well as camping and picnicking. In 1979, we estimated over 515,000 people visited the Lahontan State Recreation Area. (This includes almost 110,000 campers and 21,000 boats launched.)

While we understand the problem the Reno-Sparks area has in dealing with their waste water treatment and the disposal of effluent, we are also aware of our state's limited water-based recreation areas. Nevada, being the most arid state in the Union, has a limited number of water areas so it is extremely important that the water-based recreation areas that we do have are protected from unnecessary degradation. Therefore, we at State Parks request the Division of Environmental Protection review the proposal to export effluent into Lake Lahontan through the Truckee Canal very carefully to insure that there will be no adverse impact to the water quality that would prevent future water contact activities (swimming) at anytime of the year.

Your cooperation with this most important matter will be greatly appreciated.

JLM/hq

COMMENTS FOR THE OCTOBER 14, 1980, ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

EXHIBIT E

Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, I am _____
(name)
_____, of the Division of State Parks.
(title)

I would like to thank the Commission for giving me an opportunity to present our concerns about the request before you to lower the discharge standards along the Carson River.

State Parks is very much concerned about _____
_____ and the ramifications any reduction of the current standards could have on the reservoir's recreation uses.

In 1976, the State of Nevada entered _____
management agreement with the Truckee-Carson Irrigation and the Federal Water and Power Resources Service. State Parks, the recreation managing agency, has completed a recreation master plan that calls for extensive facility development over a long period of time to meet the recreation needs. _____

_____ more facility development in the future.

Nevada, being an arid state, has a very limited number of water recreation areas. Lahontan, being one of the few lakes we have, plays an important role in providing water based recreation for Northern Nevada. So, it is extremely important that everything possible be done to protect the water quality and guarantee continual use for water contact sports.

[REDACTED] Area for boating, swimming, water skiing, fishing, camping, picnicking, or just sitting back and relaxing. [REDACTED] percent of the [REDACTED] and over [REDACTED] these came for the [REDACTED] Carson City areas. We believe, even more Nevadans will be using the area in the future due to the problems with the availability and the cost of fuel. People are doing their recreation closer to home, so Lahontan is going to play an even more important role in meeting our recreation needs in the future than it has in the past.

We at State Parks strongly believe that Lake Lahontan is in a crucial stage at this time and if proper precautions are not taken, irreversible degradation could occur closing the lake permanently to water contact sports. The closure to swimming and water skiing this year, which we believe to be temporary, is a warning that must not go unheeded. The lake is rich in nutrients now, and to add a greater amount by lowering the discharge standards might be the blow that permanent degrades the lake, making it unsafe for water contact activities.

What we should be doing here is looking at ways to improve the water quality to insure the future of this important Northern Nevada recreation resource, rather than looking at lowering the discharge standards.

Your help in taking the necessary steps to maintain and improve the quality of the water entering the Lahontan Reservoir will be greatly appreciated not only by the State Park staff, but the many Nevada residents who use the Lahontan State Recreation Area.

PRESENTATION TO EPA FOR RENO/SPARKS JOINT WATER
POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT HEARING - FALLON, NEVADA

1-13-81.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, I am _____,
name title
of the Nevada Division of State Parks.

EXHIBIT E

I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to present our concerns about the effluent discharge plan for the Reno/Sparks Joint Water Pollution Control Plant.

State Parks is very much concerned about the water quality at Lahontan Reservoir and the probability that the additional nitrogen load would create an unacceptable level of algal blooms and water quality degradation for recreation uses.

In 1976, the State of Nevada entered into a 50-year recreation management agreement with the Truckee/Carson Irrigation District and the Federal Water and Power Resources Service. State Parks, the recreation managing agency, has completed a recreation master plan that calls for extensive facility development over a long period of time to meet the recreation needs. So far, more than \$4 million has been spent on improvements and there are plans for more facility development in the future.

Nevada, being an arid state, has a very limited number of water recreation areas. Lahontan being one of the few lakes we have, plays an important role in providing a water based recreation for northern Nevada. So, it is extremely important that everything possible be done to protect the water quality and guarantee continual use for water contact sports.

In 1980, over 500,000 visitors used the Lahontan State Recreation Area for boating, swimming, water skiing, fishing, camping, picnicking, or just sitting back and relaxing. More than 80% of these users were Nevadans, and over 50% of these came from

the Reno/Sparks, Carson City areas. We believe, even more Nevadans will be using the area in the future due to the problems with the availability and the cost of fuel. People are doing their recreation closer to home, so Lahontan is going to play an even more important role in meeting our recreation needs in the future than it has in the past.

EXHIBIT E

We at State Parks strongly believe that Lake Lahontan is in a critical stage at this time, and if proper precautions are not taken, irreversible degradation could occur, closing the lake permanently to water contact sports. The closure to swimming and water skiing last year, which was temporary, is a warning that must not go unheeded. The lake is rich in nutrients now and to add the amount of nitrogen proposed under alternate L-1 might be the blow that permanently degrades the lake, making it unsafe for water contact activities.

The EIS does not address the actual impact on Lahontan in terms of the number of people recreating or the economic and social impact of decreasing recreation. We believe the L-1 alternative will probably kill Lahontan Reservoir as a recreation resource. The Lahontan State Recreation Area is the second most popular and highly used unit in the State Parks system. On holiday weekends, there are between 75-80,000 visitors, making it the third largest city in Nevada on those occasions. The sewer treatment program will increase the capacity to allow the doubling of the Reno/Sparks population to 300,000 people by the year 2000. While at the same time having an irreparable impact on this extremely popular and important western Nevada water based recreation area. Where are these people going to do their water based recreation?

Another serious omission in the report is the impact to recreation below Lahontan Dam. Sheckler Reservoir, Harmon Reservoir, Indian Lakes and numerous smaller reservoirs as well as the many miles of canals that are used extensively for recreation are not mentioned in the report.

One final factor that needs to be reviewed is the relationship between the federal EPA funds and the Land and Water Conservation Funds. Several million dollars of federal Land and Water Conservation Fund money has been used for property acquisition and facility development at the Lahontan State Recreation Area. A condition for EXHIBIT E the use of these funds is to use the facilities constructed or the property acquired for recreation purposes for a minimum of 25 years, or repay the funds, or provide a comparable recreation complex somewhere else. The use of the EPA funds requires that an analysis of the possibility of integrating recreation and open space be made, so we question if federal funds could be used for the sewer plant expansion that could completely degrade one of the most popular recreation areas in the state that has been developed with other federal funds.

We at Nevada State Parks agree with the Reno/Sparks officials that the plant project is necessary; however, we do not believe the type of treatment and effluent discharge alternate recommended should be allowed to degrade the water quality or destroy the recreation resources downstream. Therefore, we request that alternate L-1 be modified to include nitrogen removal or an alternate discharge plan be chosen.

Lewis Dodgion, Administrator

John L. Medez

May 20, 1980

RENO-SPARKS WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

EXHIBIT E

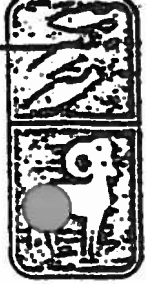
State Parks has reviewed the Reno-Sparks Waste Water Treatment Plant Environmental Assessment Report and are quite concerned about the potential adverse impacts to the water quality at Lake Lahontan if the Truckee Canal Option is used.

The State of Nevada has recently entered into a 50-year recreation agreement with the Federal Department of Water and Power and the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District. State Parks has spent over \$3 million on improvements since 1975, and has plans for extensive future development to meet the recreation demand. Lahontan is a very popular recreation area that is heavily used for its water base recreation--boating, fishing, water skiing, sailing, swimming, etc., as well as camping and picnicking. In 1979, we estimated over 515,000 people visited the Lahontan State Recreation Area. (This includes almost 110,000 campers and 21,000 boats launched.)

While we understand the problem the Reno-Sparks area has in dealing with their waste water treatment and the disposal of effluent, we are also aware of our state's limited water-based recreation areas. Nevada, being the most arid state in the Union, has a limited number of water areas so it is extremely important that the water-based recreation areas that we do have are protected from unnecessary degradation. Therefore, we at State Parks request the Division of Environmental Protection review the proposal to export effluent into Lake Lahontan through the Truckee Canal very carefully to insure that there will be no adverse impact to the water quality that would prevent future water contact activities (swimming) at anytime of the year.

Your cooperation with this most important matter will be greatly appreciated.

JLM/hq



ROBERT LIST
Governor

JOSEPH C. GREENLEY
Director

1100 VALLEY ROAD

P.O. BOX 10678

RENO, NEVADA 89520

TELEPHONE (702) 784-6214

May 29, 1980

EXHIBIT E

Mr. Thomas R. Severino
Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
215 Fremont Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

RECEIVED
JUN 03 1980
Nevada State
Park System

Dear Mr. Severino:

This letter is written in response to the Preliminary Draft E.I.S. for the Reno-Sparks Joint Water Pollution Control Plant Master Project and the draft copy of the Master Project Facilities Plan for the Expansion of Reno-Sparks Joint Water Pollution Control Plant. The Nevada Department of Wildlife has serious concerns over the selection of Alternative L-1 entitled, "Truckee Canal Diversion" as the recommended plan for effluent disposal. There are numerous reasons for this concern.

First and foremost the concern is centered around the potential impact of this disposal plan upon one of the most important fisheries in the State of Nevada. In terms of popularity with both resident and non-resident fishermen, Lahontan Reservoir has continuously, over a period of ten or more years, ranked no lower than 6th of all fishable waters in the State of Nevada. It has been a very important recreational and economic boon to our state. There can be no justification under any circumstances that would allow the deminishment or even loss of this highly popular and important resource.

In addition to the concern felt for the potential impact of this plan on Lahontan Reservoir, there are other important considerations. First, the impact on the Truckee Canal. This is also a fishable water that is a receiver of fish naturally produced and stocked in the Truckee River, and it is annually stocked with catchable trout. It is, potentially, if not now, an important source for recreational fishing as our human population in this region continues to expand. More and more we are looking to these areas to assist in providing recreation to our increasing population.

The Carson River below Lahontan is an important fishery, stocked annually with catchable trout. Here again, great concern is felt over the potential damaging effects the disposal plan will produce in the river; and then the important fisheries of Lahontan Valley are the final receivers for the disposed effluent. What will be the effects upon Indian Lakes, Stillwater Marsh, Harmon Reservoir, Canvasback Marsh, Rattlesnake Reservoir and Sheckler Reservoir, all of which are fisheries important to sportsmen of western Nevada?

The reasons for the concern over the effects of the disposal of the Reno-Sparks Treatment Plant effluent directly into the Truckee Canal are many. In order to appreciate at least some of them, one needs to review the manner of operating the Truckee Canal. As water is conveyed down the canal, first there are two waste ways that spill water back into the Truckee River periodically. These are located between Derby Dam and Wadsworth. These spills are utilized rather commonly for various reasons including emergency conditions when the canal is inoperable. The frequency of these spills needs to be determined as well as period of year and span of time involved, so that the impact of disposing the effluent back into the lower Truckee River will be known.

Water is next withdrawn from the canal in the Wadsworth-Fernley area, then Hazen area, then Swingle Bench and finally it approaches Lahontan Reservoir. The people of Wadsworth, Fernley, Hazen and Swingle Bench areas make various uses of the canal water, some of which is in their homes.

At Lahontan, the canal empties water directly into the Reservoir; directly into the river below; or both of the above possibilities can occur simultaneously. This may occur at almost any period of the year with some exceptions under current operating criteria. Most notably, under the present operating criteria releases are not made into the river below Lahontan from the canal during the non-irrigation period (November 15 thru March 15). There may be unusual circumstances which cause releases to be made into the river from the canal in winter months however. With the foregoing explanation, it is hoped you can appreciate the complexity of this operation and furthermore realize some of the reasons for our concerns. Should any toxic (to fish) releases be made into the canal, the potential for heavy fish mortalities exist in many reaches of the system and in many modes of operation of which a number are not even predictable.


Some specific causes for our concern over the recommended disposal plan are as follows.

The potential environmental impacts upon the Lahontan Reservoir ecosystem were very poorly defined in the E.I.S. and the Draft Plan. Historically speaking, eutrophication at Lahontan has contributed to huge algal blooms. Much of these have been of the blue-green type and have even contributed to fish kills within the reservoir. Some of the blue-green algae present release toxic substances as they decompose. What will be the effects of adding additional nitrogen into the system? What will be the effects upon dissolved oxygen levels? Will the AGP increase and cause even added forms of algal buildup to occur? The possibility of toxic ammonia releases into the canal, reservoir and river appear very real. How can this be condoned? What effects will the increased temperature of the discharge have on the system? The circulation patterns of Lahontan are still undefined. Who can really say with any certainty what all of the effects of release into the reservoir will be until these patterns are understood? The solutions to these questions and many more need to be carefully addressed. Neither the E.I.S. nor the draft plans does this.

In conclusion, the foregoing discussion has deliberately refrained from touching on sensitive subjects such as the importance of the affected systems to the public for uses other than its fishery. There are other concerned agencies and groups who will undoubtedly reveal their concerns to you on these matters. However, it is our desire to impress upon you the importance of the affected systems which extend down the Truckee Canal, Lahontan Reservoir, lower Carson River and all waters within Lahontan Valley. The value of the fisheries resource contained within this region compares very closely with that of the lower Truckee River and Pyramid Lake. In terms of fish harvest it far exceeds it. In terms of total recreation, it far exceeds it. Therefore, it seems only logical that where decisions have been made on the lower Truckee River system, based upon essentially biological considerations, then socio-economic considerations as well as biological evaluations need to be adequately addressed on the system selected for disposal of the Reno-Sparks effluent. Data collected by the Nevada Department of Wildlife since 1954 and even before support statements made earlier in this letter related to the nature of the fisheries involved and their importance to Nevada.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft E.I.S. and Plan. Members of the staff of this Department will be pleased to discuss this subject with you at further length should you consider it necessary.

Sincerely,


Joseph C. Greenley
Director

cc:—Art Molin, City of Reno
—John Gonzales, City of Sparks
Roland Westergard, Dept. of
Conservation & Nat. Resources
✓ — Dick Lattin, TCID
James J. Cooper, DRI
Region I, Fallon ✓
John Mader, NDP ✓
Wendell McCurry, DEP

‡

✓ EPA -

✓ WILDLIFE



In Reply Refer to:

SION

September 25, 1980

EXHIBIT E

IE
KS

MEDER

Mr. John Fransway, Chairman
Nevada Environmental Commission
Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710

ARSON ST.
COMPLEX
CITY,
89710
-4334

Dear Chairman Fransway:

State Parks is extremely concerned about the water quality of Lahontan Reservoir and the affects any reduction in water quality standards on the Carson River could have.

Address:
Complex
Y
89710

In 1976, the State of Nevada entered into a 50-year recreation management agreement with the Federal Water and Power Service and the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District. State Parks, which is the recreation management agency, has spent over \$3 million on improvements since 1975 and has planned for extensive future development to meet the recreation demands. Lahontan is a very popular recreation area and is heavily used for its water based recreation — boating, fishing, water skiing, sailing, etc., as well as camping and picnicking. In 1979, we estimated that over 515,000 people visited the Lahontan State Recreation Area. Of these, over 80 percent were Nevada residents and more than 50 percent of these were from the Reno/Sparks/Carson City area.



so it is extremely important to protect the water based recreation that we do have from unnecessary degradation. Because of the recent closure by the State Health Department on Lahontan Reservoir for swimming and water skiing, we are even more concerned about the future of that area for water based recreation and believe that extreme caution is necessary at this time.

Call: (702) 655-4334
and Maintenance: (702) 255-4397
Development: (702) 255-4373

a division of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Roland D. Westergard, Director

Mr. John Fransway
September 25, 1980
Page 2

EXHIBIT E

While the closure is expected to be a temporary one that the cold weather and spring runoff will correct, it is a warning that Lahontan is at a critical stage. The present closure is a result of the current nutrient load so any additional nutrients that would result from a lowering of the discharge standards on the Carson River could result in a permanent closure of Lahontan Reservoir to water contact sports. Therefore, we at State Parks request the Nevada Environmental Commission make every possible effort to insure that the waters entering Lahontan Reservoir be maintained at the highest quality possible so the reservoir will not be further degraded and this valuable water based recreation area is usable for water contact sports.

Your assistance with this important matter will be greatly appreciated by State Parks and the recreation users of Western Nevada.

Sincerely,



John L. Meder
Administration

JLM/bq

Copies to: Governor's Office, Bill Phillips
Mr. Jim Thompson, Director, USEPA
Dr. Carr, State Health Officer
Mr. Edmundson, Bureau Chief
Rod Wilkes, Human Resources
Darrell Rasner, Human Resources
State Health Board
W. McCurry, Environmental Protection
Lewis Dodgion, Environmental Protection
Roland Westergard, Director, CNR
Senator Carl Dodge
Assemblyman Virgil Getto
Assemblyman Joe Dini
Truckee-Carson Irrigation District
Carson City Manager
Water and Power Resource Service
Joe Greenley, Director, Dept. of Wildlife
B.J. Selinder, Churchill County Manager
Art Molin, Sanitation Engineer, City of Reno
John Gonzales, Sanitation Engineer, City of Sparks
State Park Advisory Commission
Environmental Protection Commission



In Reply Refer to:

MEMORANDUM

EXHIBIT E

**DIVISION
OF
STATE
PARKS**

JOHN L. MEDER
Administrator

TO: Whom It May Concern

DATE: Sept. 17, 1980

FROM: Division of State Parks

SUBJECT: LAHONTAN STATE RECREATION AREA WATER QUALITY

ITE 210
23 N. CARSON ST.
CAPITOL COMPLEX
CARSON CITY,
NEVADA 89710
(702) 885-4384

Attached is a resolution approved by the Nevada State Park Advisory Commission concerning the Lahontan State Recreation Area Water Quality that may be of interest to you.

Mailing Address:
Capitol Complex
Carson City
Nevada 89710

/bq

Attachment

RESOLUTION

LAHONTAN WATER QUALITY

EXHIBIT E

WHEREAS, the Lahontan State Recreation Area provides a major water based recreation area for Western Nevada residents and has an annual usage in excess of 500,000 visitor days, and,

WHEREAS, the Lahontan Reservoir is jointly managed by state, federal, and private agencies, mainly, the Nevada Division of State Parks, Nevada Department of Wildlife, the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District and the Water and Power Resources Service, and,

WHEREAS, the water quality of this extremely popular recreation area has deteriorated to the point where a temporary closure of the lake to water contact sports has been necessary to protect human health, and,

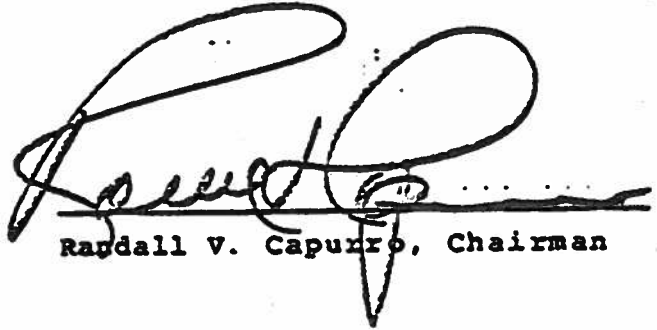
WHEREAS, further degradation of the water quality of the reservoir could result in a permanent closure for water contact sports and a loss of one of Western Nevada's most popular summer recreation areas, now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nevada State Park Advisory Commission requests that the appropriate local, state and federal regulatory agencies make every effort possible to insure that the water quality of Lahontan Reservoir is maintained at a high level to allow the waters to continue to be used for water contact sports and that the water quality standards of the waters

EXHIBIT E

entering the reservoir from both the Carson River and Truckee River via the Truckee Diversion Canal be maintained at a high level to prevent any further degradation of the reservoir's water quality.

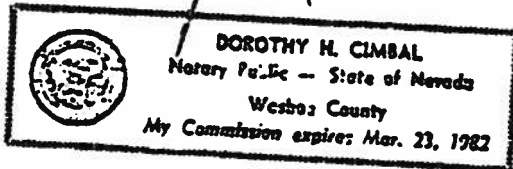
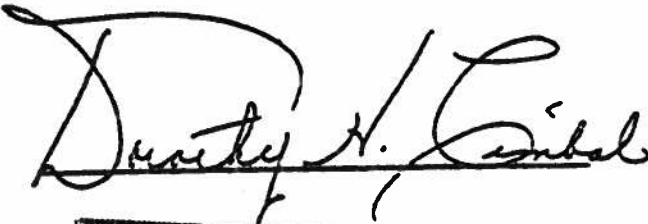
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the appropriate local, state and federal officials.



Randall V. Capurro, Chairman

Dated: September 11, 1980

ATTEST:



DRAFT

EXHIBIT F

MASTER PROJECT FACILITIES PLAN
EXPANSION OF RENO-SPARKS JOINT WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT

Responses to Facilities Plan Review
Conducted by C. N. Mchannah and W. W. Miller, Consultants to T.C.I.D.

I Overview and General Remarks

Should be secondary

6. The projected water quality of the plant effluent under Alternative L-1 is not based upon ^{an proven} ~~exhaustion~~ or non-full scale processes. No nitrogen control such as Fluidized Beds or Modified PhoStrip is to be employed under L-1. The PhoStrip process presently being built was proven at full-scale at the plant during 1974 and 1975. The only additional process to be added to the presently designed plant is effluent filtration. Gravity filtration is well tested and proven at full-scale. The projected effluent quality is, therefore, considered justifiably reasonable. Also, the PhoStrip (biological treatment) and filtration (physical treatment) processes are equally or more reliable than the present secondary (biological) treatment processes employed at the plant.

7. The PhoStrip process is considered to be operational year-round under Alternative L-1. The process is such that reasonable operation is possible if desired in order to allow the phosphorus nutrients to be delivered to the irrigation field for crop uptake.

Page 4 Nitrogen

II Specific Considerations

B. Regulatory Liability

EXHIBIT E

3. The mass emissions of the analyzed effluent characteristics will predominantly be reduced as a result of the increased degree of wastewater treatment, despite the near doubling of the effluent quantity over the design period. The notable exceptions are ammonia and T.D.S. Therefore, the primary difference between present and future canal water quality will be affected mostly by dilution ratio changes between the present and future conditions. Under low flow conditions (once in ten-year statistical low flow based upon the Truckee River), the Canal water quality could be poorer. However, the Reservoir water quality would not be poorer at this point in time based upon its assimilative capacity (dilution) compared to the relatively low total mass emissions from the Truckee system. (See page D-22)

4. The NDEP will not need to alter the Lahontan Reservoir quality standards under the Alternative L-1. In fact, the employment of PhoStrip may allow the Reservoir to begin to meet the present PO₄ standards which are now exceeded. Furthermore, it may be desirable that the NDEP lower (increase restriction) the fecal coliform count standards of the Reservoir. The Truckee Canal has no present water quality standards, although there are standards on the Truckee River. Under L-1 Alternative, standards would be established at the discharge point (head of the Canal) for the effluent pipeline. Standards for the

*Carson River
action will serve to
mitigate any PO₄
removal by increased
or eliminating standards
on the Carson*

X4 N increase by Reno/Sparks

EXHIBIT E

Canal system could be established which reflect the new Canal operation using effluent plus Truckee River water. ~~No~~ relaxation of existing standards is suggested.

5. The present TCID system ^{employs secondary effluent mixed with Truckee River water} would employ advanced secondary effluent mixed with Truckee River water. Only under conditions of 100% effluent in the Canal (certain winter months) will there be a possible increase in potential liability relative to ~~the~~ water contact. The existing groundwater, agricultural and wildlife management ~~and~~ operations would not appear to be adversely affected by this Alternative, since the nitrate and pathogen levels will be low. The present control of water uses carries certain divisions of regulatory and legal liabilities which would presumably continue in the future. The new aspect would be in the Cities' responsibility for the effluent quality of the head of the Canal instead of at the present discharge point in Steamboat Creek. Since municipal water treatment does not exist at present, the determination of what entity will assume the future regulatory and legal liability for this item could be a function of where the water source is located and the reasons for the various degrees of treatment required.

C. Groundwater and Municipal Treatment of Drinking Water

6. Under present operations, the wastewater treatment for Alternative L-1 may require additional oxygenation (possibly by aerators in the Canal) during summer periods to counteract nighttime low oxygen levels due to nitrification and algal respiration. (See pages D-26 and

and D-33) The need for this additional feature is speculative and is contingent upon the setting of a requirement that the Canal be/remain a fish habitat. Therefore, the relatively minor cost of possibly needed aerators was not explicitly included other than indirectly covered in the contingencies cost of the project.

7. This issue was addressed on pages D-29 and ^{D-32}~~D-30~~, which basically indicates that the L-1 Alternative would neither pose a problem to possible future use of Lahontan Reservoir as a drinking supply, nor would it alter the present treatment constraints placed upon use of the Truckee Canal as a future supply. These conclusions were based upon the EPA primary and secondary drinking water standards as compared to the projected plant effluent quality.

D. Lahontan Reservoir and Truckee Canal

1. The projected effects of Alternative L-1 upon the Reservoir are considered better than merely "speculative." They are based upon [REDACTED] and upon [REDACTED] and materials [REDACTED]. In consideration of the limitations in this approach, any assumptions required to be made were ~~done~~ ^{poorer} on the conservative side (toward prediction of ~~poorer~~ water quality).


[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

likely inhibit algal growth. As noted in the recent DRI report on algal growth potential studies in the Reservoir, "research has indicated

phosphorus as the limiting nutrient for blue-green algae (Fogg 1965)."

2. The reference to trout toxicity was made on page D-28 and D-32. This probability was prefaced as being based upon conservative (high) estimations of NH_3 concentration coupled with the most adverse pH and a high water temperature. This possible trout toxicity would occur in the winter months if at all. Other fish species may not be affected.

3. Water contact sport activities would correspond primarily with warmer weather, i.e., during the irrigation season. Under these conditions, the ratio effluent to Truckee River water in the Canal ~~and~~ effluent to reservoir volume would be very low. The planned fecal coliform standards for the effluent would be nine times stricter (lower ^{counts} ~~costs~~) than the present standards existing on the plant and on the reservoir. The actual effects of pathogens upon the system under Alternative L-1 would be equal to or less than that experienced now. 


luent. However, even at 100% effluent flows into the canal, the coliform standard would be nine times stricter than the present standard on Lahontan Reservoir. (See Tables 5-2 and D-4 for coliform criteria.) Therefore, liability for health problems within the canal and reservoir is not considered to be different from that presently in existence. The Cities will be liable for their discharge at the head of the canal, in accordance with the permit limitations placed upon that discharge.



COOPER & ASSOCIATES, INC. EXHIBIT E

ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES
11678 S.W. 66th AVENUE • PORTLAND, OREGON 97223 • (503) 639-4914

PRELIMINARY
RESPONSE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Doug Henderson, Kennedy-Jenks
FROM: Fred Cooper, Cooper & Associates, Inc.
DATE: August 29, 1980
SUBJECT: Response to Facility Plan Review Conducted by Mohammad and
Miller

The following discussion coincides with the points raised in the written comment received June 24, 1980. Comments were more in the form of questions. Those which we feel should have some answer are identified. In some instances, the question should be referred to the EIS process.

Overview and General Remarks

1. No agronomist was employed in the effluent irrigation studies but agricultural engineering and groundwater geology training were represented. Potential agricultural impacts (meaning water conveyance, crop irrigation and harvesting) are not significantly impacted in the Newlands Project. While the quantity of effluent would increase from 2.5% to 4% of total annual water requirements, the effects on salts, nutrients, and leaching for good crop production are not significant. As stated on page C-72 only 1600 acre-feet of Truckee River water or about 0.4% of total annual water diversion are needed to balance the salt conductivity. No further increase in leaching requirement is necessary above the current practice of 10%. It is interesting to note that Carson River water has nearly the same salt contribution as the projected case for the Truckee Canal with effluent.

Memorandum

August 29, 1980

Page 2

2. Only direct project costs are analyzed in the cost-effectiveness analysis. No increase in direct costs of management and operation are foreseen that could be attributed to the Truckee Canal alternative.
3. This question is best handled through the EIS process. Water quality shown in tables D-10, D-11 and D-12 is acceptable for irrigation and are better than primary and secondary drinking water standards set by EPA.
4. Constituent increases would be based upon the diversion quantity shown in Tables D-7. This could be accommodated for the final plan document. For example, Table D-11(revised) shows for the Gessel Criteria the average TDS to be 210 mg/L compared to 193 mg/L currently which is an increase of only 144 tons per year or 0.05%. Other changes in water conservation, reuse, or non-point sources may result in improvements that could totally counteract this increase.
5. Like constituent data, monthly flow mix ratios could be summarized in the final report, being derived primarily from data already shown in Table D-7.
6. Not applicable to Cooper & Associates response.
7. Not applicable to Cooper & Associates response.
8. A point source discharge to the Truckee Canal would be regulated by a municipal NPDES permit.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

August 29, 1980

Page 3

A first determination must be made of contribution from current practices and whether they would be subject to such regulation. Given the nature of return flow reuse and ultimate disposal we do not believe there would be major regulation but this is beyond our scope to comment. A Q¹ to be addressed by the State Truckee Canal

9. Environmental impact mitigation or tradeoffs are not in the scope of direct project economic analysis but are considered in the EIS process and final plan selection.

II. Specific Considerations

A. TCID and Farm Operation.

1. There are several options, all of which will affect operating criteria for the Truckee River, to implementing the L-1 Alternative. If the point of diversion for 42,000 acre-feet of Truckee Canal water is changed to a location above Vista(start of pipeline), then the Cities of Reno and Sparks must be able to mitigate low stream flow effects on water withdrawals between Vista and Derby such as replacement or reparation of crop loss. They may choose to follow a course of acquiring upstream storage, acquisition of water rights in the Truckee Meadows or even water conservation. We have advised that the specific details to such operating criteria changes will take time and should be defined generally in a Memorandum of Understanding between the affected agencies and formally prepared during a parallel activity to facility implementation.
2. Yes, all effluent flow would have to be diverted as it occurs or about 3500 acre feet per month at the design year conditions.

August 29, 1980

Page 4

3. Infiltration of flow, winter or summer, will not degrade groundwater and make it unacceptable for drinking water uses. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

a direct creek and originally considered

4. This factor of canal cleaning can be examined at the design stage. Options would be to modify cleaning and debris removal methods or to extend the point of pipe discharge to beyond the canal spillways.

5. These operation constraints associated with canal maintenance have not been evaluated. Initially there will be a substantial decrease in total phosphorus entering the canal during warm, productive periods. Even for the design year mixed flow, the concentration of Total-P will be only 20% what it is currently. This should have a marked effect on reduced algae caused nuisances. Since the increase in nutrient constituents will be gradual, the input of a maintenance burden would also be gradual. Cost-sharing based upon flow mix ratio of effluent to river water may be necessary for moss and grass removal and control in later years.

why should we be burdened with any increase in maintenance

6. See response to II A5 above.

7. On-site monitoring is an important factor in maintenance of a controlled operation for land application. Over 64,000 acres of canals and irrigated area, only a general program of water quality monitoring for an extended period of time could detect any changes.

Why P₁ is? (b) or (c) or (d) or (e) or (f) or (g) or (h) or (i) or (j) or (k) or (l) or (m) or (n) or (o) or (p) or (q) or (r) or (s) or (t) or (u) or (v) or (w) or (x) or (y) or (z)

August 29, 1980

Page 5

- 8. We do not believe the extremely low concentrations of unassociated surfactants will have any affect on precipitated and consolidated clays or lining materials. Because of the zeta potential and presence of suspended solids, such elements will only be found in a bound form.
- 9a. Nitrogen application is not sufficient to create a toxicity problem when irrigated with either diluted or undiluted treated municipal secondary effluent. In the Fallon area where Truckee Canal flow is mixed with Carson River flow, application rates will be on the level of 34 lbs/acre T-N and 1.6 lbs/acre T-P assuming 4.5 acre-foot/year water applied. For the Fernley area, rates are higher, being 100 and 2.2 lbs/acre for T-N and T-P respectively but still less than rates of application of chemical fertilizers. For the nitrogen applied with wastewater 15-30% is lost through volatization in the soil zone.
- 9b. See II.
- 9c. See II A7.
- 9d. No health hazard problem associated with spray irrigation of effluent has ever been documented. The Fernley area would utilize a flow mix of about 30-40 percent effluent where the effluent has been post-filtered and disinfected prior to being mixed with diverted river water.
- 9e. See 9d.

Handwritten notes:
 17724H₂ and 17724H₁
 My toxicity study
 N

Handwritten notes:
 EPCO design criteria
 require better
 standards of
 control of wastewater

Memorandum

August 29, 1980

EXHIBIT E

Page 6

9f. Reno-Sparks effluent ranks well above average in the quality of its effluent from the status of heavy metals and other priority pollutants. Most are non-detectable. With further enforcement programs for industrial pretreatment, effluent reuse for agricultural purpose should not be restricted.

9g. Boron concentrations are well below any agricultural restriction.

9h. See I8.

9i. Direct withdrawal for dairy stock watering should be halted during periods of undiluted effluent flow to adhere to probable NPDES permit restrictions.

10. Based upon the TDS in the current flow mix of Truckee River Diversion and Carson River flow compared to L-1, the additional salt load to TCID is insignificant. Pyramid Lake benefits by receiving summer or year-round flow with substantially lower TDS with any alternative, L-1, L-6 or L-7.

B. Regulatory Liability

1. No. Any diversion due to electrical or process malfunction would not be diverted to the outfall pipeline and Truckee Canal.

2. The quantity to be delivered is governed by the pipeline capacity. The affected parties to a modified operating agreement would have to approve any changes in diverted flows.

*5/27 no. spread
show this info. with
come from 2*

Flow 2

*L-1
L-6
L-7*

Memorandum

August 29, 1980

Page 7

EXHIBIT E

3. No response by Cooper & Associates, Inc.

4. No response by Cooper & Associates, Inc.

5. No response by Cooper & Associates, Inc.

C. Groundwater and Municipal Treatment of Drinking Water

1. Sites in the Huffacker Hills area were considered and not found to be feasible in that limited land area only permitted use of high infiltration methods which could adversely affect the dissolution and washout of toxic constituents (specifically arsenic) occurring naturally in subsurface strata.

2. Estimates of infiltration were made only for the canal. If up to 10 percent of irrigated flow recharges to local groundwater this could amount to 300,000 gallons per day or more during the irrigation season. See response to II A3 for monitoring in critical groundwater areas.

3. Fallon can also consider surface water diversion from the Carson River upstream of the Narrows, although groundwater should continue to be a satisfactory source.

4. No comment.

5. Degradation is also affected by agricultural irrigation and fertilization practices. With effluent ultimately representing only 10-15% of the total water utilized compared to 4 or 5 percent low flow years under existing operating conditions, it cannot be stated that it will adversely affect deep basaltic aquifers.

*More detail needed
on groundwater in
area*

*V
whether it would?*

Memorandum

August 29, 1980

Page 8

EXHIBIT E

6. No response by Cooper & Associates, Inc.

7. No response by Cooper & Associates, Inc.

D. Lahontan Reservoir and Truckee Canal

1. No response by Cooper & Associates, Inc.

2. No response by Cooper & Associates, Inc.

3. No response by Cooper & Associates, Inc.

E. Wildlife Management Areas

1. Should be referred to EIS consultant.

2. Should be referred to EIS Consultant.

ROBERT LISI
Governor



**DIVISION
OF
STATE
PARKS**

JOHN L. MEDER
Administrator

SUITE 210
1923 N. CARSON ST.
CAPITOL COMPLEX
CARSON CITY,
NEVADA 89710
(702) 885-4384

Mailing Address:
Capitol Complex
Carson City
Nevada 89710

Danell

In Reply Refer to:

EXHIBIT E

MEMORANDUM

TO: Whom It May Concern DATE: Sept. 17, 1980
FROM: Division of State Parks
SUBJECT: LAHONTAN STATE RECREATION AREA WATER QUALITY

Attached is a resolution approved by the Nevada State Park Advisory Commission concerning the Lahontan State Recreation Area Water Quality that may be of interest to you.

/hq

Attachment

RECEIVED
SEP 19 1980
Dist. III HDQRS

RESOLUTION

EXHIBIT E

LAHONTAN WATER QUALITY

WHEREAS, the Lahontan State Recreation Area provides a major water based recreation area for Western Nevada residents and has an annual usage in excess of 500,000 visitor days, and,

WHEREAS, the Lahontan Reservoir is jointly managed by state, federal, and private agencies, mainly, the Nevada Division of State Parks, Nevada Department of Wildlife, the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District and the Water and Power Resources Service, and,

WHEREAS, the water quality of this extremely popular recreation area has deteriorated to the point where a temporary closure of the lake to water contact sports has been necessary to protect human health, and,

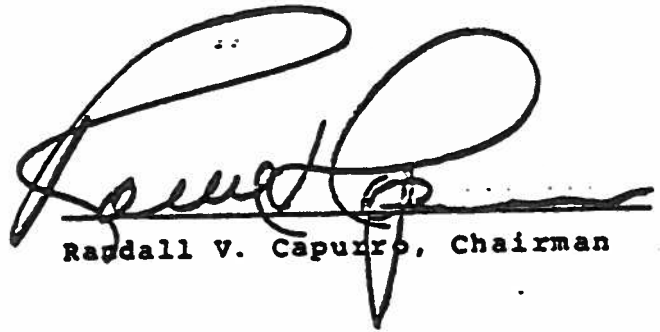
WHEREAS, further degradation of the water quality of the reservoir could result in a permanent closure for water contact sports and a loss of one of Western Nevada's most popular summer recreation areas, now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nevada State Park Advisory Commission requests that the appropriate local, state and federal regulatory agencies make every effort possible to insure that the water quality of Lahontan Reservoir is maintained at a high level to allow the waters to continue to be used for water contact sports and that the water quality standards of the waters

EXHIBIT E

entering the reservoir from both the Carson River and Truckee River via the Truckee Diversion Canal be maintained at a high level to prevent any further degradation of the reservoir's water quality.

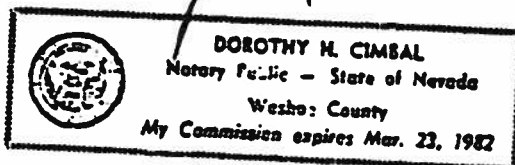
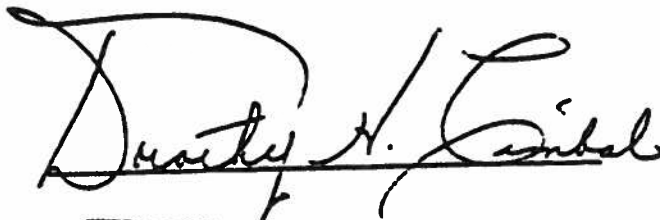
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the appropriate local, state and federal officials.



Randall V. Capurro, Chairman

Dated: September 11, 1980

ATTEST:



Summary Report: September 2, 1980

EXHIBIT E

- Water Sample analysis, Lake Lahontan - collected August 28, 1980 received August 29, 1980 from Bioresources Center - Desert Research Institute - Sparks, Nevada.
- Collected by Jim Cooper.

Report:

Two plastic bottles, approximately 100 ml each, were received.

Bottle 1: Water plus some filaments of algae - identified as Aphanizomenon flos-aquae. Isolates (9) of Aph. flos-aquae were made and cultured into ASM-1 mineral medium.

Bottle 2: Bloom concentrate of Aphanizomenon flos-aquae was freeze dried for mouse bioassay; dry weight from the 100 ml was 70 mg. or 0.70 mg/ml. This is a light concentration of bloom material. An average surface concentration would be about 1-3 mg/ml. Salt concentration of the water for lakes in the Canadian praries would average 500-700 mg/l. Therefore for the Lake Lahontan dry weight sample about 1/2 would be biomass and 1/2 would be salts. The only reliable method currently existing to detect blue-green toxins is the mouse bioassay. Standard concentrations of freeze dried bloom or culture are prepared and injected intraperitoneally into replicate groups of mice of a standard breed and size. For the sample reported on here ICR Swiss male mice weighing 20-25 g were used.

Sample injections and results:

<u>Concentration</u> (mg/kg i.p.)	<u>Survival</u>	<u>Survival time & signs of poisoning</u>
350	3/3	
700	3/3	
1050	1/3	3-5 h. - internal tissue damage - especially liver noted.
1400	0/3	

Estimated LD₅₀ = 1000 mg/kg (i.p. mouse).

Liver damage is a common sign with certain peptide like toxins of blue-green algae. Aph. flos-aquae is not commonly reported to produce these toxins and this may represent a new toxin type for the species. No tests were run for toxicity to fish nor was oral dosage in mice checked. If further toxicological information is needed other tests will have to be done.

Submitted by: Wayne W. Carmichael, Ph.D. W.W.C.
Assistant Professor
Aquatic Biology/Toxicology
Department of Biological Sciences
Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio 45435

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Truckee-Carson Irrigation District

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NEWLANDS PROJECT
P.O. BOX 1356
FALLON, NEVADA 89406
TELEPHONE (702) 423-2141

RICHARD S. LATTIN
Project Manager

DORIS J. MORIN
Secretary-Treasurer

EXHIBIT E

September 16, 1980

Mr. Roderick Wilkes
Superintendent of Sanitarians
Consumer Health Protection Services
Capitol Complex
505 East King Street
Carson City, Nevada 89710

Dear Mr. Wilkes:

The Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, among many other agencies and individuals, is seriously concerned about the water quality of the Carson and Truckee Rivers stored in Lahontan Reservoir.

As we are sure you are aware, the lower end of the reservoir was closed to the public a couple of weeks ago, and the Silver Springs beaches closed more recently.

The District would appreciate receiving an explanation of the technical reasons underlying the closure of the reservoir and the causes thereof.

Sincerely,

TRUCKEE-CARSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Doris Morin,
Secretary-Treasurer

DM:kh



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
DIVISION OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF CONSUMER HEALTH PROTECTION SERVICES

RECEIVED

SEP. 22 1980

305 EAST KING STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89710
TELEPHONE: (702) 885-4790

620 BELROSE STREET
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89159
TELEPHONE: (702) 388-0241

EXHIBIT E

September 19, 1980

Doris Morin, Secretary-Treasurer
Truckee Carson Irrigation District
Newlands Project
Post Office Box 1356
Fallon, Nevada 89406

Dear Ms. Morin:

This concerns your letter about closure of the Lahontan Reservoir. It was closed to swimming and water skiing for the following reasons:

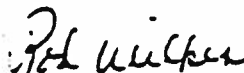
1. There were thousands of dead and rotting fish on the beaches with accompanying obnoxious odors and numerous flies.
2. The water was abundant in algae, with a beachfront cover of blue-green algae. Samples of the blue-green algae toxin were found to be lethal to mice.
3. There were reports of people having become ill after swimming.
4. We preferred to close the beaches rather than wait for a possible epidemic.

In reference to the blue-green algae toxin, it was detected by Dr. Wayne Carmichael of Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio. Water samples from Lahontan were sent to him by Jim Cooper of the Desert Research Institute.

I am sending you a report of Dr. Carmichael's examination of the water samples.

We are continuing to monitor the reservoir.

Sincerely,


Roderick D. Wilkes
Supervisor of Sanitarians

RDW:jas

CC: Darrell Rasner
James A. Edmundson

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