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NEVADA

Opposed

an increase in taxes may force families in Nevada and California to reconsider vacation plans to Lake Tahoe."

Gibbons urged the planing agency to seek alternative funding, such as direct appropriations from Congress or the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act. The act allows the federal government to sell land in Clark County around Las Vegas for development, with the money going to protect environmentally sensitive lands elsewhere in the state.

Drum said those options could provide money for capital improvements, but they don't provide for ongoing maintenance costs that are being shouldered by local governments.

An agency committee estimates maintenance costs of \$2 million a year will rise to \$7 million in the next 20 years.

Lemmon Valley residents blame county for well woes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RENO — Lemmon Valley residents are blaming a new municipal well sunk by Washoe County for sucking their own wells dry.

Ed and Lori Bushey said they had to spend more than \$20,000 last fall to dig their well deeper after it went dry.

"They tell me that it's a coincidence," Lori Bushey said.

She said other residents in the Heppner subdivision have had similar water problems.

Bushey has filed a claim for \$21,322 with the county to cover the cost of the new well.

Dan Dragan, county supervising hydrogeologist, said the county's well two miles away is not the problem. He said wells fail every year in Lemmon Valley because the water level there is dropping as more water is pumped out than

nature restores.

In the Heppner subdivision, more than 125 wells have failed since 1984, when the state began to keep accurate records, Dragan said. Before that, he estimates another 100 wells went dry.

Dragan proposes to recharge the ground water of the Heppner subdivision's mini-hydrobasin. During winter months, Truckee River water leased from the University of Nevada, Reno would be pumped underground.

The solution would be similar to the recharge project at Golden Valley, which went on line in December.

The project would cost about \$600,000 and each of the 511 lot owners to be served would pay about \$1,300 each. Then they'd pay about \$23 a month for the leased water.