

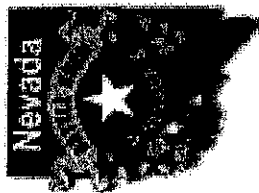
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State of Nevada

Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources

Division of Water Resources

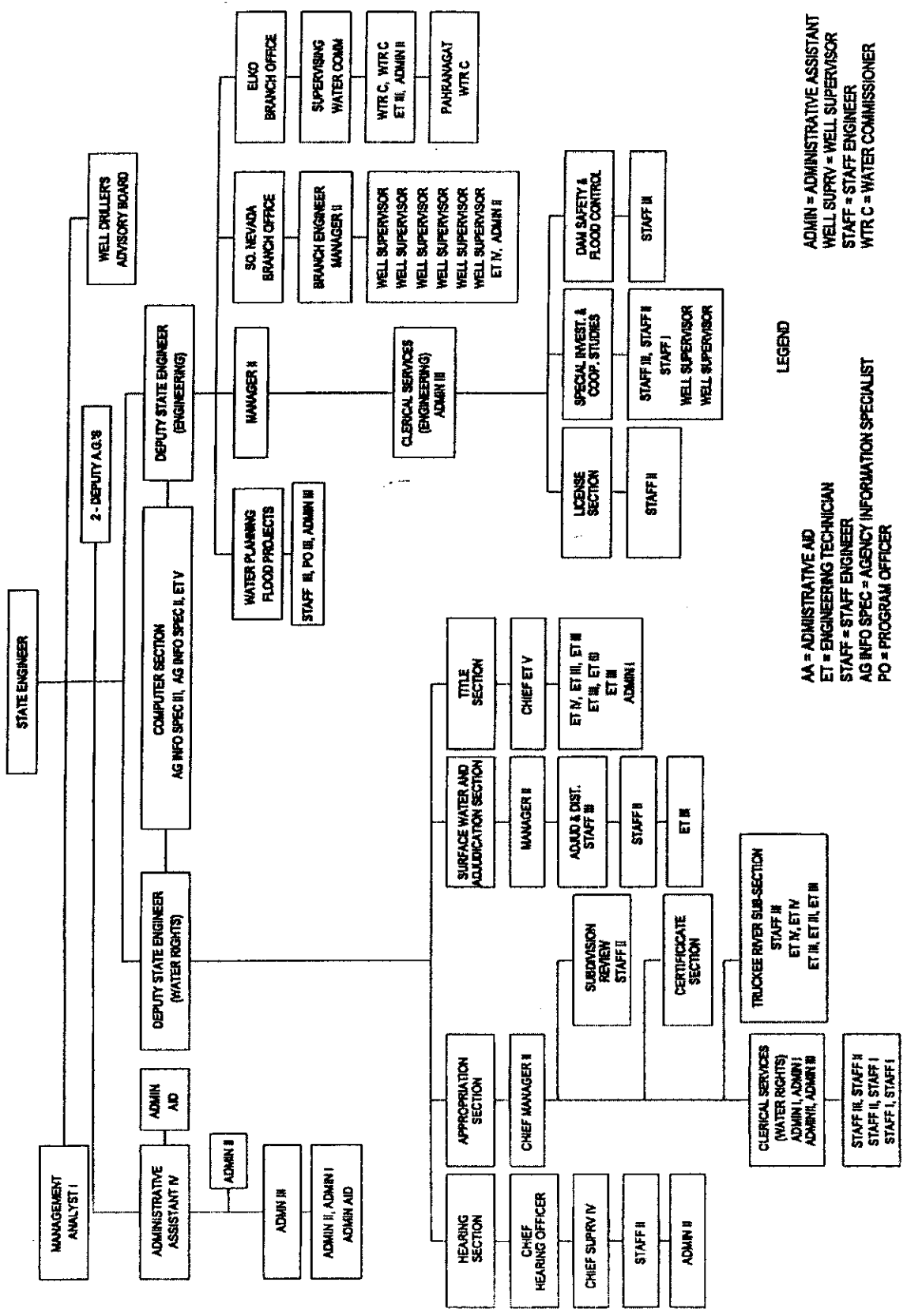


Hugh Ricci, P.E., State Engineer  
Christine Thiel, P.E., Deputy State Engineer  
Tracy Taylor, P.E., Deputy State Engineer

J 1 of 6

# DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

## \*\*\* DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES \*\*\*



- LEGEND**
- AA = ADMINISTRATIVE AID
  - ET = ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN
  - STAFF = STAFF ENGINEER
  - AG INFO SPEC = AGENCY INFORMATION SPECIALIST
  - PO = PROGRAM OFFICER
  - ADMIN = ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
  - WELL SUPRV = WELL SUPERVISOR
  - STAFF = STAFF ENGINEER
  - WTR C = WATER COMMISSIONER

# Presentation Topics



- **Duties of the State Engineer**
  - Nevada Water Law
  - Hydrographic Basins
- **River Systems**
  - Colorado - 1989 Las Vegas Valley Water District Filings
  - Truckee/Carson - Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA)
  - Walker - Mediation
  - Humboldt - Mine Dewatering
- **Yucca Mountain**
- **Power Plants**
- **Issues That May Come Before this Committee**
  - Stockwater and BLM
  - Interbasin Transfers of Water
  - Sunset Clause on AB408 from 1999 Session
  - Domestic Well Issues



# Nevada Water Law

- Chapter 532 – State Engineer
- Chapter 533 – Adjudication of Vested Water Rights;  
Appropriation of Public Waters
- Chapter 534 – Underground Water and Wells
- Chapter 534A – Geothermal Resources
- Chapter 535 – Dams & Other Obstructions
- Chapter 536 – Ditches, Canals, Flumes & Other Conduits
- Chapter 538 – Interstate Waters, Compacts and Commissions
- Chapter 540 – Planning & Development of Water Resources
- Chapter 543 – Control of Floods

# HISTORICAL DATES



**1903 - STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE CREATED**

**1905 - NEVADA WATER LAW – NRS CHAPTER 533 NEVADA  
WATER LAW IS BASED ON APPROPRIATION FOR  
BENEFICIAL USE**

**1913 - ACT SETTING FORTH COMPREHENSIVE PROCEDURES ON:**

- APPROPRIATION**
- ADJUDICATION**
- DISTRIBUTION**
- CONSERVATION OF UNDERGROUND WATERS**
- EMINENT DOMAIN**
- DEFINED BENEFICIAL USE**
- DECLARED ALL WATER TO BELONG TO THE PUBLIC**

**1939 - GROUND WATER LAW – NRS CHAPTER 534**

# Water Law in Nevada



## Prior Appropriation

- ✓ **First in time, first in right,**
- ✓ **Beneficial use is the limit of the water right,**
- ✓ **Use it or lose it**

**VS.**

**Riparian**