
ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21—ASSEMBLYMEN
GIUNCHIGLIANI, GEDDES, ANDERSON, ANDONOV, ANGLE,
ARBERRY, ATKINSON, BEERS, BROWN, BUCKLEY,
CARPENTER, CHOWNING, CHRISTENSEN, CLABORN,
COLLINS, CONKLIN, GIBBONS, GOICOECHEA, GOLDWATER,
GRIFFIN, GUSTAVSON, HARDY, HETTRICK, HORNE,
KNECHT, KOIVISTO, LESLIE, MABEY, MANENDO, MARVEL,
MCCLAIN, MCCLEARY, MORTENSON, OCEGUERA,
OHRENSCHALL, PARKS, PERKINS, PIERCE, SHERER, WEBER
AND WILLIAMS

MAY 6, 2003

JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS MCGINNESS, AMODEI, CARE,
CARLTON, CEGAVSKE, COFFIN, HARDY, MATHEWS, NEAL,
NOLAN, O'CONNELL, RAGGIO, RAWSON, RHOADS,
SCHNEIDER, SHAFFER, TIFFANY, TITUS, TOWNSEND,
WASHINGTON AND WIENER

Referred to Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics

SUMMARY—Declares that preservation of Walker Lake's
freshwater ecosystem is in public interest.
(BDR R-1302)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Declaring that
preservation of Walker Lake's freshwater ecosystem is in
the public interest.

- 1 WHEREAS, Walker Lake is a freshwater lake located in west-
2 central Nevada fed by snowmelt from the Sierra Nevada in
3 California and other mountain ranges in Nevada; and
4 WHEREAS, Walker Lake draws a considerable number of
5 tourists and functions as an economic mainstay for the Mineral
6 County economy; and
7 WHEREAS, Walker Lake has cultural, historical and spiritual
8 importance to the Walker River Paiute Tribe; and



* A C R 2 1 *

1 WHEREAS, Functioning as the terminus of the Walker River
2 System, Walker Lake is one of the few saline lakes that is capable of
3 supporting a freshwater trout fishery; and

4 WHEREAS, Walker Lake is a major migratory stopover for the
5 largest single inland congregation of common loons west of the
6 Mississippi River as well as other birds such as grebes, cormorants,
7 pelicans and other waterfowl that rely on the Lake for survival; and

8 WHEREAS, Walker Lake provides habitat for the Lahontan
9 cutthroat trout that has been listed as threatened by the United States
10 Fish and Wildlife Service; and

11 WHEREAS, The fishery and recreational activities at Walker
12 Lake have been recognized as beneficial uses of water in the Lake;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The volume of Walker Lake has diminished by 75
15 percent since the late 1800s, and this continuing decrease is creating
16 high concentrations of dissolved solids that are extremely
17 detrimental and ultimately toxic to fish; and

18 WHEREAS, Without an immediate influx of fresh water, the food
19 chain and ecosystem of Walker Lake could be lost in the very near
20 future; and

21 WHEREAS, Without such an influx of fresh water, Walker Lake
22 will be converted into a saltwater lake, requiring either years to
23 stabilize a new ecosystem or extensive scientific research and huge
24 sums of money to restore a freshwater ecosystem supporting
25 Lahontan cutthroat trout; and

26 WHEREAS, The United States Bureau of Land Management is
27 preparing an environmental impact statement to assess the
28 feasibility of acquiring additional fresh water for Walker Lake and
29 appropriate actions to be taken to preserve the desired ecosystem;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, Through section 2507 of Public Law 107-171, the
32 Farm Bill, 2002, and the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2003, the
33 Federal Government has allocated \$200 million to provide water
34 and assistance for Walker Lake, Pyramid Lake and Summit Lake in
35 the State of Nevada; now, therefore, be it

36 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
37 SENATE CONCURRING, That the Nevada Legislature hereby
38 declares that preservation of Walker Lake's freshwater ecosystem
39 which supports Lahontan cutthroat trout is in the public interest and
40 that all reasonable actions to sustain this ecosystem should be taken;
41 and be it further

42 RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature finds and declares that
43 conservation is a reasonable means of acquiring water for Walker
44 Lake and that any acquisition of water or water rights for transfer to



1 Walker Lake should be implemented through an agreement between
2 a willing buyer and a willing seller; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and
4 transmit a copy of this resolution to Governor Kenny C. Guinn, the
5 Director of the State Department of Conservation and Natural
6 Resources, the Boards of County Commissioners of Douglas, Lyon
7 and Mineral Counties, and the Chairman of the Walker River Paiute
8 Tribal Council.

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