

# Western Regional Water Commission

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** June 15, 2017  
**TO:** Chairman and Members, Western Regional Water Planning Commission (“WRWC”)  
**FROM:** John B. Rhodes, Legal Counsel  
**SUBJECT:** Final Report on legislative activities, including Bills passed in the 2017 session of the Nevada Legislature that may affect or are of interest to the WRWC and Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (“NNWPC”).

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The following staff report lists Bills passed in the 2017 Nevada Legislature, and approved (signed into law) by the Governor, that may affect or are of interest to the WRWC and NNWPC. All Bills are noted with an Assembly ("AB") or Senate ("SB") designation, and the complete final language of each Bill is available by clicking on the corresponding link contained in the electronic version of this report. The date following the BDR number in parentheses indicates the date the BDR was introduced as a Bill. WRWC staff and the WRWC Legislative Subcommittee tracked these Bills throughout the session, recommended positions to be taken, provided periodic updates to the NNWPC, and submitted staff and/or the Subcommittee's recommendations to the WRWC, at its regular meetings, for possible approval and ratification or revision.

**Bill Drafts Requested and Bills Introduced**

**Water Issues**

<b>BDR/Bill</b>	<b>Requester</b>	
<b>AB138</b>	<b>Assemblywoman Carlton</b> Authorizes collection of rainwater, without a water right, for certain domestic and wildlife support uses. (BDR 48-445, 2/10/17)  [Duplicated SB74, Section 1 which was deleted. Amended, passed, approved by Governor 6/17, <u>effective 7/1/17</u> ]	Subcommittee Position Support
<b>AB209</b>	<b>Assemblyman Oscarson</b> Relaxes provisions governing the forfeiture and abandonment of water rights for non-use during drought conditions and in over-appropriated basins. (BDR 48-308, 2/13/17)  [Amended, passed, approved by Governor 5/26, <u>effective 7/1/17</u> ]	Subcommittee Position Neutral / Watch
<b>SB47</b>	<b>Senate Committee on Natural Resources</b> Makes various changes relating to the appropriation of water. (BDR 48-499, 11/16/16)  [Amended, passed, approved by Governor 6/9, <u>effective 6/6/17</u> ]	Subcommittee Position Neutral / Watch
<b>SB51</b>	<b>Water Resources, Division of Conservation and Natural Resources</b> Revises provisions related to the adjudication of vested water rights and the appropriation of water. (BDR 48-180, 11/16/16)  [Amended, passed, approved by Governor 5/26, <u>effective 5/26/17</u> ]	Subcommittee Position Neutral / Watch
<b>SB74</b>	<b>Division of Water Resources of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources</b> Revises provisions relating to the planning and the development of water resources; removes one non-voting seat on the NNWPC. (BDR 48-178, 11/17/16)  [Amended to delete rainwater and wildlife provisions, passed, approved by Governor 6/9, <u>effective 6/9/17</u> ]	Subcommittee Position Support Section 1 only, Neutral / Watch on rest

**BDR/Bill Requester**

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| <b>SB138</b> | <b>Senator Hardy</b><br>Authorizes the creation of a local improvement district for a waterfront maintenance project. (BDR 22-678, 2/13/17)<br><br>[Amended, passed, approved by Governor 6/4, <u>effective 7/1/17</u> ]                                | Subcommittee Position<br>Neutral / Watch |
| <b>SB270</b> | <b>Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study Water (NRS 218E.200)</b><br>Sets deadline of 12/31/27 for claiming vested water rights. (BDR 48-359, 3/15/17)<br><br>[Amended, passed, approved by Governor 6/9, <u>effective 7/1/17 and 1/1/28</u> ] | Subcommittee Position<br>Neutral / Watch |

**Ethics Issues**

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|-------------|---|--|
| <b>SB84</b> | <b>Commission on Ethics</b><br>Makes various changes to the Nevada Ethics Commission. (BDR 23-250, 7/21/16)<br><br>[Amended, passed, approved by Governor 6/5, <u>effective 7/1/17 and 7/1/18</u> ] | Subcommittee Position<br>Neutral / Watch |
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**Other Issues of Interest**

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| <b>AB34</b>  | <b>Division of State Lands, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources</b><br>Makes various changes relating to state lands. (BDR 26-179), 11/16/16)<br><br>[Amended, passed, approved by Governor 5/26, <u>effective 7/1/17</u> ] | Subcommittee Position<br>Neutral / Watch |
| <b>AB205</b> | <b>Assemblyman Nelson Araujo</b><br>Revises provisions relating to cremation. (BDR 40-649, 2/13/17)<br><br>[Amended, passed, approved by Governor 6/5, <u>effective 6/5/17 and 1/1/18</u> ]  | Subcommittee Position<br>Neutral / Watch |

**BDR/Bill Requester**

**AB375 Assemblyman Sprinkle**

Allows the imposition of certain county taxes to fund flood management projects of a flood management authority based on the recommendations of a flood control project. Requires committee and voter approval. (BDR S-473, 3/20/17)

Subcommittee Position  
Neutral / Watch

[Amended, passed, approved by Governor 6/12, effective 6/12/17; Section 1 expires 4/2/18]

**AB379 Assemblywoman Joiner**

Authorizes local governments to create Parks, Trails, and Open Space Districts. (BDR 25-211, 3/20/17)

Subcommittee Position  
Neutral / Watch

[Amended, passed, approved by Governor 6/5, effective 7/1/17]