

# Western Regional Water Commission

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** May 22, 2019  
**TO:** Chair and members, Western Regional Water Commission (“WRWC”)  
**FROM:** John B. Rhodes, Legal Counsel  
**SUBJECT:** Report on legislative activities, including Bills pending in the 2019 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 attached list summarizes Bills pending in the 2019 Nevada Legislature, as of May 22, 2019, that may affect or are of interest to the WRWC and NNWPC. Pending Bills are noted with an Assembly ("AB") or Senate ("SB") designation, and the complete language of each Bill is available by clicking on the corresponding link contained in the electronic version of this report posted on the WRWC website. The dates in parentheses indicate the date the Bill was introduced. WRWC staff and the WRWC Legislative Subcommittee have been tracking these Bills, recommending positions to be taken, providing periodic updates to the NNWPC, and submitting staff and/or the Subcommittee's recommendations to the WRWC, at its regular meetings, for possible approval and adoption, or revision.

The **current status** of each Bill, as of May 22, 2019, **is highlighted in yellow**.

### Important 2019 Legislative Deadlines

5/24 Bills must pass Second House  
6/3 Adjournment

## Bills Introduced

### Water Issues

Bill	Sponsor	Subcommittee Position
<a href="#">AB30</a>	<b>Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining</b> Expands authority of State Engineer through 3M Plans. (BDR 48-214, 11/16/18) <b>Amended 4/23; out of Sen Cmte 5/27</b>	Neutral/Watch
<a href="#">AB51</a>	<b>Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining</b> Expands authority of State Engineer over conjunctive management of groundwater and surface water. (BDR 48-213, 11/18/18) <b>Died in Committee</b>	Neutral/Watch
<a href="#">AB62</a>	<b>Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining</b> Expands authority of State Engineer to extend time for improvements required for Permits. (BDR 48-215, 11/19/18) <b>Amended 4/22; out of Sen Cmte 5/21</b>	Neutral/Watch
<a href="#">AB84</a>	<b>Assembly Committee on Ways and Means</b> Provides bonding to protect and preserve natural resources, including the lower Truckee River. (BDR S-326, 11/21/18) <b>Exempt, no hearings held</b>	Support
<a href="#">AB95</a>	<b>Legislative Committee on Public Lands (NRS 218E.510)</b> Requires State Engineer to allow domestic well pumping under certain circumstances after restriction of withdrawals. (BDR 48-504, 1/24/19) <b>Amended 4/15; out of Sen Cmte 5/10</b>	Neutral/Watch
<a href="#">AB163</a>	<b>Assemblyman Watts and Senator Brooks</b> Revises minimum standards for plumbing fixtures in new construction and renovations. (BDR 48-798, 2/15/19) <b>Senate Amended 5/21, back to Asmbly</b>	Neutral/Watch
<a href="#">AB220</a>	<b>Legislative Committee for Oversight of TRPA and Marlette Lake (NRS 218E.555)</b> Provides bonding for environmental improvement projects in the Tahoe Basin. (BDR S-435, 2/21/19) <b>Exempt; passed to Senate 5/21</b>	Support
<a href="#">AB233</a>	<b>Assemblyman Kramer, Assemblywoman Hardy; Senators Goicoechea and Parks</b> Allows counties to pay state water assessments from general fund. (BDR 48-45, 3/1/19) <b>Amended 4/17; passed Senate 5/22</b>	Neutral/Watch
<a href="#">AB265</a>	<b>Assemblymen Peters, Swank, and Watts</b> Requires the Desert Research Institute to conduct a study on water treatment and recycling. (BDR S-901, 3/14/19) <b>Died in Committee</b>	Neutral/Watch
<a href="#">SB140</a>	<b>Senate Committee on Natural Resources</b> Requires the State Engineer to reserve 10% of any unappropriated water for temporary use in emergencies. (BDR 48-541, 2/11/19) <b>5/21, Amended in Assembly</b>	Neutral/Watch

Bill	Sponsor	Subcommittee Position
<a href="#">SB150</a>	<b>Senator Goicoechea</b> Requires governing bodies to develop water resource plans analyzing whether identified sources of water are sufficient to meet future demands. (BDR 22-775, 2/12/19) 5/16, out of Assembly Committee w/ do pass recommendation	Neutral/Watch
<a href="#">SB236</a>	<b>Senators Goicoechea, Brooks, and Hansen</b> Eliminates requirement for a change application where a new point of diversion is within 300' of original point of diversion on same property. (BDR 48-635, 2/27/19) 5/21, out of Assembly Cmte, w/ amend then do pass recom	Neutral/Watch
<a href="#">SB250</a>	<b>Senator Settelmeyer</b> Requires that any water rights dedicated to a public entity to support development must remain so dedicated. (BDR 48-664, 3/5/19) 5/22 Amended and passed by Assembly	Support TMWA Amendment
<a href="#">SB280</a>	<b>Senators Settelmeyer, Kieckhefer, and Goicoechea</b> Revises definition of "navigable river / body of water." (BDR 26-975, 3/14/19) Died in Committee	Neutral/Watch
<a href="#">SB499</a>	<b>Office of Finance in the Office of the Governor</b> Creates the advisory Board of Water Resources Planning and Drought Resiliency. (BDR 48-1243, 4/1/19) Exempt, Hearings 4/9, 12 and 25	Neutral/Watch

### Ethics Issues

<a href="#">SB129</a>	<b>Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections</b> Makes numerous revisions to the Nevada Ethics in Government Law. (BDR 23-191, 2/1/19) 5/22, Amended and passed by Assembly	Neutral/Watch
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### Public Records Issues

<a href="#">AB371</a>	<b>Assemblyman Daly</b> Redefines the term "public record" for public access to state and local government records. (BDR 19-16, 3/20/19) Amended 4/23, to Senate; Exempt, in Senate Committee	Oppose as Written
<a href="#">SB224</a>	<b>Senators Ratti, Parks, and Woodhouse</b> Provides that the names of individuals receiving PERS benefits shall be confidential. (BDR 19-598, 2/18/19) 5/22, Amended and passed by Assembly	Neutral/Watch
<a href="#">SB287</a>	<b>Senator Parks</b> Revises numerous provisions relating to public access to public records. (BDR 19-648, 3/15/19) Exempt, in Committee, hearings held 4/3 and 4/12	Neutral/Watch
<a href="#">SB302</a>	<b>Senators Seevers and Gansert</b> Revises provisions regarding personal information collected by government agencies. (BDR 52-547, 3/18/19) 5/22, Amended and passed by Assembly	Neutral/Watch

### Open Meeting Issues

Bill	Sponsor	Subcommittee Position
<a href="#">AB70</a>	<b>Attorney General</b> Makes numerous revisions to the Nevada Open Meeting Law. (BDR 19-421, 11/20/18) Amended 4/23; in Senate Committee	Neutral/Watch
<a href="#">AB127</a>	<b>Assemblywoman Cohen</b> Requires any person who receives compensation for testifying before a public body to disclose that fact prior to testifying. (BDR 19-272, 2/12/19) Died in Committee	Neutral/Watch
<a href="#">SB183</a>	<b>Senators Gansert, Hardy, and Hammond</b> Makes numerous revisions to the Nevada Open Meeting Law, including notice provisions. (BDR 19-537, 2/18/19) Exempt, in Committee, hearings held 2/12, 3/20 and 4/11	Neutral/Watch

### Other Areas of Interest

<a href="#">AB101</a>	<b>Assemblyman Daly</b> Authorizes a private plaintiff to bring an action for declaratory relief against a governmental entity for violation of state or local law. (BDR 3-26, 1/28/19) Died in Committee	Neutral/Watch
<a href="#">SB96</a>	<b>Senate Committee on Natural Resources</b> Creates a program for grants to local governments for matching funds to secure federal grants for projects relating to public lands. (BDR 26-510, 1/24/19) Exempt; Amended 4/15, in Committee, no hearings held after amendment	Support
<a href="#">SB245</a>	<b>Senator Ohrenschall</b> Increases cap on tort actions against governmental entities from \$100,00 to \$250,000 and \$1,000,000 for gross negligence. (BDR 3-965, 3/1/19) Exempt; Amended 4/18, back in Committee	Neutral/Watch