
SENATE BILL NO. 65—COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

(ON BEHALF OF THE DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES)

PREFILED DECEMBER 20, 2014

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to the use of water.
(BDR 48-366)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Increases or Newly
Provides for Term of Imprisonment in County or City
Jail or Detention Facility.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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

AN ACT relating to the use of water; revising provisions relating to the adjudication of vested water rights; revising provisions relating to applications, permits and certificates for the appropriation of public waters; revising provisions relating to underground water and wells; revising provisions relating to the planning and development of water resources; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law declares that the water of all sources of water within the
2 boundaries of Nevada, whether above or below the surface of the ground, belongs
3 to the public. (NRS 533.025) Subject to existing rights, water in the State may be
4 appropriated only for beneficial use, which existing law declares to be a public use.
5 (NRS 533.030, 533.050) The unauthorized use of water to which another person is
6 entitled and the willful waste of water to the detriment of another is prohibited, as is
7 causing, suffering or permitting any artesian well to discharge unnecessarily so that
8 the waters of the well are lost for beneficial use. (NRS 533.460, 534.0165, 534.070)

9 **Sections 4, 67 and 75** of this bill revise the definition of, and prohibition on,
10 wasting water. Under the provisions of this bill, “wasting” water includes causing
11 or permitting water from any source to discharge or flow unnecessarily so that the
12 water is lost for beneficial use, or misusing water such that it discharges or flows
13 unnecessarily so that the water is lost for beneficial use.

14 **Sections 5-8 and 12-44** of this bill revise provisions governing the adjudication
15 of certain vested water rights. Under existing law, after receiving a petition
16 requesting the determination of the relative rights of the various claimants to the



17 waters of any stream or stream system, the State Engineer must enter an order
18 granting the petition and proceed with the determination. The State Engineer then
19 must prepare a notice of that order to be published in one or more newspapers of
20 general circulation within the boundaries of the stream system. (NRS 533.090,
21 533.095) **Section 13** requires the notice to also set forth the date on which the State
22 Engineer will begin taking proofs of appropriation and the date by which such
23 proofs must be filed. **Section 13** also requires the State Engineer to provide the
24 notice to each person whom the State Engineer knows or should know claims rights
25 in or to the water.

26 **Section 14** provides specifications for the information and documents that must
27 accompany a proof of appropriation. **Section 5** requires any proof of appropriation
28 or accompanying map that is found to be defective to be returned to the claimant
29 with an explanation of why the proof or map is defective. A corrected proof or map
30 must be refiled with the State Engineer within 60 days. **Section 15** provides that
31 amendments to proofs of appropriation may not, with certain exceptions, be
32 received by or filed with the State Engineer after the date set forth in the notice by
33 which proofs must be filed. **Section 17** increases the amount of the fees that the
34 State Engineer must collect for the filing of proofs of appropriation.

35 **Section 6** requires the State Engineer, when investigating a source of surface
36 water or groundwater for the purpose of adjudicating the vested rights of the water,
37 to gather any essential data and information, compile a list of all proofs of
38 appropriation filed for the area being adjudicated, conduct any necessary field
39 investigations and verifications of the proofs and reduce his or her observations and
40 measurements to writing. If the State Engineer causes a survey or map to be
41 executed, the survey or map must be prepared by a licensed state water right
42 surveyor and conform to certain specifications.

43 Existing law requires the State Engineer, after receiving the proofs of
44 appropriation, to prepare a preliminary order of determination regarding the rights
45 of claimants to the water and to deliver a copy of the preliminary order to each
46 person who has filed a proof of appropriation. (NRS 533.140) **Section 18**
47 authorizes the State Engineer to make a copy of the preliminary order available
48 online in lieu of sending a copy to each claimant. Any person claiming any interest
49 in the water may file an objection to the preliminary order, and **section 20** requires
50 the hearing on objections to be held not less than 60 days after the date of the
51 preliminary order. **Section 20** also requires all testimony taken at such a hearing to
52 be reported and transcribed by a certified court reporter, whose fees and expenses
53 must be paid by the claimants objecting to the preliminary order.

54 Existing law requires the State Engineer to make an order of determination as
55 soon as practicable after the hearing on objections to the preliminary order. (NRS
56 533.160) **Section 21** authorizes the State Engineer to make a copy of the order of
57 determination available online in lieu of sending a copy to each claimant. A copy of
58 the order of determination must be filed with the district court of the county in
59 which the stream system is located, after which a time is set for a hearing by the
60 district court on the order. (NRS 533.165) Any parties aggrieved or dissatisfied
61 with the order of determination may file with the clerk of the district court a notice
62 of exception to the order. (NRS 533.170) **Section 23** authorizes parties affected by
63 or having an interest in any exception to file a response to the exception. Existing
64 law requires the district court, after the hearing on the order of determination, to
65 enter a decree affirming or modifying the order. (NRS 533.185) **Section 8**
66 authorizes the district court to require, under certain circumstances, that a revised
67 map which accurately reflects the decree and conforms with the rules and
68 regulations of the State Engineer to be prepared and filed with the district court and
69 the State Engineer. Under existing law, the district court's decree may be appealed,
70 and notice of the appeal must be served upon the attorneys of record for claimants
71 who have filed exceptions to the final order of determination by the State Engineer.



72 (NRS 533.200) **Sections 28 and 29** require any notice of appeal and notice of
73 intention to move for a new trial to be served upon claimants who have filed
74 exceptions but for whom there is no attorney of record.

75 Under existing law, after the filing of the order of determination in the district
76 court, the distribution of adjudicated water is under the supervision and control of
77 the district court. (NRS 533.220) **Section 32** authorizes the State Engineer, under
78 certain circumstances, to require certain water users to rotate in the use of the water
79 to which they are entitled.

80 Finally, **section 37** amends provisions requiring the State Engineer to prepare
81 an annual budget of the estimated expenses of administering and regulating each
82 adjudicated source of surface water or groundwater. (NRS 533.280)

83 **Sections 9 and 45-63** of this bill revise provisions regarding applications,
84 permits and certificates for the appropriation of public waters. Existing law
85 authorizes the State Engineer to extend the deadline by which construction related
86 to such an appropriation must be completed. (NRS 533.380) **Section 54** provides
87 that the failure by an applicant to provide proof and evidence of the good faith and
88 reasonable diligence with which the applicant is pursuing the perfection of an
89 application is prima facie evidence of failure to proceed in good faith and with
90 reasonable diligence. **Section 54** also authorizes the State Engineer to approve or
91 deny an extension if the water right in question lies within a basin that is an area of
92 active management or has been designated as a critical management area.

93 Existing law authorizes the holder of a permit to appropriate water whose
94 permit is cancelled to request a review of the cancellation. (NRS 533.395) **Section**
95 **60** revises provisions governing the deadline by which such a request must be filed
96 with the State Engineer.

97 Existing law provides for the issuance by the State Engineer of certificates
98 relating to the appropriation of water. (NRS 533.425) **Section 62** prohibits the State
99 Engineer from issuing certificates based on certain revocable permits to appropriate
100 water and requires the State Engineer to cancel a permit if the holder or holders of
101 the permit do not pay the required fee for issuing and recording the certificate.
102 **Section 9** requires the State Engineer to quantify in acre-feet the amount of water
103 that has been beneficially used for certificates which express the amount of
104 appropriation only in terms of cubic feet per second.

105 **Section 64** of this bill amends provisions relating to certain fees collected by
106 the State Engineer.

107 Existing law governs the appropriation and use of groundwater. (Chapter 534
108 of NRS) **Section 73** of this bill requires a person wishing to obtain a right to the use
109 of groundwater from a basin to ensure that wildlife which customarily uses spring
110 sources in the basin which could be impaired by any groundwater pumping will
111 continue to have access to those sources. **Section 76** of this bill authorizes the use
112 of certain assessments levied by boards of county commissioners for the
113 implementation of a groundwater management plan and the oversight of an area of
114 active management or an area designated as a critical management area. Existing
115 law authorizes the State Engineer to notify the owner of a right to underground
116 water that has not been used for at least 4 consecutive years, but less than 5
117 consecutive years, that the owner has 1 year after the date of the notice in which to
118 use the water beneficially and to provide proof of such use to the State Engineer to
119 avoid forfeiting the water right. Upon request of the holder of the right, the State
120 Engineer may extend the time necessary to work the forfeiture. (NRS 534.090)
121 **Section 77** of this bill provides that such an extension may not exceed 1 year from
122 the expiration of the time otherwise necessary to work the forfeiture.

123 **Section 78** of this bill prohibits the user of a domestic well who is furnished
124 water by an entity such as a water district or municipality from using water from
125 the well for the watering of a family garden or lawn or the watering of livestock or



126 any domestic animals or household pets. **Section 78** also requires such a well to be
127 plugged in accordance with any applicable regulation of the State Engineer.
128 **Sections 86 and 87** of this bill provide for the imposition of administrative
129 fines against persons who violate certain provisions relating to the planning and
130 development of water resources.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 533 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 9, inclusive, of this
3 act.

4 **Sec. 2.** *“Perennial yield” has the meaning ascribed to it in*
5 *section 72 of this act.*

6 **Sec. 3.** *“Source of surface water or groundwater” includes,*
7 *without limitation, a stream or stream system.*

8 **Sec. 4.** *“Waste” has the meaning ascribed to it in*
9 *NRS 534.0165.*

10 **Sec. 5. 1.** *Upon the filing of a proof of appropriation*
11 *pursuant to NRS 533.115, the State Engineer shall make an*
12 *endorsement thereon of the date of its receipt and shall keep a*
13 *record of the date.*

14 **2.** *If a proof of appropriation or an accompanying map is*
15 *found to be defective, it must be returned by registered or certified*
16 *mail with a statement explaining why the proof was found to be*
17 *defective, and the date of the return to the claimant must be*
18 *endorsed upon the proof and a record made of it in the Office of*
19 *the State Engineer.*

20 **3.** *A proof of appropriation, properly corrected and*
21 *accompanied by such maps and drawings as may be required and*
22 *by the fee required pursuant to NRS 533.135, must be refiled with*
23 *the Office of the State Engineer within 60 days after the date of*
24 *the return to the claimant.*

25 **4.** *Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, any proof*
26 *of appropriation returned for correction or completion that is not*
27 *refiled in proper form within 60 days must be rejected. For good*
28 *cause shown, upon application made before the expiration of the*
29 *60-day period, the State Engineer may, in his or her discretion,*
30 *grant an extension of time not to exceed 60 days in which to file*
31 *the instruments.*

32 **Sec. 6. 1.** *In investigating a source of surface water or*
33 *groundwater for the purpose of determining the relative rights of*
34 *the various claimants to the waters thereto, the State Engineer*
35 *shall:*



1 (a) Gather such data and information as may be essential to
2 the proper determination of the water rights in the area being
3 adjudicated;

4 (b) Compile a list of the proofs of appropriation filed pursuant
5 to NRS 533.115 for the area being adjudicated;

6 (c) Conduct any necessary field investigations and
7 verifications of the proofs of appropriation; and

8 (d) Reduce his or her observations and measurements to
9 writing.

10 2. If the State Engineer causes a survey or map to be
11 executed:

12 (a) The survey or map must be prepared by a licensed state
13 water right surveyor;

14 (b) An original of the map, when completed, must be filed and
15 made of record in the Office of the State Engineer;

16 (c) The map filed in the Office of the State Engineer must be
17 on mylar on a scale of not less than 1,000 feet to the inch; and

18 (d) The cost of executing the survey or map must be assessed
19 and collected pursuant to NRS 533.190.

20 3. The State Engineer may use data, measurements and
21 information compiled by the United States Geological Survey or
22 other persons or governmental agencies in investigating a source
23 of surface water or groundwater.

24 **Sec. 7. 1.** Any and all maps, plats, surveys and evidence on
25 file in the Office of the State Engineer relating to any proof of
26 appropriation involved in a proceeding for the determination of
27 the relative rights in and to the waters of any source of surface
28 water or groundwater, obtained or filed under the provisions of
29 any statute relating to the Office of the State Engineer, is
30 admissible in court and has the same force and effect as though
31 submitted under the provisions of this chapter.

32 2. At least 90 days before the rendering of his or her order of
33 determination of the relative rights in and to the waters of any
34 source of surface water or groundwater, the State Engineer shall
35 notify all parties in interest of his or her intention to consider any
36 maps, plats and evidence described in subsection 1, and of his or
37 her intention to submit the findings of the State Engineer to the
38 court under the provisions of this chapter.

39 3. Within 60 days after such notice, any party in interest may
40 file with the State Engineer any additional or supplementary
41 maps, plats, surveys or evidence, or objections to the admissibility
42 of any evidence previously presented and on file in the Office of
43 the State Engineer, in relation to his or her claim of water rights
44 or adverse to the claim or claims of the water rights of any other
45 party or parties in interest, in order to perfect his or her claim in



1 *accordance with the provisions of this chapter, and the State*
2 *Engineer shall consider the whole thereof in rendering such order*
3 *of determination, and the same shall become a part of the record*
4 *which must be submitted to the court as provided in NRS 533.170*
5 *to 533.235, inclusive.*

6 **Sec. 8.** *If a decree entered pursuant to NRS 533.185 holds*
7 *that the water right of a claimant is different than the right*
8 *claimed in the proof of appropriation filed by the claimant, or if*
9 *discrepancies exist between a map accompanying a proof of*
10 *appropriation and any water right described in a decree entered*
11 *pursuant to NRS 533.185, the court may require that a revised*
12 *map which accurately reflects the decree and which conforms with*
13 *the rules and regulations of the State Engineer be prepared and*
14 *filed with the court and filed and made of record in the Office of*
15 *the State Engineer.*

16 **Sec. 9.** *1. The State Engineer shall quantify in acre-feet the*
17 *amount of water that has been beneficially used for the purpose*
18 *set forth in the certificate of appropriation for any certificate*
19 *issued pursuant to NRS 533.425 which expresses the amount of*
20 *the appropriation only in terms of cubic feet per second.*

21 *2. The State Engineer may request that the person to whom a*
22 *certificate described in subsection 1 is issued provide information*
23 *to support a specific duty of water that is used beneficially.*

24 *3. The State Engineer shall notify by registered or certified*
25 *mail each person to whom a certificate described in subsection 1 is*
26 *issued the amount of water that has been beneficially used for the*
27 *purpose set forth in the certificate of appropriation, as quantified*
28 *in acre-feet pursuant to subsection 1.*

29 **Sec. 10.** NRS 533.005 is hereby amended to read as follows:
30 533.005 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
31 requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 533.007 to 533.023,
32 inclusive, *and sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act* have the meanings
33 ascribed to them in those sections.

34 **Sec. 11.** NRS 533.024 is hereby amended to read as follows:

35 533.024 The Legislature declares that:

36 1. It is the policy of this State:

37 (a) To encourage and promote the use of effluent, where that use
38 is not contrary to the public health, safety or welfare, and where that
39 use does not interfere with federal obligations to deliver water of the
40 Colorado River.

41 (b) To recognize the importance of domestic wells as
42 appurtenances to private homes, to create a protectable interest in
43 such wells and to protect their supply of water from unreasonable
44 adverse effects which are caused by municipal, quasi-municipal or
45 industrial uses and which cannot reasonably be mitigated.



1 (c) To encourage the State Engineer to consider the best
2 available science in rendering decisions concerning the available
3 surface and underground sources of water in Nevada.

4 (d) To encourage and promote the use of water to prevent or
5 reduce the spread of wildfire or to rehabilitate areas burned by
6 wildfire, including, without limitation, through the establishment of
7 vegetative cover that is resistant to fire.

8 2. The procedures in this chapter for changing the ~~[place]~~ *point*
9 of diversion, manner of use or place of use of water, and for
10 confirming a report of conveyance, are not intended to have the
11 effect of quieting title to or changing ownership of a water right and
12 that only a court of competent jurisdiction has the power to
13 determine conflicting claims to ownership of a water right.

14 **Sec. 12.** NRS 533.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 533.090 1. Upon a *written* petition to the State Engineer,
16 signed by one or more water users of any ~~[stream or stream system,]~~
17 *source of surface water or groundwater*, requesting the
18 determination of the relative rights of the various claimants to
19 the waters thereof, the State Engineer shall, if upon investigation the
20 State Engineer finds the facts and conditions justify it, enter an order
21 granting the petition and shall make proper arrangements to proceed
22 with ~~[such]~~ *the* determination.

23 2. The State Engineer ~~[shall,]~~ *may*, in the absence of ~~[such]~~ a
24 petition requesting a determination of relative rights, enter an order
25 for the determination of the relative rights to the use of water of any
26 ~~[stream]~~ *source of surface water or groundwater* selected by the
27 State Engineer . ~~[, commencing on the streams in the order of their~~
28 ~~importance for irrigation.]~~ As soon as practicable after the order is
29 made and entered, the State Engineer shall proceed with ~~[such]~~ *the*
30 determination as provided in this chapter.

31 ~~[3.—A water user upon or from any stream or body of water~~
32 ~~shall be held and deemed to be a water user upon the stream system~~
33 ~~of which such stream or body of water is a part or tributary.]~~

34 **Sec. 13.** NRS 533.095 is hereby amended to read as follows:

35 533.095 1. As soon as practicable after the State Engineer
36 ~~[shall make and enter the]~~ *enters an* order *pursuant to NRS 533.090*
37 granting the petition or selecting the ~~[streams]~~ *source of surface*
38 *water or groundwater* upon which the determination of rights is to
39 begin, the State Engineer shall ~~[prepare]~~ *issue* a notice setting forth
40 ~~[the]~~ :

41 (a) *The* fact of the entry of the order and of the pendency of the
42 proceedings ; ~~[~~

43 —2. *The notice shall:*

44 —(a) ~~Name a date when the State Engineer or the State Engineer's~~
45 ~~assistants shall begin the examination.]~~



1 (b) ~~[Set forth]~~ *The date on which the State Engineer will*
2 *commence the taking of proofs of appropriation regarding the*
3 *rights in and to the waters of the source of surface water or*
4 *groundwater;*

5 (c) *The date by which proofs of appropriation must be filed;*
6 *and*

7 (d) *The fact that all claimants to rights in and to the waters of*
8 *the ~~[stream system]~~ source of surface water or groundwater* are
9 required ~~[as provided in this chapter,]~~ to make proof of their
10 claims.

11 2. *The date set pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 1 as*
12 *the deadline for the filing of proofs of appropriation must not be*
13 *less than 60 days after the date on which the State Engineer*
14 *commences the taking of proofs.*

15 3. The notice shall be published for a period of 4 consecutive
16 weeks in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the
17 boundaries of the ~~[stream system.]~~ *area being adjudicated.*

18 4. *Concurrently with the first publication required by*
19 *subsection 3, the State Engineer shall provide the notice to each*
20 *person whom the State Engineer knows or reasonably should*
21 *know claims rights in or to the source of surface water or*
22 *groundwater. The notice must be delivered in person or mailed by*
23 *registered or certified mail not later than 30 days before the date*
24 *on which the State Engineer commences the taking of proofs of*
25 *appropriation.*

26 5. *The State Engineer shall include with each notice the form*
27 *upon which a claimant must present the statement required by*
28 *NRS 533.115.*

29 **Sec. 14.** NRS 533.115 is hereby amended to read as follows:

30 533.115 ~~[The State Engineer shall, in addition, enclose with the~~
31 ~~notice to be mailed as provided in NRS 533.110, blank forms upon~~
32 ~~which the]~~

33 1. *To file a proof of appropriation, a claimant shall present in*
34 *writing, on a form provided by the State Engineer, a statement of*
35 *all particulars necessary for the determination of the claimant's right*
36 *in or to the waters of ~~[the stream system,]~~ the source of surface*
37 *water or groundwater. The statement ~~[to]~~ must include the*
38 *following:*

39 ~~[1.]~~ (a) The name and ~~[post-office]~~ *mailing* address of the
40 claimant ~~[~~

41 ~~—2.] ;~~

42 (b) The nature of the right or use on which the claim for
43 appropriation is based ~~[~~

44 ~~—3.] ;~~



1 (c) The time of the initiation of such right and a description of
2 *the point of diversion and* works of diversion and distribution ~~[-~~

3 ~~4.] ;~~

4 (d) The date ~~[of beginning of]~~ *on which* construction ~~[-~~
5 ~~5.] began on works of diversion and distribution;~~

6 (e) The date ~~[when]~~ *on which construction of works of*
7 *diversion and distribution was* completed ~~[-~~

8 ~~6.] ;~~

9 (f) The dates ~~[of beginning and completion of]~~ *on which*
10 *construction of any* enlargements ~~[-~~

11 ~~7. The dimensions of the ditch as originally constructed and as~~
12 ~~enlarged.~~

13 ~~8.] or modifications of works of diversion and distribution~~
14 ~~began and were completed;~~

15 (g) The date ~~[when]~~ *on which the* water was first used for
16 irrigation or other beneficial purposes and, if used for irrigation, the
17 ~~[amount of land reclaimed]~~ *number of acres irrigated* the first year,
18 the ~~[amount]~~ *number of acres irrigated* in subsequent years, ~~[with]~~
19 the dates of reclamation, and the area and location of the lands
20 which ~~[are intended to be]~~ *were* irrigated ~~[-~~

21 ~~9.] ;~~

22 (h) The character of the soil and the kind of crops cultivated, *the*
23 *rate of diversion*, the number of acre-feet of water per ~~[annum]~~ *acre*
24 *annually* required to irrigate the land, and such other facts as will
25 show the extent and nature of the right and compliance with the law
26 in acquiring the same, as may be required by the State Engineer ~~[-~~
27 *and*

28 (i) *If the diverted water was used for a beneficial purpose other*
29 *than irrigation, the rate of diversion, the number of acre-feet of*
30 *water used annually, and, if the diverted water was used for*
31 *watering livestock, the number and type of livestock.*

32 2. *The statement required by subsection 1 must be*
33 *accompanied by a survey and map drawn by a state water right*
34 *surveyor and any drawings that are required to support the*
35 *claimed right.*

36 3. *The map required by subsection 2 must be on mylar on a*
37 *scale of not less than 1,000 feet to the inch and must show with*
38 *substantial accuracy the following:*

39 (a) *If the claimed right is from a source of surface water, a*
40 *survey of the course or location of the stream, stream system or*
41 *spring system;*

42 (b) *The location of each point of diversion and each ditch or*
43 *canal diverting water from each point of diversion;*

44 (c) *The area and outline of the place of use identified in the*
45 *statement, by legal subdivision; and*



1 (d) *The type of culture or manner of use on each place of use.*

2 4. *The survey and map required by subsection 2 must bear*
3 *the affidavit of the state water right surveyor who draws the survey*
4 *and map. If the survey and map are made by different state water*
5 *right surveyors, the map must bear the affidavit of each surveyor*
6 *to demonstrate that the map as compiled agrees with the survey.*

7 5. *The survey and map required by subsection 2 must*
8 *conform with the rules and regulations of the State Engineer.*

9 6. *The statement required by subsection 1 must be:*

10 (a) *Accompanied by any additional map, survey, examination*
11 *or inspection required by the State Engineer;*

12 (b) *Accompanied by evidence supporting the claimed date of*
13 *priority of the water right being claimed, a complete chain of title*
14 *demonstrating the claimant's ownership of the vested water right*
15 *and a demonstration of continual use of the water by the claimant;*
16 *and*

17 (c) *Made upon oath or affirmation of the claimant.*

18 7. *A claimant must present a separate statement for each*
19 *source of water in and to which the claimant claims rights.*

20 8. *The State Engineer shall provide, free of charge, forms*
21 *required for the submission of a proof of appropriation pursuant*
22 *to this section.*

23 **Sec. 15.** NRS 533.125 is hereby amended to read as follows:

24 533.125 1. The State Engineer shall commence the taking of
25 proofs *of appropriation* on the date ~~[fixed and named]~~ *set forth* in
26 the notice provided for in NRS ~~[533.110 for the commencement of~~
27 ~~the taking of proofs. The State Engineer shall proceed therewith~~
28 ~~during]~~ *533.095. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection,*
29 *after the [period fixed by the State Engineer and named] date set*
30 *forth in the notice [, after which no] by which proofs [shall] must be*
31 *filed, no amendments to any proofs may* be received by or filed by
32 the State Engineer. The State Engineer may, in his or her discretion,
33 for cause shown, extend the time in which proofs may be filed.

34 2. Upon neglect or refusal of any person to make proof of his
35 or her claim or rights in or to the waters of ~~[such stream system,]~~
36 *any source of surface water or groundwater* as required by this
37 chapter, ~~[prior to the expiration of the period fixed by the State~~
38 ~~Engineer during which proofs may be filed,]~~ the State Engineer shall
39 determine the right of such person ~~[from such evidence as the State~~
40 ~~Engineer may obtain or may have on file in the Office of the State~~
41 ~~Engineer in the way of maps, plats, surveys and transcripts, and~~
42 ~~exceptions]~~ *in the order of determination entered pursuant to NRS*
43 *533.160. Exceptions* to such determination may be filed in court, as
44 provided in this chapter.



1 **Sec. 16.** NRS 533.130 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 533.130 1. Any person interested in the water of any ~~[stream]~~
3 *source of surface water or groundwater being adjudicated* upon
4 whom no service of notice ~~[shall have been had of]~~ *is made*
5 *regarding* the pendency of proceedings for the determination of the
6 relative rights to the use of water of ~~[such stream system,]~~ *the*
7 *source of surface water or groundwater*, and who ~~[shall have]~~ *has*
8 no actual knowledge or notice of the pendency of the proceedings,
9 may, at any time prior to the ~~[expiration of 6 months after the entry]~~
10 *certification* of the ~~[determinations of]~~ *order of determination by*
11 the State Engineer ~~[,]~~ *pursuant to NRS 533.160*, file a petition to
12 intervene in the proceedings.

13 2. Such petition shall be under oath and shall contain, among
14 other things:

15 (a) All matters required by this chapter of claimants who have
16 been duly served with notice of the proceedings; and

17 (b) A statement that the intervener had no actual knowledge of
18 notice of the pendency of the proceedings.

19 3. ~~[Upon the filing of]~~ *If* the petition ~~[in intervention]~~ *to*
20 *intervene is* granted by the State Engineer, the petitioner shall be
21 allowed to intervene upon such terms as may be equitable, and
22 thereafter shall have all rights ~~[vouchsafed]~~ *provided* by this chapter
23 to claimants who have been duly served.

24 **Sec. 17.** NRS 533.135 is hereby amended to read as follows:

25 533.135 1. At the time of submission of proofs of
26 appropriation, ~~[where the necessary maps are prepared by the State~~
27 ~~Engineer, the fee collected from any claimants must be the actual~~
28 ~~cost of the survey and the preparation of maps.~~

29 ~~—2.—The]~~ *the* State Engineer shall collect a fee of ~~[\$60]~~ *\$100* for
30 *the filing of* a proof of water used for watering livestock . ~~[or~~
31 ~~wildlife purposes.]~~ The State Engineer shall collect a fee of ~~[\$120]~~
32 *\$200 for a proof of* any other ~~[character of claim to water.]~~ *claimed*
33 *manner of use.*

34 2. *The State Engineer shall collect a fee of \$100 for the filing*
35 *of a corrected proof of appropriation submitted pursuant to*
36 *section 5 of this act.*

37 3. All fees collected as provided in this section must be
38 accounted for in detail and deposited with the State Treasurer into
39 the Water Distribution Revolving Account created pursuant to
40 NRS 532.210.

41 **Sec. 18.** NRS 533.140 is hereby amended to read as follows:

42 533.140 1. As soon as practicable after the expiration of the
43 period ~~[fixed in]~~ *during* which proofs *of appropriation* may be
44 filed, the State Engineer shall assemble all proofs which have been
45 filed ~~[with the State Engineer,]~~ and prepare, certify and have printed



1 an abstract of all *of the claims described in* such proofs. The State
2 Engineer shall also prepare from the proofs and evidence taken or
3 given before the State Engineer, or obtained by the State Engineer, a
4 preliminary order of determination establishing the ~~[several]~~ rights
5 of claimants to the waters of the ~~[stream.]~~ *source of surface water*
6 *or groundwater.*

7 2. ~~[When]~~ *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, when*
8 the abstract of ~~[proofs]~~ *claims* and the preliminary order of
9 determination ~~[is] are~~ completed, the State Engineer shall ~~[then~~
10 ~~prepare a notice fixing and setting a time and place when and where~~
11 ~~the evidence taken by or filed with the State Engineer and the proofs~~
12 ~~of claims must be open to the inspection of all interested persons,~~
13 ~~the period of inspection to be not less than 20 days. The notice shall~~
14 ~~be deemed an order of the State Engineer as to the matters contained~~
15 ~~therein.~~

16 ~~—3.—A copy of the notice, together with]~~ *send by registered or*
17 *certified mail, or serve personally,* a ~~[printed]~~ copy of the
18 preliminary order of determination and ~~[a printed copy of]~~ the
19 abstract of ~~[proofs, must be delivered by the State Engineer, or sent~~
20 ~~by registered or certified mail, at least 30 days before the first day of~~
21 ~~such period of inspection,]~~ *claims* to each person who has ~~[appeared~~
22 ~~and]~~ filed a proof ~~[, as provided in this section.~~

23 ~~—4.—The State Engineer shall be present at the time and place~~
24 ~~designated in the notice and allow, during that period, any]~~ *of*
25 *appropriation.*

26 3. *In lieu of sending or serving a copy of the preliminary*
27 *order of determination and the abstract of claims pursuant to*
28 *subsection 2, the State Engineer may:*

29 (a) *Make available a copy of the preliminary order of*
30 *determination and the abstract of claims on the Internet website of*
31 *the State Engineer; and*

32 (b) *Send or deliver, by registered or certified mail or by*
33 *personal service, to each person who has filed a proof of*
34 *appropriation notice that the preliminary order of determination*
35 *and the abstract of claims are available online on the Internet*
36 *website of the State Engineer.*

37 4. Any persons interested ~~[to]~~ *may inspect , at any time during*
38 *regular office hours,* such evidence and proof as have been filed
39 with or taken by the State Engineer in accordance with this chapter.

40 **Sec. 19.** NRS 533.145 is hereby amended to read as follows:

41 533.145 1. Any person claiming any interest in the ~~[stream~~
42 ~~system]~~ *source of surface water or groundwater* involved in the
43 determination of relative rights to the use of water, whether claiming
44 under vested right or under permit from the State Engineer, may
45 object to ~~[any finding, part or portion of]~~ the preliminary order of



1 determination ~~[made by the State Engineer]~~ by filing objections with
2 the State Engineer within 30 days after ~~[the evidence and proofs, as~~
3 ~~provided in NRS 533.140, shall have been opened to public~~
4 ~~inspection,]~~ *the date on which a copy of the preliminary order of*
5 *determination, or notice that the preliminary order of*
6 *determination is available online, is sent or delivered pursuant to*
7 *NRS 533.140, or within such further time as [for good cause shown]*
8 may be allowed by the State Engineer upon application ~~[]~~ *and a*
9 *showing of good cause.*

10 2. ~~[Such objections]~~ *Objections* shall be verified by the
11 affidavit of the objector, or the objector's agent or attorney, and
12 shall state with reasonable certainty the grounds of objection.

13 **Sec. 20.** NRS 533.150 is hereby amended to read as follows:

14 533.150 1. ~~[The]~~ *Unless the claimants waive the time*
15 *limitations of this subsection or the requirement of such a*
16 *hearing, the State Engineer shall [fix] set a time and place for [the]*
17 *a hearing [of] on objections, which [date] must not be less than [30*
18 *days nor more than] 60 days after the date [the notice is served on*
19 *the persons who are, or may be, affected thereby. The notice] on*
20 *which a copy of the preliminary order of determination, or notice*
21 *that the preliminary order of determination is available online, is*
22 *sent or delivered pursuant to NRS 533.140. Notice of the hearing*
23 may be sent by registered or certified mail to the persons to be
24 affected by the objections, and the receipt therefor constitutes legal
25 and valid proof of service. The notice may also be served by the
26 State Engineer, or by any person, appointed by the State Engineer,
27 qualified and competent to serve a summons in civil actions. Return
28 thereof must be made in the same manner as in civil actions in the
29 district courts of this state.

30 2. The State Engineer may adjourn hearings ~~[from time to~~
31 ~~time]~~ upon reasonable notice to all parties interested. ~~[Depositions~~
32 ~~may be taken by any person authorized to administer oaths and~~
33 ~~designated by the State Engineer or the parties in interest, and oral~~
34 ~~testimony may be introduced in all hearings.~~

35 ~~—3. Witnesses are entitled to receive fees as in civil cases, to be~~
36 ~~paid by the party calling those witnesses.~~

37 ~~—4.]~~ 3. The evidence in the proceedings must be confined to the
38 subjects enumerated in the objections and the preliminary order of
39 determination. *Oral testimony may be introduced in all hearings.*

40 4. All testimony taken at the hearings must be reported and
41 transcribed in its entirety ~~[]~~ *by a certified court reporter. The*
42 *original and one copy of the transcript of the proceedings must be*
43 *filed with the State Engineer.*

44 5. *The claimants objecting to the preliminary order of*
45 *determination shall pay, in equal portions, the fees for the*



1 *appearance and travel expenses of the court reporter and for*
2 *transcribing the portion of the hearing consisting of the comments*
3 *of the State Engineer. Each such claimant shall pay a pro rata*
4 *portion of the fees for the remaining portion of the hearing based*
5 *on the percentage of the remaining portion of the hearing*
6 *consisting of the case made by that claimant.*

7 **Sec. 21.** NRS 533.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 533.160 1. As soon as practicable after ~~[the]~~ a hearing ~~[of]~~
9 *on* objections to the preliminary order of determination, the State
10 Engineer shall make and cause to be entered of record in the Office
11 of the State Engineer an order of determination ~~[,]~~ defining the
12 ~~[several]~~ rights to the waters of the ~~[stream or stream system.]~~
13 *source of surface water or groundwater.* The order of
14 determination, when filed with the clerk of the district court as
15 provided in NRS 533.165, has the legal effect of a complaint in a
16 civil action.

17 2. The order of determination must be certified by the State
18 Engineer ~~. [, who shall have printed as many copies of the order of~~
19 ~~determination as required. A]~~ *Except as otherwise provided in*
20 *subsection 3, a* copy of the order of determination must be sent by
21 registered or certified mail or delivered in person to each person
22 who has filed *a* proof of ~~[claim]~~ *appropriation* and to each person
23 who has become interested through intervention or through filing of
24 objections under the provisions of NRS 533.130 or 533.145.

25 3. *In lieu of sending or delivering a copy of the order of*
26 *determination pursuant to subsection 2, the State Engineer may:*

27 (a) *Make available a copy of the order of determination on the*
28 *Internet website of the State Engineer; and*

29 (b) *Send or deliver, by registered or certified mail or by*
30 *personal service, to each person who has filed a proof of*
31 *appropriation and to each person who has become interested*
32 *through intervention or through the filing of objections notice that*
33 *the order of determination is available online on the Internet*
34 *website of the State Engineer.*

35 **Sec. 22.** NRS 533.165 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 533.165 1. As soon as practicable thereafter, a certified copy
37 of the order of determination, together with ~~[the original]~~ *copies of*
38 *the* evidence and *the* transcript of testimony filed with, or taken
39 before, the State Engineer, duly certified by the State Engineer, shall
40 be filed with the clerk of the county, as ex officio clerk of the
41 district court, in which the ~~[stream system]~~ *source of surface water*
42 *or groundwater* is situated, or, if in more than one county but all
43 within one judicial district, then with the clerk of the county wherein
44 reside the largest number of parties in interest.



1 2. If ~~[such stream system shall be]~~ *the source of surface water*
2 *or groundwater is* in two or more judicial districts, ~~[then]~~ the State
3 Engineer shall notify the district judge of each of such judicial
4 districts of his or her intent to file such order of determination,
5 whereupon, within 10 days after receipt of such notice, ~~[such]~~ *the*
6 judges shall confer and agree where the court proceedings under this
7 chapter shall be held and ~~[upon the]~~ *which* judge ~~[who]~~ shall
8 preside, and on notification thereof the State Engineer shall file the
9 order of determination, evidence and transcripts with the clerk of the
10 court so designated.

11 3. If ~~[such]~~ *the* district judges fail to notify the State Engineer
12 of their agreement, as provided in subsection 2, within 5 days after
13 the expiration of ~~[such]~~ *the* 10 days, then the State Engineer may
14 file ~~[such]~~ *the* order of determination, evidence and transcript with
15 the clerk of any county the State Engineer may elect, and the district
16 judge of ~~[such]~~ *the* county shall have jurisdiction over the
17 proceedings in relation thereto.

18 4. If the judge so selected and acting shall retire from office, or
19 be removed from office or be disqualified, for any cause, then the
20 judge of the district court having jurisdiction of the proceedings
21 shall act as the judge on the matter or shall select the judge to
22 preside in such matter.

23 5. In all instances a certified copy of the order of determination
24 shall be filed with the county clerk of each county in which ~~[such~~
25 ~~stream system,]~~ *the source of surface water or groundwater*, or any
26 part thereof, is situated.

27 6. Upon the filing of the certified copy of the order, evidence
28 and transcript with the clerk of the court in which the proceedings
29 are to be had, the State Engineer shall procure an order from the
30 court setting the time for hearing. The clerk of ~~[such]~~ *the* court shall
31 immediately furnish the State Engineer with a certified copy
32 ~~[thereof.] of the order of the court.~~ The State Engineer immediately
33 thereupon shall mail a copy of ~~[such]~~ *the* certified order of the court,
34 by registered or certified mail, addressed to each party in interest at
35 the party's last known place of residence, and shall cause the same
36 to be published at least once a week for 4 consecutive weeks in
37 ~~[some]~~ *a* newspaper of general circulation published in each county
38 in which ~~[such stream system]~~ *the source of surface water or*
39 *groundwater* or any part thereof is located. The State Engineer shall
40 file with the clerk of the court proof of ~~[such]~~ *the* service by
41 registered or certified mail and by publication. ~~[Such]~~ *The* service
42 by registered or certified mail and by publication shall be deemed
43 full and sufficient notice to all parties in interest of the date and
44 purpose of ~~[such]~~ *the* hearing.



Sec. 23. NRS 533.170 is hereby amended to read as follows:

533.170 1. At least ~~{5}~~ **20** days prior to the date set for hearing, all parties in interest who are aggrieved or dissatisfied with the order of determination of the State Engineer shall file with the clerk of the court notice of exceptions to the order of determination of the State Engineer. The notice *of exceptions* shall state briefly the exceptions taken and the ~~{prayer for}~~ relief ~~{ }~~ *requested*. A copy ~~{thereof}~~ *of the notice of exceptions* shall be served upon or transmitted *by registered or certified mail* to the State Engineer ~~{by registered or certified mail.}~~ *and to all other parties that could be affected by or have an interest in the exception. A party affected by or having an interest in the exception may file a response to the exception not later than 10 days after the date on which the copy of the notice is served upon or transmitted to the party.*

2. The order of determination by the State Engineer, ~~{and}~~ the statements or claims of claimants, ~~{and}~~ exceptions made to the order of determination *and responses to the exceptions* shall constitute the pleadings, and there shall be no other pleadings in the ~~{cause.}~~ *case.*

3. If no exceptions shall have been filed with the clerk of the court as provided in subsection 1, then on the day set for hearing the court may take further testimony if deemed proper, and shall then enter its findings of fact and judgment and decree.

4. On the day set for hearing, all parties in interest who have filed notices of exceptions ~~{ }~~ *or responses* as provided in subsection 1 ~~{ }~~ shall appear in person or by counsel, and the court shall hear the same or set the time for hearing, until ~~{such}~~ *the* exceptions are disposed of.

5. All proceedings thereunder, including the taking of testimony, shall be as nearly as may be in accordance with the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure; but the provisions of the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure and NRS 18.110 shall not apply respecting the service of proposed findings of fact and decree or service and filing of a cost bill, and service shall be made in the following manner. ~~{All claimants}~~ *A claimant* who ~~{have}~~ *has* filed ~~{exceptions}~~ *an exception* or ~~{objections to the final order of determination}~~ *response as provided in subsection 1* shall be served with a copy of the proposed findings of fact and decree by serving the attorney who appeared for ~~{such claimants}~~ *the claimant* in the proceedings ~~{ }~~ *, or by personally serving the claimant if no attorney appeared for the claimant in the proceedings.* All claimants or water users who have not filed exceptions or ~~{objections}~~ *responses* to the final order of determination shall be served with a copy of the proposed findings of fact and decree by serving a copy thereof on the Attorney General. ~~{Such service.}~~



1 *Service*, in each instance, shall be made at least 30 days before
2 the findings of fact and decree shall be signed by the court, and the
3 court shall not sign any findings of fact therein prior to the
4 expiration of such 30 days. The cost bill shall be prepared and filed
5 with the clerk of the court wherein the proceedings are pending, and
6 it shall not be necessary to serve any of the exceptors, claimants or
7 appropriators or their attorneys with a copy of the cost bill.

8 **Sec. 24.** NRS 533.180 is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 533.180 The court may, if necessary, refer the case or any part
10 thereof for ~~[such]~~ further evidence to be taken by the State Engineer
11 as it may direct, and may require a further determination by the
12 State Engineer, subject to the court's instructions.

13 **Sec. 25.** NRS 533.185 is hereby amended to read as follows:

14 533.185 After the hearing the court shall enter a decree
15 affirming or modifying the order *of determination* of the State
16 Engineer. Within 30 days after the entry of final judgment by the
17 district court, or if an appeal is taken, within 30 days after the entry
18 of the final judgment by the appellate court or within 30 days after
19 the entry of the final judgment after remand, the clerk of the court
20 issuing the final judgment shall:

21 1. Deliver to the State Engineer a certified copy of the final
22 judgment; and

23 2. Cause a certified copy of the final judgment to be filed in the
24 office of the county recorder in each county in which the water
25 adjudicated is applied to beneficial use and in each county in which
26 the water adjudicated is diverted from its natural source.

27 **Sec. 26.** NRS 533.190 is hereby amended to read as follows:

28 533.190 1. At any time in the course of the hearings, the
29 court may, in its discretion, by order assess and adjudge against any
30 party such costs as it deems just and equitable or may so assess the
31 costs in proportion to the amount of water right standing allotted at
32 that time, or the court may assess and adjudge such costs and
33 expenses in its final judgment upon the signing, entry and filing of
34 its formal findings of fact, conclusions of law and decree
35 adjudicating the water rights against any party as it deems just and
36 equitable, or may so assess the costs in proportion to the amount of
37 water right allotted and decreed in the final judgment.

38 2. After the making, entry and filing by the court of the first
39 findings of fact, conclusions of law and decree made, entered and
40 filed by the court in any ~~[such]~~ water adjudication as distinguished
41 from the first proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law and
42 decree, the court shall assess all costs and expenses against the loser
43 or losers, in any and all subsequent proceedings in any such water
44 adjudication.



1 3. If costs are assessed or allowed as provided for in this
2 section and in NRS 533.170 and allotted, the State Engineer, within
3 60 days after such filing and entry, as above described, shall certify
4 to the boards of county commissioners of the respective counties
5 wherein the ~~stream-system~~ *source of surface water or*
6 *groundwater* is situate either the amount of acreage set forth in the
7 order of determination to which water has been allotted, or the
8 respective water rights against which such costs have been assessed
9 by the court, and the charges against each water user in accordance
10 with the court's judgment and allocation of costs. Upon receipt of
11 the certificate from the State Engineer by the board of county
12 commissioners, the board of county commissioners shall certify the
13 respective charges contained therein to the county assessor of the
14 county in which the land or property served is situated. The county
15 assessor shall enter the amount of the charge on the assessment roll
16 against the claimant's property or acreage served.

17 4. The proper officer of the county shall collect the assessment
18 as other assessments are levied and collected, and the assessment is
19 a lien upon the property so served and must be collected in the same
20 manner as other assessments are collected, but such costs must be
21 collected in equal installments over 2 fiscal years.

22 5. When the assessments are collected, the person collecting
23 the assessments shall transmit the money collected to the State
24 Treasurer at the time that person transmits other assessments
25 collected by him or her as provided by law, and the State Treasurer
26 shall deposit the money in the Adjudication Emergency Account
27 provided for in NRS 532.200, out of which costs and expenses must
28 be paid in the manner provided by law.

29 **Sec. 27.** NRS 533.195 is hereby amended to read as follows:

30 533.195 1. Whenever a judge before whom a proceeding for
31 the adjudication of a ~~stream-system~~ *source of surface water or*
32 *groundwater* is pending and not yet completed shall cease to be
33 such judge from any cause whatsoever, his or her successor, to
34 whom such proceeding may be assigned or a part of whose duty it
35 becomes to preside in such proceeding, may do all things in and
36 about such adjudication that may be necessary and proper, and may
37 hear and decide all matters in connection therewith or relating
38 thereto and make all orders, decisions, findings of fact, conclusions
39 of law, judgments, decrees, and do all things necessary to complete
40 the adjudication of ~~such stream-system~~ *the source of surface*
41 *water or groundwater* to the full extent and the same as though he
42 or she had been the presiding judge in such proceeding from the
43 commencement thereof.



1 2. NRS 3.180 shall not apply to ~~such stream system~~
2 ~~adjudication~~ proceedings ~~for the adjudication of a source of~~
3 ~~surface water or groundwater.~~

4 **Sec. 28.** NRS 533.200 is hereby amended to read as follows:

5 533.200 Appeals from ~~such~~ *the* decree may be taken to
6 appellate court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to the rules fixed
7 by the Supreme Court pursuant to Section 4 of Article 6 of the
8 Nevada Constitution by the State Engineer or any party in interest in
9 the same manner and with the same effect as in civil cases, except as
10 to the following matters. Notice of appeal shall be served upon the
11 attorneys of record for claimants who have filed exceptions ~~or~~
12 ~~objections~~ to the final order of determination of the State Engineer
13 as provided in NRS 533.170 ~~and all~~ *and upon all claimants who*
14 *have filed exceptions but for whom there is no attorney of record.*
15 *All* claimants or water users who have not filed exceptions ~~or~~
16 ~~objections~~ to the final order of determination or appeared in the
17 ~~cause~~ *case* by an attorney shall be served with a copy of notice of
18 appeal by the service of a copy thereof on the Attorney General as
19 their process agent.

20 **Sec. 29.** NRS 533.205 is hereby amended to read as follows:

21 533.205 Notice of intention to move for a new trial shall be
22 served upon the attorneys of record for claimants who have filed
23 exceptions ~~or objections~~ to the final order of determination of the
24 State Engineer as provided in NRS 533.170 ~~and all~~ *and upon all*
25 *claimants who have filed exceptions but for whom there is no*
26 *attorney of record. All* claimants or water users who have not filed
27 exceptions ~~or objections~~ to the final order of determination or
28 appeared in the ~~cause~~ *case* by an attorney shall be served with a
29 copy of notice of intention to move for a new trial by the service of
30 a copy thereof on the Attorney General as their process agent.

31 **Sec. 30.** NRS 533.210 is hereby amended to read as follows:

32 533.210 1. The decree entered by the court, as provided by
33 NRS 533.185, shall be final and shall be conclusive upon all persons
34 and rights lawfully embraced within the adjudication; but the State
35 Engineer or any party or adjudicated claimant upon any ~~stream or~~
36 ~~stream system~~ *source of surface water or groundwater* affected by
37 such decree may, at any time within 3 years from the entry thereof,
38 apply to the court for a modification of the decree, insofar only as
39 the decree fixed the duty of water, and upon the hearing of such
40 motion the court may modify such decree increasing or decreasing
41 the duty of water, consistent with good husbandry, and consistent
42 with the principle that actual and beneficial use shall be the measure
43 and limit of the right.

44 2. Notice of application shall be given as in civil cases.



1 **Sec. 31.** NRS 533.215 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 533.215 Whenever there are 10 or less appropriators or
3 claimants upon a ~~stream-system,~~ *source of surface water or*
4 *groundwater*, and all of such claimants or appropriators in writing
5 waive the provisions of this chapter with reference to notices and the
6 service and publication thereof, as provided in preceding sections,
7 the State Engineer may make an order of determination without the
8 giving, serving or publication of any notices required in this chapter,
9 and may file the same with the district court in the manner
10 prescribed in NRS 533.165. Whereupon, the same steps and
11 proceedings shall be taken and decree entered as if all preliminary
12 notices had been given prior to the making, entering and filing of the
13 order of determination.

14 **Sec. 32.** NRS 533.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:
15 533.220 1. From and after the filing of the order of
16 determination in the district court, the distribution of water by the
17 State Engineer or by any of the State Engineer's assistants or by the
18 water commissioners or their assistants shall, at all times, be under
19 the supervision and control of the district court. Such officers and
20 each of them shall, at all times, be deemed to be officers of the court
21 in distributing water under and pursuant to the order of
22 determination or under and pursuant to the decree of the court.

23 2. *The State Engineer may require, when such rotation can*
24 *be made without an adverse effect to the lands enjoying an earlier*
25 *priority:*

26 (a) *Water users owning lands to which water is appurtenant to*
27 *rotate in the use of the supply of water to which they are*
28 *collectively entitled; or*

29 (b) *A single water user, having lands to which water rights of a*
30 *different priority are attached, to rotate in the use of the supply of*
31 *water.*

32 3. Upon the neglect or refusal of any claimant to the use of
33 water as provided in this chapter to carry out or abide by an order or
34 decision of the State Engineer acting as an officer of the court, the
35 State Engineer may petition the district court having jurisdiction of
36 the matter for a review of such order and cause to be issued thereon
37 an order to show cause why the order and decision should not be
38 complied with.

39 ~~3.~~ 4. The order to show cause shall be personally served on
40 *or sent by registered or certified mail to* the claimant or claimants
41 complained of, who shall appear and show cause on the day fixed in
42 the court's order. ~~so to do.~~

43 ~~4.~~ 5. The hearing on the petition and order to show cause
44 shall be informal and summary in character, with full opportunity
45 afforded each party to present his or her case.



1 ~~[5.]~~ 6. Appeals from the judgment may be taken to the
2 appellate court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to the rules fixed
3 by the Supreme Court pursuant to Section 4 of Article 6 of the
4 Nevada Constitution in like manner as appeals in other civil cases;
5 but notice of appeal must be served and filed within ~~[40]~~ 30 days
6 from the entry of judgment.

7 **Sec. 33.** NRS 533.230 is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 533.230 From and after the filing of the order of determination,
9 evidence and transcript with the county clerk, and during the time
10 the hearing ~~[of]~~ on the order is pending in the district court, the
11 division of water from the ~~[stream]~~ *source of surface water or*
12 *groundwater* involved in such determination shall be made by the
13 State Engineer in accordance with the order of determination.

14 **Sec. 34.** NRS 533.240 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 533.240 1. In any suit brought in the district court for the
16 determination of a right or rights to the use of water of any ~~[stream,]~~
17 *source of surface water or groundwater*, all persons who claim the
18 right to use the waters of ~~[such stream and the stream system]~~ *the*
19 *source of surface water or groundwater* of which it is a part shall
20 be made parties.

21 2. When the suit has been filed, the court shall direct the State
22 Engineer to furnish a complete hydrographic survey *or investigation*
23 of the ~~[stream system]~~ *source of surface water or groundwater* as
24 provided in ~~[NRS 533.100]~~ *section 6 of this act* in order to obtain
25 all physical data necessary to the determination of the rights
26 involved.

27 3. The cost of the suit, including the costs on behalf of the
28 State and of the surveys ~~[]~~ *or investigations*, shall be charged
29 against each of the private parties thereto based on a determination
30 by the court of the relative merits of the claims made by each of the
31 private parties. The court may assess and charge against any party at
32 any time during the suit an equitable amount to pay the costs of the
33 survey *or investigation* upon its approval of an itemized statement
34 therefor submitted by the State Engineer.

35 4. The court may at any time transfer the suit to the State
36 Engineer for determination as provided in this chapter.

37 **Sec. 35.** NRS 533.270 is hereby amended to read as follows:

38 533.270 1. The State Engineer ~~[shall]~~ *may* appoint, subject to
39 confirmation by any court having jurisdiction, one or more water
40 commissioners for any ~~[stream system]~~ *source of surface water or*
41 *groundwater* or water district subject to regulation and control by
42 the State Engineer. The duties and salaries of the water
43 commissioners must be fixed by the State Engineer and their
44 salaries must be paid by the State of Nevada out of the water



1 distribution accounts. The water commissioners are exempt from the
2 provisions of chapter 284 of NRS.

3 2. The State Engineer ~~{shall}~~ *may* appoint a district supervisor
4 of water commissioners and fix the district supervisor's duties. The
5 district supervisor is in the unclassified service of the State.

6 **Sec. 36.** NRS 533.275 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 533.275 1. The State Engineer may appoint an engineer, who
8 is qualified in hydrographic and water distribution experience, to
9 work in a supervisory capacity on water distribution and regulation
10 service upon all adjudicated ~~{stream-systems}~~ *sources of surface*
11 *water or groundwater* within the State.

12 2. While engaged in that work, the salary and expenses of the
13 engineer must be charged to the particular adjudicated ~~{stream~~
14 ~~system}~~ *source of surface water or groundwater* receiving the
15 service upon the basis of time occupied and expenses incurred in the
16 work, and payment must be made out of the water distribution
17 account provided for the adjudicated ~~{stream-system.}~~ *source of*
18 *surface water or groundwater*.

19 3. When the engineer is not engaged in water distribution,
20 additional work may be allotted to the engineer by the State
21 Engineer, and payment therefor must be from other money available
22 to the Office of the State Engineer.

23 **Sec. 37.** NRS 533.280 is hereby amended to read as follows:

24 533.280 1. The State Engineer shall, between the first
25 Monday of October and the first Monday of December of each year,
26 prepare a budget of the amount of money estimated to be necessary
27 to pay the expenses ~~{of the stream system or}~~ *required to administer*
28 *and regulate each decreed source of surface water or groundwater*
29 *and* each water district for the then current year.

30 2. The budget must show the following detail:

31 (a) The aggregate amount estimated to be necessary to pay the
32 expenses ~~{of the stream system or}~~ *required to administer and*
33 *regulate each decreed source of surface water or groundwater and*
34 *each* water district.

35 (b) The aggregate water rights in the ~~{stream-system}~~ *source of*
36 *surface water or groundwater* or water district as determined by the
37 State Engineer or the court.

38 (c) The unit charge necessary to provide the money required.

39 (d) The charge against each water user, which must be based
40 upon the proportion which the water right of that water user bears to
41 the aggregate water rights in the ~~{stream-system.}~~ *source of surface*
42 *water or groundwater*, but the minimum charge is \$1.

43 3. When the ~~{stream-system}~~ *source of surface water or*
44 *groundwater* lies in more than one county, a separate budget must



1 be prepared for each county showing only the claimants and charges
2 assessable within the county.

3 4. When the ~~{stream-system}~~ *source of surface water or*
4 *groundwater* irrigates more than 200,000 acres of land, the
5 assessment for water distribution expenses must not exceed ~~{30}~~ 50
6 cents per acre-foot of water decreed.

7 5. *As used in this section, "decreed source of surface water or*
8 *groundwater" means a source of surface water or groundwater for*
9 *which a final judgment affirming or modifying an order of*
10 *determination of the State Engineer has been entered.*

11 **Sec. 38.** NRS 533.290 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 533.290 1. The assessments and charges provided for in NRS
13 533.285, when collected, must be deposited with the State
14 Controller in the same manner as other special assessments, for
15 credit to the Water District Account which is hereby created in the
16 State General Fund.

17 2. All bills against the Water District Account must be certified
18 by the State Engineer or an assistant thereof and, when certified and
19 approved by the State Board of Examiners, the State Controller may
20 draw his or her warrant therefor against the Account.

21 3. An advance must not be made from a ~~{stream-system}~~
22 *source of surface water or groundwater* account that has been
23 depleted until the advance is reimbursable from the proceeds of any
24 assessments levied against the particular ~~{stream-system}~~ *source* or
25 water district for which any claims are presented.

26 4. Any money remaining in the Water District Account at the
27 end of the current year must remain in the Account and be available
28 for use in the following year.

29 5. The State Controller shall keep separate accounts of the
30 money for each ~~{stream-system}~~ *source of surface water or*
31 *groundwater* or water district received from the various counties
32 within which the ~~{stream-system}~~ *source* or water district is located,
33 and shall not draw warrants against an account until the State
34 Controller has been notified by the State Engineer that assessments
35 have been filed with the board of county commissioners, as required
36 by NRS 533.285, that will return to the State of Nevada money
37 advanced by the State out of the Water Distribution Revolving
38 Account provided for in NRS 532.210.

39 **Sec. 39.** NRS 533.295 is hereby amended to read as follows:

40 533.295 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 534.040,
41 money in the Water District Account must be used exclusively for
42 expenses incurred in the administration, operation and maintenance of
43 the particular ~~{stream-system}~~ *source of surface water or*
44 *groundwater* from which the money is budgeted and collected.



1 2. The term "expenses" referred to in NRS 533.270 to 533.290,
2 inclusive, includes salaries, hydrographic surveys, *investigations*,
3 per diem expenses, car rental, equipment, including necessary
4 automobiles, supplies and materials incidental to the proper
5 administration and distribution of water.

6 **Sec. 40.** NRS 533.300 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 533.300 1. The State Engineer ~~{shall}~~ *may* divide the State
8 into water districts, to be so constituted as to insure the best
9 protection for the water users, and the most economical water
10 supervision on the part of the State. The water districts must not be
11 created until a necessity therefor arises and must be created from
12 time to time as the priorities and claims to the ~~{streams}~~ *sources of*
13 *surface water and groundwater* of the State are determined.

14 2. Upon the creation of a water district the State Engineer may
15 appoint an advisory board of representative citizens within the
16 district to assist the State Engineer in formulating plans and projects
17 for the conservation of the water resources and the use thereof in the
18 district. The per diem and necessary travel and subsistence expenses
19 of the appointive members of the board must be paid from the
20 account provided for the district in NRS 533.290; but the total
21 annual per diem, travel and subsistence expenses of the members for
22 each district must not exceed ~~[\$800.]~~ *\$1,500*. The State Engineer
23 may call such meetings of the board as in the opinion of the State
24 Engineer may be necessary and expedient.

25 **Sec. 41.** NRS 533.305 is hereby amended to read as follows:

26 533.305 1. The State Engineer shall divide or cause to be
27 divided the waters of the ~~{natural streams or other}~~ sources of
28 ~~{supply}~~ *surface water or groundwater* in the State among the
29 several ditches , ~~{and}~~ reservoirs *and any other facilities* taking
30 water therefrom, according to the rights of each, respectively, in
31 whole or in part, and shall ~~{shut}~~ *close* or fasten, or cause to be
32 ~~{shut}~~ *closed* or fastened, the headgates , ~~{or}~~ ditches, *wells or other*
33 *facilities*, and shall regulate, or cause to be regulated, the controlling
34 works of reservoirs, as may be necessary to insure a proper
35 distribution of the waters thereof.

36 2. The State Engineer shall have authority to regulate the
37 distribution of water among the various users ~~{under any ditch or~~
38 ~~reservoir,}~~ whose rights have been adjudicated, or whose rights are
39 listed with the clerk of any district court of this state pursuant to the
40 terms of this chapter, the actual cost of such regulation being paid
41 by the ~~{ditch or reservoir}~~ *user* receiving such service.

42 3. Whenever, in pursuance of his or her duties, the water
43 commissioner regulates a headgate to a ditch or the controlling
44 works of reservoirs, *wells or other facilities*, the water
45 commissioner shall attach to such headgate , ~~{or}~~ controlling works ,



1 *wells or other facilities* a written notice properly dated and signed,
2 setting forth the fact that such headgate , ~~for~~ controlling works
3 ~~has~~ *or wells or other facilities have* been properly regulated and
4 ~~is~~ *are* wholly under the water commissioner's control. Such notice
5 shall be a legal notice to all parties interested in the diversion and
6 distribution of the water . ~~of such ditch or reservoir.~~ Such water
7 commissioner shall have the right of ingress and egress across and
8 upon public, private or corporate lands at all times in the exercise of
9 his or her duties.

10 4. The ~~district attorney~~ *Attorney General* shall appear for or
11 ~~in~~ *on* behalf of the State Engineer, or the duly authorized assistants
12 of the State Engineer, in any case which may arise in the pursuance
13 of the official duties of any such officer . ~~within the jurisdiction of~~
14 ~~the district attorney.~~

15 **Sec. 42.** NRS 533.310 is hereby amended to read as follows:

16 533.310 1. On any ~~stream~~ *source of surface water or*
17 *groundwater* in this state on which the water rights have been
18 adjudicated and determined and the final decree therefor entered, as
19 between all persons who claimed the right to the use of the waters of
20 ~~such stream,~~ *the source of surface water or groundwater,* in a suit
21 brought in the district court having jurisdiction of ~~such stream~~ *the*
22 *source of surface water or groundwater* and in which suit the
23 adjudication and determination was not had in the manner provided
24 in NRS 533.090 to ~~533.265,~~ *533.320,* inclusive, *and sections 5 to*
25 *8, inclusive, of this act,* and thereafter one or more of the parties as
26 users of such adjudicated and determined rights or their successors
27 in interest desire that the State Engineer take charge of the
28 diversions and distribution of such rights and administer them in
29 conformity with the final decree of the court, they may petition the
30 district court which entered the decree requesting such
31 administration.

32 2. Upon the filing of such petition, the district court shall direct
33 that notice of the filing of the petition shall be given to each water
34 user or claimant to a water right listed in the final decree. The notice
35 shall be an order to show cause on the day fixed in the order by the
36 court, ~~which day shall not be less than 10 days nor more than 25~~
37 ~~days from and after the date of issuance thereof,~~ and ~~which~~ *the*
38 order shall direct the person or persons therein named to attend
39 before the court on that day and show cause, if any they or each of
40 them may have, why the petition should not be granted. The court
41 shall designate the form and direct the preparation of the order or
42 orders to show cause and by its order direct the manner, mode and
43 the payment of the cost of the service thereof.

44 3. For the purpose of the hearing on the petition, such petition
45 shall be deemed in the nature of a complaint. Objections of the



1 water users or claimants, or any of them, to the granting of the
2 petition shall be in writing signed by such users or claimants, or by
3 any attorneys thereof. No other pleading shall be filed. Costs shall
4 be paid as in civil cases brought in the district court, except by the
5 State Engineer or the State. The practice in civil cases shall apply
6 insofar as consistent with the summary character of the proceedings.
7 The State Engineer shall be given notice of and, in person or by
8 assistant or deputy state engineer, shall attend upon the hearing of
9 the petition.

10 4. The court, prior to the final determination of the matter,
11 may, by an order duly entered and served upon the State Engineer,
12 direct the State Engineer to make a hydrographic survey of the
13 ~~{stream system}~~ *source of surface water or groundwater* and to
14 render to the court a written report, together with such maps and
15 other necessary data as will enable the court to determine whether or
16 not administration of such water rights by the State Engineer would
17 be in the best interest of the water users.

18 5. If the district court finally determines the matter
19 affirmatively, the court shall, by its judgment duly entered and
20 served on the State Engineer, direct the State Engineer to distribute
21 such waters in strict accordance with the decree, and from and after
22 the filing of such judgment in the district court and service thereof
23 on the State Engineer the administration of the decree and the
24 distribution of the water thereunder shall be under the supervision
25 and control of the district court, and the State Engineer, the State
26 Engineer's deputies, assistants and water commissioners, when
27 engaged in the administration of the final decree and the distribution
28 of the water thereunder, shall be deemed officers of the district court
29 only and subject only to its supervision and control.

30 6. Appeals may be taken from the judgment so entered to the
31 appellate court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to the rules fixed
32 by the Supreme Court pursuant to Section 4 of Article 6 of the
33 Nevada Constitution in the same manner and within the time as
34 provided in NRS 533.450.

35 **Sec. 43.** NRS 533.315 is hereby amended to read as follows:
36 533.315 The cost of the hydrographic survey of the ~~{stream~~
37 ~~system}~~ *source of surface water or groundwater* and the
38 preparation of the reports and maps by the State Engineer necessary
39 to advise the court in proceedings under NRS 533.310 shall be paid
40 by the water users of the ~~{stream}~~ *source of surface water or*
41 *groundwater* upon approval and order of the district court of an
42 itemized statement therefor submitted by the State Engineer.

43 **Sec. 44.** NRS 533.320 is hereby amended to read as follows:
44 533.320 The estimated cost of the administration of the final
45 decree and the distribution of the waters of the ~~{stream system}~~



1 *source of surface water or groundwater* must be budgeted by the
2 State Engineer in like manner and at the time as provided in NRS
3 533.280. The budget must be first submitted to the district court for
4 approval. Upon approval thereof by the district court the budget
5 must be submitted by the district court to the board of county
6 commissioners of the proper county and thereupon all of the
7 provisions of NRS 533.280 to 533.295, inclusive, govern with
8 respect to the assessment and collection of the costs, the deposits
9 thereof in the Water District Account in the State General Fund, and
10 the payment of claims for the costs of administration of the final
11 decree and the distribution of water thereunder.

12 **Sec. 45.** NRS 533.324 is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 533.324 As used in NRS 533.325, 533.345 and 533.425,
14 “water already appropriated” includes water for whose appropriation
15 the State Engineer has issued a permit but which has not been
16 applied to the intended use before an application to change the
17 ~~{place}~~ *point* of diversion, manner of use or place of use is made.

18 **Sec. 46.** NRS 533.325 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19 533.325 Any person who wishes to appropriate any of the
20 public waters, or to change the ~~{place}~~ *point* of diversion, manner of
21 use or place of use of water already appropriated, shall, before
22 performing any work in connection with such appropriation, change
23 in ~~{place}~~ *point* of diversion or change in manner or place of use,
24 apply to the State Engineer for a permit to do so.

25 **Sec. 47.** NRS 533.335 is hereby amended to read as follows:

26 533.335 Each application for a permit to appropriate water
27 shall contain the following information:

28 1. The name and ~~{post office}~~ *mailing* address of the applicant
29 and, if the applicant is a corporation, the date and place of
30 incorporation.

31 2. The name of the source *of surface water or groundwater*
32 from which the appropriation is to be made.

33 3. The amount of water which it is desired to appropriate,
34 expressed in terms of cubic feet per second ~~{}~~ *and acre-feet*, except
35 in an application for a permit to store water, where the amount shall
36 be expressed in acre-feet.

37 4. The purpose for which the application is to be made.

38 5. A substantially accurate description of the location of the
39 place at which the water is to be diverted from its source and, if any
40 of such water is to be returned to the source, a description of the
41 location of the place of return.

42 6. A description of the proposed works.

43 7. The estimated cost of such works.



1 8. The estimated time required to construct the works, and the
2 estimated time required to complete the application of the water to
3 beneficial use.

4 9. The signature of the applicant or a properly authorized agent
5 thereof.

6 **Sec. 48.** NRS 533.345 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 533.345 1. Every application for a permit to change the
8 ~~place~~ *point* of diversion, manner of use or place of use of water
9 already appropriated must contain such information as may be
10 necessary to a full understanding of the proposed change, as may be
11 required by the State Engineer.

12 2. If an applicant is seeking a temporary change of ~~place~~ *the*
13 *point* of diversion, manner of use or place of use of water already
14 appropriated, the State Engineer shall approve the application if:

- 15 (a) The application is accompanied by the prescribed fees;
16 (b) The temporary change is in the public interest; and
17 (c) The temporary change does not impair the water rights held
18 by other persons.

19 3. If the State Engineer determines that the temporary change
20 may not be in the public interest, or may impair the water rights held
21 by other persons, the State Engineer shall give notice of the
22 application as provided in NRS 533.360 and hold a hearing and
23 render a decision as provided in this chapter.

24 4. A temporary change may be granted for any period not to
25 exceed 1 year.

26 **Sec. 49.** NRS 533.360 is hereby amended to read as follows:

27 533.360 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4,
28 NRS 533.345 and subsection 2 of NRS 533.370, when an
29 application is filed in compliance with this chapter, the State
30 Engineer shall, within 30 days, publish or cause to be published
31 once a week for 4 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general
32 circulation and printed and published in the county where the water
33 is sought to be appropriated, a notice of the application which sets
34 forth:

- 35 (a) That the application has been filed.
36 (b) The date of the filing.
37 (c) The name and address of the applicant.
38 (d) The name of the source *of surface water or groundwater*
39 from which the appropriation is to be made.
40 (e) The location of the ~~place~~ *point* of diversion, described by
41 legal subdivision or metes and bounds and by a physical description
42 of that ~~place~~ *point* of diversion.
43 (f) The purpose for which the water is to be appropriated.

44 ↪ The publisher shall add thereto the date of the first publication
45 and the date of the last publication.



1 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, proof of
2 publication must be filed within 30 days after the final day of
3 publication. The State Engineer shall pay for the publication from
4 the application fee. If the application is cancelled for any reason
5 before publication, the State Engineer shall return to the applicant
6 that portion of the application fee collected for publication.

7 3. If the application is for a proposed well:

8 (a) For municipal, quasi-municipal or industrial use; and

9 (b) Whose reasonably expected rate of diversion is one-half
10 cubic foot per second or more,

11 ↪ the applicant shall mail a copy of the notice of application to each
12 owner of real property containing a domestic well that is within
13 2,500 feet of the proposed well, to the owner's address as shown in
14 the latest records of the county assessor. If there are not more than
15 six such wells, notices must be sent to each owner by certified mail,
16 return receipt requested. If there are more than six such wells, at
17 least six notices must be sent to owners by certified mail, return
18 receipt requested. The return receipts from these notices must be
19 filed with the State Engineer before the State Engineer may consider
20 the application.

21 4. The provisions of this section do not apply to an
22 environmental permit or a temporary permit issued pursuant to NRS
23 533.436 or 533.504.

24 **Sec. 50.** NRS 533.363 is hereby amended to read as follows:

25 533.363 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, if
26 water for which a permit is requested is to be used in a county other
27 than that county in which it is to be appropriated, or is to be diverted
28 from or used in a different county than that in which it is currently
29 being diverted or used, then the State Engineer shall give notice of
30 the receipt of the request for the permit to:

31 (a) The board of county commissioners of the county in which
32 the water for which the permit is requested will be appropriated or is
33 currently being diverted or used; and

34 (b) The board of county commissioners of the county in which
35 the water will be diverted or used.

36 2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply:

37 (a) To an environmental permit or a temporary permit issued
38 pursuant to NRS 533.436 or 533.504.

39 (b) If:

40 (1) The water is to be appropriated and used; or

41 (2) Both the current and requested ~~place~~ **point** of diversion
42 or use of the water are,

43 ↪ within a single, contiguous parcel of real property.

44 3. A person who requests a permit to which the provisions of
45 subsection 1 apply shall submit to each appropriate board of county



1 commissioners a copy of the application and any information
2 relevant to the request.

3 4. Each board of county commissioners which is notified of a
4 request for a permit pursuant to this section shall consider the
5 request at the next regular or special meeting of the board held not
6 earlier than 3 weeks after the notice is received. The board shall
7 provide public notice of the meeting for 3 consecutive weeks in a
8 newspaper of general circulation in its county. The notice must state
9 the time, place and purpose of the meeting. At the conclusion of the
10 meeting the board may recommend a course of action to the State
11 Engineer, but the recommendation is not binding on the State
12 Engineer.

13 **Sec. 51.** NRS 533.364 is hereby amended to read as follows:

14 533.364 1. In addition to the requirements of NRS 533.370,
15 before approving an application for an interbasin transfer of more
16 than ~~[250-acre-feet-of-groundwater]~~ *25 percent of the perennial*
17 *yield* from a basin which the State Engineer has not previously
18 inventoried or for which the State Engineer has not conducted, or
19 caused to be conducted, a study pursuant to NRS 532.165 or
20 533.368, the State Engineer or a person designated by the State
21 Engineer shall conduct an inventory of the basin from which the
22 water is to be exported. The inventory must include:

23 (a) The total amount of surface water and groundwater
24 appropriated in accordance with a decreed, certified or permitted
25 right;

26 (b) An estimate of the amount and location of all surface water
27 and groundwater that is available for appropriation in the basin; and

28 (c) The name of each owner of record set forth in the records of
29 the Office of the State Engineer for each decreed, certified or
30 permitted right in the basin.

31 2. The provisions of this section do not:

32 (a) Require the State Engineer to initiate or complete a
33 determination of the surface water or groundwater rights pursuant to
34 NRS 533.090 to 533.320, inclusive, *and sections 5 to 8, inclusive,*
35 *of this act*, or to otherwise quantify any vested claims of water
36 rights in the basin before approving an application for an interbasin
37 transfer of groundwater from the basin; or

38 (b) Prohibit the State Engineer from considering information
39 received from or work completed by another person to include in the
40 inventory, if the inventory is otherwise conducted in accordance
41 with the provisions of subsection 1.

42 3. The State Engineer shall charge the applicant a fee to cover
43 the cost of the inventory. The amount of the fee must not exceed the
44 cost to the State Engineer of conducting the inventory.



1 4. The State Engineer shall complete any inventory conducted
2 pursuant to subsection 1 within 1 year after commencing the
3 inventory.

4 **Sec. 52.** NRS 533.365 is hereby amended to read as follows:

5 533.365 1. Any person interested may, within 30 days after
6 the date of last publication of the notice of application, file with the
7 State Engineer a written protest against the granting of the
8 application, setting forth with reasonable certainty the grounds of
9 such protest, which, except as otherwise provided in subsection 2,
10 must be verified by the affidavit of the protestant, or an agent or
11 attorney thereof.

12 2. If the application is for a permit to change the ~~place~~ *point*
13 of diversion, manner of use or place of use of water already
14 appropriated within the same basin, a protest filed against the
15 granting of such an application by a government, governmental
16 agency or political subdivision of a government must be verified by
17 the affidavit of:

18 (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), the director,
19 administrator, chief, head or other person in charge of the
20 government, governmental agency or political subdivision; or

21 (b) If the governmental agency or political subdivision is a
22 division or other part of a department, the director or other person in
23 charge of that department in this State, including, without limitation:

24 (1) The Regional Forester for the Intermountain Region, if
25 the protest is filed by the United States Forest Service;

26 (2) The State Director of the Nevada State Office of the
27 Bureau of Land Management, if the protest is filed by the Bureau of
28 Land Management;

29 (3) The Regional Director of the Pacific Southwest Region,
30 if the protest is filed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

31 (4) The Regional Director of the Pacific West Region, if the
32 protest is filed by the National Park Service;

33 (5) The Director of the State Department of Conservation
34 and Natural Resources, if the protest is filed by any division of that
35 Department; or

36 (6) The chair of the board of county commissioners, if the
37 protest is filed by a county.

38 3. On receipt of a protest that complies with the requirements
39 of subsection 1 or 2, the State Engineer shall advise the applicant
40 whose application has been protested of the fact that the protest has
41 been filed with the State Engineer, which advice must be sent by
42 certified mail.

43 4. The State Engineer shall consider the protest, and may, in
44 his or her discretion, hold hearings and require the filing of such
45 evidence as the State Engineer may deem necessary to a full



1 understanding of the rights involved. The State Engineer shall give
2 notice of the hearing by *registered or* certified mail to both the
3 applicant and the protestant. The notice must state the time and
4 place at which the hearing is to be held and must be mailed at least
5 15 days before the date set for the hearing.

6 5. Each applicant and each protestant shall, in accordance with
7 a schedule established by the State Engineer, provide to the State
8 Engineer and to each protestant and each applicant information
9 required by the State Engineer relating to the application or protest.

10 6. If the State Engineer holds a hearing pursuant to subsection
11 4, the State Engineer shall render a decision on each application not
12 later than 240 days after the later of:

13 (a) The date all transcripts of the hearing become available to
14 the State Engineer; or

15 (b) The date specified by the State Engineer for the filing of any
16 additional information, evidence, studies or compilations requested
17 by the State Engineer. The State Engineer may, for good cause
18 shown, extend any applicable period.

19 7. The State Engineer shall adopt rules of practice regarding
20 the conduct of a hearing held pursuant to subsection 4. The rules of
21 practice must be adopted in accordance with the provisions of NRS
22 233B.040 to 233B.120, inclusive, and codified in the Nevada
23 Administrative Code. The technical rules of evidence do not apply
24 at such a hearing.

25 **Sec. 53.** NRS 533.3703 is hereby amended to read as follows:

26 533.3703 1. The State Engineer may consider the
27 consumptive use of a water right and the consumptive use of a
28 proposed beneficial use of water in determining whether a proposed
29 change in the ~~place~~ *point* of diversion, manner of use or place of
30 use complies with the provisions of subsection 2 of NRS 533.370.

31 2. The provisions of this section:

32 (a) Must not be applied by the State Engineer in a manner that is
33 inconsistent with any applicable federal or state decree concerning
34 consumptive use.

35 (b) Do not apply to any decreed, certified or permitted right to
36 appropriate water which originates in the Virgin River or the Muddy
37 River.

38 **Sec. 54.** NRS 533.380 is hereby amended to read as follows:

39 533.380 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection ~~5~~ *7*,
40 in an endorsement of approval upon any application, the State
41 Engineer shall:

42 (a) Set a time before which the construction of the work must be
43 completed, which must be within 5 years after the date of approval.

44 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, set a time
45 before which the complete application of water to a beneficial use



1 must be made, which must not exceed 10 years after the date of the
2 approval. The time set under this paragraph respecting an
3 application for a permit to apply water to a municipal or quasi-
4 municipal use on any land:

5 (1) For which a final subdivision map has been recorded
6 pursuant to chapter 278 of NRS;

7 (2) For which a plan for the development of a project has
8 been approved by the local government pursuant to NRS 278.010 to
9 278.460, inclusive; or

10 (3) On any land for which a plan for the development of a
11 planned unit development has been recorded pursuant to chapter
12 278A of NRS,

13 ↪ must not be less than 5 years.

14 2. The State Engineer may limit the applicant to a smaller
15 quantity of water, to a shorter time for the completion of work, and,
16 except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of subsection 1, to a
17 shorter time for the perfecting of the application than named in the
18 application.

19 3. Except as otherwise provided in ~~subsection 4~~ *subsections 5*
20 *and 6* and NRS 533.395 and 533.4377, the State Engineer may, for
21 good cause shown, grant ~~any number of extensions~~ *an extension*
22 of time within which construction work must be completed, or water
23 must be applied to a beneficial use under any permit ~~therefor~~
24 issued by the State Engineer. ~~[, but a]~~ *A single extension of time for*
25 *a municipal or quasi-municipal use for a public water system, as*
26 *defined in NRS 445A.235, must not exceed 5 years, and any other*
27 *single extension of time must not exceed 1 year* ~~[-]~~ *from the*
28 *required date for filing proofs as established in the permit or in a*
29 *previous extension granted by the State Engineer.* An application
30 for the extension must in all cases be:

31 (a) Made within 30 days following notice by registered or
32 certified mail that proof of the work is due as provided for in NRS
33 533.390 and 533.410; and

34 (b) Accompanied by proof and evidence of the *good faith and*
35 *reasonable diligence* with which the applicant is pursuing the
36 perfection of the application.

37 ~~{↪ The}~~

38 4. *The failure to provide the proof and evidence required by*
39 *subsection 3 is prima facie evidence that the holder is not*
40 *proceeding in good faith and with reasonable diligence to perfect*
41 *the application.*

42 5. *Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the* State
43 Engineer shall not grant an extension of time unless the State
44 Engineer determines from the proof and evidence so submitted that
45 the applicant is proceeding in good faith and with reasonable



1 diligence to perfect the application. ~~[The failure to provide the proof~~
2 ~~and evidence required pursuant to this subsection is prima facie~~
3 ~~evidence that the holder is not proceeding in good faith and with~~
4 ~~reasonable diligence to perfect the application.~~

5 ~~—4.]~~ *If the water right in question lies within a basin that is an*
6 *area of active management or has been designated as a critical*
7 *management area by the State Engineer, the State Engineer may*
8 *approve or deny an extension of time to effectuate the successful*
9 *administration of the area of active management or critical*
10 *management area. As used in this subsection, “area of active*
11 *management” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 534.011.*

12 **6.** Except as otherwise provided in subsection ~~[5]~~ 7 and NRS
13 533.395, whenever the holder of a permit issued for any municipal
14 or quasi-municipal use of water on any land referred to in paragraph
15 (b) of subsection 1, or for any use which may be served by a county,
16 city, town, public water district or public water company, requests
17 an extension of time to apply the water to a beneficial use, the State
18 Engineer shall, in determining whether to grant or deny the
19 extension, consider, among other factors:

20 (a) Whether the holder has shown good cause for not having
21 made a complete application of the water to a beneficial use;

22 (b) The number of parcels and commercial or residential units
23 which are contained in or planned for the land being developed or
24 the area being served by the county, city, town, public water district
25 or public water company;

26 (c) Any economic conditions which affect the ability of the
27 holder to make a complete application of the water to a beneficial
28 use;

29 (d) Any delays in the development of the land or the area being
30 served by the county, city, town, public water district or public
31 water company which were caused by unanticipated natural
32 conditions; and

33 (e) The period contemplated in the:

34 (1) Plan for the development of a project approved by the
35 local government pursuant to NRS 278.010 to 278.460, inclusive; or

36 (2) Plan for the development of a planned unit development
37 recorded pursuant to chapter 278A of NRS,

38 ↪ if any, for completing the development of the land.

39 ~~[5-] 7.~~ The provisions of subsections 1 and ~~[4] 6~~ do not apply
40 to an environmental permit or a temporary permit issued pursuant to
41 NRS 533.436 or 533.504.

42 ~~[6-] 8.~~ For the purposes of this section, the measure of
43 applicable diligence is the steady application of effort to perfect the
44 application in a reasonably expedient and efficient manner under all
45 the facts and circumstances. When a project or integrated system is



1 composed of several features, work on one feature of the project or
2 system may be considered in finding that reasonable diligence has
3 been shown in the development of water rights for all features of the
4 entire project or system.

5 **Sec. 55.** NRS 533.382 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 533.382 Except as otherwise provided in NRS 533.387, every
7 conveyance of an application or permit to appropriate any of the
8 public waters, a certificate of appropriation, an adjudicated or
9 unadjudicated water right or an application or permit to change the
10 **[place] point** of diversion, manner of use or place of use of water
11 must be:

12 1. Made by deed;

13 2. Acknowledged in the manner provided in NRS 240.161 to
14 240.168, inclusive; and

15 3. Recorded in the office of the county recorder of each county
16 in which the water is applied to beneficial use and in each county in
17 which the water is diverted from its natural source.

18 **Sec. 56.** NRS 533.383 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19 533.383 1. The recording of a deed pursuant to NRS 533.382
20 shall be deemed to impart notice of the contents of the deed to all
21 persons at the time the deed is recorded, and a subsequent purchaser
22 or mortgagee shall be deemed to purchase and take with notice of
23 the contents of the deed.

24 2. The deed of:

25 (a) An application or permit to appropriate any of the public
26 waters;

27 (b) A certificate of appropriation;

28 (c) An adjudicated or unadjudicated water right; or

29 (d) An application or permit to change the **[place] point** of
30 diversion, manner of use or place of use of water,

31 ➤ that has not been recorded as required by NRS 533.382 shall be
32 deemed void as against a subsequent purchaser who in good faith
33 and for valuable consideration purchases the same application, right,
34 certificate or permit, or any portion thereof, if the subsequent
35 purchaser first records the deed in compliance with NRS 533.382.

36 **Sec. 57.** NRS 533.384 is hereby amended to read as follows:

37 533.384 1. A person to whom is conveyed an application or
38 permit to appropriate any of the public waters, a certificate of
39 appropriation, an adjudicated or unadjudicated water right or an
40 application or permit to change the **[place] point** of diversion,
41 manner of use or place of use of water, shall:

42 (a) File with the State Engineer, together with the prescribed fee,
43 a report of conveyance which includes the following information on
44 a form to be provided by the State Engineer:

45 (1) An abstract of title;



1 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a copy of
2 any deed, written agreement or other document pertaining to the
3 conveyance; and

4 (3) Any other information requested by the State Engineer.

5 (b) If the place of use of the water is wholly or partly within the
6 boundaries of an irrigation district, file with the irrigation district:

7 (1) An abstract of title; and

8 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a copy of
9 any deed, written agreement or other document pertaining to the
10 conveyance.

11 2. The governing body of any local government of this State
12 and any public utility which is a purveyor of water within the State
13 may submit an affidavit or other document upon oath in lieu of the
14 documents otherwise required by subparagraph (2) of paragraphs (a)
15 and (b) of subsection 1, if the State Engineer finds that:

16 (a) The affidavit clearly indicates that rights for diverting or
17 appropriating water described in the affidavit are owned or
18 controlled by the governing body or utility; and

19 (b) The affiant is qualified to sign the affidavit.

20 **Sec. 58.** NRS 533.386 is hereby amended to read as follows:

21 533.386 1. The State Engineer shall confirm that the report of
22 conveyance required by paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of NRS
23 533.384 includes all material required by that subsection and that:

24 (a) The report is accompanied by the prescribed fee;

25 (b) No conflict exists in the chain of title that can be determined
26 by the State Engineer from the conveyance documents or other
27 information on file in the Office of the State Engineer; and

28 (c) The State Engineer is able to determine the rate of diversion
29 and the amount of water conveyed in acre-feet or million gallons
30 from the conveyance documents or other information on file in the
31 Office of the State Engineer.

32 2. If the State Engineer confirms a report of conveyance
33 pursuant to subsection 1, the State Engineer shall in a timely manner
34 provide a notice of the confirmation to the person who submitted the
35 report of conveyance. The notice must include, without limitation:

36 (a) A statement indicating that neither the confirmation of the
37 report of conveyance nor the report of conveyance, if the report sets
38 forth the amount of water conveyed, guarantees that:

39 (1) The water right is in good standing with the Office of the
40 State Engineer; or

41 (2) The amount of water referenced in the notice or in the
42 report of conveyance is the actual amount of water that a person is
43 entitled to use upon conveyance of the application or permit to
44 appropriate any of the public waters, the certificate of appropriation,
45 the adjudicated or unadjudicated water right, or the application or



1 permit to change the [place] point of diversion, manner of use or
2 place of use of water.

3 (b) A statement that the confirmation of the report of
4 conveyance is not a determination of ownership and that only a
5 court of competent jurisdiction may adjudicate conflicting claims to
6 ownership of a water right.

7 3. If the State Engineer determines that the report of
8 conveyance is deficient, the State Engineer shall reject the report of
9 conveyance and return it to the person who submitted it, together
10 with:

11 (a) An explanation of the deficiency; and

12 (b) A notice stating that the State Engineer will not confirm a
13 report of conveyance that has been rejected unless the report is
14 resubmitted with the material required to cure the deficiency. The
15 notice must also include a statement of the provisions of
16 subsection 5.

17 4. If, from the conveyance documents or other information in
18 the Office of the State Engineer, it appears to the State Engineer that
19 there is a conflict in the chain of title, the State Engineer shall reject
20 the report of conveyance and return it to the person who submitted
21 it, together with:

22 (a) An explanation that a conflict appears to exist in the chain of
23 title; and

24 (b) A notice stating that the State Engineer will not take further
25 action with respect to the report of conveyance until a court of
26 competent jurisdiction has determined the conflicting claims to
27 ownership of the water right and the determination has become final
28 or until a final resolution of the conflicting claims has otherwise
29 occurred. The notice must also include a statement of the provisions
30 of subsection 5.

31 5. The State Engineer shall not consider or treat the person to
32 whom:

33 (a) An application or permit to appropriate any of the public
34 waters;

35 (b) A certificate of appropriation;

36 (c) An adjudicated or unadjudicated water right; or

37 (d) An application or permit to change the [place] point of
38 diversion, manner of use or place of use of water,

39 ↪ is conveyed as the owner or holder of the application, right,
40 certificate or permit for the purposes of this chapter, including,
41 without limitation, all advisements and other notices required of the
42 State Engineer and the granting of permits to change the [place]
43 point of diversion, manner of use or place of use of water, until a
44 report of the conveyance is confirmed pursuant to subsection 1.



1 6. If the State Engineer is notified that a court of competent
2 jurisdiction has entered a judgment confirming ownership of a water
3 right or resolving a conflict in a chain of title, and that the judgment
4 has become final, the State Engineer shall take such administrative
5 action as is appropriate or necessary to conform the records of the
6 Office of the State Engineer with the judgment of the court,
7 including, without limitation, amending or withdrawing a permit or
8 certificate that was previously approved by the State Engineer.

9 **Sec. 59.** NRS 533.387 is hereby amended to read as follows:

10 533.387 The provisions of NRS 533.382 to 533.386, inclusive,
11 do not apply to the conveyance of shares of stock in a ditch
12 company which owns:

- 13 1. An application or permit to appropriate any of the public
14 waters;
- 15 2. A certificate of appropriation;
- 16 3. An adjudicated or unadjudicated water right; or
- 17 4. An application or permit to change the ~~{place}~~ *point* of
18 diversion, manner of use or place of use of water.

19 **Sec. 60.** NRS 533.395 is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 533.395 1. If, at any time in the judgment of the State
21 Engineer, the holder of any permit to appropriate the public water is
22 not proceeding in good faith and with reasonable diligence to
23 perfect the appropriation, the State Engineer shall require the
24 submission of such proof and evidence as may be necessary to show
25 a compliance with the law. If, in the judgment of the State Engineer,
26 the holder of a permit is not proceeding in good faith and with
27 reasonable diligence to perfect the appropriation, the State Engineer
28 shall cancel the permit ~~{,}~~ and ~~{advise}~~ *send notice to the holder of*
29 *the permit advising* the holder of its cancellation. The failure to
30 provide the proof and evidence required pursuant to this subsection
31 is prima facie evidence that the holder is not proceeding in good
32 faith and with reasonable diligence to perfect the appropriation.

33 2. If any permit is cancelled under the provisions of this section
34 or NRS 533.390 or 533.410, the holder of the permit may ~~{within 60~~
35 ~~days of the cancellation of the permit}~~ file a written petition with the
36 State Engineer requesting a review of the cancellation by the State
37 Engineer at a public hearing. *For a permit cancelled under the*
38 *provisions of this section, the petition must be filed within 60 days*
39 *after the date the State Engineer sends notice to the holder of the*
40 *permit advising the holder of its cancellation. For a permit*
41 *cancelled under the provisions of NRS 533.390 or 533.410, the*
42 *petition must be filed within 60 days after the date the State*
43 *Engineer cancels the permit.*

44 3. The State Engineer may, after receiving and considering
45 evidence, affirm, modify or rescind the cancellation.



1 ~~[3.]~~ 4. If the decision of the State Engineer modifies or
2 rescinds the cancellation of a permit, the effective date of the
3 appropriation under the permit is vacated and replaced by the date of
4 the filing of the written petition with the State Engineer.

5 ~~[4.]~~ 5. The cancellation of a permit may not be reviewed or be
6 the subject of any judicial proceedings unless a written petition for
7 review has been filed and the cancellation has been affirmed,
8 modified or rescinded pursuant to subsection 2.

9 ~~[5.]~~ 6. For the purposes of this section, the measure of
10 reasonable diligence is the steady application of effort to perfect the
11 appropriation in a reasonably expedient and efficient manner under
12 all the facts and circumstances. When a project or integrated system
13 is comprised of several features, work on one feature of the project
14 or system may be considered in finding that reasonable diligence
15 has been shown in the development of water rights for all features of
16 the entire project or system.

17 ~~[6.]~~ 7. The appropriation of water or the acquisition or lease of
18 appropriated water from any:

19 (a) ~~[Stream-system]~~ *Source of surface water or groundwater* as
20 provided for in this chapter; or

21 (b) Underground water as provided for in NRS 534.080,
22 ↪ by a political subdivision of this State or a public utility, as
23 defined in NRS 704.020, to serve the present or the reasonably
24 anticipated future municipal, industrial or domestic needs of its
25 customers for water, as determined in accordance with a master plan
26 adopted pursuant to chapter 278 of NRS or a plan approved by the
27 State Engineer, must be considered when reviewing an extension of
28 time.

29 **Sec. 61.** NRS 533.400 is hereby amended to read as follows:

30 533.400 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, on
31 or before the date set in the endorsement of a permit for the
32 application of water to beneficial use, or on the date set by the State
33 Engineer under a proper application for extension, ~~[therefor,]~~ any
34 person holding a permit from the State Engineer to appropriate the
35 public waters of the State of Nevada, to change the ~~[place]~~ *point*
36 of diversion or the manner or place of use, shall file with the State
37 Engineer a statement under oath, on a form prescribed by the State
38 Engineer. The statement must include:

39 (a) The name and ~~[post-office]~~ *mailing* address of the person
40 making the proof.

41 (b) The number and date of the permit for which proof is made.

42 (c) The source of the water supply.

43 (d) The name of the canal or other works by which the water is
44 conducted to the place of use.



1 (e) The name of the original person to whom the permit was
2 issued.

3 (f) The purpose for which the water is used.

4 (g) If for irrigation, the actual number of acres of land upon
5 which the water granted in the permit has been beneficially used,
6 giving the same by 40-acre legal subdivisions when possible.

7 (h) An actual measurement taken by a licensed state water right
8 surveyor or an official or employee of the Office of the State
9 Engineer of the water diverted for beneficial use.

10 (i) The capacity of the works of diversion.

11 (j) If for power, the dimensions and capacity of the flume, pipe,
12 ditch or other conduit.

13 (k) The average grade and difference in elevation between the
14 termini of any conduit.

15 (l) The number of months, naming them, in which water has
16 been beneficially used.

17 (m) The amount of water beneficially used, taken from actual
18 measurements, together with such other data as the State Engineer
19 may require to become acquainted with the amount of the
20 appropriation for which the proof is filed.

21 2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to a person
22 holding an environmental permit or a temporary permit issued
23 pursuant to NRS 533.436 or 533.504.

24 **Sec. 62.** NRS 533.425 is hereby amended to read as follows:

25 533.425 1. Except as otherwise provided in *subsection 3 and*
26 NRS 533.503, as soon as practicable after satisfactory proof has
27 been made to the State Engineer that any application to appropriate
28 water or any application for permission to change the ~~{place}~~ *point*
29 of diversion, manner or place of use of water already appropriated
30 has been perfected in accordance with the provisions of this chapter,
31 the State Engineer shall issue to the holder or holders of the permit a
32 certificate setting forth:

33 (a) The name ~~{and post office address}~~ of each holder of the
34 permit.

35 (b) The date, source, purpose and amount of appropriation.

36 (c) If for irrigation, a description of the irrigated lands by legal
37 subdivisions, when possible, to which the water is appurtenant.

38 (d) The number of the permit under which the certificate is
39 issued.

40 2. If the water is appropriated from an underground source, the
41 State Engineer shall issue with the certificate a notice of the
42 provisions governing the forfeiture and abandonment of such water
43 rights. The notice must set forth the provisions of NRS 534.090.



1 3. The State Engineer shall not issue a certificate based on a
2 revocable permit issued pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 3
3 of NRS 534.120.

4 4. The State Engineer shall cancel a permit if the holder or
5 holders of the permit do not pay the fee required by NRS 533.435
6 for issuing and recording the certificate within 30 days after the
7 State Engineer requests payment of the fee.

8 Sec. 63. NRS 533.430 is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 533.430 1. Every permit to appropriate water, and every
10 certificate of appropriation granted under any permit by the State
11 Engineer upon any ~~stream or stream system~~ source of surface
12 water or groundwater which shall have been adjudicated under the
13 provisions of NRS 533.090 to 533.235, inclusive, and sections 5 to
14 8, inclusive, of this act, shall be, and the same is hereby declared to
15 be, subject to existing rights and to the decree and modifications
16 thereof entered in such adjudication proceedings, and the same shall
17 be subject to regulation and control by the State Engineer and the
18 water commissioners in the same manner and to the same extent as
19 rights which have been adjudicated and decreed under the
20 provisions of this chapter. Every such holder of a certificate or a
21 permit shall in like manner be subject to all of the provisions of
22 NRS 533.270 to 533.305, inclusive, 533.465, 533.475, 533.480,
23 533.481, 533.482, 535.050, 536.010, 536.020 and 536.030.

24 2. Upon any ~~stream or stream system~~ source of surface water
25 or groundwater that has not been adjudicated and upon which the
26 State Engineer has heretofore granted and may hereafter grant a
27 permit or permits to appropriate water therefrom, any and all such
28 permitted rights to the use of water so granted shall be subject to
29 regulation and control by the State Engineer to the same extent and
30 in the same manner as adjudicated and permitted rights upon
31 ~~streams and stream systems~~ sources of surface water or
32 groundwater heretofore adjudicated pursuant to the provisions of
33 this chapter.

34 Sec. 64. NRS 533.435 is hereby amended to read as follows:

35 533.435 1. The State Engineer shall collect the following
36 fees:

37
38 For examining and filing an application for a
39 permit to appropriate water \$360.00

40 This fee includes the cost of publication,
41 which is \$50.

42 For reviewing a corrected ~~application~~ proof of
43 ~~application or an application or~~ map ~~or~~
44 ~~both,~~ in connection with an application for a
45 water right permit 100.00



1	For examining and acting upon plans and	
2	specifications for construction of a dam.....	\$1,200.00
3	For examining and filing an application for each	
4	permit to change the point of diversion,	
5	manner of use or place of use of an existing	
6	right.....	240.00
7	This fee includes the cost of publication,	
8	which is \$50.	
9	For examining and filing an application for a	
10	temporary permit to change the point of	
11	diversion, manner of use or place of use of an	
12	existing right.....	180.00
13	For issuing and recording each permit to	
14	appropriate water for any purpose, except for	
15	generating hydroelectric power which results	
16	in nonconsumptive use of the water or	
17	wildlife purposes.....	360.00
18	plus \$3 per acre-foot approved or fraction	
19	thereof.	
20	Except for generating hydroelectric power ,	
21	<i>watering livestock</i> or wildlife purposes, for	
22	issuing and recording each permit to change	
23	an existing water right whether temporary or	
24	permanent for any purpose.....	300.00
25	plus \$3 per acre-foot approved or fraction	
26	thereof.	
27	For issuing and recording each permit for	
28	additional rate of diversion <i>from a well</i> where	
29	no additional <i>[volume] duty</i> of water is	
30	granted.....	360.00
31	<i>plus \$3 per acre-foot, up to a maximum of</i>	
32	<i>\$ 1,000.00 .</i>	
33	For issuing and recording each permit to change	
34	the point of diversion or place of use <i>[only]</i> of	
35	an existing right whether temporary or	
36	permanent for <i>[irrigational] irrigation</i>	
37	purposes, a maximum fee of	750.00
38	For issuing and recording each permit to	
39	appropriate or change the point of diversion or	
40	place of use of an existing right whether	
41	temporary or permanent for watering	
42	livestock or wildlife purposes	240.00
43	plus \$50 for each <i>cubic</i> foot <i>per second</i> of	
44	water approved or fraction thereof.	



1	For issuing and recording each permit to	
2	appropriate or change an existing right	
3	whether temporary or permanent for water for	
4	generating hydroelectric power which results	
5	in nonconsumptive use of the water.....	\$480.00
6	plus \$50 for each second-foot cubic foot	
7	per second of water approved or	
8	fraction thereof.	
9	For issuing filing a waiver in connection with	
10	an application to drill a well.....	120.00
11	For filing and examining a notice of intent to drill	
12	a well.....	25.00
13	For filing and examining an affidavit to	
14	relinquish water rights in favor of use of water	
15	for domestic wells.....	300.00
16	For filing a secondary application under a	
17	reservoir permit.....	300.00
18	For approving and recording a secondary permit	
19	under a reservoir permit.....	540.00
20	For reviewing each tentative subdivision map.....	180.00
21	plus \$1 per lot.	
22	For reviewing and approving each final	
23	subdivision map.....	120.00
24	For storage approved under a dam permit for	
25	privately owned nonagricultural dams which	
26	store more than 50 acre-feet.....	480.00
27	plus \$1.25 per acre-foot storage capacity.	
28	This fee includes the cost of inspection	
29	and must be paid annually.	
30	For flood control detention basins.....	480.00
31	plus \$1.25 per acre-foot storage capacity.	
32	This fee includes the cost of inspection	
33	and must be paid annually.	
34	For filing proof of completion of work.....	60.00
35	For filing proof of beneficial use.....	60.00
36	For issuing and recording a certificate upon	
37	approval of the proof of beneficial use.....	350.00
38	For filing proof of resumption of a water right.....	360.00
39	For filing any protest.....	30.00
40	For filing any application for extension of time	
41	within which to file proofs, of completion or	
42	beneficial use, for each year for which the	
43	extension of time is sought.....	120.00



1	For filing any application for extension of time to	
2	prevent a forfeiture, for each year for which	
3	the extension of time is sought.....	\$120.00
4	For reviewing a cancellation of a water right	
5	pursuant to a petition for review	360.00
6	For examining and filing a report of conveyance	
7	filed pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1	
8	of NRS 533.384.....	120.00
9	plus \$20 per conveyance document.	
10	For filing any other instrument.....	10.00
11	For making a copy of any document recorded or	
12	filed in the Office of the State Engineer, for	
13	the first page.....	1.00
14	For each additional page.....	.20
15	For certifying to copies of documents, records or	
16	maps, for each certificate	6.00
17	For each copy of any full size drawing or map	6.00
18	For each color copy of any full size drawing or	
19	map (2' x 3').....	12.00
20	The minimum charge for a blueprint copy, per	
21	print	3.00
22	For colored mylar plots	10.00

23
24 2. When fees are not specified in subsection 1 for work
25 required of the Office of the State Engineer, the State Engineer shall
26 collect the actual cost of the work.

27 3. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, all fees
28 collected by the State Engineer under the provisions of this section
29 must be deposited in the State Treasury for credit to the Water
30 Distribution Revolving Account created pursuant to NRS 532.210.
31 All fees received for blueprint copies of any drawing or map must
32 be kept by the State Engineer and used only to pay the costs of
33 printing, replacement and maintenance of printing equipment. Any
34 publication fees received which are not used by the State Engineer
35 for publication expenses must be returned to the persons who paid
36 the fees. If, after exercising due diligence, the State Engineer is
37 unable to make the refunds, the State Engineer shall deposit the fees
38 in the State Treasury for credit to the Water Distribution Revolving
39 Account created pursuant to NRS 532.210.

40 **Sec. 65.** NRS 533.440 is hereby amended to read as follows:
41 533.440 1. All applications for reservoir permits shall be
42 subject to the provisions of NRS 533.324 to 533.435, inclusive, *and*
43 *section 9 of this act*, except those sections wherein proof of
44 beneficial use is required to be filed. The person or persons
45 proposing to apply to a beneficial use the water stored in any such



1 reservoir shall file an application for a permit, to be known herein as
2 the secondary permit, in compliance with the provisions of NRS
3 533.324 to 533.435, inclusive, *and section 9 of this act*, except that
4 no notice of such application shall be published.

5 2. The application shall refer to the reservoir for a supply of
6 water and shall show by documentary evidence that an agreement
7 has been entered into with the owner of the reservoir for a
8 permanent and sufficient interest in such reservoir to impound
9 enough water for the purpose set forth in the application.

10 3. Effluent discharged from the point of the final treatment
11 from within a sewage collection and treatment system shall be
12 considered water as referred to in this chapter, and shall be subject
13 to appropriation for beneficial use under the reservoir-secondary
14 permit procedure described in this section. Nothing in this section
15 shall preclude appropriation in accordance with and subject to the
16 provisions of NRS 533.324 to 533.435, inclusive ~~[]~~, *and section 9*
17 *of this act*.

18 4. When beneficial use has been completed and perfected
19 under the secondary permit, and after the holder thereof shall have
20 made proofs of the commencement and completion of his or her
21 work, and of the application of water to beneficial use, as in the case
22 of other permits, as provided in this chapter, a final certificate of
23 appropriation shall issue as other certificates are issued, except that
24 the certificate shall refer to both the works described in the
25 secondary permit and the reservoir described in the primary permit.

26 **Sec. 66.** NRS 533.455 is hereby amended to read as follows:

27 533.455 1. Whenever a decree determining and adjudicating
28 the relative rights of the claimants to the use of water of a ~~[stream or~~
29 ~~stream system]~~ *source of surface water or groundwater* has been
30 entered in the district court pursuant to the provisions of this
31 chapter, and the decree becomes final and the State Engineer has
32 brought in that court any proceeding, either civil or of a criminal
33 nature, concerning the administration of and for the enforcement of
34 the provisions of the decree, and wherein the validity of the decree
35 or any of its provisions is drawn in question by adversary parties
36 and the decision or judgment of the court is that the decree or a part
37 thereof is invalid, the State Engineer shall be deemed a party in
38 interest with the right to take an appeal from such decision or
39 judgment to the appellate court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to
40 the rules fixed by the Supreme Court pursuant to Section 4 of
41 Article 6 of the Nevada Constitution.

42 2. Such appeal may be taken in the same manner as appeals in
43 civil cases.



1 **Sec. 67.** NRS 533.460 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 533.460 ~~[The unauthorized use of water to which another~~
3 ~~person is entitled, or the willful]~~

4 **1. A person:**

5 **(a) Controlling surface water or groundwater shall not**
6 ~~willfully waste [of water to the detriment of another, shall be a~~
7 ~~misdemeanor, and the possession]~~ **the water except to prevent a**
8 **greater harm.**

9 **(b) Shall not possess** or use ~~[of]~~ such water without legal right .
10 ~~[shall be prima facie evidence of the guilt of the person using or~~
11 ~~diverting it.]~~

12 **2. A person who violates the provisions of subsection 1 is**
13 **guilty of a misdemeanor.**

14 **Sec. 68.** NRS 533.481 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 533.481 1. In addition to any other penalty provided by law,
16 the State Engineer may, after notice and opportunity for a hearing,
17 require a person who violates any provision of this chapter or any
18 permit, certificate, order or decision issued or regulation adopted by
19 the State Engineer pursuant to this chapter or NRS 532.120 to:

20 (a) Pay an administrative fine not to exceed \$10,000 per day for
21 each violation as determined by the State Engineer.

22 (b) In the case of ~~[an unauthorized]~~ **possession or use of water**
23 **without legal right** or willful waste of water in violation of NRS
24 533.460 , ~~[of]~~ an unlawful diversion of water in violation of NRS
25 533.463, or any other violation of this chapter that, as determined by
26 the State Engineer, results in an unlawful use, waste or diversion of
27 water, replace not more than 200 percent of the water used, wasted
28 or diverted.

29 2. If an administrative fine is imposed against a person
30 pursuant to subsection 1 or the person is ordered to replace any
31 water pursuant to that subsection, the State Engineer may require the
32 person to pay the costs of the proceeding, including investigative
33 costs and attorney's fees.

34 3. An order imposing an administrative fine or requiring the
35 replacement of water or the payment of costs or fees pursuant to this
36 section may be reviewed by a district court pursuant to
37 NRS 533.450.

38 **Sec. 69.** NRS 533.492 is hereby amended to read as follows:

39 533.492 ~~[(+)]~~ A subsisting right to water livestock may be
40 proven by an owner of livestock by one or more of the following
41 items of evidence for the number of livestock and date of priority:

42 ~~[(a)]~~ **1.** As to water rights on open range, whether public lands
43 or unfenced private lands or a combination of these:

44 ~~[(+)]~~ **(a)** A statement of priority of use submitted to the
45 Taylor Grazing Service, predecessor to the Bureau of Land



1 Management, to show the numbers of livestock grazed upon the
2 open range, for years from 1928 to 1934, inclusive, if accompanied
3 by evidence of changes or absence of change since the date of the
4 statement;

5 ~~[(2)]~~ (b) A license issued by the Taylor Grazing Service for
6 use upon the open range; or

7 ~~[(3)]~~ (c) A statement of priority of use, or a license, issued
8 by the United States Forest Service for the grazing of livestock
9 before 1950.

10 ~~[(b)]~~ 2. As to water rights on other privately owned land:

11 ~~[(1)]~~ (a) An affidavit concerning the number and kind of
12 livestock by a person familiar with the use made of the lands;

13 ~~[(2)]~~ (b) A record of livestock assessed to the claimant of the
14 right, or the claimant's predecessor, by a county assessor;

15 ~~[(3)]~~ (c) A count of livestock belonging to the claimant or
16 the claimant's predecessor made by a lender; or

17 ~~[(4)]~~ (d) An affidavit of a disinterested person.

18 ~~[(2) The location of a subsisting right to water livestock and its
19 extent along a stream may be shown by marking upon a topographic
20 map whose scale is not less than 1:100,000 or a map prepared by the
21 United States Geological Survey covering a quadrangle of 7 1/2
22 minutes of latitude and longitude and by further identifying the
23 location or extent by one sixteenth sections within a numbered
24 section, township and range as certified by a registered state water
25 right surveyor.]~~

26 **Sec. 70.** NRS 533.515 is hereby amended to read as follows:

27 533.515 1. No permit for the appropriation of water or
28 application to change the point of diversion, *manner of use or*
29 *place of use* under an existing water right may be denied because of
30 the fact that the point of diversion described in the application for
31 the permit, or any portion of the works in the application described
32 and to be constructed for the purpose of storing, conserving,
33 diverting or distributing the water are situated in any other state; but
34 in all such cases where the place of intended use ~~[, or the lands, or~~
35 ~~part of the lands to be irrigated by means of the water, are]~~ *is*
36 situated within this state, the permit must be issued as in other cases,
37 pursuant to the provisions of NRS 533.324 to 533.450, inclusive,
38 and chapter 534 of NRS.

39 2. The permit must not purport to authorize the doing or
40 refraining from any act or thing, in connection with the system of
41 appropriation, not properly within the scope of the jurisdiction of
42 this state and the State Engineer to grant.



1 **Sec. 71.** Chapter 534 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 72 and 73 of this act.

3 **Sec. 72.** *“Perennial yield” means the maximum amount of*
4 *groundwater available for appropriation from a hydrographic*
5 *basin on an annual basis for an indefinite period of time, as*
6 *determined by the State Engineer.*

7 **Sec. 73.** *Before a person may obtain a right to the use of*
8 *groundwater from a basin, the person must ensure that wildlife*
9 *which customarily uses spring sources in the basin which could be*
10 *impaired by any groundwater pumping in the basin will continue*
11 *to have access to those sources.*

12 **Sec. 74.** NRS 534.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 534.010 1. As used in this chapter, unless the context
14 otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 534.0105 to
15 534.0175, inclusive, *and section 72 of this act* have the meanings
16 ascribed to them in those sections.

17 2. As used in this chapter, the terms “underground water” and
18 “groundwater” are synonymous.

19 **Sec. 75.** NRS 534.0165 is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 534.0165 “Waste” means ~~[causing, suffering]~~ :

21 1. *Causing* or permitting any ~~[artesian well]~~ *water* to discharge
22 ~~[water unnecessarily]~~ *or flow:*

23 (a) *Unnecessarily* above or below the surface of the ground so
24 that the ~~[waters thereof are]~~ *water is* lost for beneficial use ; or ~~[in]~~

25 (b) *In* any canal or ditch conveying water from a well where the
26 loss of water in transit is more than 20 percent of the amount of the
27 water discharged from the well ~~[]~~ ; or

28 2. *Misusing water such that it discharges or flows:*

29 (a) *Unnecessarily above or below the surface of the ground so*
30 *that the water is lost for beneficial use; or*

31 (b) *In any canal or ditch conveying water from a well where*
32 *the loss of water in transit is more than 20 percent of the amount*
33 *of the water discharged from the well.*

34 **Sec. 76.** NRS 534.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:

35 534.040 1. Upon the initiation of the administration of this
36 chapter in any particular basin, and where the investigations of the
37 State Engineer have shown the necessity for the supervision over the
38 waters of that basin, the State Engineer may employ a well
39 supervisor and other necessary assistants, who shall execute the
40 duties as provided in this chapter under the direction of the State
41 Engineer. The salaries of the well supervisor and ~~[the]~~ assistants ~~[of~~
42 ~~the well supervisor]~~ must be fixed by the State Engineer. The well
43 supervisor and assistants are exempt from the provisions of chapter
44 284 of NRS.



1 2. The board of county commissioners shall levy a special
2 assessment annually, or at such time as the assessment is needed,
3 upon all taxable property situated within the confines of the area
4 designated by the State Engineer to come under the provisions of
5 this chapter in an amount as is necessary to pay those salaries,
6 together with necessary expenses, including the compensation and
7 other expenses of the Well Drillers' Advisory Board if the money
8 available from the license fees provided for in NRS 534.140 is not
9 sufficient to pay those costs. *The assessments may be also used to*
10 *pay for any services required in the area designated by the State*
11 *Engineer to come under the provisions of this chapter, including,*
12 *without limitation, the implementation of a groundwater*
13 *management plan and oversight of an area of active management*
14 *or an area designated as a critical management area by the State*
15 *Engineer.* In designated areas within which the use of groundwater
16 is predominantly for agricultural purposes the levy must be charged
17 against each water user who has a permit to appropriate water or a
18 perfected water right, and the charge against each water user must
19 be based upon the proportion which his or her water right bears to
20 the aggregate water rights in the designated area. The minimum
21 charge is \$1.

22 3. The salaries and expenses may be paid by the State Engineer
23 from the Water Distribution Revolving Account pending the levy
24 and collection of the assessment as provided in this section.

25 4. The proper officers of the county shall levy and collect the
26 special assessment as other special assessments are levied and
27 collected, and the assessment is a lien upon the property.

28 5. The assessment provided for, when collected, must be
29 deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Water District
30 Account to be accounted for in basin well accounts.

31 6. Upon determination and certification by the State Engineer
32 of the amount to be budgeted for the current or ensuing fiscal year
33 for the purpose of paying the per diem and travel allowances of the
34 groundwater board and employing consultants or other help needed
35 to fulfill its responsibilities, the State Controller shall transfer that
36 amount to a separate operating account for that fiscal year for the
37 groundwater basin. Claims against the account must be approved by
38 the groundwater board and paid as other claims against the State are
39 paid. The State Engineer may use money in a particular basin well
40 account to support an activity outside the basin in which the money
41 is collected if the activity bears a direct relationship to the
42 responsibilities or activities of the State Engineer regarding the
43 particular groundwater basin.



1 **Sec. 77.** NRS 534.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 534.090 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section,
3 failure for 5 successive years after April 15, 1967, on the part of the
4 holder of any right, whether it is an adjudicated right, an
5 unadjudicated right or a right for which a certificate has been issued
6 pursuant to NRS 533.425, and further whether the right is initiated
7 after or before March 25, 1939, to use beneficially all or any part of
8 the underground water for the purpose for which the right is
9 acquired or claimed, works a forfeiture of both undetermined rights
10 and determined rights to the use of that water to the extent of the
11 nonuse. If the records of the State Engineer or any other documents
12 specified by the State Engineer indicate at least 4 consecutive
13 years, but less than 5 consecutive years, of nonuse of all or any part
14 of a water right which is governed by this chapter, the State
15 Engineer shall notify the owner of the water right, as determined in
16 the records of the Office of the State Engineer, by registered or
17 certified mail that the owner has 1 year after the date of the notice in
18 which to use the water right beneficially and to provide proof of
19 such use to the State Engineer or apply for relief pursuant to
20 subsection 2 to avoid forfeiting the water right. If, after 1 year after
21 the date of the notice, proof of resumption of beneficial use is not
22 filed in the Office of the State Engineer, the State Engineer shall,
23 unless the State Engineer has granted a request to extend the time
24 necessary to work a forfeiture of the water right, declare the right
25 forfeited . ~~[within 30 days.]~~ Upon the forfeiture of a right to the use
26 of groundwater, the water reverts to the public and is available for
27 further appropriation, subject to existing rights. If, upon notice by
28 registered or certified mail to the owner of record whose right has
29 been declared forfeited, the owner of record fails to appeal the
30 ruling in the manner provided for in NRS 533.450, and within the
31 time provided for therein, the forfeiture becomes final. The failure
32 to receive a notice pursuant to this subsection does not nullify the
33 forfeiture or extend the time necessary to work the forfeiture of a
34 water right.

35 2. The State Engineer may, upon the request of the holder of
36 any right described in subsection 1, extend the time necessary to
37 work a forfeiture under that subsection if the request is made before
38 the expiration of the time necessary to work a forfeiture. The State
39 Engineer may grant, upon request and for good cause shown, ~~{any~~
40 ~~number of extensions, but a single}~~ *an extension* ~~{must}~~ *not to*
41 *exceed 1 year* ~~{}~~ *from the expiration of the time otherwise*
42 *necessary to work a forfeiture.* In determining whether to grant or
43 deny a request, the State Engineer shall, among other reasons,
44 consider:



1 (a) Whether the holder has shown good cause for the holder's
2 failure to use all or any part of the water beneficially for the purpose
3 for which the holder's right is acquired or claimed;

4 (b) The unavailability of water to put to a beneficial use which is
5 beyond the control of the holder;

6 (c) Any economic conditions or natural disasters which made
7 the holder unable to put the water to that use;

8 (d) Any prolonged period in which precipitation in the basin
9 where the water right is located is below the average for that basin
10 or in which indexes that measure soil moisture show that a deficit in
11 soil moisture has occurred in that basin;

12 (e) Whether a groundwater management plan has been approved
13 for the basin pursuant to NRS 534.037; and

14 (f) Whether the holder has demonstrated efficient ways of using
15 the water for agricultural purposes, such as center-pivot irrigation.

16 ↪ The State Engineer shall notify, by registered or certified mail,
17 the owner of the water right, as determined in the records of the
18 Office of the State Engineer, of whether the State Engineer has
19 granted or denied the holder's request for an extension pursuant to
20 this subsection. If the State Engineer grants an extension pursuant to
21 this subsection and, before the expiration of that extension, proof of
22 resumption of beneficial use or another request for an extension is
23 not filed in the Office of the State Engineer, the State Engineer shall
24 declare the water right forfeited ~~[within 30 days]~~ after the expiration
25 of the extension granted pursuant to this subsection.

26 3. If the failure to use the water pursuant to subsection 1 is
27 because of the use of center-pivot irrigation before July 1, 1983, and
28 such use could result in a forfeiture of a portion of a right, the State
29 Engineer shall, by registered or certified mail, send to the owner of
30 record a notice of intent to declare a forfeiture. The notice must
31 provide that the owner has at least 1 year after the date of the notice
32 to use the water beneficially or apply for additional relief pursuant
33 to subsection 2 before forfeiture of the owner's right is declared by
34 the State Engineer.

35 4. A right to use underground water whether it is vested or
36 otherwise may be lost by abandonment. If the State Engineer, in
37 investigating a groundwater source, upon which there has been a
38 prior right, for the purpose of acting upon an application to
39 appropriate water from the same source, is of the belief from his or
40 her examination that an abandonment has taken place, the State
41 Engineer shall so state in the ruling approving the application. If,
42 upon notice by registered or certified mail to the owner of record
43 who had the prior right, the owner of record of the prior right fails to
44 appeal the ruling in the manner provided for in NRS 533.450, and



1 within the time provided for therein, the alleged abandonment
2 declaration as set forth by the State Engineer becomes final.

3 **Sec. 78.** NRS 534.120 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 534.120 1. Within an area that has been designated by the
5 State Engineer, as provided for in this chapter, where, in the
6 judgment of the State Engineer, the groundwater basin is being
7 depleted, the State Engineer in his or her administrative capacity
8 may make such rules, regulations and orders as are deemed essential
9 for the welfare of the area involved.

10 2. In the interest of public welfare, the State Engineer is
11 authorized and directed to designate preferred uses of water within
12 the respective areas so designated by the State Engineer and from
13 which the groundwater is being depleted, and in acting on
14 applications to appropriate groundwater, the State Engineer may
15 designate such preferred uses in different categories with respect to
16 the particular areas involved within the following limits:

17 (a) Domestic, municipal, quasi-municipal, industrial, irrigation,
18 mining and stock-watering uses; and

19 (b) Any uses for which a county, city, town, public water district
20 or public water company furnishes the water.

21 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, the State
22 Engineer may:

23 (a) Issue ~~temporary~~ *revocable* permits to appropriate
24 groundwater which can be limited as to time and which may, except
25 as limited by subsection 4, be revoked if and when water can be
26 furnished by an entity such as a water district or a municipality
27 presently engaged in furnishing water to the inhabitants thereof.

28 (b) Deny applications to appropriate groundwater for any use in
29 areas served by such an entity.

30 (c) Limit the depth of domestic wells.

31 (d) Prohibit the drilling of wells for domestic use, as defined in
32 NRS 534.013, in areas where water can be furnished by an entity
33 such as a water district or a municipality presently engaged in
34 furnishing water to the inhabitants thereof.

35 (e) In connection with the approval of a parcel map in which any
36 parcel is proposed to be served by a domestic well, require the
37 dedication to a city or county or a designee of a city or county, or
38 require a relinquishment to the State Engineer, of any right to
39 appropriate water required by the State Engineer to ensure a
40 sufficient supply of water for each of those parcels, unless the
41 dedication of the right to appropriate water is required by a local
42 ordinance.

43 4. The State Engineer may revoke a ~~temporary~~ *revocable*
44 permit issued pursuant to subsection 3 for residential use, and
45 require a person to whom groundwater was appropriated pursuant to



1 the permit to obtain water from an entity such as a water district or a
2 municipality engaged in furnishing water to the inhabitants of the
3 designated area, only if:

4 (a) The distance from the property line of any parcel served by a
5 well pursuant to a ~~{temporary}~~ *revocable* permit to the pipes and
6 other appurtenances of the proposed source of water to which the
7 property will be connected is not more than 180 feet; and

8 (b) The well providing water pursuant to the ~~{temporary}~~
9 *revocable* permit needs to be redrilled or have repairs made which
10 require the use of a well-drilling rig.

11 5. The State Engineer may ~~{, in an area in which have been~~
12 ~~issued temporary permits pursuant to subsection 3,}~~ limit the depth
13 of a domestic well ~~{pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 3}~~ or
14 prohibit repairs from being made to a well, and may require the
15 person proposing to deepen or repair the well to obtain water from
16 an entity such as a water district or a municipality engaged in
17 furnishing water to the inhabitants of the designated area, only if:

18 (a) The distance from the property line of any parcel served by
19 the well to the pipes and other appurtenances of the proposed source
20 of water to which the property will be connected is not more than
21 ~~{180}~~ *1,000* feet; and

22 (b) The deepening or repair of the well would require the use of
23 a well-drilling rig.

24 6. For good and sufficient reasons, the State Engineer may
25 exempt the provisions of this section with respect to public housing
26 authorities.

27 7. *If a user of a domestic well is furnished water by an entity*
28 *such as a water district or a municipality:*

29 (a) *The water from the domestic well must not be used for the*
30 *watering of a family garden or lawn or the watering of livestock or*
31 *any domestic animals or household pets; and*

32 (b) *The domestic well must be plugged pursuant to the*
33 *provisions of any applicable regulations adopted by the State*
34 *Engineer.*

35 8. The provisions of this section do not prohibit the State
36 Engineer from revoking a ~~{temporary}~~ *revocable* permit issued
37 pursuant to this section if any parcel served by a well pursuant to the
38 ~~{temporary}~~ *revocable* permit is currently obtaining water from an
39 entity such as a water district or a municipality engaged in
40 furnishing water to the inhabitants of the area.

41 **Sec. 79.** NRS 534.125 is hereby amended to read as follows:

42 534.125 If the State Engineer issues a ~~{temporary}~~ *revocable*
43 permit pursuant to NRS 534.120 or if a well for domestic use is
44 drilled in an area in which the State Engineer has issued such a
45 ~~{temporary}~~ *revocable* permit, the State Engineer shall file a notice



1 with the county recorder of the county in which the permit is issued
2 or the well is drilled. The notice must include a statement indicating
3 that, if and when water can be furnished by an entity such as a water
4 district or a municipality engaged in furnishing water to the
5 inhabitants of the designated area:

6 1. A ~~temporary~~ *revocable* permit may be revoked;

7 2. The owner of a domestic well may be prohibited from
8 deepening or repairing the well; and

9 3. The owner of the property served by the well may be
10 required to connect to this water source at his or her own expense.

11 **Sec. 80.** NRS 534.130 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 534.130 The State Engineer, or the assistants or authorized
13 agents of the State Engineer, ~~and the Artesian Well Supervisor, or~~
14 ~~the assistants of the Artesian Well Supervisor, shall have the right~~
15 ~~to~~ *may* enter the ~~premises~~ *land* of any owner or proprietor where
16 any well mentioned in this chapter is situated *or where water is*
17 *being used* at any reasonable hour of the day for the purpose of
18 investigating and carrying out ~~their~~ *the* duties ~~in the~~
19 ~~administration~~ *of the State Engineer pursuant to* this chapter.

20 **Sec. 81.** NRS 534.140 is hereby amended to read as follows:

21 534.140 1. Every well driller, before engaging in the physical
22 drilling of a well in this State for development of water, must
23 annually apply to the State Engineer for a license to drill.

24 2. The applications for those licenses and all licenses issued for
25 the drilling of wells must be in the form prescribed by the State
26 Engineer.

27 3. All well-drilling licenses expire on June 30 following their
28 issuance and are not transferable.

29 4. A fee of ~~[\$100]~~ *\$120* must accompany each application for a
30 license and a fee of ~~[\$50]~~ *\$60* must be paid each year for renewal of
31 the license.

32 5. Those license fees must be accounted for in the State
33 Engineer's Water License Account and used to pay costs pertaining
34 to licensing, the adoption and enforcement of regulations for well
35 drilling and the compensation of the members of the Well Drillers'
36 Advisory Board and their expenses.

37 6. The State Engineer, after consulting with the Well Drillers'
38 Advisory Board, shall adopt regulations relating to continuing
39 education for well drillers.

40 7. The State Engineer shall prepare and keep on file in the
41 Office of the State Engineer regulations for well drilling.

42 8. Before engaging in the physical drilling of a well in this
43 State for the development of water, every well driller who is the
44 owner of a well-drilling rig, or who has a well-drilling rig under
45 lease or rental, or who has a contract to purchase a well-drilling rig,



1 must obtain a license as a well driller from the State Contractors'
2 Board.

3 **Sec. 82.** NRS 534.180 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 534.180 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 and
5 as to the furnishing of any information required by the State
6 Engineer, this chapter does not apply in the matter of obtaining
7 permits for the development and use of underground water from a
8 well for domestic purposes where the draught does not exceed 2
9 acre-feet per year.

10 2. The State Engineer may designate any groundwater basin or
11 portion thereof as a basin in which the registration of a well is
12 required if the well is drilled for the development and use of
13 underground water for domestic purposes. A driller who drills such
14 a well shall register the information required by the State Engineer
15 within 10 days after the completion of the well. The State Engineer
16 shall make available forms for the registration of such wells and
17 shall maintain a register of those wells.

18 3. The State Engineer may require the plugging of ~~[such]~~ a
19 *domestic* well ~~[which is drilled on or after July 1, 1981,]~~ at any time
20 not sooner than 1 year after water can be furnished to the site by:

21 (a) A political subdivision of this State; or

22 (b) A public utility whose rates and service are regulated by the
23 Public Utilities Commission of Nevada. ~~†~~

24 ~~→ but only if the charge for making the connection to the service is~~
25 ~~less than \$200.]~~

26 4. If the development and use of underground water from a
27 well for an accessory dwelling unit of a single-family dwelling, as
28 defined in an applicable local ordinance, qualifies as a domestic use
29 or domestic purpose:

30 (a) The owner of the well shall:

31 (1) Obtain approval for that use or purpose from the local
32 governing body or planning commission in whose jurisdiction the
33 well is located;

34 (2) Install a water meter capable of measuring the total
35 withdrawal of water from the well; and

36 (3) Ensure the total withdrawal of water from the well does
37 not exceed 2 acre-feet per year;

38 (b) The local governing body or planning commission shall
39 report the approval of the accessory dwelling unit on a form
40 provided by the State Engineer;

41 (c) The State Engineer shall monitor the annual withdrawal of
42 water from the well; and

43 (d) The date of priority for the use of the domestic well to
44 supply water to the accessory dwelling unit is the date of approval



1 of the accessory dwelling unit by the local governing body or
2 planning commission.

3 **Sec. 83.** NRS 534.193 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 534.193 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 534.280,
5 534.310 and 534.330 and in addition to any other penalty provided
6 by law, the State Engineer may, after notice and opportunity for a
7 hearing, require a person who violates any provision of this chapter
8 or any permit, order or decision issued or regulation adopted by the
9 State Engineer pursuant to this chapter or NRS 532.120 to:

10 (a) Pay an administrative fine not to exceed \$10,000 per day for
11 each violation as determined by the State Engineer.

12 (b) In the case of ~~[an unlawful waste of water in violation of~~
13 ~~NRS 534.070 or]~~ any ~~[other]~~ violation of this chapter that, as
14 determined by the State Engineer, results in an unlawful use, waste
15 or diversion of water, replace not more than 200 percent of the water
16 used, wasted or diverted.

17 2. In determining violations of this chapter relating to the
18 unauthorized use of water yielded from a well that is used pursuant
19 to a permit issued by the State Engineer and that has 16 or fewer
20 connections, the State Engineer has the burden of proving which
21 user is withdrawing water in excess of the portion of water allotted
22 to the connection of that user. The State Engineer may require any
23 or all users of the well to install and maintain, at their own expense,
24 a meter that measures the amount of water withdrawn from the well
25 by each connection.

26 3. If an administrative fine is imposed against a person
27 pursuant to subsection 1 or the person is ordered to replace any
28 water pursuant to that subsection, the State Engineer may require the
29 person to pay the costs of the proceeding, including investigative
30 costs and attorney's fees.

31 4. An order imposing an administrative fine or requiring the
32 replacement of water or payment of costs or fees pursuant to this
33 section may be reviewed by a district court pursuant to
34 NRS 533.450.

35 **Sec. 84.** NRS 536.115 is hereby amended to read as follows:

36 536.115 1. In a county whose population is less than
37 100,000, the State Engineer shall, upon request of the owner of a
38 ditch or a local governmental entity in whose jurisdiction a ditch is
39 located, investigate a complaint involving a possible violation of the
40 provisions of NRS 536.120 which involves the ditch if the ditch is
41 located:

42 (a) Within the boundaries of an adjudicated ~~[stream system]~~
43 *source of surface water or groundwater* for which the State
44 Engineer has appointed an engineer to work in a supervisory
45 capacity pursuant to NRS 533.275; and



1 (b) Outside the boundaries of an irrigation district organized
2 pursuant to chapter 539 of NRS.

3 2. For any complaint investigated pursuant to subsection 1, the
4 State Engineer shall:

5 (a) Prepare a report concerning the investigation, including,
6 without limitation, the condition of the ditch; and

7 (b) Make the report available to the person or local
8 governmental entity that requested the investigation.

9 3. A person or local governmental entity that obtains a report
10 pursuant to subsection 2 may submit a copy of the report with any
11 report of a violation of the provisions of NRS 536.120 that is
12 reported to a law enforcement agency.

13 4. *As used in this section, "source of surface water or*
14 *groundwater" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 3 of this*
15 *act.*

16 **Sec. 85.** NRS 538.171 is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 538.171 1. The Commission shall receive, protect and
18 safeguard and hold in trust for the State of Nevada all water and
19 water rights, and all other rights, interests or benefits in and to the
20 waters described in NRS 538.041 to 538.251, inclusive, and to the
21 power generated thereon, held by or which may accrue to the State
22 of Nevada under and by virtue of any Act of the Congress of the
23 United States or any agreements, compacts or treaties to which the
24 State of Nevada may become a party, or otherwise.

25 2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, applications
26 for the original appropriation of such waters, or to change the
27 ~~place~~ *point* of diversion, manner of use or place of use of water
28 covered by the original appropriation, must be made to the
29 Commission in accordance with the regulations of the Commission.
30 In considering such an application, the Commission shall use the
31 criteria set forth in subsection 3 of NRS 533.370. The Commission's
32 action on the application constitutes the recommendation of the
33 State of Nevada to the United States for the purposes of any federal
34 action on the matter required by law. The provisions of this
35 subsection do not apply to supplemental water.

36 3. The Commission shall furnish to the State Engineer a copy
37 of all agreements entered into by the Commission concerning the
38 original appropriation and use of such waters. It shall also furnish to
39 the State Engineer any other information it possesses relating to the
40 use of water from the Colorado River which the State Engineer
41 deems necessary to allow the State Engineer to act on applications
42 for permits for the subsequent appropriation of these waters after
43 they fall within the State Engineer's jurisdiction.

44 4. Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 533 of NRS,
45 any original appropriation and use of the waters described in



1 subsection 1 by the Commission or by any entity to whom or with
2 whom the Commission has contracted the water is not subject to
3 regulation by the State Engineer.

4 5. Any use of water from the Muddy River or the Virgin River
5 for the creation of any developed shortage supply or intentionally
6 created surplus does not require the submission of an application to
7 the State Engineer to change the ~~[place]~~ *point* of diversion, manner
8 of use or place of use. As used in this subsection:

9 (a) "Developed shortage supply" has the meaning ascribed to it
10 in NRS 533.030.

11 (b) "Intentionally created surplus" has the meaning ascribed to it
12 in NRS 533.030.

13 **Sec. 86.** Chapter 540 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
14 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 87 and 88 of this act.

15 **Sec. 87.** *1. In addition to any other penalty provided by law,
16 the State Engineer may, after notice and opportunity for a
17 hearing, require a person who violates any provision of this
18 chapter or any order or decision issued or regulation adopted by
19 the State Engineer pursuant to this chapter or NRS 532.120 to pay
20 an administrative fine not to exceed \$10,000 per day for each
21 violation as determined by the State Engineer.*

22 *2. If an administrative fine is imposed against a person
23 pursuant to subsection 1, the State Engineer may require the
24 person to pay the costs of the proceeding, including investigative
25 costs and attorney's fees.*

26 *3. An order imposing an administrative fine or payment of
27 costs pursuant to this section may be reviewed by a district court
28 pursuant to NRS 533.450.*

29 **Sec. 88.** *1. The State Engineer may seek injunctive relief in
30 any court of competent jurisdiction to prevent the continuance or
31 occurrence of any act or practice which violates any provision of
32 this chapter, or any order or decision issued or regulation adopted
33 by the State Engineer pursuant to this chapter or NRS 532.120.*

34 *2. On a showing by the State Engineer that a person is
35 engaged, or is about to engage, in any act or practice which
36 violates or will violate any provision of this chapter, or any order
37 or decision issued or regulation adopted by the State Engineer
38 pursuant to this chapter or NRS 532.120, the court may issue,
39 without a bond, any prohibitory or mandatory injunction that the
40 facts may warrant, including a temporary restraining order issued
41 ex parte or, after notice and hearing, a preliminary or permanent
42 injunction.*

43 *3. The failure to establish the lack of an adequate remedy at
44 law or irreparable harm is not a ground for denying a request for
45 a temporary restraining order or injunction.*



1 **4. The court may require the posting of a sufficient**
2 **performance bond or other security to ensure compliance with the**
3 **court order within the period prescribed.**

4 **5. Any proceeding conducted or injunction or order issued**
5 **pursuant to this section is in addition to, and not in lieu of, any**
6 **other penalty or remedy available for a violation of this chapter.**

7 **Sec. 89.** NRS 540.141 is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 540.141 1. A plan or joint plan of water conservation
9 submitted to the Section for review must include provisions relating
10 to:

11 (a) Methods of public education to:

12 (1) Increase public awareness of the limited supply of water
13 in this State and the need to conserve water.

14 (2) Encourage reduction in the size of lawns and encourage
15 the use of plants that are adapted to arid and semiarid climates.

16 (b) Specific conservation measures required to meet the needs of
17 the service area, including, but not limited to, any conservation
18 measures required by law.

19 (c) The management of water to:

20 (1) Identify and reduce leakage in water supplies,
21 inaccuracies in water meters and high pressure in water supplies;
22 and

23 (2) Where applicable, increase the reuse of effluent.

24 (d) A contingency plan for drought conditions that ensures a
25 supply of potable water.

26 (e) A schedule for carrying out the plan or joint plan.

27 ~~1~~ **2. In addition to the requirements of subsection 1, a**
28 **plan or joint plan of water conservation submitted by a supplier of**
29 **water providing service for 500 or more connections must include**
30 **provisions relating to:**

31 (a) Measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan or joint
32 plan.

33 ~~(e)~~ (b) For each conservation measure specified in the plan or
34 joint plan, an estimate of the amount of water that will be conserved
35 each year as a result of the adoption of the plan or joint plan, stated
36 in terms of gallons of water per person per day.

37 ~~2~~ **3. A plan or joint plan submitted for review must be**
38 **accompanied by an analysis of:**

39 (a) The feasibility of charging variable rates for the use of water
40 to encourage the conservation of water.

41 (b) How the rates that are proposed to be charged for the use of
42 water in the plan or joint plan will maximize water conservation,
43 including, without limitation, an estimate of the manner in which the
44 rates will affect consumption of water.



~~13.1~~ 4. The Section shall review any plan or joint plan submitted to it within 30 days after its submission and approve the plan if it is based on the climate and living conditions of the service area and complies with the requirements of this section.

~~14.1~~ 5. The Chief may exempt wholesale water purveyors from the provisions of this section which do not reasonably apply to wholesale supply.

~~15.1~~ 6. To the extent practicable, the State Engineer shall provide on the Internet website of the State Engineer a link to the plans and joint plans that are submitted for review. In carrying out the provisions of this subsection, the State Engineer is not responsible for ensuring, and is not liable for failing to ensure, that the plans and joint plans which are provided on the Internet website are accurate and current.

Sec. 90. NRS 111.167 is hereby amended to read as follows:

111.167 Unless the deed conveying land specifically provides otherwise, all:

1. Applications and permits to appropriate any of the public waters;

2. Certificates of appropriation;

3. Adjudicated or unadjudicated water rights; and

4. Applications or permits to change the ~~{place}~~ *point* of diversion, manner of use or place of use of water,

↳ which are appurtenant to the land are presumed to be conveyed with the land.

Sec. 91. NRS 533.100, 533.105, 533.110, 533.120, 533.155, 533.250, 533.260, 533.265 and 534.070 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 92. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.

LEADLINES OF REPEALED SECTIONS

533.100 Investigation of flow of stream and ditches by State Engineer; preparation of surveys and maps.

533.105 Use of data compiled by United States Geological Survey or other persons; remission of proportionate cost of preparation.

533.110 Notice of commencement of taking of proofs as to rights; time for filing; publication and mailing of notice.

533.120 Statements to be certified under oath; no fee for administering or furnishing blank form.

533.155 Daily deposit by each party.



533.250 Admissibility of maps, plats, surveys and evidence on file in office of State Engineer; notice by State Engineer of intention to consider evidence and submission of findings to court.

533.260 Regulations of State Engineer requiring blueprints from claimants to be attached to proofs.

533.265 State Engineer to issue certificates upon final determination of relative rights; contents of certificates; exceptions.

534.070 Waste of water from artesian well unlawful.

