

SELECT PUBLIC LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES LEGISLATION

2007 Nevada Legislative Session

Natural Resources and Public Lands Generally

A.B. 22 (Chapter 76)

Assembly Bill 22 authorizes the State Land Registrar to transfer, without consideration, two parcels of land owned by the State of Nevada. One parcel, commonly known as the Joy Lake Fire Station, may be transferred to the Sierra Fire Protection District with two deed restrictions that, if breached, may result in the title of the property reverting to the State. The deed restrictions are:

- The property must be used for fire protection services; and
- Any subsequent transfer of the property's title would require the consent of the State of Nevada.

The second parcel is in the town of Verdi, and it may be transferred to Washoe County.

This bill became effective on May 21, 2007.

A.B. 469 (Chapter 369)

Assembly Bill 469 requires, to the extent that money is available, the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, in cooperation with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, to conduct a study of the feasibility of developing a park with a museum and a live dig site. The area to be studied is approximately 315 acres in the Upper Las Vegas Wash, known as the Tule Springs Archaeological Site.

This bill became effective on July 1, 2007.

S.B. 195 (Chapter 243)

Senate Bill 195 sets forth certain responsibilities for anyone using a recreation area, which is defined as a trailhead or water access area. Responsibilities include compliance with various instructions and safety rules, prohibition from engaging in certain activities, and immediate notification to the operator of the recreation area of any personal injury incurred while using a recreation area. The operator, defined as a governmental agency or political subdivision, is responsible for posting appropriate signs and warnings and for taking reasonable steps to minimize known dangers of trailheads and water access areas within its control. The bill also limits the liability of the operator and owner of adjacent private property under certain circumstances. Finally, S.B. 195 allows local governments to adopt ordinances governing recreation areas as long as they do not conflict with existing statutes.

This measure became effective on July 1, 2007.

S.B. 288 (Chapter 323)

Senate Bill 288 makes certain existing provisions concerning fire protection applicable to all fire protection districts, regardless of whether they were organized by a board of county commissioners or approved by voters in the proposed fire protection district. This measure also provides that a fire protection district may include incorporated territory within a consolidated municipality, under certain circumstances, and it allows the inclusion of timberland patrolled by the United States Forest Service. Senate Bill 288 also restricts existing procedures for the reorganization of a fire protection district to apply only to a fire protection district organized by a board of county commissioners. Finally, this measure provides that the governing board of a fire district may provide emergency medical services, except that it may not provide ambulance service in any area where a local government has awarded an exclusive franchise for an ambulance service.

This measure became effective on July 1, 2007.

S.B. 301 (Chapter 427)

Senate Bill 301 requires that all public lands held, controlled, or administered by the Colorado River Commission of Nevada that are located in the Fort Mohave Valley and all money in the Fort Mohave Valley Development Account be transferred from the State of Nevada to the Clark County Board of Commissioners.

Senate Bill 301 requires that the Clark County Board of Commissioners administer these public lands in the Fort Mohave Valley solely for the development of the Fort Mohave Valley and of any general improvement district, special district, town or city whose territory contains land in the Fort Mohave Valley. This measure also requires that money in the Fort Mohave Valley Development Fund be used only for purposes expressly stated in the Fort Mohave Valley Development Law.

Provisions concerning the orderly transfer of authority of the Colorado River Commission of Nevada to the Board of County Commissioners of Clark County are effective on June 13, 2007. All other provisions are effective on July 1, 2007.

A.J.R. 7 (File No. 88)

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 7 urges the United States Secretary of the Interior to fully fund the interagency airtanker base programs for wildland fire suppression in Battle Mountain, Minden, and Stead.

This measure became effective on May 28, 2007.

A.J.R. 9 (File No. 89)

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 9 urges the United States Congress to allow certain proceeds from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act to be used for Nevada's State parks.

This resolution became effective on May 28, 2007.

S.J.R. 10 (File No. 94)

Senate Joint Resolution No. 10 supports the actions and policies of the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to designate roads and trails for off-highway vehicle use. The resolution urges the BLM and the Forest Service to require that off-highway vehicles stay on existing roads and trails and not pioneer unauthorized roads and trails. The resolution also supports interagency agreements between federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies for the cooperative enforcement of such policies and regulations.

The measure became effective on May 28, 2007.

S.J.R. 13 (File No. 97)

Senate Joint Resolution No. 13 urges Congress to provide additional funding and other assistance to prevent and suppress wildfires in Nevada and to rehabilitate public rangelands damaged by wildfires.

The measure became effective on May 28, 2007.

S.J.R. 18 (File No. 102)

Senate Joint Resolution No. 18 urges Congress to pass legislation conveying the Nellis Dunes area to Clark County for the purpose of environmental protection and to develop a motorized recreation park.

The measure became effective on May 31, 2007.

Agriculture and Ranching

A.B. 42 (Chapter 199)

Assembly Bill 42 authorizes the Department of Agriculture to apply for or accept any gifts, grants, donations, or contributions from any source and to make grants or subgrants of money to any person; federal, State, or local governmental agency; or public or private corporation.

This bill became effective on May 30, 2007.

A.B. 144 (Chapter 495)

Assembly Bill 144 changes the formula for calculating the rate an electric utility may charge for supplying interruptible power for irrigation pumps during the period from March 1 to October 31. The bill sets the maximum rate at the average of the lowest per-kilowatt-hour

charge offered by each public utility and cooperative association under any of their rate schedules.

A.B. 228 (Chapter 269)

Assembly Bill 228 authorizes the Director of Nevada's Department of Agriculture to refuse to issue a license to engage in pest control to a person applying for a license as a primary principal for a pest control business if that person has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or *nolo contendere* to, a felony or any other crime involving moral turpitude. The Director is authorized to request fingerprints from such applicants for the purpose of conducting a background check. The Director also may refuse to issue a license to an applicant who has had a similar license suspended or revoked in another jurisdiction.

The measure adds a conviction of a felony or any crime involving moral turpitude as grounds for revocation, suspension, or modification of a license. Assembly Bill 228 also requires submittal of fingerprints by a licensee if the Department initiates proceedings to revoke, suspend, or modify a pest control license. Finally, the bill prohibits a person who is not licensed from altering a pest control report.

The bill is effective on January 1, 2008.

S.B. 47 (Chapter 10)

Senate Bill 47 repeals the provision for determining in which county livestock and sheep are deemed to be located for purposes of a tax on livestock and sheep.

This measure became effective on April 11, 2007.

S.B. 486 (Chapter 254)

Senate Bill 486 authorizes an owner of a livestock brand to make an application to amend the record of ownership when there is a change in the name of the owner but not a change in ownership. The measure also clarifies that, upon the death of an owner of a livestock brand, the brand may be transferred by the authorized representative of the deceased or his estate. Finally, the bill allows the State Department of Agriculture to establish a fee for amending the record of ownership.

The measure became effective on May 31, 2007.

S.J.R. 12 (File No. 96)

Senate Joint Resolution No. 12 expresses disapproval of civil actions filed against ranchers and the Bureau of Land Management over the management of public rangelands and the issuance of grazing permits. The resolution notes the importance of livestock production to Nevada and the negative impacts of litigation that delays implementation of good stewardship and management of public lands.

The measure became effective on May 28, 2007.

Air Quality

A.B. 67 (Chapter 278)

Assembly Bill 67 authorizes the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to collect money from the sale of emission credits or allocations. The Department must develop regulations for public participation in the Department's determination of the amount of emission credits and allocations made available for sale, and recommend those regulations to the State Environmental Commission. Any money collected must be deposited in the Account for the Management of Air Quality in the State General Fund. The bill also revises the State's policy concerning air pollution to include periodically retiring a portion of the emissions credits and allocations that would otherwise be available for banking or sale.

This bill also increases the maximum amount that the State Environmental Commission may establish for administrative fines from \$500 to \$2,000.

This bill became effective on June 1, 2007.

S.B. 60 (Chapter 111)

Senate Bill 60 requires the Clark County School District to spend its portion of the administrative penalties received from the air pollution control board in accordance with an annual spending plan approved by the air pollution control board. The board must approve the spending plan if the proposed expenditures are reasonably related to educational programs on air quality topics or air quality improvement projects consistent with the State Implementation Plan.

The School District must report annually to the board on expenditures under the spending plan.

The bill became effective on July 1, 2007.

S.B. 161 (Chapter 231)

Senate Bill 161 relates to air quality. The bill exempts hybrid vehicles from smog checks in Clark County and Washoe County until the model year of the car is six years old.

S.B. 324 (Chapter 425)

Senate Bill 324 requires the State Board of Agriculture to adopt regulations for motor vehicle fuel specifications. These regulations shall be based upon:

- Scientific evidence that demonstrates a motor vehicle fuel is of sufficient quality to ensure appropriate performance when used in a motor vehicle in this State; or
- Motor vehicle fuel standards proposed by an air pollution control agency to attain or maintain national ambient air quality standards.

The State Board of Agriculture is also required to adopt regulations governing the granting of variances from the standard motor vehicle fuel specifications.

The bill became effective on June 13, 2007, for the purpose of adopting regulations, and on October 1, 2007, for all other purposes.

S.B. 422 (Chapter 417)

Senate Bill 422 requires the State Environmental Commission to establish, by regulation, a statewide registry of greenhouse gases and to mandate the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by electric power plants, excluding those using renewable energy or having an output capacity of less than five megawatts.

The regulations adopted by the Commission may include reporting requirements and the methodologies for identifying and measuring greenhouse gases and verifying the information in the registry. Voluntary participation by persons not required to participate in the registry must be allowed by regulation.

Beginning December 31, 2008, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources shall issue a statewide inventory of greenhouse gases at least once every four years. The inventory shall include the sources, types, and amounts of greenhouse gases; an analysis of the emissions; and documentation of the information in the inventory.

The bill became effective on July 1, 2007.

Environmental Matters

A.B. 115 (Chapter 534)

Assembly Bill 115 requires the Administrator of the Division of Industrial Relations of the Department of Business and Industry to adopt regulations for mine health and safety as necessary to provide safe and healthful working conditions at mines. The Administrator must review and revise the existing regulations not later than June 30, 2009.

Assembly Bill 115 also directs the State Environmental Commission to adopt, by regulation, fees to be imposed on mines that have the potential to emit mercury. The fees must be sufficient to add two full-time compliance personnel to the Nevada Mercury Air Emissions Control Program of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the regulations must be adopted by December 31, 2007.

This measure became effective on June 14, 2007.

A.B. 217 (Chapter 122)

Assembly Bill 217 requires that one of the Governor's five appointees to the State Environmental Commission must have experience and expertise in advocating issues relating to conservation.

This bill became effective on July 1, 2007.

A.B. 621 (Chapter 539)

Assembly Bill 621 requires the Director of the State Office of Energy to adopt a Green Building Rating System for the purposes of determining eligibility for tax abatements under this bill. The system must:

- Be based on the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) system;
- Include LEED standards that have been in place for at least two years;
- Not include LEED standards for homes; and
- Require a building or other structure to obtain a certain amount of energy conservation points at the LEED silver, gold, and platinum levels.

The Director must grant a partial abatement of real property taxes, other than taxes imposed for public education, which is defined as kindergarten through twelfth grade, for a building that meets the LEED silver, gold, or platinum standards or the equivalent. A project is not eligible for the abatement if it receives money from the State or a local government for acquisition, design, or construction of the building or for acquisition of the land. The partial abatement must be for ten years, and terminates if the structure ceases to meet the LEED silver standards or their equivalent.

Assembly Bill 621 also consolidates various existing statutes granting tax abatements and exemptions related to energy conservation in a new chapter of the *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS), and addresses the applicability of those existing statutes to projects already underway.

For purposes of legislative intent, the following should be noted:

- Assembly Bill 621 does not exclude condominium hotels. Under the LEED definitions, they are considered commercial units, not residential; and
- Sections 6 and 16 do not change the existing law on tax abatements for renewable energy projects. The existing statutes are merely being placed in a new chapter where they will be centralized and more easily seen as a part of a unified public policy initiative. Specifically, it should be noted that Sections 6 and 16 in no way impact existing projects such as the PowerLight solar PV project at the Nellis Air Force Base or the proposed similar project at Fallon Naval Air Station.

This measure became effective on June 15, 2007, for most purposes. The provisions calling for adoption of a Green Building Rating System and grants of partial abatement of real property taxes became effective on June 15, 2007, for the purpose of adopting regulations, and on July 1, 2007, for all other purposes. Certain existing statutes granting tax abatements and exemptions, which the bill transfers to a new chapter of the NRS, expire by limitation on June 30, 2009.

S.B. 118 (Chapter 173)

Senate Bill 118 requires the State Environmental Commission to adopt regulations on the handling and storage of mercury in quantities of 200,000 pounds or more.

This bill became effective on July 1, 2007.

S.B. 331 (Chapter 511)

Senate Bill 331 authorizes the Division of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, to use a portion of the money it receives from the Department for public education concerning the State's plan for solid waste management to also support other activities that encourage the reduction of solid waste. In addition, the bill requires the Division to encourage the Nevada System of Higher Education to research and develop methods for the reduction, reclamation, and conversion of solid waste and encourage it to seek funds from public and private sources for that purpose.

This bill became effective on July 1, 2007.

Water

A.B. 253 (Chapter 213)

Assembly Bill 253 provides that impact fees may pay the cost of connecting a capital improvement or facility expansion to a line or facility used to provide water or sewer service. It also clarifies that a "service area" means any specified area within the boundaries of a local government in which new development necessitates capital improvements or facility expansions, and where new development is served directly by the capital improvement or facility expansion. Except in the cities of Caliente, Carlin, Ely, Fallon, Lovelock, Mesquite, Wells, West Wendover, Winnemucca, and Yerington; or in Esmeralda, Eureka, Lander, Lincoln, Mineral, Pershing, Storey, and White Pine Counties; the term "service area" does not include any area that is the entire jurisdiction of a local government.

This measure became effective on July 1, 2007.

A.B. 296 (Chapter 331)

Assembly Bill 296 declares it the policy of the State of Nevada to allow the temporary conversion of certain agricultural water rights for wildlife purposes or to improve the quality or flow of water. A person or entity proposing to temporarily convert agricultural water rights

must first apply for and receive any necessary permits and approvals. Temporary conversions shall not exceed three years and may be extended in three-year increments.

This measure became effective on June 4, 2007.

A.B. 331 (Chapter 312)

Assembly Bill 331 declares it the policy of the State to encourage suppliers of water to establish water rates that maximize water conservation. Additionally, it requires that a water supplier's water conservation plan must contain an estimate of the amount of gallons of water per person per day that will be conserved each year as a result of the adoption of each conservation measure specified in the plan. To the extent practicable, the State Engineer will provide a link to the water conservation plans of each water supplier on the Engineer's Internet website.

S.B. 222 (Chapter 542)

Senate Bill 222 creates the Nye County Water District to provide for the storage, conservation, distribution, and sale of water within or outside of the district. In addition to provisions related to the governance and powers of the Governing Board of the District, this measure provides that the Nye County Water District is exempt from regulation by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada.

The bill became effective on July 1, 2007.

S.B. 274 (Chapter 429)

Senate Bill 274 authorizes the State Engineer to adopt regulations for the imposition of administrative fines for violations of certain statutes relating to water resources. This measure also specifies topics that the State Engineer must consider when adopting regulations and the Engineer must submit a written report detailing the regulations to the Legislative Counsel Bureau by January 1, 2009. Although regulations may be adopted, the State Engineer may not impose any administrative penalties related to this measure before July 1, 2009.

Senate Bill 274 requires the State Engineer to notice a new period of protest of 45 days for successors in interest or affected water rights holders if the Engineer, within seven years, fails to act on or hear certain applications filed after July 1, 2007. In addition, successors of a person who filed a written protest during the first notice period have the right to continue the protest if they notify the State Engineer. The measure confirms the authority of the State Engineer to limit the initial use of approved water rights to a lesser quantity, and to approve junior applications requesting a minimal amount of water. Senate Bill 274 also provides that each applicant and protestant shall file information as required by the State Engineer and shall provide such information to the other parties. The bill declares that the State Engineer may consider consumptive uses of water in reviewing certain applications, except as to water rights originating in the Muddy and Virgin Rivers, and provided such consideration is consistent with applicable federal or State decrees.

Senate Bill 274 requires the State Engineer to render a decision on a water rights application within 240 days after the hearing transcript is available or the date for filing additional information, unless the State Engineer grants an extension for good cause.

The bill became effective on July 1, 2007.

S.B. 275 (Chapter 246)

Senate Bill 275 relates to groundwater. The bill converts the maximum pumping limit on a domestic well from 1,800 gallons per day to two acre feet per year. The bill clarifies that a domestic well may serve an accessory dwelling unit to a single family dwelling provided certain conditions are met, including approval of the accessory dwelling unit by the local government, and monitoring the annual withdrawal from the well. The priority date of a domestic well is set as the completion date recorded on the well driller's log or as otherwise documented and, for a domestic well serving an accessory dwelling unit, the date of approval of the accessory dwelling unit by the local government.

Senate Bill 275 requires notice of forfeiture of water rights based on nonuse to be given by the State Engineer in all basins in Nevada. In basins where the State Engineer does not keep pumping records, other documents specified may be used to determine nonuse of water.

If a local government has not adopted an ordinance requiring dedication of water rights for new parcel maps, the State Engineer is authorized to require such dedications in designated basins to ensure a sufficient supply of water. A county that requires a dedication of water rights for parcels created after July 1, 1993, may relinquish a water right to the State Engineer under certain conditions. When a parcel with an appurtenant relinquished water right is connected to a public water system, the system receives a credit for the water right.

The bill is effective on January 1, 2008.

S.B. 306 (Chapter 131)

Senate Bill 306 requires the owner of a motorboat equipped with an engine cut-off switch to ensure that the engine cut-off switch is in working order. Further, the operator of such a motorboat must connect the engine cut-off switch to his person, clothing, or personal flotation device. The engine cut-off switch need not be used when operating the motorboat at a speed of 5 nautical miles per hour or less.

S.B. 487 (Chapter 531)

Senate Bill 487 relates to water resources. The bill creates the Western Regional Water Commission to plan for the management of water supplies and to develop a comprehensive regional water plan for a portion of Washoe County. The bill also creates the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission to advise the Commission. If the cities of Reno and Sparks, Washoe County, Sun Valley General Improvement District, and Truckee Meadows Water Authority enter into a cooperative agreement, the entities may authorize the Western Regional Water Commission to exercise any powers that the entities

may individually exercise, provided the powers are not inconsistent with the Western Regional Water Commission Act.

The bill sets forth the membership, terms, and qualifications of the Board of Trustees of the Western Regional Water Commission, and the Planning Commission, as well as their duties and powers. To fund the activities of both Commissions, the measure authorizes the continuation of a fee not to exceed 1.5 percent of the amount billed by a public water purveyor to its customers provided that the fee is separately stated on its customer billings. The bill repeals portions of Chapter 540A in the *Nevada Revised Statutes* relating to the regional water planning commission, comprehensive regional plan, remediation, and water supply, and enacts similar requirements applicable to both commissions.

Senate Bill 487 creates a six-member Legislative Committee to Oversee the Northern Nevada Water Authority and requires that the Committee submit reports to the 2009, 2011, and 2013 Legislatures no later than January 15 of each odd-numbered year.

The provisions of the bill concerning the creation of the Commissions and their respective powers are effective on April 1, 2008. The provision authorizing a cooperative agreement between the entities became effective on July 1, 2007, and expires on April 1, 2008, if the agreement has not been entered into before that date. The provisions relating to the interim legislative oversight committee became effective on July 1, 2007, and expire on July 1, 2013.

S.B. 498 (Chapter 497)

Senate Bill 498 expands the authority of the Virgin Valley Water District to borrow money and incur indebtedness subject to the oversight of the Clark County Debt Management Commission. This measure also gives the Virgin Valley Water District the authority to utilize lease-purchase agreements in accordance with existing State laws regarding medium-term obligations.

Senate Bill 498 also expands the authority of certain local improvement districts to borrow money and incur indebtedness. This measure also provides that, when in conflict with other provisions in statute, the Local Government Securities Law controls the issuing of securities by local improvement districts.

The bill became effective on July 1, 2007.

S.C.R. 11 (File No. 65)

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11 urges the State Engineer, local governments, and water entities to cooperate in the establishment of a statewide system for managing and sharing groundwater resource information and a procedure to consolidate certain water rights held by local governments. The measure also encourages local governments to locate new businesses and industries in rural Nevada close to available water resources.

Wildlife

A.B. 259 (Chapter 182)

Assembly Bill 259 requires that the Department of Wildlife provide to the Legislature, at each regular session, a financial report setting forth the activity and status of the Wildlife Obligated Reserve Account and any other account or subaccount with restricted funds administered by the Department.

This bill became effective on July 1, 2007.

A.B. 573 (Chapter 411)

Assembly Bill 573 authorizes the Nevada Department of Wildlife to issue one-day group fishing permits and establishes fees for issuing those permits. The bill expands the circumstances under which a person must obtain a license or permit to hunt or fish certain wildlife to include any wildlife, not just wild birds or mammals. The bill also requires that permits to hunt, fish, or trap include the same information that is currently required on licenses to hunt, fish, or trap. Finally, A.B. 573 reduces from \$1,200 to \$500 the fee for a nonresident antlerless elk tag.

The measure revises the provisions applicable to unlawful hunting of certain animals by removing the use of a motor vehicle to hunt animals as a crime punishable as a category E felony or gross misdemeanor and by requiring that a person must knowingly hunt outside of the permitted time of day to be guilty of a category E felony or gross misdemeanor.

This bill became effective on July 1, 2007.

S.B. 189 (Chapter 380)

Senate Bill 189 appropriates \$200,800 to the Interim Finance Committee for allocation to the Department of Wildlife for the implementation of sagebrush habitat projects in state and local plans.

The funding may only be allocated upon submittal by the Department of a detailed plan with cost estimates for specific habitat projects identified in sage grouse conservation plans. The funding must only be used as matching funds for the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act or other federal funding to implement identified sagebrush habitat projects.

The bill became effective on June 13, 2007.

Miscellaneous

A.B. 554 (Chapter 291)

Among other things, the measure extends the period to issue general obligation bonds of the State to protect, preserve, and obtain the benefits of the property and natural resources of this State to December 31, 2011.

This measure became effective on July 1, 2007.

S.B. 226 (Chapter 382)

Senate Bill 226 appropriates \$150,000 to the Division of State Parks in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for expenses related to thinning forests in state parks during the 2007-2009 biennium.

The measure also requires the Division to study of the feasibility of generating revenue for forest management through thinning forests in state parks. The study must include the use of forest products for biomass fuel, soil amendments, commercial Christmas trees, firewood, and commercial lumber harvesting. The study must also evaluate the fire management plan for protecting the Tahoe Basin from fire incursion from outside the Basin. The study and any recommendations for legislation must be submitted to the 2009 Legislature.

The bill became effective on July 1, 2007.

S.B. 267 (Chapter 210)

Senate Bill 267 removes a sunset provision in current law so that the Legislative Committee on Public Lands may continue to study activities of the Colorado River Commission, all public water authorities, and all other public or private entities that have agreements with the State relative to water. The bill also authorizes the Committee to review and comment on regulations and policies regulating the use, allocation, and management of water resources in Nevada, and the status of existing information relating to water use, surface water resources, and groundwater resources in this State.

This bill became effective on June 29, 2007.

S.B. 269 (Chapter 116)

Senate Bill 269 requires that zoning decisions made by local governing bodies and various land use and master plans consider the coordination and compatibility of land uses with each military installation in the region and take into account the location, purpose, and stated mission of the military installation. The bill also requires the commander of a military installation to receive notice of any hearing on a conditional or special use permit or a plan amendment or adoption, if the permit or plan impacts property within 3,000 feet of the military installation. Finally, S.B. 269 stipulates that the Armed Forces of the United States falls under the definition of a "person" as it relates to an aggrieved person having the ability to appeal the decision of a planning commission, hearing examiner, or similar body.

S.B. 579 (Chapter 345)

Senate Bill 579 establishes the Legislative Counsel Bureau Disbursement Account. The bill also appropriates \$9,825,000 from the State General Fund to various programs and projects in Nevada, including the following appropriations package which sets aside funds for improvements and new facilities for parks and other recreational areas:

- \$225,000 to the Division of State Parks to develop a new picnic area at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park;
- \$163,760 to the City of Sparks to complete the construction of the Larry D. Johnson Community Center;
- \$200,000 to Elko County to acquire and maintain exhibits for the California Trail Interpretive Center;
- \$100,000 to the Division of State Parks to establish a state park designated as Monte Cristo's Castle in Esmeralda County; and
- \$157,754 to the City of Las Vegas for certain programs at Floyd Lamb State Park.

The bill also appropriates:

- \$200,000 to the Division of Forestry to match federal funding for support of the Urban and Community Forestry Program;
- \$250,000 to the Division of State Parks to prepare a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan in southern Nevada;
- \$500,000 to the Northern Nevada Development Authority to support rural economic development programs approved by the Commission on Economic Development;
- \$500,000 to the Nevada Institute for Renewable Energy Commercialization for the planning, initial staffing, and early implementation of the Institute; and
- \$750,000 to the Nevada Fire Safe Council for a community-based wildfire threat reduction program;

Selected appropriations relating to cultural programs, state parks and community centers, education, transportation, energy, and fire safety became effective on June 13, 2007. The remaining programs relating to construction projects, health and welfare services, and education became effective on July 1, 2007.

S.J.R. 11 (File No. 95)

Senate Joint Resolution No. 11 encourages Congress to make biomass eligible for production tax credits. The measure also encourages production of biomass energy in Nevada and investments in biomass energy projects. Finally, the resolution promotes partnerships between the public and private sector to develop biomass energy projects.

The measure became effective on May 28, 2007.

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