

Recommendations to the full SCR 26 Interim Committee on the Use, Management and Allocation of Water developed by the Central Nevada Water Authority and concurred with and added to (*) by the Great Basin Water Network:

- 1) Continue need-based funding to support local water resource planning and information management. The funding should be similar in scope to the SB62 grant program, but should go farther by creating a framework for permanent funding commitment. The intention of the legislature to permanently fund water resource planning and information management should be explicit in the new legislation. In addition, the new legislation should provide clear direction for program administration.
- 2) Augment need-based funding for water resource plan implementation (infrastructure development) via the existing AB198 program. Planning and information is the stepping-off point for water resource management; however, success is demonstrated through implementation. Bridging the knowledge and fiscal gap between planning and implementation remains a major hurdle for developing communities.
- 3) *Appropriate funds to allow the State Engineer's office to contract for groundwater basin studies where applications or adjudication are pending. Approximately \$1.6 million per basin study has been spent by Washoe County to study their groundwater basins. Assuming this figure, allocate \$3.2 to 4.8 million per year to assist the State Engineer's office in gathering data (precipitation, stream gages), verifying existing uses, completing drilling and monitoring, and modeling transmissivity. This should assist the State Engineer's office in meeting the requirements of NRS 532.165.
- 4) Amend the protest provisions in NRS 533.365 to allow an additional 30-day period for filing protests of water rights applications if an application is not acted on within three years from filing. This provision will go a long way toward improving fairness and equity in the water allocation process. The provision can be further constrained by requiring that the second thirty-day protest period be provided only if the time between the date of last publication of the notice of application and the initial action by the State Engineer exceeds three years.
- 5) *Under NRS 533.365, direct the State Engineer's office to allow successors of property title or family members to continue as parties of protest if applications are not acted upon within 3 years. Death, incapacitation, sale of property can occur over the course of time. This direction allows for constitutional "Due Process."

EXHIBIT K - WATER RESOURCES Document consists of 2 pages. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entire document provided. Meeting Date: May 24, 2006

- 6) Increase the technical capacity of the Division of Water Resources and local government to accommodate greater monitoring and oversight responsibility. This recommendation is aimed at improving the public's confidence that impacts caused by rapid water resource development will be (a) timely recognized by the State Engineer and (b) addressed while impacts are emerging and before they become disruptive and costly.
- 7) Create the office of Water Resource Users Advocate (on par with the Consumers Advocate) in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This recommendation parallels the reasoning behind recommendation 4. A Water Resource Users Advocate, if properly constrained, will (a) help to filter tenuous charges of injury or mismanagement related to water resources, (b) provide guidance to individuals or interests who feel injured, but may not have the sophistication to act on their concerns and, most importantly, (c) build a sense of parity among parties engaged in emerging water resource disputes.
- 8) *Request LCB undertake a comparative study of several western states' water resource organizational structures to identify who does groundwater studies, how each handles conservation programs, what each requires for water commitments to development, and how each constructs the definition of public benefits and public interests. (Suggest Utah, Idaho and Arizona to start.)
- 9) *Require all private and public M&I water agencies supplying water to 600 or more customers to report annually beginning in 2008. Annual reports would be distributed to rate-payers and governing boards and commissions which A) provides all locations and amounts of water supplied by source, B) total and average use of water by user groups (single-family, multi-family, commercial, resort-hotel casino, etc.), C) total water loss in water supply system, D) total income of agency, total expenditure of agency, total debt of agency, and anticipated costs by project planned within 10 years. This would accompany the annual water quality report.
- 10) *Require counties or water purveyors to update water conservation plans every five years, beginning in the year 2008 that defines what steps will and have been taken to use water more efficiently and how much water may have been saved in various water use sectors – urban residential; commercial; public facilities such as schools, colleges, and public building indoor and outdoor use; golf courses/football fields; and agriculture. It's been 13 years since conservation plans were required and submitted, while water has become increasingly valuable.