

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION'S SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY WATER

*Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 218E.200*

This summary presents the recommendations approved by the Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study Water during the 2015–2016 Legislative Interim at the Subcommittee's final meeting held on August 26, 2016, in Carson City, Nevada. The bill draft requests (BDRs) will be forwarded to the Legislative Commission for transmittal to the 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature in 2017.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION

1. Request the drafting of a bill to expand the allowable uses of the existing grant program for water projects (NRS 349.980, et seq.), otherwise known as the "AB 198 Grant Program," (Assembly Bill 198 [Chapter 559, *Statutes of Nevada 1991*]) to include a cloud seeding program as an allowable use of grant funds and to allow the Board for Financing Water Projects, Division of Environmental Protection, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (SDCNR) to receive gifts, grants, and donations. **(BDR –356)**
2. Request the drafting of a bill to provide that at times of curtailment by priority by the Office of the State Engineer, Division of Water Resources, SDCNR, only withdrawals from domestic wells for outdoor water use are curtailed, with an excepted allowance for outdoor watering of pets and livestock. **(BDR –357)**
3. Request the drafting of a bill to provide that in severely over-appropriated basins and designated critical management areas, the Office of the State Engineer limit withdrawals from new domestic wells to 0.5 acre-feet annually. The limitation is only applicable to new wells and is not applicable to currently existing domestic wells or to existing domestic wells that require rehabilitation, refurbishment, or replacement. **(BDR –358)**
4. Request the drafting of a bill to require the claimant of a pre-statutory water right to submit proof of the claim to the Office of the State Engineer on or before December 31, 2025, regardless of whether an adjudication has been ordered for a water source. If the claimant fails to submit such proof, the claim is deemed to be abandoned. **(BDR –359)**
5. Request the drafting of a bill that clarifies management tools that may be approved by the Office of the State Engineer in a Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) submitted for a basin designated as a critical management area. The bill also clarifies that an approved GMP applies to all water users in a basin. **(BDR –367)**

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POSITION STATEMENTS  
IN FINAL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

6. Include a position statement in the final report to acknowledge surface water and groundwater connectivity and the need for the Office of the State Engineer to utilize conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater resources where connected.
7. Include a position statement in the final report recommending a statewide Nevada water future discussion and encouraging the Executive Branch of State government, the Nevada Legislature, local governments, the business community, the environmental community, and the public to come together to discuss Nevada's water future and develop a Nevada water future strategy. Encourage utilization of the work of the Subcommittee, the Governor's Drought Summit, and the Nevada Drought Forum as a foundation for a meaningful statewide water future discussion and strategy.
8. Include a position statement in the final report calling for local government land-use plans to be based on identified sustainable water resources.