

March 9, 2023,

To: Natural Resources

Re: Support Bill# AB220

Chair Cohen and members of the committee, my name is Tracy Puckett, a volunteer member of Sierra Club's Legislative Committee and a 30 year resident of Clark County. On behalf of the Club, the world's largest environmental volunteer organization, and our more than 30,000 members and supporters state-wide, I am speaking in support of bill# AB220.

Southern Nevada has been experiencing a severe water shortage for years due to an unprecedented, more than 20 year drought, exponential growth and ever increasing demands on the Colorado River basin, therefore; our main water source, Lake Mead. The Lake has now reached dangerously low levels and is at risk for deadpool. The Southern Nevada Water Authority has made some very tough requirements to conserve water in Southern Nevada. AB220 is a continuation of these efforts.

The laws proposed in this bill are projected to save millions of gallons of water by enhancing water recycling from old septic systems, decreasing indoor and outdoor waste through efficiency requirements, authorizing the State Engineer to protect groundwater when municipal or district supplied water is available and addressing emergency water restrictions, including communications of such emergencies. We are in a water crisis and must do everything possible to save water in order to maintain the level of life that we and so many visitors have enjoyed for years.

Some of these proposals will be difficult for us to manage, but necessary to do so. There are provisions listed to assist citizens in complying with the septic conversions and the timeline is very long. The Federal Infrastructure Bill provides monies for drought mitigation as well.

For these reasons, we urge you to support this bill.

Thank you.