

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
AND
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND
TRANSPORTATION**

**Eighty-second Session
May 5, 2023**

The joint meeting of the Subcommittees on Public Safety, Natural Resources, and Transportation of the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means was called to order by Chair Dallas Harris at 8:04 a.m. on Friday, May 5, 2023, in Room 1214 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4412E of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Dallas Harris, Chair
Senator Rochelle T. Nguyen
Senator Pete Goicoechea

ASSEMBLY SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Howard Watts, Chair
Assemblywoman Natha C. Anderson, Vice Chair
Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May
Assemblywoman Jill Dickman
Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow
Assemblyman Gregory T. Hafen II

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wayne Thorley, Senate Fiscal Analyst
Karen Hoppe, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Nicolette Johnston, Program Analyst
Paul Breen, Committee Assistant

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Marie Bell, Committee Secretary
Helen Wood, Committee Secretary

CHAIR HARRIS:

Fiscal staff will walk us through the budget closing document for eight budget accounts within the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

NICOLETTE JOHNSTON (Program Analyst):

The Public Safety, Natural Resources, and Transportation Joint Subcommittee Closing List #8 is ([Exhibit C](#)). The Nevada Department of Wildlife, Director's Office budget account (B/A) 101-4460 begins on page 3 of [Exhibit C](#).

INFRASTRUCTURE

WILDLIFE

Wildlife - Director's Office — Budget Page WILDLIFE-6 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4460

There are two Major Closing Issues. Major Closing Issue 1 is three new accounting assistant positions.

The Governor recommends transfers of sportsmen revenue of \$165,977 in fiscal years (FY) 2023-2024 and \$198,173 in FY 2024-2025 in decision unit E-225 for the personnel and associated operating costs of three new accounting assistant positions in the Director's Office to support accounting and contract fiscal duties. The new accounting assistant IV and two new accounting assistant III positions would provide additional support to the Director's Office due to increased workload within the fiscal services unit.

E-225 Efficiency & Innovation — Page WILDLIFE-8

The Department indicates federal grant awards increased over the past five years from \$27.7 million in FY 2017-2018 to \$51.1 million in FY 2021-2022. A brief description of the duties and responsibilities for each of the new accounting assistant positions are listed on page 4 of [Exhibit C](#).

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During the agency request phase of the budget process, the Director's Office requested 11 new positions and 5 position reclassifications. Supporting documentation provided during the agency request phase indicated the positions were needed due to the anticipated receipt of federal funds through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which would have provided the Department with approximately \$24 million in additional funding annually. The legislation was ultimately not approved by Congress prior to the Governor's recommended budget being published.

During its March 16, 2023, budget hearing, the Department indicated the three accounting assistant positions would help facilitate the processing of additional grant funds. The Department testified the new accounting assistant IV position would split duties with an existing accounting assistant IV. One of the new accounting assistant III positions would assist with contracts, and the other new accounting assistant III position would assist with processing payments.

The Department confirmed the recommendation for three accounting assistant positions is due to the increased workload and not due to anticipated workload associated with the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which has still not been approved by Congress.

The decision for the Subcommittees is shown on page 4 of [Exhibit C](#). Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend to the Full Committees to approve the transfer of sportsmen revenue of \$165,977 in FY 2023-2024 and \$198,173 in FY 2024-2025 in B/A 101-4460 for three new accounting assistant positions to support the fiscal services unit due to an increase of federal grant awards as recommended by the Governor?

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEES TO APPROVE IN B/A 101-4460 DECISION UNIT E-225, AS DISCUSSED ON PAGES 3-4 OF [EXHIBIT C](#), TRANSFERS OF SPORTSMEN REVENUE OF \$165,977 IN FY 2023-2024 AND \$198,173 IN FY 2024-2025 FOR THREE NEW ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT POSITIONS TO SUPPORT THE FISCAL SERVICES UNIT DUE TO AN INCREASE OF FEDERAL GRANT AWARDS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

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SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Ms. JOHNSTON:

Major Closing Issue 2 in B/A 101-4460 beginning on page 4 of [Exhibit C](#), is a new unclassified deputy director position. The Office of the Governor, Office of Finance submitted Budget Amendment No. A230754460 ([Exhibit D](#)) on March 3, 2023, to add one new unclassified deputy director position in the Director's Office in B/A 101-4460. The personnel and operating costs for the position total \$143,743 in FY 2023-2024 and \$174,713 in FY 2024-2025, to be funded through transfers of sportsmen revenue.

The Department indicated the position is necessary because of increasing demands to manage divisions, programs, resources and operations. According to the Department, programs such as lands, water, equipment and facilities have seen a substantial increase in activity, which increased demands on management. The Department manages over 150 buildings, 27 of which are employee residences, and maintains 30 boating facilities and 8 dams.

The new deputy director position would also be responsible for providing oversight of the Department's public records requests. The Department stated coordination and review of its responses to public records requests is time consuming and does not permit sufficient time to address other important tasks in the Director's Office.

During the March 16, 2023, budget hearing, the Subcommittees discussed duties and responsibilities of the new deputy director position. The Department stated the new deputy director would oversee operations for engineering, facilities and State lands.

During the March 16, 2023, budget hearing, the Department indicated while all responsibilities are being addressed, the addition of another deputy director

would improve its management capabilities. The new deputy director position would assume duties from each of the existing deputy directors, including engineering projects and management of lands, wildlife management areas, and restoration and rehabilitation programs.

The Subcommittees inquired about tasks relating to public records requests. The Subcommittees suggested those duties would be more aligned with the duties of the public information officer position. The Department provided follow-up information indicating the oversight of its public records requests would be a secondary duty and not a primary duty, noting this work could not be assigned to existing public information officers since they are already working at full capacity. The Department explained, due to the sensitive nature of some public records requests, a deputy director and deputy attorney general must review them.

The decision for the Subcommittees is shown on page 6 of [Exhibit C](#). Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend to the Full Committees to approve Budget Amendment No. A230754460, [Exhibit D](#), in B/A 101-4460 to add one new unclassified deputy director position, funded through transfers of sportsmen revenue of \$143,743 in FY 2023-2024 and \$174,713 in FY 2024-2025, as recommended by the Governor?

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEES TO APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. A230754460, [EXHIBIT D](#), IN B/A 101-4460 TO ADD ONE NEW UNCLASSIFIED DEPUTY DIRECTOR POSITION, FUNDED THROUGH TRANSFERS OF SPORTSMEN REVENUE OF \$143,743 IN FY 2023-2024 AND \$174,713 IN FY 2024-2025 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Ms. JOHNSTON:

There are four Other Closing Items in B/A 101-4460 listed on page 6 of [Exhibit C](#). These items pertain to document storage, membership fees, equipment replacement and reclassification of a position. They are funded in decision units E-226, E-227, E-710 and E-805. Fiscal staff recommends Other Closing Items 1 through 4 be closed as recommended by the Governor and requests authority to make technical adjustments as necessary.

E-226 Efficiency & Innovation — Page WILDLIFE-9
E-227 Efficiency & Innovation — Page WILDLIFE-9
E-710 Equipment Replacement — Page WILDLIFE-9
E-805 Classified Position Changes — Page WILDLIFE-10

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEES TO APPROVE OTHER CLOSING ITEMS 1 THROUGH 4 IN B/A 101-4460 DECISION UNITS E-226, E-227, E-710 AND E-805, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Ms. JOHNSTON:

The Conservation Education B/A 101-4462 is shown on page 7 of [Exhibit C](#). There is one Major Closing Issue, a marketing and outreach campaign in decision unit E-226.

Wildlife - Conservation Education — Budget Page WILDLIFE-18 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4462

E-226 Efficiency & Innovation — Page WILDLIFE-20

The Governor recommends cost allocation reimbursement of \$104,000 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium to support the creation and delivery of a marketing and outreach campaign to attract potential new hunters and anglers to Nevada and increase public awareness and education pertaining to conservation, wildlife and recreation.

The Department stated it needs to invest in targeted marketing efforts to grow its market share and to reach new user groups and emphasize the importance of wildlife conservation for the State's economy, culture and quality of life. The campaigns and promotions would range from public education to wildlife conservation awareness with a variety of messaging delivered across Nevada and neighboring states.

A variety of marketing methods are used to communicate with current and potential customers, and to increase public awareness and education pertaining to conservation, wildlife and recreation throughout the State. While this includes both paid and free marketing methods, the Department anticipates a professional marketing campaign would produce a broader impact for the public to understand wildlife and conservation efforts in Nevada and engage new audiences.

There is \$63,500 budgeted for marketing in FY 2022-2023. The Governor's recommended budget includes \$213,650 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium for marketing. If decision unit E-226 is approved, the total marketing budget in B/A 101-4462 would be \$317,650 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium.

After the March 16, 2023, budget hearing, the Department provided additional information on how it measures the success of targeted marketing campaigns. Depending on the goal of the marketing campaign, staff would measure license sales, growth in the Agency's social media following link clicks in emails and social media posts, open rates on emails and social media impressions and engagement.

After the March 2023 budget hearing, Fiscal staff asked for an explanation of how the \$104,000 in each fiscal year would be allocated among the Department's various programs. In response, the Department stated funds

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would be used exclusively on marketing and outreach campaigns that include promoting hunting, fishing and boating, and educational campaigns such as chronic wasting disease and living with bears.

While the Conservation Education Division helps promote programs from all seven of the Department's Divisions, much of the Conservation Education Division's efforts are focused on the Game Habitat, Fisheries and Wildlife Diversity Divisions. The Department stated such campaigns have become increasingly expensive and while efforts to keep marketing costs down have been effective, additional funds are needed.

During the March 16, 2023, budget hearing, the Subcommittee asked how the Department determined that \$104,000 was sufficient for its marketing campaign. The Department responded that previously contracted marketing costs with three different vendors were used as the basis for the estimates for the 2023-2025 biennium.

The decision for the Subcommittees is shown on page 9 of [Exhibit C](#). Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend to the Full Committees to approve cost allocation reimbursements totaling \$104,000 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium in B/A 101-4462 to fund a marketing and outreach campaign to attract potential new hunters and anglers to Nevada as recommended by the Governor?

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS:

We have received information about the Department's BearWise Program and efforts in the Lake Tahoe region to provide bear proof containers. I am in support of the marketing enhancement. It is my hope there will be a substantial return in this investment with an increase in people getting hunting and fishing licenses, and putting in for tags to allow us to take on additional programs. We will continue to see significant issues with bears in northern Nevada. I hope in the future, the Department and the Governor will bring forward budget proposals to address this. More needs to be done.

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEES IN B/A 101-4462 DECISION UNIT E-226 TO APPROVE COST ALLOCATION REIMBURSEMENTS TOTALING \$104,000

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IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM IN B/A 101-4462 TO FUND A MARKETING AND OUTREACH CAMPAIGN TO ATTRACT POTENTIAL NEW HUNTERS AND ANGLERS TO NEVADA, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Ms. JOHNSTON:

Other Closing Item 1 for B/A 101-4462 decision unit E-711 is on page 9 of [Exhibit C](#). This pertains to equipment replacement. Fiscal staff recommends Other Closing Item 1 be closed as recommended by the Governor and requests authority to make technical adjustments as necessary.

E-711 Equipment Replacement — Page WILDLIFE-20

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEES TO APPROVE OTHER CLOSING ITEM 1 IN B/A 101-4462 DECISION UNIT E-711, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Ms. JOHNSTON:

The Law Enforcement B/A 101-4463 is on page 11 of [Exhibit C](#). There is one Major Closing Issue, decision unit E-302 for a funding increase for the boating safety outreach program. The Governor recommends transfers of boating registration revenue of \$68,324 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium to restore and augment funding for the boating safety outreach program to increase boating safety awareness and promote boater education courses, sober boating and the use of life jackets. This recommendation would address rising advertising costs and increase boating safety awareness.

Wildlife - Law Enforcement — Budget Page WILDLIFE-23 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4463

E-302 Safety, Security and Justice — Page WILDLIFE-25

A multitiered approach is used by the Department for its boating safety education marketing and outreach campaigns which include radio, television, streaming video, digital, social media and print. Of the total recommended increase of \$68,324 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium, \$29,565 in each year is recommended to restore boating safety and education marketing and outreach expenditure authority from the \$83,714 included in the base budget in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium to the \$113,279 per year funding level approved in the Eightieth Session for the 2019-2021 biennium. The Department stated the previous legislatively-approved funding level of \$113,279 in each year was inadvertently reduced during the budget build for the 2021-2023 biennium budget.

The remaining \$38,759 of the \$68,324 in each fiscal year of the biennium is recommended to augment funding for an expansion of the Boating Safety Outreach Program to include paddle sports, which would result in total annual funding for boating safety and education marketing and outreach activities of \$152,038 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium. The recommended funding augmentation of \$38,759 represents a 34.2 percent annual increase from the \$113,279 in each year approved in the Eightieth Session for boating safety and education marketing and outreach activities. According to the Department, the additional funding would be utilized to purchase equipment such as kayaks,

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paddles and life jackets to launch a new paddle sport program and to purchase promotional items for events, life jackets for the Department's life jacket loaner stations Statewide, and printing boating safety publications.

One measurable item tracked to gauge success is the number of boating education courses completed each year. The Department experienced an increase of nearly 200 percent in completion of boating education courses during the 2019-2021 biennium. However, as a result of the funding reduction to the boating safety and education category for the 2021-2023 biennium, the Department reduced boating safety and education marketing and outreach campaigns and, as a result, completed boating education courses decreased by 45 percent.

During the March 16, 2023, budget hearing, the Department discussed the benefits of restoring the Boating Safety Outreach Program. Boating safety is an area with significant impact to the general public, and the Department interacts with people participating and recreating on the water in the State. The Department stated its boat patrol saves drowning victims, responds to boat crashes, and works to minimize opportunities for boating accidents.

The decision for the Subcommittees is shown on page 12 of [Exhibit C](#). Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend to the Full Committees to approve transfers of boating registration revenue in the amount of \$68,324 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium in B/A 101-4463 to restore and augment funding for the Boating Safety Outreach Program, as recommended by the Governor?

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS:

There are 54 employees in the Law Enforcement Division. There has been very little change in the number of positions in that Division over the last 10 years. Since 2017, there have been two position reclassifications, one new position which replaced two seasonal positions and one new equipment mechanic position. If fully staffed, the patrol areas for the Department are 4,000 square miles per warden.

With some of the other pay increases we are looking at, hopefully we will be able to get our law enforcement fully staffed and improve retention so we do

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not have to spend so much time training and can spend more time in the field. There needs to be additional investment.

Boating safety saves lives. Enforcement provides a benefit to everyone, not just to wildlife and sportsmen through game law enforcement. I hope the next recommended budget proposals show gains in this area which are past due.

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEES TO APPROVE TRANSFERS OF BOATING REGISTRATION REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$68,324 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM IN B/A 101-4463 DECISION UNIT E-302 TO RESTORE AND AUGMENT FUNDING FOR THE BOATING SAFETY OUTREACH PROGRAM AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Ms. JOHNSTON:

There are seven Other Closing Items in B/A 101-4463 shown on pages 12 and 13 of [Exhibit C](#). Other Closing Items 1 through 5 are decision units E-710, E-711, E-301, E-304 and E-720 and pertain to equipment and training.

E-301 Safety, Security and Justice — Page WILDLIFE-25

E-304 Safety, Security and Justice — Page WILDLIFE-26

E-710 Equipment Replacement — Page WILDLIFE-26

E-711 Equipment Replacement — Page WILDLIFE-27

E-720 New Equipment — Page WILDLIFE-27

Other Closing Item 6 decision unit E-673 is for a two-grade salary increase for 33 game warden III positions which was approved by the Joint Full Committees in the closing hearing for the Statewide decision units on May 1, 2023.

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E-673 Salary Adjustment One-Time for 2023-2025 Biennium — Page
WILDLIFE-26

Other Closing Item 7 on page 13 is Budget Amendment No. A232024463 ([Exhibit E](#)) which funds a one-grade salary increase for four game warden IV positions and three staff game warden positions to address pay parity issues. This recommendation was considered and approved by the Joint Full Committees in the closing hearing for the Statewide decision units on May 1, 2023.

Fiscal staff recommends Other Closing Items 1 through 5 in B/A 101-4463 be closed as recommended by the Governor and Other Closing Items 6 and 7 be closed consistent with the decision of the Joint Full Committees in the closing hearing of the Statewide decision units where other Statewide compensation adjustments were considered. Fiscal staff requests authority to make technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEES TO APPROVE OTHER CLOSING ITEMS 1 THROUGH 5 IN B/A 101-4463 DECISION UNITS E-301, E-304, E-710, E-711 AND E-720 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR; OTHER CLOSING ITEM 6 DECISION UNIT E-673 AND OTHER CLOSING ITEM 7 BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. A232024463, [EXHIBIT E](#), IN B/A 101-4463 BE APPROVED CONSISTENT WITH THE DECISION OF THE JOINT FULL COMMITTEES IN THE CLOSING HEARING OF THE STATEWIDE DECISION UNITS WHERE OTHER STATEWIDE COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENTS WERE CONSIDERED WITH AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Ms. JOHNSTON:

The Fisheries Management B/A 101-4465 is shown on page 15 of [Exhibit C](#).

Wildlife - Fisheries Management — Budget Page WILDLIFE-36 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4465

There is one Major Closing Issue in B/A 101-4465 for refurbishment of the air-coil cooling tower at the Mason Valley Fish Hatchery. The Governor recommends a transfer of sportsmen revenue of \$260,000 in FY 2023-2024 in decision unit E-251 to fund replacement parts to refurbish the existing air-coil cooling tower structure at the Mason Valley Fish Hatchery.

E-251 Infrastructure, Energy & Environment — Page WILDLIFE-38

The tower is showing signs of wear and is in need of complete refurbishment and thorough cleaning to maintain the ideal water temperature to continue operations. The air-coil cooling tower at the Mason Valley Fish Hatchery is in full operation. The tower was originally installed in 1988 when the facility was originally constructed. It was last refurbished in 2010.

According to the Department, the fish hatchery would remain in operation during the refurbishment, which will begin July 1, 2023. Should funding for this refurbishment project not be approved, the Department advised catastrophic failure of the air-coil cooling tower in the near future would be likely. This would have a negative impact on the more than one million fish in this facility, and result in a loss of 40 to 45 percent of fish stocked for recreational fishing purposes in Nevada each year. Fish would not be able to be relocated to other hatchery facilities as they are at capacity.

During the March 16, 2023, budget hearing, the Subcommittees asked the Department if it believed the air-coil cooling tower project would be completed in FY 2023-2024. The Department indicated the project would be completed in FY 2023-2024 and stated the air-coil cooling tower has five chambers but only one chamber would be shut down at a time.

The Subcommittees asked why the refurbishment of the air-coil cooling tower at Mason Valley Fish Hatchery is recommended to be funded through this budget

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rather than as a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project. The Department indicated this option was not considered because these projects have historically been funded through this budget.

The decision for the Subcommittees is shown on page 16 of [Exhibit C](#). Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend to the Full Committees to approve a transfer of sportsmen revenue of \$260,000 in FY 2023-2024 in B/A 101-4465 decision unit E-251 to fund the refurbishment of the air-coil cooling tower at the Mason Valley Fish Hatchery as recommended by the Governor?

CHAIR HARRIS:

This type of project should be included in CIP in the future regardless of how it was handled in the past.

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEES TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF SPORTSMEN REVENUE OF \$260,000 IN FY 2023-2024 IN B/A 101-4465 DECISION UNIT E-251 TO FUND THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE AIR-COIL COOLING TOWER AT THE MASON VALLEY FISH HATCHERY AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Ms. JOHNSTON:

The Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds within B/A 101-4465 are shown on page 16 of [Exhibit C](#). There is an update on the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery water supply line project. According to the Department, phase 1 of the project is currently in process and is anticipated to be completed in early FY 2023-2024.

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Upon completion of phase 1, phase 2 will begin, which includes completion of final engineering designs and on-the-ground construction activities required to lay and connect the new water supply line from the Southern Nevada Water Authority facility to the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery.

The Department estimates the new water supply line will be operable with the hatchery receiving water by December 2024. The hatchery would be able to start accepting and rearing fish in January 2025.

Following the March 16, 2023, budget hearing, the Department stated there have been no expenditures of Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds in FY 2022-2023 as this project is still in phase 1, and Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds would be expended in phase 2. The Governor's recommended budget does not include any revenue or expenditure authority for Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds in the upcoming biennium.

Fiscal staff recommends a technical adjustment to include revenue and expenditure authority of \$2.3 million in FY 2023-2024 and \$779,875 in FY 2024-2025 in Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds to align budgetary authority with the Department's planned expenditures for this project in the 2023-2025 biennium.

The decision for the Subcommittees is shown on page 17 of [Exhibit C](#). Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend to the Full Committees to approve a technical adjustment in B/A 101-4465 to establish revenue and expenditure authority of Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds totaling \$2.3 million in FY 2023-2024 and \$779,875 in FY 2024-2025 to continue funding the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery water supply line project?

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

There was some discussion in the August 2022 Interim Finance Committee meeting whether these Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds met the U.S. Department of the Treasury guidelines. We need to make sure it is spent. At the meeting, it was a little gray whether piping water to fish was a qualified expenditure.

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ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEES TO APPROVE A TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT TO ESTABLISH REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY OF CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS TOTALING \$2.3 MILLION IN FY 2023-2024 AND \$779,875 IN FY 2024-2025 IN B/A 101-4465 TO CONTINUE FUNDING THE LAKE MEAD FISH HATCHERY WATER SUPPLY LINE PROJECT.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Ms. JOHNSTON:

There are two Other Closing Items in B/A 101-4465 decision units E-710 and E-711 pertaining to equipment replacement on page 17 of [Exhibit C](#). Fiscal staff recommends Other Closing Items 1 and 2 be closed as recommended by the Governor and requests authority to make technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEES TO APPROVE OTHER CLOSING ITEMS 1 AND 2 IN B/A 101-4465 DECISION UNITS E-710 AND E-711 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Ms. JOHNSTON:

Staff-closed budgets begin on page 19 of [Exhibit C](#). Staff-closed budgets are those budgets with no significant major issues identified nor significant informational items. These budgets have not been previously heard by the Subcommittees and Fiscal staff is responsible for developing recommendations for the closing of these budgets. Page 27 of the packet contains the summary page with the singular motion for these staff-closed budgets.

The Data and Technology Services B/A 101-4461 is on page 19 of [Exhibit C](#). There are no Major Closing Issues.

Wildlife - Data and Technology Services — Budget Page WILDLIFE-13
(Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4461

There are four Other Closing Items. Other Closing Items 1 through 3 decision units E-226, E-710 and E-720 pertain to equipment, efficiency and other innovation. Other Closing Item 4 on page 19 of [Exhibit C](#) is a technical adjustment to the base budget. Fiscal staff recommends a technical adjustment to add one IT professional position that was approved by the Interim Finance Committee at the August 17, 2022, meeting but was erroneously excluded from the base budget. Closing recommendations for this budget are included on page 27 of [Exhibit C](#).

E-226 Efficiency & Innovation — WILDLIFE-15
E-710 Equipment Replacement — WILDLIFE-15
E-720 New Equipment — WILDLIFE-16

The Game Management B/A 101-4464 is on page 21 of [Exhibit C](#). There are no Major Closing Issues.

Wildlife - Game Management — Budget Page WILDLIFE-30 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4464

There are four Other Closing Items. Other Closing items 1 through 3 decision units E-711, E-720 and E-735 are for airplane maintenance and equipment. Other Closing Item 4 is a base budget technical adjustment for an aviation

insurance increase to increase transfers of sportsman revenue by \$16,620 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium due to an increase in insurance cost. The annual cost of aviation insurance is \$139,447 in each year of the 2023-2025 biennium.

E-711 Equipment Replacement — Page WILDLIFE-32
E-720 Equipment Replacement — Page WILDLIFE-32
E-735 Airplane Maintenance — Page WILDLIFE-33

The Diversity Division B/A 101-4466 is on page 23 of [Exhibit C](#). There are no Major Closing Issues and two Other Closing Items including decision unit E-711 for equipment replacement. Closing recommendations for this budget are included on page 27 of [Exhibit C](#).

Wildlife - Diversity Division — Budget Page WILDLIFE-41 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4466

E-711 Equipment Replacement — Page WILDLIFE-43

The Habitat Division B/A 101-4467 is on page 25 of [Exhibit C](#). There are no Major Closing Issues. There are two Other Closing Items, decision units E-710 and E-711 pertaining to equipment replacement. Closing recommendations for this budget are included on page 27 of [Exhibit C](#).

Wildlife - Habitat — Budget Page WILDLIFE-45 (Volume III)
Budget Account 101-4467

E-710 Equipment Replacement — Page WILDLIFE-47
E-711 Equipment Replacement — Page WILDLIFE-47

Fiscal staff recommends the following budgets as noted on page 27 of [Exhibit C](#) be closed, as recommended by the Governor, with the technical adjustments noted and requests authority to make other technical adjustments as necessary: B/A 101-4461 decision units E-226, E-710 and E-720, including a technical adjustment to add one IT professional II position erroneously excluded from the base budget, B/A 101-4464 decision units E-711, E-720 and E-735, including

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a technical adjustment to increase costs for aviation insurance, B/A 101-4466 decision unit E-711 and B/A 101-4467 decision units E-710 and E-711.

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COMMITTEES TO APPROVE B/A 101-4461 DECISION UNITS E-226, E-710 AND E-720, INCLUDING A TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT TO ADD ONE IT PROFESSIONAL II POSITION ERRONEOUSLY EXCLUDED FROM THE BASE BUDGET, B/A 101-4464 DECISION UNITS E-711, E-720 AND E-735 INCLUDING A TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT TO INCREASE COSTS FOR AVIATION INSURANCE, B/A 101-4466 DECISION UNIT E-711 AND B/A 101-4467 DECISION UNITS E-710 AND E-711 WITH AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

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CHAIR HARRIS:

Hearing no public comment, this meeting is adjourned at 8:38 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Helen Wood,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Dallas Harris, Chair

DATE: _____

Assemblyman Howard Watts, Chair

DATE: _____

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EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit Letter	Introduced on Minute Report Page No.	Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
	B	1		Attendance Roster
	C	2	Cathy Crocket / Legislative Counsel Bureau	Joint Subcommittee Closing List #8 dated May 05, 2023
	D	4	Cathy Crocket / Legislative Counsel Bureau	Budget Amendment No. A230754460
	E	13	Cathy Crocket / Legislative Counsel Bureau	Budget Amendment No. A232024463