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Talking Points
SB 488
Senate Finance Committee
Doug Bierman
Humboldt River Basin Water Authority
4/2/03

Elko County
Eureka County
Humboldt County
Lander County
Pershing County

1. There is a need for surface water storage capacity within the Humboldt River Basin.
2. The annual average flow of the Humboldt River is 296,000 ac.ft.
3. There are approximately 690,000 ac.ft. of decreed and permitted water rights within the entire Humboldt River Basin
4. Annual variations in flow produce economic and environmental uncertainty.
5. Additional surface water storage capacity would allow water to be stored during years of above-average flows and released during years of below-average flows.
6. The Humboldt River Basin Water Authority has evaluated options for managing above-average flows in the Basin.
7. The Authority believes that additional reservoir storage capacity and ground-water banking offer the greatest potential for the Humboldt River Basin.
8. Authority members have toured the Bishop Creek Dam site and agree with the need for the study envisioned by SB 488.
9. The Humboldt River Basin Water Authority encourages the Senate Finance Committee to provide the Legislative Committee on Public Lands with \$15,000 to study the feasibility of rehabilitating the Bishop Creek Dam.

EXHIBIT K Senate Committee on Finance

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