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**Colorado River Commission of Nevada**  
**Presentation to Senate Committee on Legislative Affairs and**  
**Operations**

**George M. Caan, Executive Director, CRC**  
**April 1, 2003**

**MISSION**

The mission of the Colorado River Commission is to acquire, manage and protect all of Nevada's water and hydropower resources from the Colorado River for southern Nevada and to manage certain land in the Fort Mohave Valley near Laughlin, Nevada.

**GOVERNANCE**

The Colorado River Commission is comprised of seven members. Four members, including the Chairman, are appointed by the Governor. Three members are appointed by and are members of the Board of Directors of the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

**Current Members of the CRC**

Richard W. Bunker, Chairman  
Jay D. Bingham, Vice-Chairman  
Shari Buck, North Las Vegas Councilwoman \*  
Lamond R. Mills  
Bryan Nix, Boulder City Councilman \*  
Roland D. Westergard  
Myrna Williams, Clark County Commissioner \*

\* Denotes members appointed by the Southern Nevada Water Authority

**FUNDING**

The Colorado River Commission does not request or receive any state tax allocations or federal funds to support its administrative and operating functions. These functions are funded solely from revenue received from water and power contractors and from the sale of land. Interest income earned from investments by the State Treasurer contributes to revenues.

**EXISTING OVERSIGHT**

The functions, policies and activities of the CRC are presently guided and controlled at several levels of oversight.

- State level:
  - Governor:
    - Appoints 4 CRC members and designates CRC's chairman. (NRS 538.051)
    - Approves CRC's budget as part of the executive budget. (State Budget Act)
    - Approves CRC's water and power contracts. (NRS 538.251)
    - Approves CRC's bill draft requests as part of executive agency proposals.
    - Endorses emergency regulations. (NRS 233B.0613)

- **Legislature:**

- CRC presents its budget, including the water administrative and operating budget, to the legislative money committees, and budget changes to the Interim Finance Committee, for legislative authorization as prescribed by the State Budget Act
- CRC's administrative regulations must be reviewed by the Legislative Counsel and the Legislative Commission. (NRS ch. 233B)
- CRC is routinely called up by the legislative standing committees to offer testimony or respond to questions in subject areas related to CRC's functions and activities.

- **Regional and local level:**

- **Colorado River Commission**

- Meets nearly every month.
- Addresses all policy matters related to CRC's functions and activities.
- Specifically approves all CRC budgets, contracts and staff positions.
- Oversees staff's implementation of policy by informing itself through the Director's Report and other staff reports, briefings and tours and through customer and public input, and by giving directions to staff at public meetings.

- **Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA):**

- Board of Directors appoints 3 CRC members, who must be directors. (NRS 538.051, 538.061) These directors are all elected officials who serve on the governing bodies of SNWA's member agencies.
- SNWA reviews and approves the water administrative and operating budget before it is presented to the CRC Board.

- **CRC's Power customers:**

- Power customers include Overton Power District, Valley Electric Association, City of Boulder City, Lincoln County Power District, Nevada Power Company, SNWA, and the BMI Industrial Complex in Henderson, NV.
- Power customers meet individually and as a group on a periodic basis with staff to discuss matters of mutual concern.
- CRC maintains an interactive secure website accessible to its power customers to review energy supply, price and billing data:

- **Public:**

- CRC publishes notices and agendas and keeps minutes of its meetings, and provides adequate opportunity for public comments at its meetings, as prescribed by the Open Meeting Law.
- CRC maintains a website accessible to the public that contains information about CRC's commissioners, its functions and activities, including its meetings and meeting agendas, and a link so the public can contact CRC via e-mail. CRC website address is [www.crc.nv.gov](http://www.crc.nv.gov).