

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21—ASSEMBLYMEN
GIUNCHIGLIANI, GEDDES, ANDERSON, ANDONOV, ANGLE,
ARBERRY, ATKINSON, BEERS, BROWN, BUCKLEY,
CARPENTER, CHOWNING, CHRISTENSEN, CLABORN,
COLLINS, CONKLIN, GIBBONS, GOICOECHEA, GOLDWATER,
GRIFFIN, GUSTAVSON, HARDY, HETTRICK, HORNE,
KNECHT, KOIVISTO, LESLIE, MABEY, MANENDO, MARVEL,
MCCLAIN, MCCLEARY, MORTENSON, OCEGUERA,
OHRENSCHALL, PARKS, PERKINS, PIERCE, SHERER, WEBER
AND WILLIAMS

MAY 6, 2003

JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS MCGINNESS, AMODEI, CARE,
CARLTON, CEGAVSKE, COFFIN, HARDY, MATHEWS, NEAL,
NOLAN, O'CONNELL, RAGGIO, RAWSON, RHOADS,
SCHNEIDER, SHAFFER, TIFFANY, TITUS, TOWNSEND,
WASHINGTON AND WIENER

Referred to Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics

SUMMARY—Declares that preservation of Walker Lake's
freshwater ecosystem is important to residents
of Nevada. (BDR R-1302)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Declaring that
preservation of Walker Lake's freshwater ecosystem is
important to the residents of the State of Nevada.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Walker River is an interstate stream, consisting
- 2 of the East and West Walker, both of which rise high on the eastern
- 3 slopes of the Sierra Nevada in California; and
- 4 WHEREAS, The West Walker flows into Antelope Valley,
- 5 located mostly in California, and then into Smith and Mason
- 6 Valleys in Nevada; and
- 7 WHEREAS, The principal streams forming the East Walker
- 8 combine in Bridgeport Meadows in California, and from there, the



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1 East Walker flows into Mason Valley, where it unites with the West
2 Walker to form the main Walker River; and

3 WHEREAS, The main Walker River leaves Mason Valley and
4 flows into and through the Walker River Indian Reservation and
5 into Walker Lake; and

6 WHEREAS, The Walker River Irrigation District, a Nevada
7 irrigation district, owns and operates Bridgeport Reservoir, located
8 on the East Walker in California; and

9 WHEREAS, The United States, for the benefit of the Walker
10 River Paiute Tribe, owns and operates Weber Reservoir, located on
11 the Main Walker River and within the Walker River Indian
12 Reservation; and

13 WHEREAS, Walker Lake is a freshwater lake located in west-
14 central Nevada, fed by snowmelt from the Sierra Nevada in
15 California and other mountain ranges in Nevada; and

16 WHEREAS, Walker Lake draws a considerable number of
17 tourists and functions as an economic mainstay for the Mineral
18 County economy; and

19 WHEREAS, Walker Lake has cultural, historical and spiritual
20 importance to the Walker River Paiute Tribe; and

21 WHEREAS, Functioning as the terminus of the Walker River
22 System, Walker Lake is one of the few saline lakes that is capable of
23 supporting a freshwater trout fishery; and

24 WHEREAS, Walker Lake is a major migratory stopover for the
25 largest single inland congregation of common loons west of the
26 Mississippi River as well as other birds such as grebes, cormorants,
27 pelicans and other waterfowl that rely on the Lake for survival; and

28 WHEREAS, Walker Lake provides habitat for the Lahontan
29 cutthroat trout; and

30 WHEREAS, The Walker River System provides significant
31 recreation, ecologic and economic benefits in California, in
32 Bridgeport Meadows, in Antelope Valley and at Bridgeport and
33 Topaz Reservoirs, and in Nevada, in Topaz Reservoir, in Smith and
34 Mason Valleys, at Weber Reservoir, within the Walker River Indian
35 Reservation and at Walker Lake; and

36 WHEREAS, There are a number of interrelated issues on the
37 Walker River System, including claims by the Walker River Paiute
38 Tribe and the United States to surface and underground water for
39 federal property within the Walker River Basin in Nevada and
40 California, claims to adjudicate the water of the Walker River
41 System to preserve minimum water levels in Walker Lake and the
42 allocation of the water of the Walker River System between
43 California and Nevada (collectively the "Walker River Issues"); and

44 WHEREAS, The volume of Walker Lake has diminished by 75
45 percent since the late 1800s, and this continuing decrease is creating



1 high concentrations of dissolved solids that are extremely
2 detrimental and ultimately toxic to fish; and

3 WHEREAS, Effective as of January 14, 2003, the United States,
4 the State of Nevada, the State of California, the Walker River Paiute
5 Tribe, the Walker River Irrigation District, Mono County,
6 California, Lyon County, Nevada, Mineral County, Nevada, and the
7 Walker Lake Working Group agreed to attempt to resolve the
8 Walker River Issues through mediation with a third-party, neutral
9 mediator; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
11 SENATE CONCURRING, That the Nevada Legislature hereby
12 declares that the preservation of Walker Lake's freshwater
13 ecosystem is important to the residents of the State of Nevada and
14 that all reasonable actions to resolve the Walker River Issues
15 through the ongoing mediation should be taken; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and
17 transmit a copy of this resolution to Governor Kenny C. Guinn, to
18 Governor Gray Davis and to the Director of the Nevada State
19 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for
20 dissemination to all of the participants in the ongoing mediation.

