

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 469—ASSEMBLYMEN MORTENSON,
ANDERSON, BUCKLEY, KOIVISTO, MCCLAIN, PIERCE AND
WOMACK

MARCH 19, 2007

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Agriculture, and Mining

SUMMARY—Requires the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing a park for the protection of certain paleontologically sensitive sites if money is available. (BDR S-717)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included
in Executive Budget.

~

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

AN ACT relating to parks; requiring the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, to the extent that money is available, to conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing and developing a park in the Upper Las Vegas Wash; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1 **Section 2** of this bill requires the Division of State Parks of the State
2 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to work with the University of
3 Nevada, Las Vegas, to conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing and
4 developing a park in the Upper Las Vegas Wash if sufficient money is available.

- 1 WHEREAS, The portion of the Upper Las Vegas Wash known as
2 the Tule Springs Archaeological Site was the site of significant
3 archaeological and paleontological digs in the 1960s; and

- 4 WHEREAS, The Upper Las Vegas Wash is world-famous for its
5 abundant and well-preserved fossils of extinct animals dating to the
6 latter part of the ice age; and



WHEREAS, The fossils found in the Upper Las Vegas Wash range in age from more than 40,000 years old to 11,000 years old and include remains of extinct mammoths, ground sloths, giant lions, camels and llamas, giant bison and large and small horses, as well as abundant small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish; and

WHEREAS, Study of these fossils could provide significant educational resources to the people of the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, The Upper Las Vegas Wash is one of the last remnants of untouched desert immediately adjacent to the City of Las Vegas, and thus is an important natural resource for the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, The Upper Las Vegas Wash should be preserved to ensure the resource is not lost; and

WHEREAS, A park created in the Upper Las Vegas Wash could become a major attraction for the people of Nevada, bringing national and international tourists to the State in the same way that the La Brea Tar Pits of Los Angeles attract visitors to California; now, therefore,

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 2. 1. The Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, in cooperation with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, shall, to the extent that money is available, conduct or cause to be conducted, a study to consider the feasibility of establishing and developing a park in the area of Clark County, Nevada, known as the Upper Las Vegas Wash, consisting of approximately 315 acres, more properly described as: Lot 7, SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4, S 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of section 6; and Lot 1, the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4, the N 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of section 7; all in T. 19 S., R. 61 E., M.D.B. & M.

2. Any such study must include, without limitation, a consideration of the feasibility of developing a museum and a live dig site that is available for the public to visit.

3. The Division may receive and expend money from any public or private institution or person to carry out the provisions of this section.

4. The Administrator of the Division of State Parks may appoint an advisory board consisting of recognized paleontologists from within or without the State of Nevada to assist him in carrying out any study conducted pursuant to subsection 1.

Sec. 3. (Deleted by amendment.)



1 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

③⑩

