

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10—SENATOR SEGERBLOM

FEBRUARY 24, 2015

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Requests the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences to conduct an independent scientific and economic analysis of the management of the Colorado River. (BDR R-70)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Requesting the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences to conduct an independent scientific and economic analysis of the management of the Colorado River.

WHEREAS, The Colorado River provides water to 7 states, 29 Indian tribes and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, The supply of water in the Colorado River is critical to the economies, people and natural resources of these jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Numerous issues, including climate change and overconsumption, threaten the Colorado River and its surrounding habitats; and

WHEREAS, There is presently no independent body examining the complex set of interrelated issues affecting the health and sustainability of the Colorado River system; and

WHEREAS, As the nation's premier source of independent, multidisciplinary, expert advice on issues including science, engineering and the environment, the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences is uniquely qualified to conduct an independent review and analysis of the management of the Colorado River by the Bureau of Reclamation of the United States Department of the Interior; now, therefore, be it



1 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF  
2 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 78th Session of the  
3 Nevada Legislature hereby urge the National Research Council of  
4 the National Academy of Sciences to undertake a study of the  
5 management of the Colorado River; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That such a study should consider, without  
7 limitation:

8 1. The sufficiency and sustainability of the flow of the  
9 Colorado River to satisfy the allocations of water prescribed by the  
10 Colorado River Compact;

11 2. The sufficiency and sustainability of the supply of  
12 groundwater to meet projected demand;

13 3. Flood risks and strategies for flood management;

14 4. The viability of underground aquifers as an alternative to the  
15 storage of water above ground;

16 5. The protection and rehabilitation of animal and plant  
17 species;

18 6. Instream flow requirements for the permanent restoration of  
19 delta wetland habitats and the remediation of the Salton Sea  
20 agricultural drainage;

21 7. Scenarios for meeting the region's future water needs in  
22 times of flood or drought and habitat conditions that sustain the  
23 corridor's flora and fauna; and

24 8. Any alternative technologies and techniques that may be  
25 used to manage the Colorado River; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Division of Water Resources of the State  
27 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is hereby  
28 directed to consult with comparable agencies in the signatory states  
29 to the Colorado River Compact, the United States Department of the  
30 Interior and the National Research Council of the National Academy  
31 of Sciences regarding options for funding the requested study; and  
32 be it further

33 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and  
34 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Executive Officer of the  
35 National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences,  
36 the United States Secretary of the Interior, the Commissioner of the  
37 United States Bureau of Reclamation, the Governor of this State and  
38 the Governors of Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah  
39 and Wyoming, and the State Engineer, as the executive head of the  
40 Division of Water Resources of the State Department of  
41 Conservation and Natural Resources; and be it further

42 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon  
43 passage.

