

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
AND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
SUBCOMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND  
TRANSPORTATION**

**Seventy-Ninth Session  
May 11, 2017**

The joint meeting of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and Senate Committee on Finance Subcommittees on Public Safety, Natural Resources, and Transportation was called to order by Chair Jason Frierson at 8:08 a.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2017, in Room 2134 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at [www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017).

**ASSEMBLY SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Assemblyman Jason Frierson, Chair  
Assemblyman Michael C. Sprinkle, Vice Chair  
Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams  
Assemblyman Chris Edwards  
Assemblywoman Heidi Swank  
Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus

**SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator David R. Parks, Chair  
Senator Aaron D. Ford

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Senator Pete Goicoechea

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mark Krmpotic, Senate Fiscal Analyst  
Sarah Coffman, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst  
Jennifer Gamroth, Program Analyst  
Keaton Westergard, Committee Secretary  
Lisa McAlister, Committee Assistant



After the roll was called, Chair Frierson opened the meeting to public comment. There being no public comment, he directed the meeting toward discussing budget recommendations.

**INFRASTRUCTURE  
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES  
OHV COMMISSION (101-4285)  
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-34**

Jennifer Gamroth, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, discussed that budget account (BA) 4285, OHV Commission, was a new budget for the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Registration Program. The Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) was completely funded with OHV fees. She explained that the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) collected all OHV registration and title fees. Any fees collected in excess of \$150,000, less the DMV's cost to administer the program, were transferred to the OHV Commission for administrative costs and grants. She advised that effective May 2016, the OHV Commission was placed within the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

Ms. Gamroth indicated that Assembly Bill (A.B.) 29 (1st Reprint) proposed revising the provisions that governed off-highway vehicles. The bill was approved by the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means on May 8, 2017. She said A.B. 29 (R1) revised provisions governing off-highway vehicles, created the OHV Program, placed the OHV Commission within DCNR, and authorized the Director of DCNR to administer the OHV Program and the Account for Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV). The OHV Account was established in *Nevada Revised Statutes* 490.069. The bill also provided authority to establish a reserve, and provided payment to OHV Commission members who were not officers or employees of the state. She added that A.B. 29 (R1) also changed how money in the OHV Account could be used.

Ms. Gamroth communicated that under the proposed changes to the OHV Program that were outlined in A.B. 29 (R1), DCNR would not be required to adhere to the current statutory requirements that outlined how OHV fees could be expended. Instead, DCNR would submit its proposal as part of The Executive Budget for consideration and approval by the Legislature each biennium. She noted that the approval of decision unit Enhancement (E) 350 in BA 4285, OHV Commission, would also require the passage of A.B. 29 (R1). Ms. Gamroth discussed that decision unit E-350 was the major closing issue in BA 4285. The major closing issue was made up of the proposed budgetary changes to the OHV Program. The changes included:

- The consolidation of funding for OHV grants into one category.
- The establishment of a 90-day reserve.
- Board and commission pay for the OHV Commission members.

Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve the budgetary changes to the OHV Program, decision unit E-350, contingent on the passage of A.B. 29 (R1), and grant staff from the Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, the authority to complete technical adjustments. She reiterated that the budgetary changes to the OHV Program included consolidating funding for the OHV grants into one category, establishing a 90-day reserve, and funding board and commission pay.

SENATOR FORD MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNIT E-350 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Goicoechea was not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth advised that BA 4285 had three other closing items. The first item regarded technical adjustments to the base budget; the second item included decision units E-803 and E-804, as well as technical adjustments; and the third item was decision unit E-720, which funded new equipment. Fiscal staff recommended closing the first two other closing items with the completed technical adjustments, closing the third other closing item as recommended by the Governor, and authorizing Fiscal staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED TO APPROVE THE OTHER CLOSING ITEMS AS RECOMMENDED BY FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF AND TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR FORD SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Senator Goicoechea was not present for the vote.)

**INFRASTRUCTURE  
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES  
DCNR - STATE PARKS (101-4162)  
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-43**

Jennifer Gamroth, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, explained that budget account (BA) 4162, State Parks, had one major closing issue. The major closing issue concerned Governor Sandoval's Explore Your Nevada initiative. The Governor recommended \$14.8 million, which included \$13.2 million in State General

Funds, over the 2017-2019 biennium for the Division of State Parks, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). She noted that of those funds, \$4.7 million was included in The Executive Budget as a one-shot appropriation for the construction costs of facilities at the proposed Walker River State Recreation Area and various existing state parks.

Ms. Gamroth recalled discussions at the budget hearing and work session for the Division of State Parks that identified several budgetary costs that were omitted from various Enhancement (E) decision units that were recommended for the Governor's Explore Your Nevada initiative. The total cost of the omitted items was \$1.3 million over the 2017-2019 biennium, which needed General Fund appropriations to be funded. She said the omitted items included:

- Costs related to new positions.
- Property and content insurance for the facilities at the proposed Walker River State Recreation Area.
- Utilities for the Van Sickle Bi-State Park fire hydrants.
- Utilities associated with an upgrade that included 97 campsites with full hookups.
- Construction costs that were recommended for the visitors center at the proposed Tule Springs State Park.
- User fees identified as next fiscal year (FY) revenue in FY 2019 that could not be used to fund FY 2019 expenses.

Ms. Gamroth reported that the Division of State Parks indicated at its budget hearing on February 28, 2017, that it would modify or eliminate items in the Governor's Explore Your Nevada initiative to address the missing budgetary costs while remaining within the total funding that was recommended for the initiative. Staff from the Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, provided modifications that were recommended by the Division of State Parks to make up for the \$1.3 million shortfall. She said the Division of State Parks proposed a reduction to a one-shot appropriation that was in Senate Bill (S.B.) 536. The reduction totaled \$670,000 and was proposed to fix a portion of the \$1.3 million shortfall. The reduction came from reducing the number of proposed campsites from 30 to 20 at the Walker River State Recreation Area. She advised that the one-shot appropriation would be considered by the full money committees when S.B. 536 was heard.

Ms. Gamroth indicated that the reductions proposed by the Division of State Parks included:

- Reducing the number of campsites at the Walker River State Recreation Area, which reduced the one-shot appropriation by \$670,000.
- Repurposing eight replacement vehicles that were recommended by the Governor in decision units E-374 and E-375 to new positions that required vehicles.
- Downgrading two restrooms that were recommended for the Walker River State Recreation Area to vault toilets.

- Eliminating the construction cost of a fee booth for the Walker River State Recreation Area.
- Eliminating contract services to develop master plans for the proposed Tule Springs State Park and the Van Sickle Bi-State Park.

Ms. Gamroth noted that other modifications included repurposing the mobile radios that would be replaced under the proposed law enforcement radio upgrade. The repurposed radios could be used in the new vehicles that were operated by the non-law enforcement positions that were recommended in the Explore Your Nevada initiative.

Ms. Gamroth guided the Subcommittees through the various Enhancement (E) decision units to consider those that were recommended in the Governor's Explore Your Nevada initiative. The proposal for the new Walker River State Recreation Area consisted of decision units E-350, E-351, E-352, and E-353. She explained that the Governor recommended funding for a new state park on the East Walker River in Lyon County. The Walker River State Recreation Area was proposed to be established on 12,000 acres of ranch land that was donated to the state by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Funding for the Walker River State Recreation Area included General Fund appropriations of \$4.7 million and other funds of \$17,500 over the 2017-2019 biennium.

Ms. Gamroth continued that the \$4.7 million would be used to fund 12 new positions, 4 seasonal park aide positions, continuous operating expenses, and one-time start-up costs for various improvements and new facilities at the park. The one-time start-up costs were separate from the one-shot appropriations recommended in The Executive Budget.

Ms. Gamroth said that at the February 28, 2017, budget hearing, the Subcommittees asked the Division of State Parks to develop a minimal budget for the proposed Walker River State Recreation Area that funded the park with minimal staff, operating expenses, equipment, utilities, and maintenance costs of the existing facilities. She relayed that under this scenario, the Division of State Parks would assume the properties as they currently stood and complete a master plan during the interim for the proposed park. The Division of State Parks would include a thorough analysis over the interim of the existing buildings, roads, grounds, and other matters. The Division of State Parks would then present the master plan and completed budget to the 2019 Legislature.

Ms. Gamroth summarized that the items that would be eliminated with minimal staffing and no new facilities at the proposed Walker River State Recreation Area would result in a decrease from the total funding that was recommended by the Governor. General Funds would decrease by \$2.8 million and federal funds would decrease by \$1.2 million. She noted that the Governor recommended 17 new positions to staff the proposed Walker River State Recreation Area, while the Division of State Parks indicated that minimal staffing could be achieved with 9 positions.

Fiscal staff identified technical adjustments for the Walker River State Recreation Area decision units that would be needed if the Subcommittees approved the Governor's recommendation. Ms. Gamroth said the technical adjustments would require additional General Fund appropriations of \$115,364 over the 2017-2019 biennium. To offset a portion of the \$1.3 million shortfall, the Division of State Parks recommended reducing the construction and maintenance project category in decision unit E-353 by \$130,400 over the 2017-2019 biennium. The reduction would come from downgrading two new restrooms to vault toilets and eliminating the construction costs of a fee booth for the proposed Walker River State Recreation Area. She noted that as the discussion continued, she would point out the various cuts that were proposed to offset the \$1.3 million shortfall.

Ms. Gamroth reviewed the options for the Subcommittees to consider regarding the proposed Walker River State Recreation Area:

A. Approve the Governor's recommendation to accept the land donation for the proposed Walker River State Recreation Area and approve decision units E-350, E-351, E-352, and E-353, with the technical adjustments that required additional General Fund appropriations of \$115,364. This option funded 12 new permanent positions, 4 seasonal positions, continuous operating and equipment costs, and one-time start-up costs. The costs included construction and maintenance projects that would be funded with General Fund appropriations totaling \$4.8 million and other funds totaling \$17,500.

B. Approve Option A, and decrease the construction and maintenance project category in decision unit E-353 by \$130,400 over the 2017-2019 biennium. The decrease would result from downgrading two new restrooms to vault toilets and eliminating the construction costs of a fee booth. This option also included recommending to the full money committees a decrease in General Fund appropriations totaling \$670,000 in the one-shot appropriation that was included in Senate Bill 536. The bill provided appropriations for the construction of a campground at the proposed Walker River State Recreation Area and the \$670,000 decrease resulted from reducing the number of campsites at the park from 30 to 20. The \$670,000 decrease partially funded the omitted items and other modifications that were identified in the various decision units attributed to the Explore Your Nevada initiative that was proposed in The Executive Budget.

C. Approve the Governor's recommendation to accept the land donation for the proposed Walker River State Recreation Area with minimal staff to protect and maintain the existing facilities, which would result in a decrease of \$2.8 million in General Fund appropriations and \$1.2 million in other funds over the 2017-2019 biennium. This option also directed the Division of State Parks to develop a master plan and comprehensive budget over the 2017-2018 interim period for consideration by the 2019 Legislature. Option C also required:

- Reducing the 12 new positions that were recommended by the Governor to 6 and eliminating 1 seasonal position and the associated equipment and operating expenses.

- Eliminating funding for brochures, renovations of existing buildings and residences, construction of a fishing access trail, a gravel parking lot for fishing access, shade structures, and picnic tables.
- Eliminating the new facilities for the proposed Walker River State Recreation Area that were identified in the one-shot appropriation, which included 10 full-service cabins and a full hook-up campground site.

D. Approve the Governor's recommendation to accept the land donation for the proposed Walker River State Recreation Area, but include or exclude specific enhancements that were identified by the Subcommittees.

E. Not approve the Governor's recommendation to accept the land donation for the proposed Walker River State Recreation Area.

Assemblyman Sprinkle suggested that the state was fortunate to have the opportunity to accept the land donations for the proposed Walker River State Recreation Area. The addition would enhance the experiences of the individuals who enjoyed the parks and natural areas of the state. He expressed that accepting the land donations was an important piece of enhancing the natural areas of the state and he was in support of accepting the donated land.

Assemblyman Sprinkle recognized the omissions that were identified by Fiscal staff, and he commended Fiscal staff for performing a thorough analysis of the Explore Your Nevada initiative, analyzing the shortfalls, and bringing them to the attention of the Division of State Parks. He also recognized that the Division of State Parks acknowledged the areas that were overlooked and addressed them willingly.

Assemblyman Sprinkle concurred that decisions would have to be made about the money that was not accounted for. He stressed the importance of moving forward with the initiative, and he suggested that Option B posed the best opportunity for the initiative to move forward while relieving some of the shortfalls that were identified by Fiscal staff.

Chair Frierson suggested that as the Subcommittees worked through closing the budgets, there would be other opportunities to address the shortfalls that were identified by Fiscal staff. He echoed the comments made by Assemblyman Sprinkle and also praised Fiscal staff for the time spent on analyzing the initiative and laying out the options for the legislators to consider.

Assemblywoman Titus also echoed the comments made by Assemblyman Sprinkle and added that the Walker River State Recreation Area would be in her district and would affect the residents in the communities within her district. She commented that the park would be advantageous to Nevadans and visitors from outside the state because of what it had to offer. She was concerned about the shortfalls and the omissions discovered by Fiscal staff, and

going forward she advised to remain mindful of the funding gaps. She suggested that the worst decision would be to reject the opportunity to accept the donated land.

Assemblywoman Swank agreed with the comments made by the other Subcommittee members. She said the donations posed a great opportunity for the state. She noted that over the previous legislative sessions, she noticed a large amount of funding going to outdoor recreation projects in Northern Nevada. She said they were all wonderful projects and she supported them completely, but she was concerned that there were not similar investments made in projects in Southern Nevada. She wanted to see more investments in the South because most her constituents would not likely travel to Northern Nevada to visit the outdoor recreation areas that it had to offer. She expressed that she personally would visit the completed projects, but she did not expect the same from the majority of her constituents. She suggested that improving the outdoor recreation in the state as a whole should include investments going to Northern and Southern Nevada.

Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams agreed with moving forward with Option B. She asked what the federal match funds and total investment were for Option B.

Ms. Gamroth stated that Option B approved the Governor's recommendation while remaining within the total amount that was recommended with the items that were omitted. It also included reducing the one-shot appropriation by \$670,000. She summarized that the investment would consist of \$14.3 million as recommended by the Governor with \$13.2 million coming from General Funds and \$1.2 million coming from federal funds.

Senator Parks wanted to confirm that Option B included retaining the 12 new positions and funding for items such as brochures that were initially requested.

Ms. Gamroth confirmed that Option B funded the 12 new positions and the requested items. She added that it reduced the \$1.3 million shortfall by \$130,400. She noted that as the Subcommittees reviewed the budgets and the rest of the Explore Your Nevada initiative, they would address other budget cuts that would make up for the rest of the \$1.3 million shortfall. Under Option B, the only cuts that would be made to the Walker River State Recreation Area were construction costs for a fee booth and downgrading two new restrooms to vault toilets.

Senator Parks suggested that under Option B, \$1.2 million in federal funds were also retained.

Ms. Gamroth confirmed that the \$1.2 million in federal funds would be retained. She added that the federal funds were in the one-shot appropriation to fund the construction costs of the campgrounds. She believed that the federal funds would come from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.



Assemblywoman Titus asked whether Option B included funding for the restoration of the Nine Mile Ranch house.

Ms. Gamroth said the funding to restore the Nine Mile Ranch house was not part of that budget. That restoration funding came from bond money from the Conservation and Resource Protection Grant Program, which was a nonexecutive account.

Assemblyman Frierson shared that the first fish he caught in Nevada was in the Walker River. From spending ten years in Northern Nevada, he developed an appreciation for the outdoors and all that Nevada had to offer. He shared Assemblywoman Swank's concerns about fewer outdoor recreation investments in Southern Nevada. He recognized that discussions regarding the proposed Tule Springs State Park would occur, and he noted that Tule Springs State Park would be a good start to investing in outdoor recreation in Southern Nevada. He frequented the Tule Springs area, and he indicated that establishing a state park would encourage individuals in the neighboring urban areas to indulge in the state's outdoor recreation opportunities. He hoped that resources would be used to explore the outdoor opportunities for the whole state and not just certain regions. Investing in the state's natural beauty was an important aspect of what the Governor and the Legislature strove to accomplish.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED TO APPROVE OPTION B AS  
OUTLINED BY FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea  
were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth explained that decision unit E-354 was a new decision unit proposed by Fiscal staff that provided funding for the maintenance of the roads within the proposed Walker River State Recreation Area. The new decision unit proposed \$100,000 for each fiscal year of the 2017-2019 biennium. The decision unit was funded by transferring State Highway Funds from the Department of Transportation to support the continuous routine maintenance of the gravel roads that were located within the proposed Walker River State Recreation Area.

Ms. Gamroth relayed that representatives from the Department of Transportation, Lyon County, and Mineral County had met to evaluate the roads and bridges within the proposed area for the new state park. At those meetings, the entities agreed to enter into an interlocal agreement in which Lyon and Mineral Counties assumed the responsibility of maintaining the gravel roads within the proposed area. The agreement suggested that both counties would bill the Division of State Parks for approximately 30 percent of the cost until the actual percentage of traffic that was related to park visitors was determined.

Ms. Gamroth continued that the proposed funds from decision unit E-354 were also available for small projects, such as installing culverts that resulted from flood damage or other climatic events, and upgrading the first half-mile of the Pitchfork Ranch portion of the East Walker Road from a gravel road to recycled pavement chippings. She asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve the new decision unit, E-354, that was funded with Highway Funds transferred from the Department of Transportation totaling \$100,000 for each fiscal year of the 2017-2019 biennium for the maintenance of the gravel roads within the Walker River State Recreation Area.

Assemblywoman Titus believed that decision unit E-354 was a good compromise and a good step toward determining the costs of the roads. She said the decision unit was a reasonable approach.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE  
DECISION UNIT E-354.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea  
were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth explained that there were two decision units, E-356 and E-357, for the Subcommittees to consider for the proposed Tule Springs State Park. The Governor recommended \$1.3 million in General Fund appropriations over the 2017-2019 biennium for the new Tule Springs State Park in Clark County. The park was proposed to be located on 315 acres of state-owned land that was adjacent to the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument. The funding in the decision units supported one park supervisor position, one park interpreter position, and two seasonal park aide positions. The funding also supported one-time start-up costs, vehicles, new equipment, continuous operating expenses, and construction and maintenance projects.

Fiscal staff identified certain technical adjustments to the decision units for the Subcommittees to consider. The technical adjustments resulted in an increase of \$384,295 in General Fund appropriations over the 2017-2019 biennium. The adjustments related to increased construction costs of the visitor center, office, and restrooms that were based on the most recent estimates provided by the Division of State Parks.

Ms. Gamroth said the Division of State Parks recommended reducing General Fund appropriations by \$125,000 in fiscal year 2018 for the development of a master plan for the proposed Tule Springs State Park, which partially funded the shortfall related to the items that were omitted from the Walker River State Recreation Area piece of the Governor's Explore Your Nevada initiative. She noted that the new park and recreation program

manager would develop the master plan for the Tule Springs State Park if the position was approved.

Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve decision units E-356 and E-357 with \$1.6 million in General Fund appropriations over the 2017-2019 biennium for the proposed Tule Springs State Park, which included two permanent positions, two seasonal positions, and the associated one-time and continuous operating costs. The funding included Fiscal staff's proposed technical adjustments of \$384,295 and the Division of State Parks' recommendation to eliminate \$125,000 in fiscal year 2018 for a master plan.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNITS  
E-356 AND E-357 AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY FISCAL  
ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF AND THE DIVISION OF STATE PARKS.

SENATOR FORD SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Frierson indicated that investing in the Tule Springs State Park was a positive step toward encouraging exploration of the state's resources throughout the entire state and not select regions. He said Tule Springs was a wonderful resource in Southern Nevada and he appreciated the opportunity to enhance Tule Springs.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea  
were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth discussed decision units E-358 and E-359, which concerned staffing, equipment, and the continuous operating costs for the Van Sickle Bi-State Park on the south end of Lake Tahoe. She said the Governor recommended \$479,990 in General Fund appropriations and \$27,219 in other funds over the 2017-2019 biennium to provide staffing, vehicles, new equipment, and funding for the continuous operating expenses at the Van Sickle Bi-State Park. The funding supported one permanent park ranger position and two seasonal park aide positions.

Fiscal staff identified technical adjustments associated with the decision units for the Subcommittees to consider. The technical adjustments required additional General Fund appropriations of \$46,984 over the 2017-2019 biennium.

Ms. Gamroth said the Division of State Parks recommended reducing General Fund appropriations by \$125,000 in fiscal year 2019 for the development of a master plan for the Van Sickle Bi-State Park. The reduction partially funded the shortfalls related to the identified items that were omitted from the Walker River State Recreation Area piece of the Governor's Explore Your Nevada initiative. She noted that the new park and recreation program manager would develop the master plan for the Van Sickle Bi-State Park if the position was approved.

Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve decision units E-358 and E-359 with \$401,974 in General Fund appropriations and \$27,219 in other funds over the 2017-2019 biennium for the Van Sickle Bi-State Park, which included one permanent park ranger position, two seasonal park aide positions, continuous operating and equipment costs, and one-time start-up costs for construction and maintenance projects. The funds included Fiscal staff's proposed technical adjustments of \$46,984 over the biennium and the Division of State Parks' recommendation to eliminate \$125,000 in fiscal year 2019 for a master plan.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNITS E-358 AND E-359 AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF AND THE DIVISION OF STATE PARKS.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth explained that decision units E-360, E-363, E-364, and E-378 funded maintenance and construction projects for existing state parks. The Governor recommended \$100,412 in General Fund appropriations and \$330,588 in other funds over the 2017-2019 biennium to fund:

- Construction of water and power hookups at 97 campsites in 7 state parks.
- Installation of equipment and associated monthly connection charges for Wi-Fi availability at 8 state parks.
- Construction of an equestrian area at the Lahontan State Recreation Area.
- Road base to main gravel roads and parking lots statewide.

Fiscal staff identified technical adjustments that required additional General Fund appropriations of \$267,204 to fund utility costs that were associated with the construction of water and power hookups for the 97 campsites that were recommended by the Governor. The additional appropriations would also be used to replace the funding source for user fees that were identified as next fiscal year revenues.

Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve decision units E-360, E-363, E-364, and E-378, General Fund appropriations of \$367,616, and other funds of \$330,588 over the 2017-2019 biennium for the maintenance and construction projects for existing state parks. The funds included Fiscal staff's proposed technical adjustments of \$267,204.

SENATOR FORD MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNITS E-360, E-363, E-364, AND E-378 AND THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS IDENTIFIED BY FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth discussed that 13 new positions were recommended by the Governor in decision units E-365, E-367, E-368, E-369, E-370, E-371, E-372, and E-382. The positions were funded with \$1.9 million in General Fund appropriations over the 2017-2019 biennium.

Ms. Gamroth indicated that four of the new positions were proposed in decision unit E-365 to restore the eastern regional office that was eliminated when budget cuts were approved by the 2009 Legislature. The four positions included one accounting assistant, one parks regional manager, one facility manager, and one equipment mechanic. She reported that the positions proposed General Fund appropriations totaling \$583,200 over the 2017-2019 biennium.

Fiscal staff identified omitted expenditures for the Subcommittees to consider if the positions were approved. The omitted expenditures required additional General Fund appropriations of \$150,022 over the 2017-2019 biennium.

Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve General Fund appropriations totaling \$733,222 over the 2017-2019 biennium to fund four new positions and the associated operating and equipment expenditures to restore the eastern regional office over the 2017-2019 biennium. The total included Fiscal staff's proposed technical adjustments of \$150,022 over the biennium.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNIT E-365 AND THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS IDENTIFIED BY FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth said three new park ranger positions were recommended in decision units E-367 and E-370 to accommodate increased visitation. The Lahontan State Recreation Area, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, and Valley of Fire State Park would each receive one new park ranger. The decision units proposed \$433,875 in General Fund appropriations over the 2017-2019 biennium.

Fiscal staff identified omitted expenditures for the Subcommittees to consider if the positions were approved. The omitted expenditures required additional General Fund appropriations of \$183,887 over the 2017-2019 biennium.

Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve General Fund appropriations totaling \$617,762 over the 2017-2019 biennium to fund three new park ranger positions and associated operating and equipment expenditures. The total included Fiscal staff's proposed technical adjustments of \$183,887 over the biennium.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNITS E-367 AND E-370 AND THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS IDENTIFIED BY FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth continued that one park and recreation program manager position was recommended in decision unit E-368 to update existing master plans and create new master plans for parks statewide. The decision unit proposed \$149,990 in General Fund appropriations over the 2017-2019 biennium.

Fiscal staff identified omitted expenditures for the Subcommittees to consider if the position was approved. The omitted expenditures required additional General Fund appropriations of \$7,956 over the 2017-2019 biennium.

Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve General Fund appropriations totaling \$157,946 over the 2017-2019 biennium to fund one park and recreation program manager position and the associated operating and equipment costs to update existing master plans and create new master plans for parks statewide. The total included Fiscal staff's proposed technical adjustments of \$7,956 over the biennium.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNIT E-368 AND THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS IDENTIFIED BY FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth explained that two new water system operator positions in the southern and eastern regions were recommended in decision unit E-369. She noted that there was currently one water system operator position in Northern Nevada. The two new positions were required to comply with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and other water system regulations. The decision unit proposed \$266,822 in General Fund appropriations over the 2017-2019 biennium.

Fiscal staff identified omitted expenditures for the Subcommittees to consider if the positions were approved. The omitted expenditures required additional General Fund appropriations of \$74,978 over the 2017-2019 biennium.

Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve General Fund appropriations totaling \$341,800 over the 2017-2019 biennium to fund two new water system operator positions and the associated operating and equipment costs to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act and other water system regulations. The total included Fiscal staff's proposed technical adjustments of \$74,978 over the biennium.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNIT  
E-369 AND THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS IDENTIFIED BY FISCAL  
ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF.

SENATOR FORD SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea  
were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth continued that one new park maintenance specialist position for the Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area in Southern Nevada was recommended in decision unit E-371. The decision unit proposed \$127,259 in General Fund appropriations over the 2017-2019 biennium. Big Bend did not currently have a maintenance position assigned to the park. The closest maintenance support staff was over 100 miles away and had to travel to Big Bend from either Las Vegas or one of the southern region state parks.

Fiscal staff identified omitted expenditures for the Subcommittees to consider if the position was approved. The omitted expenditures required additional General Fund appropriations of \$34,816 over the 2017-2019 biennium.

Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve General Fund appropriations totaling \$162,075 over the 2017-2019 biennium to fund one park maintenance specialist position for the Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area and the associated operating and equipment costs. The total included Fiscal staff's proposed technical adjustments of \$34,816 over the biennium.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNIT E-371 AND THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS IDENTIFIED BY FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth discussed that one statewide safety specialist consultation position was recommended in decision unit E-372 to conduct safety training for permanent and seasonal staff statewide. The decision unit proposed \$150,660 in General Fund appropriations over the 2017-2019 biennium.

Fiscal staff identified omitted expenditures for the Subcommittees to consider if the position was approved. The omitted expenditures required additional General Fund appropriations of \$39,886 over the 2017-2019 biennium.

Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve General Fund appropriations totaling \$190,546 over the 2017-2019 biennium to fund one safety specialist consultation position and the associated operating and equipment costs to conduct safety training for permanent and seasonal staff statewide. The total included Fiscal staff's proposed technical adjustments of \$39,886 over the biennium.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNIT E-372 AND THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS IDENTIFIED BY FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth explained that one education and information officer position was recommended in decision unit E-382. The position would be dedicated to outreach and conduct marketing through the Division of State Parks website and through social media. The decision unit proposed \$166,211 in General Fund appropriations over the 2017-2019 biennium.

Fiscal staff identified omitted expenditures for the Subcommittees to consider if the position was approved. The omitted expenditures required additional General Fund appropriations of \$4,193 over the 2017-2019 biennium.



Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve General Fund appropriations totaling \$170,404 over the 2017-2019 biennium to fund one education and information officer and the associated operating and equipment costs. The total included Fiscal staff's proposed technical adjustments of \$4,193 over the biennium.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNIT E-382 AND THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS IDENTIFIED BY FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth communicated that the Governor recommended \$1.3 million in General Fund appropriations over the 2017-2019 biennium to fund a law enforcement radio system upgrade (E-373), 10 trucks at various locations statewide, 6 trucks with law enforcement packages (E-374), a trash truck for Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park's Sand Harbor (E-375), a mobile service vehicle to be used by the equipment manager for the Southern Nevada region (E-376), 2 tractor/backhoes (E-377), and 16 desktop computers with associated software (E-379).

Ms. Gamroth relayed that the Division of State Parks recommended reducing its request to eight replacement vehicles in decision units E-374 and E-375. The reduction would fund the eight vehicles that were omitted for the new positions that were recommended in other decision units in the Governor's Explore Your Nevada initiative. This would result in a General Fund reduction of \$285,237.

Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve (1) the Governor's recommendation to fund replacement equipment over the 2017-2019 biennium with \$1.3 million in General Funds; and (2) the Division of State Parks' proposal to reduce the requested number of replacement vehicles to eight in decision units E-374 and E-375 resulting in a General Fund reduction of \$285,237.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNITS E-373, E-374, E-375, E-376, E-377, AND E-379; AND THE DIVISION OF STATE PARKS' PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF REQUESTED REPLACEMENT VEHICLES TO EIGHT.

SENATOR FORD SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth said the Governor recommended funding in decision units E-380 and E-381 for continuous operating expenses, replacement radios for the lifeguards at Sand Harbor, body armor for law enforcement positions, and testing fees for professional engineer certifications and emergency medical recertifications that were required for certain staff in the Division of State Parks. The General Fund appropriations for decision units E-380 and E-381 totaled \$15,298 for each fiscal year of the 2017-2019 biennium.

Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve General Fund appropriations totaling \$15,298 for each fiscal year of the 2017-2019 biennium for continuous miscellaneous operating expenses.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNITS  
E-380 AND E-381 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea  
were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth noted that \$2.4 million in fiscal year (FY) 2018 and \$733,700 in FY 2019 was recommended for various construction and maintenance projects in a number of Enhancement (E) decision units in budget account (BA) 4162, State Parks. The Division of State Parks requested the authority to access the funding in each year of the 2017-2019 biennium. Because the Subcommittees approved the construction and maintenance projects in the other decision units, Fiscal staff recommended moving 100 percent of the funding that was recommended by the Governor in BA 4162 to the first year of the 2017-2019 biennium, and include back language in the Appropriations Act that authorized the Division of State Parks to balance forward the funding that was approved for maintenance and construction projects between FY 2018 and FY 2019.

Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve Fiscal staff's recommendation.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK MOVED TO APPROVE THE FISCAL  
ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOR FULL  
FUNDING IN FY 2018 AND AUTHORITY TO USE THE FUNDING IN  
BOTH YEARS OF THE BIENNIUM.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea  
were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth relayed that technical adjustments were made to some of the other closing items in BA 4162, State Parks. Fiscal staff recommended closing the other closing items in BA 4162 as they were recommended by the Governor with technical adjustments on certain items that were identified by Fiscal staff. She noted that the one-shot appropriation would not be considered at that time. Fiscal staff also requested the authority to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OTHER CLOSING ITEMS, INCLUDING THE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR FORD SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea were not present for the vote.)

**INFRASTRUCTURE  
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES  
DCNR - WATER RESOURCES (101-4171)  
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-72**

Jennifer Gamroth, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, said budget account (BA) 4171, Water Resources, had two major closing issues. She discussed that the Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$2.1 million over the 2017-2019 biennium to execute recommendations from the Governor's Nevada Drought Forum for the Division of Water Resources, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The Division of Water Resources indicated that the Nevada Drought Forum and the Nevada Drought Summit placed a new focus on drought resiliency and the need for related water planning in a collaborative framework.

Ms. Gamroth reported that the recommended funding would support:

- A new Nevada Drought Resiliency and Water Planning Program to address near- and long-term drought resiliency and response duties and priorities.
- The creation of a new Advisory Committee on Water Planning and Drought.
- The development of regulations for overappropriated water basins.

The recommendations in BA 4171, Water Resources, were components of the Governor's larger Drought Initiative, which had total funding of \$5 million among multiple state agencies.

Ms. Gamroth said nine new positions and the associated travel and operating expenses were recommended in decision units Enhancement (E) 351 and E-353. The decision units proposed \$1.7 million in General Fund appropriations over the 2017-2019 biennium. The Division of Water Resources indicated that the new positions would increase the Division's capabilities regarding:

- Data gathering, water metering, monitoring, inventory, and enforcement responsibilities.
- Drought resiliency and response duties.
- New and existing water-planning statutory duties and floodplain management.

The nine new positions that were proposed in decision units E-351 and E-353 included seven engineer positions, one education and information officer position, and one chief of drought resiliency and water planning position.

Ms. Gamroth noted that at the March 16, 2017, budget hearing, the Subcommittees asked the Division of Water Resources to provide its long-term strategy if the nine new positions were phased in over more than one biennium. The Division of Water Resources was also asked to provide a prioritized list of the nine new positions and what the effects would be if the nine new positions were not approved. The Division of Water Resources responded that it believed all nine positions were essential; however, it did provide the requested priority list.

Ms. Gamroth reported that the five engineer positions that were recommended in decision unit E-351 were the Division of Water Resources' top priority. The four new positions that were recommended in decision unit E-353 were proposed to make up the Water Conservation and Drought Resiliency unit and join three existing positions to form the new unit. The Division of Water Resources indicated that the four positions in E-353 should be considered as one unit and were of equal priority with one another; however, it also indicated that the program manager and the professional engineer could begin in the first year of the 2017-2019 biennium and the education officer and associate engineer could begin at the beginning or middle of the second year of the biennium.

Ms. Gamroth said one of the major concerns that was expressed during the Nevada Drought Forum and Nevada Drought Summit was that the Division of Water Resources needed more staff to manage the state's water resources. If any or all of the positions in either of the decision units were not approved, the Division of Water Resources indicated that it would continue to fall behind on:

- Collecting data needed to support decisions on water appropriations and the management of those appropriations.
- Overseeing well drilling statewide.
- Reviewing water conservation plans and other water-planning efforts.
- Maintaining the increasing workload that was associated with violations of water law.

- Coordinating responses to water challenges in the driest state in the nation.

Ms. Gamroth continued that the Division of Water Resources indicated that the five engineer positions that were recommended in decision unit E-351 would bring the Division closer to the level of operation before the last economic downturn. The Division of Water Resources anticipated the positions to result in greater compliance with Nevada's water laws and regulations. In addition, the Division of Water Resources indicated that the additional engineer positions would result in a greater presence in the field reading meters, measuring diversion of surface water on decreed sources, taking groundwater level measurements, and inspecting water well-drilling operations, all of which would result in greater compliance.

Ms. Gamroth said the Division of Water Resources currently conducted crop or pumpage inventories in approximately 60 of the 256 groundwater basins statewide because of staffing levels. The additional staff would allow the Division of Water Resources to conduct inventories and water-level measurements in groundwater basins that were in need of increased management.

Ms. Gamroth relayed that the Division of Water Resources indicated that the positions recommended in decision unit E-353 that would be assigned to the Water Conservation and Drought Resiliency unit would provide:

- Centralized coordination and monitoring information on water conservation measures and practices.
- Small water system needs in developing water conservation plans.
- Emerging technology and best practices for transfer opportunities.

Ms. Gamroth listed the options for the Subcommittees to consider:

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation for nine new positions and associated travel and operating costs. The positions would be funded with General Fund appropriations totaling \$1.7 million over the 2017-2019 biennium. This recommendation was aligned with the Governor's Drought Initiative.
2. Approve only the Division of Water Resources' top priority-the five new engineer positions and associated travel and operating costs in decision unit E-351. This option was funded with General Fund appropriations of \$938,039 over the 2017-2019 biennium.
3. Approve only decision unit E-353 for a new Water Conservation and Drought Resiliency unit, which included four new positions. The four new positions would consist of one unclassified chief of drought resiliency and water planning, one education and information officer, one associate engineer, and one professional engineer. The decision unit proposed funding the four new positions and associated travel and operating costs with \$778,959 in General Funds over the 2017-2019 biennium.

4. Do not approve the Governor's recommendation for nine new positions and the associated expenses.

Assemblyman Sprinkle understood why the nine positions were requested by the Division of Water Resources, and he appreciated the Division's willingness to prioritize the positions, but he did not believe all were necessary at this point. He suggested that Option 2 would be the best because it gave the Division of Water Resources the initial engineers that were prioritized.

Chair Frierson asked whether the five engineer positions that were proposed in decision unit E-351 had been cut out of the budget.

Ms. Gamroth confirmed that the five engineer positions would contribute to restoring the Division of Water Resources to the level of operation before the last economic downturn.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNIT E-351 AND NOT APPROVE DECISION UNIT E-353.

SENATOR FORD SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth discussed that the Governor recommended General Fund appropriations in decision unit E-350 of \$290,720 in fiscal year (FY) 2018 for equipment purchases to accommodate the nine new positions that were recommended in previously discussed decision units. Staff from the Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, noted that based on the Subcommittees' approval of five of the nine positions, Fiscal staff required the authority to make technical adjustments and work with the Division of Water Resources in identifying which of the equipment items were applicable to the five new engineering positions that were approved in decision unit E-351.

Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve decision unit E-350, which funded new equipment that was recommended for nine new positions, and grant Fiscal staff the authority to make technical adjustments based on the number of actual new positions that were approved.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNIT E-350 AND TO AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS.

SENATOR FORD SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth relayed that the Governor recommended funding in decision unit E-355 for board pay, travel, and operating expenses for a nine-member Advisory Committee on Water Conservation and Drought. The funding would promulgate regulations for overappropriated basins and would consist of General Fund appropriations totaling \$68,020 for FY 2018 and \$43,020 for FY 2019. She noted that Senate Bill (S.B.) 74 (1st Reprint) created the Advisory Committee on Water Conservation and Drought, and that the bill was approved by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources on March 16, 2017, and was rereferred to the Senate Committee on Finance on April 10, 2017, and heard by the Senate Committee on Finance on April 17, 2017.

Ms. Gamroth said the Division of Water Resources indicated that the new Advisory Committee on Water Conservation and Drought would provide an opportunity for those who were actively working on water- and drought-related topics to meet, advance ideas, share technologies, and advise the state's Drought Response Committee, the Governor, and other elected officials.

Ms. Gamroth shared that the Division of Water Resources noted in a response to a request for additional information that at the Nevada Drought Forum and Nevada Drought Summit meetings, the primary focus was to have stakeholder engagement on drought resiliency, water conservation, and planning effort sharing. The Division of Water Resources indicated that the Forum and Summit were both well-attended events, and stakeholders suggested that the dialogue needed to continue, and Nevada needed to remain vigilant regarding water and conservation matters even in nondrought conditions so there would be coordinated efforts when drought conditions reoccurred. The Division of Water Resources hoped the new committee would continue into future biennia to facilitate the work.

Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve the Governor's recommendation, decision unit E-355, to provide General Fund appropriations of \$68,020 for FY 2018 and \$43,020 in FY 2019 for board pay, travel, and operating expenses for a new nine-member Advisory Committee on Water Conservation and Drought and to promulgate regulations for overappropriated basins upon approval of S.B. 74 (R1).

Assemblyman Sprinkle did not believe the Advisory Committee on Water Conservation and Drought was necessary at that time and establishing it would be an inappropriate use of General Funds. He recommended not approving decision unit E-355.

Chair Frierson suggested that the decision unit was more of a luxury than a need at that time. His sense was that the conservation and water management efforts in the state were solid, and he said it was important to continue those efforts. He agreed with Assemblyman Sprinkle

because the Advisory Committee on Water Conservation and Drought was not necessary at this time.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED TO NOT APPROVE DECISION UNIT E-355.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea were not present for the vote.)

Ms. Gamroth continued that the second major closing issue in BA 4171, Water Resources, was a proposed funding structure change, decision unit E-375. The Governor recommended General Fund appropriations totaling \$3.4 million for each year of the 2017-2019 biennium to replace 100 percent of the fees collected by the Division of Water Resources pursuant to statute. She noted that the fees were related to the adjudication of vested water rights and the appropriation of public water rights. The fees were currently transferred to BA 4171, Water Resources, from the nonexecutive Water Distribution revolving budget. The \$3.4 million each year was in addition to the base General Fund appropriation of \$2.7 million in FY 2018 and \$2.8 million in FY 2019. The Division of Water Resources proposed depositing all fee revenue directly into the General Fund instead of the nonexecutive Water Distribution revolving budget; this was the case prior to the 2013-2015 biennium when this budget was primarily funded with General Fund appropriations.

Ms. Gamroth said Senate Bill (S.B.) 514 would execute the change in funding structure for BA 4171, Water Resources. The Division of Water Resources indicated that the original intent of the fees that were deposited into the Water Resources budget was to transition the budget to an increased level of non-General Fund support to provide stability in staffing levels. However, the fees charged by the Division of Water Resources were not increased to the levels that were needed to sustain the budget, and the General Fund appropriations that were recommended by the Governor and approved by the Legislature were not sufficient to fund the budget. This resulted in the use of reserves. Based on the amount of fees collected annually and the amount of General Funds appropriated to this budget, the Division of Water Resources estimated that the reserves would be expended by the end of FY 2019. She reported that S.B. 514 was passed by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources on April 11, 2017, and rereferred to the Senate Committee on Finance on April 17, 2017.

Ms. Gamroth explained that decision unit E-375 also eliminated the balance forward and the reserve category for each year of the 2017-2019 biennium. The Division of Water Resources indicated that if the 2017 Legislature approved decision unit E-375, all cash remaining at the end of FY 2017 would revert to the General Fund at the close of the fiscal year. The Division of Water Resources projected a remaining balance of \$1.5 million at the end of FY 2017.



Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve the Governor's recommendation to replace 100 percent of the fees collected in BA 4171, Water Resources, with \$3.4 million in General Fund appropriations for each year of the 2017-2019 biennium upon approval of S.B. 514.

Chair Frierson recalled that the funding structure change, decision unit E-375, was proposed to revert the process back to a way that had worked better in the past than the current process.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNIT  
E-375 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

SENATOR FORD SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea  
were not present for the vote.)

The other closing items in BA 4171, Water Resources, included technical adjustments, as well as decision units E-356, E-357, E-671, E-376, E-802, E-803, and E-804. Ms. Gamroth noted that if S.B. 514 was approved, funding that was approved for the biennium for the maintenance and operating costs of the South Fork Dam, decision unit E-376, would be available across both fiscal years of the 2017-2019 biennium and would not revert at the end of the first fiscal year of the biennium. The Division of Water Resources indicated that this provision was needed because of the complex nature of the work and its dependence on weather conditions. The ability to transfer funds between fiscal years and balance forward unspent funding from the first fiscal year of the biennium to the second fiscal year of the biennium was not necessary when the fees were retained by the Division of Water Resources. Fiscal staff requested the authority to make technical adjustments to decision unit E-376 based on changes to S.B. 514.

Fiscal staff recommended closing all other closing items, excluding decision unit E-361, as recommended by the Governor with certain technical adjustments and with authority for Fiscal staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FISCAL ANALYSIS  
DIVISION STAFF RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING OTHER  
CLOSING ITEMS AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION  
STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS  
NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea  
were not present for the vote.)

**INFRASTRUCTURE  
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES  
DCNR - STATE LANDS (101-4173)  
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-127**

Jennifer Gamroth, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, noted that budget account (BA) 4173, State Lands, had one major closing issue. The major closing issue, decision unit Enhancement (E) 383, proposed a new land agent position. She discussed that as part of the Governor's Explore Your Nevada initiative, the Governor recommended a new land agent position dedicated to land use and realty needs for the Division of State Lands, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The position and associated operating expenses would be funded with State General Fund appropriations of \$155,342 over the 2017-2019 biennium.

Ms. Gamroth said the Division of State Lands indicated that state parks account for approximately 40 percent of all state-managed land. The new land agent position would assist with authorizing the occupancy and use of state land that was assigned under the management of the Division of State Lands.

Ms. Gamroth reported that prior to the last economic recession, the Division of State Lands had 22 positions, but one land agent position, one land-use planner position, and one administrative assistant position were eliminated because of the recession. None of the positions that were eliminated had been restored, and the Division of State Lands indicated that if the proposed new land agent position was approved, the Division of State Lands would be funded for 19 positions. In response to a request for additional information, the Division of State Lands suggested that losing the land agent position during the recession had made it difficult to complete projects that involved land transfers, state ownership history, title and deed research, and inspections. The agency also suggested that eliminating the land-use planner position reduced planning services and support to local jurisdictions by half. At the February 28, 2017, budget hearing, the Division of State Lands indicated that the new land agent position would be needed in future biennia whether or not the proposed Walker River State Recreation Area or the proposed Tule Springs State Park was approved by the 2017 Legislature.

Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve General Fund appropriations totaling \$155,342 over the 2017-2019 biennium to fund one new land agent position and the associated operating costs (decision unit E-383).

**ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNIT  
E-383 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.**

**SENATOR FORD SECONDED THE MOTION.**

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea were not present for the vote.)

The other closing items in BA 4173, State Lands, included decision units E-802, E-803, and E-804, with technical adjustments, as well as decision units E-225, E-226, E-710, and E-873. Staff from the Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, recommended closing decision units E-802, E-803, and E-804 with technical adjustments and closing decision units E-225, E-226, E-710, and E-873 as recommended by the Governor. Fiscal staff also requested the authority to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

SENATOR FORD MOVED TO APPROVE THE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOR OTHER CLOSING ITEMS AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea were not present for the vote.)

**INFRASTRUCTURE  
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES  
DCNR - NEVADA TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY (101-4166)  
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-136**

Jennifer Gamroth, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, discussed that staff from the Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, was responsible for developing closing recommendations for budget account (BA) 4166, Nevada Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. She noted that the Subcommittees had not previously reviewed that budget. Pursuant to the bi-state Tahoe Regional Planning Compact, the Nevada Tahoe Regional Planning Agency regulated structures that housed gaming establishments in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Nevada Tahoe Regional Planning Agency maintained data base plans and chronological records for all Lake Tahoe casinos, and it also reviewed remodeling plans for compliance with the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact. The Nevada Tahoe Regional Planning Agency consisted of the 7 Nevada members from the 15-member Tahoe Regional Planning Agency governing board and was supported by staff from the Division of State Lands, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Ms. Gamroth relayed that there were no major closing issues or other closing items for BA 4166, Nevada Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Fiscal staff recommended closing the budget as recommended by the Governor and authorizing Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary.

SENATOR PARKS MOVED TO CLOSE BUDGET ACCOUNT 4166 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea were not present for the vote.)

**INFRASTRUCTURE  
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES  
DCNR - NEVADA NATURAL HERITAGE (101-4101)  
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-139**

Jennifer Gamroth, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, explained that staff from the Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, was responsible for developing closing recommendations for budget account (BA) 4101, Nevada Natural Heritage. She noted that the Subcommittees had not previously reviewed the budget.

Ms. Gamroth stated that the Nevada Natural Heritage Program, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, collected information on the locations, biology, and conservation status of all endangered, threatened, sensitive, and at-risk species in Nevada. The information was maintained in a system of computerized databases, topographical maps, and manual files and was integrated into the NatureServe website. The Nevada Natural Heritage Program also set priorities for conservation efforts based on species rarity, vulnerability, and management needs, thereby serving as an early warning system for species that could become endangered in the future. The Nevada Natural Heritage Program also provided data to state agencies, federal agencies, and the private sector for consideration that pertained to development and conservation activities as mandated by federal laws. The Nevada Natural Heritage Program was funded primarily with:

- State Highway Funds transferred from the Department of Transportation.
- Transfers from the Division of Environmental Protection, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.
- A small amount of federal funds and fees charged for database information.

Ms. Gamroth relayed that there were no major closing issues for BA 4101, Nevada Natural Heritage Program. The other closing items consisted of technical adjustments to decision units Enhancement (E) 802, E-803, and E-804. Fiscal staff recommended closing the budget as recommended by the Governor with technical adjustments and authorizing Fiscal staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK MOVED TO APPROVE OTHER CLOSING ITEMS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, WITH TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR FORD SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea were not present for the vote.)

**INFRASTRUCTURE**  
**TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY**  
**TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY (101-4204)**  
**BUDGET PAGE TRPA-3**

Jennifer Gamroth, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, noted that budget account (BA) 4204, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, had one major closing issue, decision unit Enhancement (E) 225. The Governor recommended State General Fund appropriations of \$250,000 in each year of the 2017-2019 biennium for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) to update its Lake Tahoe shoreline ordinances. She explained that the total funding would be \$500,000 for each year of the biennium with 50 percent being provided by Nevada and 50 percent being provided by California. The 50-50 split between Nevada and California brought Nevada's share of the total cost closer to the two-thirds/one-third split agreement that was outlined in the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact. The TRPA indicated that it was working collaboratively with multiple government agencies and that it encouraged public stakeholders to develop a new set of shoreline ordinances that had broad-based support and met the mandates of the Lake Tahoe bi-state compact.

Ms. Gamroth reported that for fiscal year (FY) 2018, the TRPA proposed contracting with a consultant to facilitate the development of the Lake Tahoe shoreline plan with a total cost of \$300,000. The TRPA also proposed contracting with another consultant to complete a comprehensive environmental impact report with a total cost of \$750,000 that the TRPA indicated was required to put the updated rules into effect. The \$250,000 that was recommended for Nevada's share of TRPA funding for FY 2018 would partially fund the cost of the two consultants, which combined was estimated to be about \$1.1 million.

Ms. Gamroth continued that for FY 2019, General Fund appropriations of \$250,000 were recommended for Nevada's share of the TRPA's costs that were associated with putting the updated shoreline ordinances into effect. The TRPA indicated that the costs would include setting up the permitting processes in conjunction with the respective state land agencies.

Ms. Gamroth said the TRPA indicated at the March 24, 2017, budget hearing that the funding recommended for the 2017-2019 biennium would be sufficient for (1) the development of the shoreline ordinances in FY 2018 and (2) putting the new ordinances into effect in FY 2019. The TRPA indicated that the funding from permit fees would provide for the continuous management of the Lake Tahoe shoreline ordinances for future biennia.

Ms. Gamroth asked whether the Subcommittees wished to approve the Governor's recommendation, decision unit E-225, to provide General Fund appropriations of \$250,000 in each year of the 2017-2019 biennium to update the Lake Tahoe shoreline ordinances.

Assemblyman Sprinkle suggested that matters with the shorelines in parts of Lake Tahoe were a growing concern that the Subcommittees had been able to identify and support in recent years. He said approving the decision unit was an absolute necessity to continue that support and to be a responsible neighbor to California.

Assemblywoman Titus agreed with Assemblyman Sprinkle's comments, noting that it was important for Nevada to meet its obligations.

ASSEMBLYMAN SPRINKLE MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNIT  
E-225 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR.

SENATOR PARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (Assemblyman Edwards and Senator Goicoechea  
were not present for the vote.)

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Chair Frierson thanked staff from the Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, for all the hard work they put into the budget closings. He opened the meeting to public comment. With no public comment, he adjourned the meeting at 9:24 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Keaton Westergard  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Assemblyman Jason Frierson, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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Senator David R. Parks, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EXHIBITS**

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

[Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster.