

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE,  
AND MINING**

**Eightieth Session  
March 27, 2019**

The Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining was called to order by Chair Heidi Swank at 4:02 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27, 2019, in Room 3138 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/80th2019](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019).

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Assemblywoman Heidi Swank, Chair  
Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod, Vice Chair  
Assemblyman Alex Assefa  
Assemblyman John Ellison  
Assemblyman Ozzie Fumo  
Assemblywoman Alexis Hansen  
Assemblywoman Sarah Peters  
Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus  
Assemblyman Howard Watts  
Assemblyman Jim Wheeler

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton (excused)  
Assemblyman Greg Smith (excused)

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Assemblyman Al Kramer, Assembly District No. 40

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jann Stinnesbeck, Committee Policy Analyst  
Allan Amburn, Committee Counsel  
Nancy Davis, Committee Secretary  
Alejandra Medina, Committee Assistant



**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Steve Walker, representing Carson City; and Truckee Meadows Water Authority  
Kumud Acharya, Interim Vice President for Research, Division of Hydrologic  
Sciences, Desert Research Institute  
Will Adler, representing Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe  
Kyle Roerink, Executive Director, Great Basin Water Network  
Kyle Davis, representing Nevada Conservation League  
Christine Saunders, Policy Director, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada  
Neena Laxalt, representing Central Nevada Regional Water Authority; and Humboldt  
River Basin Water Authority  
Tobi Tyler, Member, Executive Committee, Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club  
Laurel Saito, Nevada Water Program Director, The Nature Conservancy  
Jennifer Carr, P.E. Deputy Administrator, Administrative Services, Water Programs,  
and Mining Regulation and Reclamation, Division of Environmental  
Protection, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Chaunsey Chau-Duong, Public Affairs, Southern Nevada Water Authority

**Chair Swank:**

[Roll was called. Committee protocol and rules were reviewed.] I will open the work session on Assembly Bill 214.

**Assembly Bill 214: Makes an appropriation for a feasibility study relating to further development of a museum at the Nevada State Prison. (BDR S-535)**

**Jann Stinnesbeck, Committee Policy Analyst:**

Assembly Bill 214 was heard in this Committee on March 13, 2019, and was sponsored by Assemblyman Kramer ([Exhibit C](#)). The bill provides an appropriation to complete a feasibility study for the development of a museum at the Nevada State Prison. There is one amendment to this bill proposed by Assemblywoman Swank to expand the scope of the feasibility study to include other potential uses of the historic structures, buildings, and other property at the Nevada State Prison.

**Chair Swank:**

I will take a motion to amend and do pass A.B. 214.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS MADE A MOTION TO AMEND AND DO  
PASS ASSEMBLY BILL 214.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BILBRAY-AXELROD SECONDED THE MOTION.

Is there any discussion on the motion? [There was none.]

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMEN CARLTON AND SMITH  
WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

I will assign the floor statement to Assemblywoman Bilbray-Axelrod. The next work session is Assembly Bill 229.

**Assembly Bill 229: Requires the establishment of a technical advisory program for the protection and preservation of certain buildings and structures. (BDR 33-299)**

**Jann Stinnesbeck, Committee Policy Analyst:**

Assembly Bill 229 was heard in this Committee on March 11, 2019, and was sponsored by Assemblywoman Swank (Exhibit D). The bill requires the Administrator of the Office of Historic Preservation of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to establish and administer a technical advisory program to provide technical assistance and grants for the protection and preservation of buildings and other structures in Nevada that are at least 50 years old. There is one amendment proposed by Assemblywoman Swank and the Office of Historic Preservation. The amendment lists several things:

- Provides that, to qualify as a technical advisor, a person must meet certain qualification standards set forth by the United States Secretary of the Interior;
- Removes the requirements that the Office of Historic Preservation provide the name and contact information of a technical advisor upon request, and instead provides that the Office make available on its Internet website the list that it compiles and maintains in carrying out the technical advisory program;
- Provides that certain nonprofit corporations may receive grants of money under the technical advisory program;
- Increases the total amount to be appropriated from \$20,000 to \$30,000 and provides that it is appropriated over the 2019-2021 Biennium;
- Provides that any funds that remain at the end of the 2019-2021 Biennium do not revert to the State General Fund; and
- Changes the effective date of this bill.

**Chair Swank:**

I will take a motion to amend and do pass A.B. 229.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PETERS MADE A MOTION TO AMEND AND DO  
PASS ASSEMBLY BILL 229.

ASSEMBLYMAN WATTS SECONDED THE MOTION.

Is there any discussion on the motion? [There was none.]

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMEN CARLTON AND SMITH  
WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

I will take the floor statement. I will now move onto the hearing on Assembly Bill 233.

**Assembly Bill 233: Revises provisions related to water. (BDR 48-45)**

**Assemblyman Al Kramer, Assembly District No. 40:**

Assembly Bill 233 calls itself a water bill, but it is really a bill on good government. County treasurers—I identify with them because I was one for 20 years—find themselves in the position of sending out invoices for very small amounts, such as \$.50. This is because of the way the law is written regarding water basin fees. For example, when there is a basin bill of \$.50, it is normally added to your ad valorem taxes and a bill goes out for \$1,000; that \$.50 is included in the \$1,000. A totally disabled veteran does not pay the ad valorem tax, so he gets a bill for \$.50. It used to be that we would pay that \$.50 with [county] general fund money and not pass the bill on. Taxation came to us a couple of years ago and said, by law, you have to send that bill out, even if it is for \$.50.

This bill will get us some good government. It says, if you have a bill resulting from something like this, where the cost of sending out the invoice and receiving the money back is more than what you are going to receive, then let us do some good government and pay the invoice out of the general fund.

**Assemblyman Watts:**

Why not take the approach of ensuring that those who already do not have to pay property taxes do not have to pay this assessment either?

**Assemblyman Kramer:**

This bill covers two areas. Another example might be where a condominium association has a water basin fee for the open area of the condominium. In fact, the fee is spread out among everyone in the condominium. When the fee is spread out, there is another very small bill. We know Carson City has about 19,000 parcels and we might have 20 that fall under this category.

We do have a small amendment ([Exhibit E](#)). The amendment changes section 2, subsection 2, to read, "If the board of county commissioners determines that the amount of a special assessment levied upon a property owner pursuant to this section when combined with the amount of all other taxes and assessments levied upon such taxpayer is less than the cost of collecting the assessment . . ." In other words, this has to be that the full bill we are sending is the small amount, and that small amount is not in addition to something else. We are not going to waive small amounts when they are added to another bill. This amendment is just for clarification.

**Assemblywoman Titus:**

When we get our property tax form, it lists all taxes, such as water, irrigation, hospital tax, et cetera. The tax may only be \$.50, but you are still going to bill folks for that when it is included in their property tax bill. If you realize there is an additional fee, if that bill is less than the cost of sending it out, you are going to negate that bill. Is that correct?

**Assemblyman Kramer:**

The example is, when you get your tax bill, it has all the different items on it. All of that comes under the heading of ad valorem taxes that are divided among different items. A disabled veteran can have an exemption or limit to how much he will have to pay in ad valorem taxes. The water basin bill is not an ad valorem tax, but it is collected with the ad valorem taxes. It does not come under the exemption that a disabled veteran receives; therefore, it is billed as a separate bill. It is not waived. This bill allows the county general fund to pay that portion of the bill. Obviously, if it is going to cost more money to collect a bill, the county is better off by paying the amount than going through the process of collecting it.

**Assemblywoman Titus:**

This bill is not just for disabled veterans, there may be other folks with small enough parcels that they may also get a fee that is less than the cost of doing the billing.

**Assemblyman Kramer:**

I am at a loss to come up with an example of another fee that we would be required to send out a bill for less than a dollar.

**Assemblywoman Titus:**

No one here has mentioned, in particular, a disabled veteran. It could be anybody if it happens that way, right?

**Assemblyman Kramer:**

Absolutely, it could be anyone. It is a good government thing.

**Assemblyman Assefa:**

When you refer to the "general fund," are you referring to the State General Fund, or the county general fund?

**Assemblyman Kramer:**

This is the county general fund. County treasurers collect the property taxes for the county, which are ad valorem taxes, which is where this bill is added on to.

**Chair Swank:**

Are there any further questions from the Committee? [There were none.] Is there anyone here who would like to testify in support of A.B. 233?

**Steve Walker, representing Carson City:**

Carson City is in support of this bill because it just makes sense.

**Chair Swank:**

Is there anyone else in support? [There was no one.] Is there anyone in opposition? [There was no one.] Is there anyone in neutral? [There was no one.] Are there any closing remarks?

**Assemblyman Kramer:**

Thank you for considering this bill.

**Chair Swank:**

I will close the hearing on A.B. 233. I will open the hearing on Assembly Bill 265.

**Assembly Bill 265: Requires the Desert Research Institute to conduct a study concerning water treatment and recycling. (BDR S-901)**

**Assemblywoman Sarah Peters, Assembly District No. 24:**

I am here to present Assembly Bill 265. This bill directs that a study be done pertaining to water treatment in the state of Nevada. We are working off of an amendment (Exhibit F). This is a cooperative work among the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the Desert Research Institute (DRI) of the Nevada System of Higher Education, and myself to try and get to a place where we could use the resources available in the next two years during the interim to try to come up with something that would assist us in making good water-policy decisions in the future.

It became apparent to me that the initial concept of this bill is not something novel to us. The concept was this: What kind of water treatment do we need in the state of Nevada to address the water quality and quantity needs across our varying water systems?

It became apparent that stakeholders have already invested a lot of time, effort, and money into these areas, but that those studies have been regionally specific. We have studies in southern Nevada for the water issues in southern Nevada, Clark County in particular. We have studies in the Truckee Meadows water basin that are done by multiple parties. We do not have any place for those studies to land for us to make good water-policy decisions. We have to find them, or they have to be presented to us. What happened with this bill is we figured out that we needed to have a landing place for this data to come together from across the state.

This bill also identifies that we have limited resources to address water needs and issues in rural Nevada. I think what we have come to is that a lot of the research that has been done within the state can be leveraged and utilized in effective ways for communities across the state.

I will now review some of the changes in this bill. Truckee Meadows Water Authority has provided an amendment ([Exhibit G](#)). The language of that amendment is included in the amendment that I have provided ([Exhibit F](#)). It is included in the third whereas, that adds "improve water supply resiliency for existing uses, sustainability and environmental benefits, and to support growth and development." This is in line with the progress in the state to identify that our ecology and open spaces are as important to the quality of life as access to water and other goods.

We have changed this from a study to an assessment of existing information, including challenges and opportunities relating to water treatment and recycling technologies.

We have had to put a contingency on funding. This is based on a working conversation with stakeholders on how to fund this research. The DRI needs to have that funding available through some mechanism. We are looking at different ways to fund this. I know it is not a part of this Committee, but it is a part of the policy to stipulate that this study will be done only if there is funding.

We have modified the language in section 1, subsection 2 to eliminate some of the deeper looks at the environmental and socioeconomic implications of water treatment and the impact that water supply has when it crosses a state boundary or tribal boundary. That is a bigger study and is something that we need to pursue in the future with resources available to do exactly that. Right now, it is not something that we can scope out.

We included that the assessment is intended to inform water planning efforts throughout the state, and also create a foundation for us to build more viable information for good policymaking and water supply issues.

The rest of the amendment ([Exhibit F](#)) is marrying the language from study to assessment. Also, DCNR requested that this report be directly transmitted to them as well so that they can be an active stakeholder in policy absorbing those recommendations.

From here, I am going to pass the mic over to Dr. Kumud Acharya with DRI. He is their specialist in this area.

**Kumud Acharya, Interim Vice President for Research, Division of Hydrologic Sciences,  
Desert Research Institute:**

The Desert Research Institute is celebrating 60 years of science and innovation throughout the state of Nevada and around the world. Since our founding in 1959, our mission has been to promote the general welfare of the state of Nevada and its citizens through the development of educational and scientific research. According to the National Science Foundation, we are among the top 5 percent of research institutions in the nation with regards to atmospheric and earth sciences. We have over 400 scientists, engineers, students, and support staff working toward our mission every day on campuses in Reno and Las Vegas.

We are pleased to be considered to do this work. This assessment would leverage the work that our WaterStart program does today—looking for technological solutions to problems that have been identified by several of the state's water agencies. WaterStart has looked at technologies from around the world to solve more than a dozen specific problems outlined by WaterStart members. Our faculty can apply that same approach to the areas that are outlined in this bill to look at the state's water needs, with one caveat: if funding is available.

With that, I am happy to answer any questions.

**Assemblywoman Titus:**

I appreciate what you are trying to do. I know that our State Engineers have done study after study in every little microclimate in the state. I am familiar with DRI—congratulations on your 60 years. It is a stellar organization, from the many programs, including the cloud-seeding program. I am pleased to see you have changed where you are going with this as opposed to creating new studies. Is it correct that you are going to look at gathering all the studies that have been done and use that to identify where the holes are, where we have not studied? And then you will put that together in a presentation and come back to us next session, saying here is an overview of Nevada's water needs, here is what we know, and here is a new program that we need to look at?

**Kumud Acharya:**

That is correct. There are many studies done by different agencies in the state for specific reasons and purposes when required. I think DRI WaterStart has also looked at specific technologies as required by a particular agency. We have not looked at all of those studies to put together a comprehensive study that helps policymaking for the entire state. I think you are correct in that this study would look at all of those studies that have already been done and combine them to provide a synthesis of how that can be applied for a new policy.

**Assemblyman Watts:**

I am particularly excited about naming desalination and grey water. We have been trying to make progress in both of those areas. I know there has been a lot of conversation about some of the ideas of potential use of desalination, especially in southern Nevada, with relation to figuring out some creative ways to augment our water supply from the Colorado River. I am also excited to take a broader look at that and see what the applications are in other portions of the state and hopefully do more comprehensive looks when it comes to grey water use and implementation. Would you talk about some of the entities, persons, or organizations that may be consulted with under section 1, subsection 3?

**Assemblywoman Peters:**

There are a lot of stakeholders in water in Nevada. There are big stakeholders and there are small stakeholders: individual domestic well owners who are having water quality issues and water companies and utilities that have hundreds of thousands of people to supply water to. We have quite a lot of stakeholders involved in this area. We have already identified a number of people who have data and information that they want to be sharing that they did not know we did not know about. Those include utilities in the Truckee Meadows, Clark



County, and the University of Nevada. My intention is also to reach out to rural counties and their water managers to ensure that if they have identified areas where they have needs, we can wrap those needs into this study and assessment and really take a look at what kind of solutions we have available in this state.

We should not be reinventing the wheel; we have already decided what the best reverse osmosis system is for what type of water is needed. We should not have to redo a study for a different region when we can identify that the water quality already meets that need. I am hoping we can do a kick-off scoping meeting to bring people together and gather the information that they have. Also, keep our feelers out for people who would be considered stakeholders and who have come up with some novel options across the state but are not a part of the conversation yet.

**Assemblyman Assefa:**

In terms of funding, you are leaving it open for DRI to find out how much it will cost. We are putting a time limit on this to produce the results of your findings and research for the 81st Session, so you have two years to do this. How much is it going to cost you? Where are you going to find the money? Do you have the money on your radar already?

**Chair Swank:**

We are a policy committee, and we do not discuss dollar amounts. This will be heard by the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means where we will have that money discussion. If you want to talk about the availability of grants in general, that is fine.

**Kumud Acharya:**

We still need to look at what that dollar amount is; we do not have an idea. We have ideas as to where we might be able to raise this money. The DRI is a soft-money organization and we obviously live off of grants and contracts and look for ways to support studies we want to do that will help the state. The money could come from state agencies, or it could come from utilities or federal agencies. We will have to look at all of those opportunities and what is out there and then decide. As far as timing is concerned, obviously, we need to have funding in place before we can get the study started. Our faculty are paid from grants and contracts, so we cannot get them to work and then try to find money later.

**Assemblywoman Peters:**

We are continuing to work on the access to funds. This is a resource-limited area, with the water as well as the funding. I think it also highlights how important it is for us to focus on these issues. Among the areas that I have thought of identifying is the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior. Climate change and many more things pertain to this issue area. I think those are areas that DRI is good at finding grants for. We as a state are working very hard to ensure that they have the resources to do this.

**Assemblywoman Hansen:**

Would this also include looking at sewage treatment plants?

**Assemblywoman Peters:**

Yes, we will be looking at that.

**Assemblywoman Hansen:**

I went on a field trip to the sewage treatment plant in Sparks and I highly recommend it. It was not what I expected and it was amazing what they are doing. I think as technology evolves, there are some great opportunities there. If this were to go through, would we be looking at Swan Lake Nature Study Area and its terminus lake problem with Reno pumping a million gallons of effluent water into it? Would that fall within the realm of something like this bill?

**Kumud Acharya:**

We will look at any body of water in the state. I am familiar with Swan Lake. I am also involved with another study there right now. Any water that we can utilize or recycle we will have to look at.

**Chair Swank:**

Are there any further questions from the Committee? Seeing none, is there anyone here to testify in support of [A.B. 265](#)?

**Will Adler, representing Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe:**

If I understand the amendment ([Exhibit F](#)) correctly, section 1, subsection 2 of the bill is completely removed. With that, I would say we are in support of the bill; the concept of the bill; and the further assembling of current data around water across Nevada. There is never enough clarification when it comes to water policy. I also like the concept of combining many different streams of current data in one source where we can get definite answers from DRI. I would also state that in communication with persons who have water experience and knowledge, maybe the tribal communities should be included. Also, I do believe that effluent is one of the most important sources of water in certain parts of Nevada, whether it is for golf courses or for downstream communities. Sometimes in dry years, the only water you see in rivers is the effluent that the city has released. Specifically studying effluent or looking into the current research on it and the effect it has on downstream communities could be very crucial for this study.

**Chair Swank:**

Thank you. I believe that Assemblywoman Peters will be affirming that tribal communities will be included.

**Kyle Roerink, Executive Director, Great Basin Water Network:**

No organization has allotted desalination quite like ours over the years. We obviously support what is in this bill. We believe that the measures outlined can help us improve our water future in the state. Additionally, we think having a repository of information, much like what Assemblywoman Peters is describing, can be a great resource for us all. I spend a lot of time looking for bits and pieces of information. We think this is a great pragmatic bill and I want to thank all the cosponsors for their work on this.

**Kyle Davis, representing Nevada Conservation League:**

We are in support of this bill, including the amendment that was offered by Assemblywoman Peters. I think the short answer is that water is already one of our most precious resources in Nevada. We do not have a lot of it, and we will probably have a lot less going forward. We need to know everything we can do in order to ensure we have enough water for everything we need it for in this state.

**Christine Saunders, Policy Director, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada:**

I would like to add that Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada supports A.B. 265 as a step toward just, holistic, and much needed water treatment solutions for all the people in Nevada.

**Neena Laxalt, representing Central Nevada Regional Water Authority; and Humboldt River Basin Water Authority:**

We support A.B. 265 and would be happy to work with Assemblywoman Peters to be part of the stakeholder group and hope we can find the money to invest in this project because it is very important.

**Steve Walker, representing Truckee Meadows Water Authority:**

I would first like to thank Assemblywoman Peters for accepting our amendment ([Exhibit G](#)) on future water supply for growth and development. I would also like to say that as you do the study, remember the water cycle and that any interception of water that could be leaching into groundwater, you need to make sure that is looked at and remember the water cycle.

**Tobi Tyler, Member, Executive Committee, Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club:**

On behalf of more than 30,000 Sierra Club members and supporters in Nevada, the Toiyabe Chapter is grateful for Assemblywoman Peters' leadership in introducing and considering A.B. 265. We strongly support this bill as it is a progressive first step for the nation's driest state to finally start recognizing that our water future depends on conservation and innovation.

The regional and historical uses of our surface and groundwater resources must always be considered as we move forward as a state in which drought, climate change, and population growth are inevitable. There is a thirst for innovation in this state. Assembly Bill 265 will help satiate that need.

The study will begin the investigation of modern ways of expanding our state's long-term water portfolio. Desalination is cheaper and more feasible than outdated pipeline proposals. Also, maximizing grey water use is an obvious low-hanging fruit that has been realized in much wetter climates than ours. We need to know about the newest and most innovative ways to provide and use water resources. We applaud and thank bill sponsors Assemblywoman Peters and cosponsors Chair Swank and Assemblyman Watts for their forward-looking legislation. [A letter of support was also provided ([Exhibit H](#)).]

**Laurel Saito, Nevada Water Program Director, The Nature Conservancy:**

Our mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. We seek collaborative pragmatic solutions supported by science to resolve urgent conservation challenges. The Nature Conservancy supports A.B. 265 and the amendment ([Exhibit F](#)) because this bill's aim to take a science-based approach to finding actionable solutions for water challenges in our water-limited state is a step in the right direction for improving water sustainability for future generations in Nevada. In many of the 256 hydrographic basins in Nevada, water tables are declining and threatening access to groundwater for groundwater-dependent ecosystems and water users around the state. Groundwater-dependent ecosystems rely on groundwater to maintain their ecological structure and function. We support basin-specific solutions that address bringing basins back into balance while respecting prior appropriation and property rights. Desalination and water reuse are worth further investigation as options that could be part of a suite of solutions for Nevada, and this study will provide needed information about possible approaches for implementing these options in Nevada.

Thank you very much for bringing this bill forward and for the opportunity to comment on this bill. [A letter of support was also provided ([Exhibit I](#)).]

**Chair Swank:**

Is there anyone else who would like to speak in support? [There was no one.] Is there anyone who would like to speak in opposition to A.B. 265? [There was no one.] Is there anyone who would like to speak in neutral?

**Jennifer Carr, P.E., Deputy Administrator, Administrative Services, Water Programs, and Mining Regulation and Reclamation, Division of Environmental Protection, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:**

As a Deputy Administrator, my portfolio includes the Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, water quality protection programs.

The NDEP is neutral on Assembly Bill 265. I was asked to provide a current perspective on the state of wastewater reuse. The Division's Bureau of Water Pollution Control is the permitting and oversight entity for wastewater treatment and reclaimed water reuse. Nevada has a proud history of strategic use of treated effluent reuse water for beneficial uses. A recent database query resulted in identification of 449 sites statewide where reuse water has been approved. Sometimes these applications are known as "purple pipe" systems due to the use of actual purple delivery pipe to distinguish it from effluent reuse and potable water pipes. Such sites range from hundreds of golf courses from West Wendover to Carson City, Reno, and down to Las Vegas, agricultural irrigation in rural Nevada, the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area and other wetlands around the state, sports fields and parks, and the list goes on.

In 2016, regulations were passed which created a new category of reclaimed water called "A+." Reuse category A+ may be used for indirect potable reuse (IPR) through injection

wells or spreading basins. The advanced wastewater treatment processes are both state of the art and have redundancy built into the program. Advanced treatment pilot projects include filtration, ozonation, biological activated carbon, ultraviolet light, and advanced oxidation processes. These systems are used in a sequence to take treated wastewater and further break down long chemical chains of pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and other items that may be in the treated wastewater. Once reuse water is treated to this exceptional quality, Nevada regulations require it pass through an environmental buffer underground for further polishing before being extracted again as a potable source of water.

Advanced purified water has been used to replenish underground aquifers and surface reservoirs in the United States for over 40 years in states such as Texas, Arizona, California, and Virginia. The "OneWater Nevada" effort underway in Washoe County is a multiyear feasibility study designed to answer any outstanding engineering or social acceptance questions related to implementing a successful IPR project.

As advanced water treatment technologies continue to be developed with an eye toward sustainability and resiliency of our water supplies, an assessment such as that proposed by A.B. 265 may help to inform both design engineers as well as policymakers. As treatment processes advance, possibly becoming more economical, and if the popularity of golfing declines, Nevadans will benefit from the assessment and expansion of ideas for deployment of other reuse opportunities in both urban and rural areas.

Unfortunately, the Division does not have financial resources to contribute to this effort, but we will keep our ear to the ground and let DRI know if anything comes about that might be a source of revenue for this project. Of course, we stand ready to partner with DRI on this future assessment effort as needed.

**Chaunsey Chau-Duong, Public Affairs, Southern Nevada Water Authority:**

We are neutral on this bill. We certainly understand the general concept of the bill, but we want to let the Committee know that many of the things asked to be studied in the bill Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) has already done. Whether you are talking about water treatment methods, reverse osmosis, water recycling, purple pipe, or desalination, the SNWA has done a lot of these studies and we have not done them in a vacuum. We have collaborated with organizations, federal agencies, and educational institutions. We are renowned for our expertise in these types of studies, so I would just let the Committee know that we have copies of these studies if you would like them.

**Chair Swank:**

I would suggest that those studies be forwarded to this central location at DRI that will probably come under this bill.

Assemblywoman Peters, do you have any closing remarks?

**Assemblywoman Peters:**

I am thinking about how full circle this is since I started my career working in desalination options at the University of Nevada, Reno, and now being able to be here to progress policy in this area—it is really wonderful. I appreciate your consideration of this bill and look forward to a future for water opportunity in Nevada.

**Chair Swank:**

I would like to confirm that tribal communities will be included.

**Assemblywoman Peters:**

As stakeholders came up here, I was looking to ensure on the record not-for-profits that are already working in this area, conservation stakeholders who are working in this area, and tribal governments and their utilities are also included in this conversation. [Also provided but not mentioned are ([Exhibit J](#) and [Exhibit K](#)).]

**Chair Swank:**

With that I will close the hearing on A.B. 265. Is there anyone here for public comment? Seeing none, we are adjourned [at 4:49 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Nancy Davis  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Assemblywoman Heidi Swank, Chair

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

## EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

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

[Exhibit C](#) is the Work Session Document for [Assembly Bill 214](#), dated March 27, 2019, submitted by Jann Stinnesbeck, Committee Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit D](#) is the Work Session Document for [Assembly Bill 229](#), dated March 27, 2019, submitted by Jann Stinnesbeck, Committee Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit E](#) is a proposed amendment to [Assembly Bill 233](#) presented by Assemblyman Al Kramer, Assembly District No. 40.

[Exhibit F](#) is a proposed amendment to [Assembly Bill 265](#) presented by Assemblywoman Sarah Peters, Assembly District No. 24.

[Exhibit G](#) is a proposed amendment to [Assembly Bill 265](#) submitted by Steve Walker, representing Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

[Exhibit H](#) is a letter dated March 27, 2019, to the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining, signed by Tobi Tyler, Member, Executive Committee, Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club, in support of [Assembly Bill 265](#).

[Exhibit I](#) is a letter dated March 26, 2019, to Chair Swank, signed by Juan Palma, Nevada State Director, The Nature Conservancy, in support of [Assembly Bill 265](#).

[Exhibit J](#) is a letter dated March 26, 2019, to Chair Swank, signed by Patrick Donnelly, Nevada State Director, Center for Biological Diversity, in support of [Assembly Bill 265](#).

[Exhibit K](#) is a letter dated March 26, 2019, to the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining, signed by Neal Desai, Pacific Region Field Director, National Parks Conservation Association, in support of [Assembly Bill 265](#).