

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9—
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
FOR THE REVIEW AND OVERSIGHT OF THE
TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY AND
THE MARLETTE LAKE WATER SYSTEM)

MARCH 26, 2021

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Expresses support for the Nevada System of Higher Education to work collaboratively in its science and research efforts addressing the needs of the Lake Tahoe Basin. (BDR R-364)

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Expressing support for the Nevada System of Higher Education to work collaboratively in its science and research efforts addressing the needs of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

1 WHEREAS, The Lake Tahoe Basin exhibits unique
2 environmental and ecological conditions that are irreplaceable; and

3 WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature has recognized that Nevada
4 has a compelling interest in preserving, protecting, restoring and
5 enhancing the natural environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin, which
6 is a matter of such significance that it must carried out on a
7 continual basis; and

8 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada, in collaboration with the State
9 of California, federal agencies, local governments, the private sector
10 and nonprofit organizations, has provided continuous investment in
11 the preservation, protection, restoration and enhancement of the
12 Lake Tahoe Basin through the implementation of projects identified
13 in the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program; and

14 WHEREAS, The role of science in guiding decision-making is
15 critical to the successful implementation of policies and
16 environmental restoration in the Lake Tahoe Basin; and



1 WHEREAS, The role of science in guiding decision-making has
2 become more imperative due to emerging issues such as climate
3 change and increased visitation, which are placing even greater
4 pressures on the health of the ecosystem in the Lake Tahoe Basin;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada has recently completed a State
7 Climate Strategy, which is an integrated, economy-wide roadmap
8 for the State to accelerate climate action necessary to achieve
9 Nevada's climate goals and which:

10 1. Provides a framework for reducing greenhouse gas
11 emissions consistent with the targets for the reduction of greenhouse
12 gas emissions set by the Nevada Legislature in 2019;

13 2. Lays the groundwork for the bold actions necessary to
14 improve Nevada's resilience to the current and future impacts of
15 climate change; and

16 3. Establishes a Nevada-specific structure for continued,
17 ongoing climate action across the state; and

18 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada, through the Nevada State
19 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, entered into a
20 Memorandum of Understanding with the State of California,
21 through the California Natural Resources Agency, to establish the
22 Tahoe Bi-State Executive Committee to coordinate science and
23 research activities and create the non-regulatory Tahoe Science
24 Advisory Council; and

25 WHEREAS, Comprised of scientific experts from research
26 institutions and public agencies, including the University of Nevada,
27 Reno and the Desert Research Institute, the focus of the Tahoe
28 Science Advisory Council is to provide objective research and
29 scientific analysis that will help support decision-makers of both
30 Nevada and California to meet their obligation to advance
31 attainment of environmental thresholds in the Lake Tahoe Basin;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, The Tahoe Science Advisory Council has developed
34 a "Science to Action Plan (Aquatic)" to provide decision-relevant
35 science that informs policy and land management decisions and
36 anticipates critical emerging issues that have impacts on the water
37 quality and health of the aquatic ecosystem of Lake Tahoe; and

38 WHEREAS, The Tahoe Science Advisory Council has also
39 developed a "Science to Action Plan (Upland)" that identifies
40 necessary research needs, placing a priority on issues such as forest
41 health and fire dynamics, the linkages between land and water
42 ecosystems and biological integrity, in order to promote
43 environmental resilience, protect resources, adapt to emerging issues
44 and enhance ecological and community sustainability; and



1 WHEREAS, Funding to complete the necessary research
2 identified in both action plans has not been identified and
3 collaboration among Nevada's research institutions will be essential
4 to ensure completion of the action plans; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
6 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the 81st Session of
7 the Nevada Legislature do hereby encourage and support the
8 Nevada System of Higher Education to work collaboratively among
9 its institutions to coordinate all research, science, and other analysis
10 focused on addressing the specific needs of the Lake Tahoe Basin in
11 alignment with Nevada's State Climate Strategy; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada
13 Legislature do hereby recognize and express their support for
14 carrying out necessary research to address emerging issues in the
15 Lake Tahoe Basin in order to guide policy and land management
16 decisions in the Basin and for the critical role of science in guiding
17 environmental protection and restoration efforts in the Lake Tahoe
18 Basin; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada
20 Legislature do hereby recommend that the Nevada System of Higher
21 Education enhance coordination and collaborative efforts with the
22 Nevada State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
23 and other state and federal agencies, as appropriate, to strategically
24 align the Nevada System of Higher Education's science and
25 research efforts with policy goals, including Nevada's State Climate
26 Strategy, that are established by relevant agencies, including the
27 Tahoe Science Advisory Council and other stakeholders in the Lake
28 Tahoe Basin; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
30 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Executive Director of the
31 Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, the Program Officer of the Tahoe
32 Science Advisory Council, the Director of the Nevada State
33 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Secretary of
34 the California Natural Resources Agency, the President of the
35 University of Nevada, Reno, the President of the Desert Research
36 Institute, the President of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the
37 President of the University of California, Davis and each member of
38 the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

39 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
40 adoption.

