

**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**

**Eighty-First Session
May 4, 2021**

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 Brittney Miller at 8:01 a.m. on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, in Room 1214 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. and Online. 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/81st2021.

ASSEMBLY SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Brittney Miller, Chair
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Vice Chair
Assemblywoman Sarah Peters
Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus
Assemblywoman Jill Tolles
Assemblyman Howard Watts

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Moises Denis, Chair
Senator Chris Brooks
Senator Pete Goicoechea

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

None



STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst
Wayne Thorley, Senate Fiscal Analyst
Cathy Crocket, Senior Program Analyst
Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst
Nancy Morris, Program Analyst
Mary O'Hair, Committee Manager
Anne Bowen, Committee Secretary
Bet Torres, Committee Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Micheline Fairbank, Deputy Administrator, Division of Water Resources, State
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Kacey KC, State Forester Firewarden, Division of Forestry, State Department of
Conservation and Natural Resources
Greg Lovato, Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection, State Department
of Conservation and Natural Resources

Chair Miller:

Good morning, everyone. I would like to officially call this meeting to order. I know we do not have all of our members right now, but we have an extremely robust agenda that we are going to try to work through. We will be working until at least 10:15 a.m. to make sure we can get as much done as possible and give the Senators time to get to their caucuses and floor sessions. [Roll was taken and Subcommittee rules and protocol were reviewed.]

We will be closing budgets for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

INFRASTRUCTURE

CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES

DCNR - ACCOUNT FOR OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES (OHV) (101-4285)

BUDGET PAGE DCNR-34

Nancy Morris, Program Analyst:

The first budget I will be presenting to the Subcommittees today begins on page 3 [[Exhibit C](#)]. The Account for Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) awards grants for law enforcement, education and public awareness, off-highway vehicles trail maintenance and development, and the prevention of environmental and wildlife habitat impacts. The budget is entirely funded with off-highway vehicles registration and title fees collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

There is one Major Closing Issue in this budget, which begins on page 4. The Governor recommends utilizing reserves of \$792,974 in each year of the biennium, which would increase grants to \$1.5 million each year and restore grants to the \$1.5 million per year amounts approved by the 2019 Legislature.

The agency anticipates that with the recommended funding it would award up to \$1 million in additional grants each year of the upcoming biennium, for a total of \$2 million over the biennium and utilize remaining authority to fund current grant obligations.

During the March 26, 2021, budget hearing the agency indicated it has not previously expended the full legislatively approved amounts for grants as it has not received sufficient qualified applications and has the goal to grow the program sustainably over time. In addition, the agency is unable to control when project reimbursements are requested and noted that the pandemic-related restrictions in place in 2020 impeded the agency's ability to build partnerships and raise awareness to solicit grant applications.

During the budget hearing, the Subcommittees discussed the agency's reserve levels and the agency reiterated its intent was to reduce reserves through awarding additional grants.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of utilizing reserves of \$792,974 in each year of the 2021-2023 biennium to fund off-highway vehicle-related project grants, as recommended by the Governor?

Chair Miller:

Could you please continue with the Other Closing Items and we will take one motion on that?

Nancy Morris:

There are six Other Closing Items noted on page 5 [[Exhibit C](#)], one with a technical adjustment.

Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommends Other Closing Items 1 through 5 be closed as recommended by the Governor and Other Closing Item 6 be closed with the noted technical adjustment. Fiscal staff requests authority to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Miller:

Members, do we have any questions?

Assemblywoman Titus:

During the hearing on this, I was very concerned about the Department's reserve levels and the fact that they had not awarded as many grants as we would hope. As somebody who has several of these vehicles that we pay our fees on, I always worry that we use them appropriately or we decrease the fees, or we eliminate it altogether. I support these

recommendations, but I respectfully ask that perhaps you ask for a letter of intent to request a report to the Interim Finance Committee regarding how many of these grants have been awarded and not wait two years to find out they have not been awarded. Perhaps we could have some sort of follow up in six months to see where this process is going. I would very much appreciate it.

Chair Miller:

Thank you for that, Dr. Titus. I know that we do not like to—every time we have a letter of intent, that is more work on our Fiscal staff— as well as more that comes in. But we need accuracy, accountability, and transparency. Again, two years is a long time to wait. We will include that in our motion, and thank you for that recommendation.

Senator Goicoechea:

I have more of a comment than anything. It really concerns me. There is a big reserve there. Clearly, the law enforcement side is where they really need to focus. We have problems occurring out there, whether it is vandals and people actually establishing new roads. That is a very small amount. If they would really focus on the law enforcement side of it as much as some of the other trails and aspects, they can clearly spend \$1 million, there is no doubt about it.

Chair Miller:

Are there any additional questions? [there were none.] I will accept a motion, including the additional recommendation for the letter of intent.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE UTILIZING RESERVES OF \$792,974 EACH YEAR OF THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM TO FUND OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE-RELATED PROJECT GRANTS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, CLOSING OTHER CLOSING ITEMS 1 THROUGH 5 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, CLOSING OTHER CLOSING ITEM 6 WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS, AUTHORIZING FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY, AND ISSUING A LETTER OF INTENT TO REQUIRE THE AGENCY TO PROVIDE A REPORT TO THE INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE ON A SEMIANNUAL BASIS REGARDING THE STATUS OF GRANT AWARDS.

Chair Miller:

Ms. Coffman, is that sufficient for our intent?

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Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst:

Madam Chair, that is sufficient. We will put that into the report to the full Committee.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

Are there any questions or comments on the motion? [There were none.]

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Miller:

May we move on to the next item?

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - WATER RESOURCES (101-4171)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-61**

Nancy Morris, Program Analyst:

The next budget is on page 7 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)]. It is the Division of Water Resources, which conserves, protects, manages, and enhances the water resources of Nevada through the appropriation and reallocation of public waters.

There are two Major Closing Issues in this budget. The first is a budget reduction. To achieve State General Fund savings of \$304,822 in fiscal year (FY) 2022 and \$313,818 in FY 2023, the Governor recommends shifting personnel costs for five positions from 100 percent General Fund appropriations to 50 percent General Fund and 50 percent Water District Assessments in the 2021-2023 biennium as a temporary General Fund savings measure.

According to the agency, all five positions perform core functions of the Division, provide statewide services to the public, and should be funded by General Fund appropriations in the long-term. Accordingly, the Governor recommends the funding source change as a temporary measure.

The agency manages Water District Assessment funding for 99 water basins in 5 water basin district budgets that are not included in the Appropriations or Authorizations Acts. Pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 533.295(1), Water District assessments must be used exclusively for expenses incurred in the administration, operation, and maintenance of the particular water system from which the money is collected, with the exception of an activity outside of the basin if the activity bears a direct relationship to the particular groundwater basin in which the money is collected.

The Governor recommends allocating the \$618,640 in personnel costs to the five water basin district budgets based on the share of total assessment revenue projected by the agency for each water basin district budget in the 2021-2023 biennium as shown on the chart on page 9.

At the March 11, 2021, budget hearing, the agency indicated that utilizing the Water District Assessments to fund a portion of the costs for five positions was determined to be appropriate based on the similarity to the nature of the work of five other positions in this budget that are currently supported in part or in whole by Water District Assessments, including one deputy administrator, two administrative assistants, an engineering technician, and an accountant technician. They all perform both statewide work and work specific to the basins, and the agency indicates the majority of duties of the five positions in this decision unit relate to individual basins, including directly monitoring, supervising, and conducting work that supports the individual basins. The agency has mechanisms in place to track work performed to ensure water district assessments are only utilized for work benefiting the related basin.

The agency indicates the proposed allocation of personnel costs included in this decision unit, based on the percentage of total projected revenue for each basin, is permissible because the work performed by these positions outside the basin in which the revenue is collected bears a direct relationship to the responsibilities and activities of the state engineer regarding the particular ground water basin from which the revenue was collected. In addition, the agency indicates the work performed by the positions supports the state engineer's activity within all assessed basins.

With regard to the long-term impact on basins, the agency indicated that utilizing the water district assessments to support personnel costs would decrease the amount of funding available to support basin activities, including collecting water level data, field investigations, travel, and studies to evaluate water availability.

The assessments recommended to replace the General Funds, total \$618,640 over the 2021-2023 biennium, which does not align with the position costs for the five positions in this decision unit. The agency and Governor's Finance Office have requested a technical adjustment to align the funding in this decision unit with the position costs. The technical adjustment would decrease the General Fund savings to a total of \$613,156 over the 2021-2023 biennium. This requested technical adjustment appears reasonable to Fiscal Analysis Division staff.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation, with the noted technical adjustment, to replace General Funds of \$613,156 over the 2021-2023 biennium with water basin revenue?

Chair Miller:

Members, are there any questions?

Assemblywoman Peters:

I have a question related to the mechanism that is in place to track the work that is performed to ensure they are working on things that benefit those related water basins. They have a tracking mechanism, but do they have a reporting mechanism, and where does that go?

Nancy Morris:

Fiscal Analysis Division staff does not have the answer to that. Perhaps the Chair would like to ask the agency for that answer.

Micheline Fairbank, Deputy Administrator, Division of Water Resources, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:

We track our metrics in terms of work performed with respect to different factors—that may be water right applications review; well drilling matters; field investigations; various hydrological studies, reports, and review; and other data. All of those are different mechanisms that our office employs to track work that is being performed both out of basins and within assessed basins. Within those existing tracked mechanisms in which we keep track of our metrics and performance within the agency, that is how we can make determinations to assure that the proportional amount of work that is being performed by these positions is being allocated to those particular basins for the benefit of those assessed basins.

Assemblywoman Peters:

So, it is internal management rather than external accountability?

Micheline Fairbank:

As part of our budget process, we do have to report our performance metrics and our activity budget. We are currently in the process of updating our strategic plan which is also going to update our performance metrics and how we report that within our activity budget to have more comprehensive and thorough reporting in reflection of the various types of work that the agency does.

Assemblywoman Peters:

Madam Chair, just for transparencies' sake, I think it is important for us to understand where there is an opportunity to review and make sure that these monies are being spent in the appropriate way. I do not have any modifications, I just wanted to put that on the record.

Chair Miller:

Thank you.

Senator Goicoechea:

I also have some real concerns about how we are funding this. Clearly, the majority of the basins do not have basin assessments in place. What we are proposing to do here is a significant reduction in the work going forward. Here we are in a drought scenario: 159 basins that are not designated basins, therefore are going to be outside the funding formula. I do not see how we can make this work. I am very concerned about it. I know there is a lot of concern out in these basins because statutorily it is a \$3 minimum fee on a basin assessment, but there is no cap. I think there is a lot of concern out there that we are going to see, because they technically can raise the cap on these designated basins, and yet, almost two-thirds of the basins do not have a mechanism even to pay the water assessment. Clearly, work needs to go on. I am very concerned about adequately funding this, and I think we need some state General Fund appropriation. Of course, as we move forward and with some of the infrastructure funding, I am going to plead right here. Some of that money needs to go to the Division of Water Resources. We need to bring that data up to speed. We have data that was delivered by horseback that has never been incorporated in the files. It is that bad.

Chair Miller:

Thank you, Senator, and I believe you on that.

Assemblywoman Titus:

I absolutely concur with Senator Goicoechea's comments, but also need a clarification on page 9 of our packet with regard to the long-term impact on the basins. The agency indicated that to support personnel costs, it would decrease the amount of funding available to support basin activities. It was my impression that these personnel would actually be out there doing the investigation and the studies. That was the argument for the positions—so how is that going to decrease? I understand that it says the actual funding is going to be used now for these personnel, but I thought these personnel were supposed to be out there collecting water levels, investigating travel, and supporting the basin activity. Is that not what they are going to be doing?

Micheline Fairbank:

The positions that have been proposed as part of this enhancement unit in terms of reduced General Fund expenditures are managerial positions within the agency. These are not actual field staff, or field personnel. Those individuals that are most of our field staff are water commissioners or well supervisors as well as we also have basin engineers. The positions proposed here are those supervisory positions, manager positions, who oversee the duties and responsibilities of both classified basin engineers as well as well supervisors and water commissioners who are boots on the ground conducting the field work. So my response to Assemblywoman Titus's question is in reality, it does reduce the available funding to be able to perform some of that other work. We are faced with that difficult decision of how to go ahead and retain our limited staff that we have to perform the work of the agency, that could also be justified to be funded through this alternative funding source.

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Assemblywoman Titus:

Thank you for the clarification.

Chair Miller:

Any additional questions? Not seeing any, I will take a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION, WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT, TO REPLACE GENERAL FUNDS OF \$613,156 OVER THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM WITH WATER BASIN REVENUE.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Senator Goicoechea:

Madam Chair, although I know it is way late in the budget process, I cannot support this. I cannot see replacing General Funds in this budget. They need the activity if we are ever going to have any answers. I am going to have to oppose the motion.

Chair Miller:

Thank you, Senator. With that, I will take a vote.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (ASSEMBLYWOMEN TITUS, TOLLES, AND SENATOR GOICOECHEA VOTED NO.)

Chair Miller:

The motion passes. Can we move on to the next budget item?

Nancy Morris:

The second Major Closing Issue in this budget begins on page 10 [[Exhibit C](#)] and that is a budget amendment. Budget Amendment A215014171, which was received March 13, 2021, recommends a General Fund appropriation of \$2.1 million to support construction costs for repairs and maintenance at the South Fork Dam.

During the March 11, 2021, budget hearing, the agency indicated the Governor's recommended budget did not include funding to support necessary repair and maintenance costs for the South Fork Dam and that the agency was working with the Governor's Finance Office to submit a budget amendment.

Assembly Bill 465, which was heard in the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means on May 3, 2021, also appropriates \$2.1 million to support the South Fork Dam repair costs. According to the Governor's Finance Office, the budget amendment was submitted to convey the intent to fund an FY 2021 \$2.1 million one-shot appropriation rather than to fund costs in this budget in FY 2022. Fiscal Analysis Division staff notes a one-shot appropriation would

provide flexibility for the funding to be used in both years of the biennium and considering the funding would support construction work, there is uncertainty regarding the timing of the expenditures.

Accordingly, Fiscal staff recommends the Subcommittees recommend not approving Budget Amendment A215014171 with the understanding that \$2.1 million to support repairs and maintenance of the South Fork Dam is included in A.B. 465.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend not approving Budget Amendment A215014171 for General Funds of \$2.1 million in FY 2022 to support repair costs at the South Fork Dam?

Chair Miller:

Can we continue on to the Other Closing Items, please?

Nancy Morris:

There are three Other Closing Items for this budget. Two have noted technical adjustments. Fiscal staff recommends Other Closing Item 1 be closed as recommended by the Governor and Other Closing Items 2 and 3 be closed with the noted technical adjustments. Fiscal staff requests authority to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Miller:

Members, do we have any questions?

Senator Goicoechea:

Either way, if A.B. 465 does pass and the funding is in place, I think it is critical. The South Fork Dam, you have to understand, was not an ideal site to build a dam. It has leaked since it was put in, but these now are significant flows, and I understand it is starting to carry some gravel out with it. Where that water is coming out, it is actually washing some material from the dam face, or somewhere interior. I do not have to tell you what would happen if you turned that South Fork Dam loose—the city of Carlin down the river would really be in trouble. I think we have a huge liability there. We need to see if we can plug the leaks in that dam, or at least get started on it. I do not really care what the mechanism is, but the Subcommittees have to understand there has to be money made available.

Chair Miller:

Thank you, Senator. With that I will take a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO RECOMMEND NOT APPROVING
BUDGET AMENDMENT A215014171 FOR GENERAL FUNDS OF
\$2.1 MILLION IN FISCAL YEAR 2022 TO SUPPORT REPAIR COSTS AT
THE SOUTH FORK DAM AND CLOSE OTHER CLOSING ITEM 1 AS
RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND OTHER CLOSING ITEMS
2 AND 3 BE CLOSED WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL

ADJUSTMENTS, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION
STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS
NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next budget, please?

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - NEVADA NATURAL HERITAGE (101-4101)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-117**

Nancy Morris:

The Nevada Natural Heritage budget begins on page 13 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)]. The Nevada Division of Natural Heritage collects information on the locations, biology, and conservation status of all endangered, threatened, sensitive, and at-risk plant and animal species in Nevada.

There is one Major Closing Issue in this budget. The Governor recommends General Fund appropriations of \$200,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2022 to fund contract scientists to support Nevada's Climate Initiative efforts by developing a method to estimate carbon emissions and sequestrations and Nevada's various ecosystems.

Pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 445B.380, an annual report concerning greenhouse gas emissions and reductions in the state is required, and the report must include a statewide inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and a projection of annual greenhouse gas emissions in Nevada in the 20 years immediately following the date of the report.

The annual report must also identify policies that could achieve emissions reductions and a qualitative assessment of whether such policies support the long-term reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to zero, or near zero, by 2050.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has indicated the data used to compile the state's annual greenhouse gas emissions report was representative of heavily forested or agricultural lands typical of other regions in the United States, and was not

reflective of Nevada's landscape. Specific models for carbon flow in Nevada's ecosystems do not exist, creating gaps in data included in the report, according to the agency.

During the March 11, 2021, budget hearing, the agency indicated that if the recommended funding were approved, the agency would begin developing a plan to gather the needed baseline carbon flow data. A final plan to utilize the funds has not been developed as of April 26, 2021, and the agency indicated it was considering the following:

- Contracting with a carbon sequestration analyst to assist the agency with understanding existing data.
- Contracting with experts to develop a Natural and Working Lands Action Plan, similar to plans developed in California and North Carolina.
- Funding projects and on-the-ground research in order to gather baseline data and quantify carbon flows in the state's ecosystems.

The agency indicated it was favoring options that would provide results as soon as possible, including contracting with an individual or organization to analyze available forestry data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to determine how applicable the data is for Nevada's forests and how the data could be utilized for the greenhouse gas inventory report. In addition, the agency noted a project currently underway could also provide information regarding carbon sequestration in Nevada's grasslands that would inform the 2022 greenhouse gas inventory report. Specific cost estimates supporting the \$200,000 are not available yet, as the agency has not finalized its plans at this time.

The agency indicated that it anticipated utilizing the funding in both years of the 2021-2023 biennium, which Fiscal staff would note would require inclusion of language in the Appropriations Act authorizing the transfer of General Funds between years. Additionally, the agency anticipated carbon flow data gathering would be an ongoing project beyond the 2021-2023 biennium, which would indicate funding would be required in future biennia to support this project. However, the magnitude of future funding is uncertain at this time.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of General Fund appropriations of \$200,000 in FY 2022 to fund contract scientists to support Nevada's Climate Initiative efforts, as recommended by the Governor, and recommend approval of language in the Appropriations Act to allow for the transfer of General Funds from FY 2022 to FY 2023 for this purpose?

Chair Miller:

Thank you, and can you continue on to the Other Closing Items, so we can make one motion?

Nancy Morris:

There are two Other Closing Items in this budget on page 16. Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommends Other Closing Items 1 and 2 be closed as recommended by the Governor, and requests authority to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Miller:

Members, any questions?

Senator Goicoechea:

I apologize for taking so much time. I will try and be brief. I guess what really concerns me—clearly, we have to do something—but \$200,000 when realistically we would probably spend \$10 million fighting forest fires this summer, and what are the carbon flows connected there? It is a start.

Chair Miller:

Senator Brooks.

Senator Brooks:

Building upon what Senator Goicoechea said, this study actually leverages some of the monies that we received as a grant from the U. S. Climate Alliance, and it has crossover and rangeland and forest fire protection, so I am very supportive of it.

Assemblywoman Titus:

I am supportive of this, too, because I think the key component here is that we do lack data relevant to Nevada. I think that is what this is all about, and I think it is important when we start developing some policies and changes and focusing our monies, that we need data relevant to Nevada. I am supportive of this also.

Chair Miller:

With that, I will take a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$200,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2022 TO FUND CONTRACT SCIENTISTS TO SUPPORT NEVADA'S CLIMATE INITIATIVE EFFORTS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF LANGUAGE IN THE APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO ALLOW FOR THE TRANSFER OF GENERAL FUNDS FROM FISCAL YEAR 2022 TO FISCAL YEAR 2023 FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND CLOSE OTHER CLOSING ITEMS 1 AND 2 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, WITH AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

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ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next budget, please?

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - STATE PARKS (101-4162)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-44**

Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst:

The next budget is the State Parks budget and begins on page 17 of your closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)].

The Division of State Parks plans, develops, and maintains a system of 27 parks, recreation areas, and historic sites for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors. The budget is primarily funded with General Fund appropriations and visitor user fees.

There are four Major Closing Issues in this budget and the first is a budget reduction measure. The Governor recommends increasing the sales price of State Parks annual passes and instating a surcharge for nonresident visitors to replace General Funds of \$1 million in each year of the upcoming biennium. The table on page 18 summarizes the recommended fee increases. The agency proposed temporary regulations to implement the recommended fee increases and the new fees were in place effective April 1, 2021.

During the March 26, 2021, budget hearing the agency indicated that it did not anticipate any negative effects on out-of-state visitation or the sale of annual permits due to the fee increases.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation to replace General Fund appropriations of \$1 million in each year of the 2021-2023 biennium with increased visitor fee revenue?

Chair Miller:

Members, are there any questions? Not seeing any questions, I will take a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO REPLACE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$1 MILLION IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM WITH INCREASED VISITOR FEE REVENUE.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Kimbra Ellsworth:

The next Major Closing Issue is on page 19. The Governor recommends additional General Fund appropriations of \$252,916 in each year of the 2021-2023 biennium to support ongoing operating and routine maintenance costs for various parks around the state.

Between 2015 and 2020, the State Parks annual visitation increased from 3.1 million to 4 million visitors. This has necessitated additional cleaning supplies and utility costs, facilities maintenance, and other expenses related to operating the parks. The table on page 20 summarizes the recommended funding included in the four decision units.

The agency provided supporting documentation indicating that decision units enhancement (E) 256 and E-262 were slightly overstated. With noted technical adjustments, the additional operating supplies, building maintenance, and utility costs would total \$237,011 in each year of the upcoming biennium.

The agency has relied in part on funds that are set aside in the account for maintenance of State Parks and on the Account for Maintenance of State Park Facilities and Grounds, which are two nonexecutive accounts outside of this budget to support utilities, supplies, and other routine costs in excess of the amounts budgeted in the State Parks budget in recent years.

Currently, there is not sufficient authority in the Account for Maintenance of State Parks by individual parks to fund the maintenance costs that are recommended in decision unit E-262. However, if Senate Bill 53 passes, then this would provide additional flexibility to access those funds.

During the budget hearing the agency indicated essentially that while it is the agency's preference to maintain these accounts for unforeseen maintenance and large maintenance projects, the statute does not preclude the agency from using funding in these accounts to support routine maintenance costs.

Considering the growing maintenance needs at the state parks, the agency's past reliance on the maintenance accounts to pay for routine costs in excess of the amounts budgeted, and the flexibility that S.B. 53 would provide, the Subcommittees may wish to recommend a letter of intent be issued to direct the agency to report to the Interim Finance Committee on an annual basis during the upcoming biennium on the costs incurred in the Account for Maintenance of State Parks and in the Account for Maintenance of State Park Facilities and Grounds.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation to support increased ongoing operating and routine maintenance costs, with the noted technical adjustments, funded with additional General Fund appropriations of \$237,011 in each year of the 2021-2023 biennium, and to issue a letter of intent directing the agency to report on an annual basis to the Interim Finance Committee on costs incurred in the Account for Maintenance of State Parks and in the Account for Maintenance of State Park Facilities and Grounds?

Chair Miller:

Members, are there any questions? Not seeing any questions, I will take a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT INCREASED ONGOING OPERATING AND ROUTINE MAINTENANCE COSTS, WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS, FUNDED WITH ADDITIONAL GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$237,011 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM, AND TO ISSUE A LETTER OF INTENT DIRECTING THE AGENCY TO REPORT ON AN ANNUAL BASIS TO THE INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE ON COSTS INCURRED IN THE ACCOUNT FOR MAINTENANCE OF STATE PARKS AND IN THE ACCOUNT FOR MAINTENANCE OF STATE PARK FACILITIES AND GROUNDS.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Senator Goicoechea:

Just a brief comment on this. I am concerned as we raise the fees in these parks, and we are already seeing a huge increase in people not actually visiting the parks, but going out on public lands, forest lands, and receiving complaints in many areas about people who are traveling with the pandemic. I think it is critical that we have a report back on how this is working during the interim. I am afraid our revenues are going decline a little bit, and clearly, we will have additional impact with more people to the facilities. I am concerned this could get ugly.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next item?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

The next Major Closing Issue is on page 21 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)]. Due to declines in room tax revenue collected by the Commission on Tourism, the Governor recommends eliminating a \$433,131 transfer from the Commission on Tourism in FY 2022, reducing the transfer revenue by \$29,708 in FY 2023 and adding General Fund appropriations of \$403,423 in FY 2022, which would offset a portion of the reduced transfer revenue to support seasonal staffing.

During the budget hearing, the agency indicated that it relies on the seasonal staff to keep the parks clean and operational, and that the General Fund replacement of the room tax revenue is critical to keeping the parks open in FY 2022.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation to reduce revenue transferred in from the Commission on Tourism by \$462,839 over the 2021-2023 biennium and increase General Fund appropriations by \$403,423 in FY 2022 to support seasonal staffing?

Chair Miller:

Are there any questions? Not seeing any, I will take a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO REDUCE REVENUE TRANSFERRED IN FROM THE COMMISSION ON TOURISM BY \$462,839 OVER THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM AND INCREASE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS BY \$403,423 IN FISCAL YEAR 2022 TO SUPPORT SEASONAL STAFFING.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next item?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

The next Major Closing Item is on page 22 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)]. The Governor recommends continuing expenditure authority of \$19,721 in each year of the upcoming biennium to continue developing the Elgin Schoolhouse State Historic Site.

The 2019 Legislature approved one-time General Fund appropriations of \$20,000 in each year of the current biennium to support the development of the site, and this funding would allow the agency to continue investing in that site.

The agency indicated during the March 26, 2021 budget hearing that it was considering supplementing the work possibly with federal grant funds to continue improving the site. This would augment the amount of work the agency would be able to accomplish. The agency anticipates conducting tours on a regular basis once the site is fully developed.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation for one-time General Fund appropriations of \$19,721 in each year of the 2021-2023 biennium to continue developing the Elgin Schoolhouse State Historic Site?

Chair Miller:

Thank you, and could you continue to the Other Closing Items so we can do one motion?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

The Other Closing Items are on page 23 of the closing document. There are seven total Other Closing Items and the last is a technical adjustment to align building rent costs. Fiscal staff recommends Other Closing Items 1 through 6 be closed as recommended by the Governor and Other Closing Item 7 be closed with the noted technical adjustments and requests authority to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Miller:

Members, do we have any questions? Not seeing any, I will take a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FOR ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$19,721 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM TO CONTINUE DEVELOPING THE ELGIN SCHOOLHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE, AND CLOSE OTHER CLOSING ITEMS 1 THROUGH 6 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND OTHER CLOSING ITEM 7 WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next budget, please?

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - FORESTRY (101-4195)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-73**

Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst:

The next budget begins on page 25 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)]. This is the Division of Forestry.

The Nevada Division of Forestry is responsible for supervising, managing, and coordinating all forestry, fire, and watershed work on state and privately owned lands within Nevada. The budget is primarily funded with state General Fund appropriations and federal grant funds.

The first Major Closing Issue is the continuation of four positions that were added during the interim. The Governor recommends continuing one management analyst and three forester positions, which would be funded with General Fund appropriations and funding from NV Energy over the 2021-2023 biennium.

At the June 25, 2020, Interim Finance Committee (IFC) meeting, the Committee approved acceptance of a \$5 million revenue contract between the Division of Forestry and NV Energy and an allocation of \$4.8 million from the Senate Bill 508 of the 80th Session appropriation to match the funds from NV Energy to conduct multiple wildfire prevention projects within the company's electric service territory and adjacent landscape and communities.

In October 2020, the IFC approved a work program to utilize the NV Energy and S.B. 508 of the 80th Session funds to fund the four new positions to support the project's work. During the budget hearing on March 11, 2021, the agency indicated that NV Energy has expressed an interest in continuing the contracts beyond the 2021-2023 biennium. Because the positions were originally funded with S.B. 508 of the 80th Session funds to match the NV Energy funding, if the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval to continue funding for these positions, Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommends replacing the General Fund appropriation supporting approximately 50 percent of the position costs with funds from the S.B. 508 of the 80th Session allocation and including language in the 2021 Appropriations Act to require the transfer of funds from the S.B. 508 of the 80th Session allocation set aside

in the Contingency Account to this budget to support these positions in the 2021-2023 biennium as they were originally funded as a portion of the state match to NV Energy.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval to continue four positions approved during the interim, funded with \$368,290 from S.B. 508 of the 80th Session funding and \$376,048 from NV Energy over the 2021-2023 biennium, and to recommend approval of language in the 2021 Appropriations Act to require the transfer of funds from S.B. 508 of the 80th Session be set aside in the Contingency Account to this budget to support the positions' costs?

Chair Miller:

Members, are there any questions? Not seeing any questions, I will accept a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE CONTINUING FOUR POSITIONS APPROVED DURING THE INTERIM, FUNDED WITH \$368,290 FROM SENATE BILL 508 OF THE 80TH SESSION FUNDING AND \$376,048 FROM NV ENERGY OVER THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM, AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF LANGUAGE IN THE 2021 APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO REQUIRE THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM S.B. 508 OF THE 80TH SESSION BE SET ASIDE IN THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT TO THIS BUDGET TO SUPPORT THE POSITIONS' COSTS.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next item, please?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

The next Major Closing Issue is on page 28 [[Exhibit C](#)]. The Governor recommends transferring a vacant camp area supervisor position from the Forestry Conservation Camp budget and reclassifying that position to an education and information officer. This would be funded as recommended with General Fund appropriations and Honor Camp receipts from the Conservation Camp budget.

Fiscal Analysis Division staff notes the recommendation contains various errors. The table on page 29 summarizes the recommended adjustments to align the position's steps, start dates, and funding source to effectuate this recommendation. Fiscal staff recommends

technical adjustments to adjust the position's start dates, steps, and funding source with the intended start date of July 1, 2021, at a step 7, and replacing Honor Camp receipts with General Fund appropriations, which results in additional net costs of \$65,690.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval to transfer in a vacant camp area supervisor position from the Conservation Camps budget and reclassify the position to an education and information officer, with the noted technical adjustments, funded with General Fund appropriations of \$92,510 in FY 2022 and \$95,407 in FY 2023?

Chair Miller:

Members, are there any questions? Not seeing any questions, I will accept a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER IN OF A VACANT CAMP AREA SUPERVISOR POSITION FROM THE CONSERVATION CAMPS BUDGET AND RECLASSIFY THE POSITION TO AN EDUCATION AND INFORMATION OFFICER, WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS, FUNDED WITH GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$92,510 IN FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND \$95,407 IN FISCAL YEAR 2023.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next item?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

The last Major Closing Issue in this budget is on page 29 [\[Exhibit C\]](#). The Governor recommends reducing uniform vouchers for Forestry personnel as a budget reduction measure to realize General Fund savings of \$29,005 in FY 2022 and \$28,131 in FY 2023.

During the budget hearing, the agency indicated that it has historically reverted a portion of the budgeted uniform allowances each year. There is a table on the bottom of page 30 that summarizes the actual expenditures in recent years. Additionally, statute requires that an agency reimburse its employees for the cost of uniforms if they are required to be worn. If employees are required to purchase their own uniforms and the funding is inadequate, the agency is required to reimburse them eventually.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation to reduce General Fund appropriations for uniforms by \$29,005 in FY 2022 and \$28,131 in FY 2023, as a budget reduction measure?

Chair Miller:

Members, are there any questions?

Assemblywoman Titus:

I just want to make sure that when it talks about having a delay in purchasing some of their uniforms, that all their safety apparatus and everything they need will be available for them regardless of the actual uniforms. I want to make sure there is no limit to the protective equipment.

Chair Miller:

Who would like to address that question?

Kacey KC, State Forester Firewarden, Division of Forestry, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:

Yes, Assemblywoman Titus, that is correct. Our personal protective equipment (PPE) is purchased out of a separate budget account for firefighters. The uniforms we are speaking of reducing here are the agency identifier uniforms, not the PPE. The PPE will remain. We have warehouses of the PPE, and we look at that every year, and we make sure everybody has proper protective gear to fight wildland fire and to use chain saws and other apparatus that they are using out on their daily projects.

Assemblywoman Titus:

Thank you. I just wanted to put on the record that we were not taking anything away from safety.

Chair Miller:

Thank you, Assemblywoman. With that, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO REDUCE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS FOR UNIFORMS BY \$29,005 IN FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND \$28,131 IN FISCAL YEAR 2023, AS A BUDGET REDUCTION MEASURE.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the Other Closing Items, please?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

The Other Closing Items are on page 31 of the closing document [\[Exhibit C\]](#). There are five Other Closing Items and Other Closing Items 3, 4, and 5 include technical adjustments.

Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommends Other Closing Items 1 and 2 be closed as recommended by the Governor and Other Closing Items 3 through 5 be closed with the noted technical adjustments, and requests authority to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Miller:

Are there any questions? Not seeing any questions, I will take a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE OTHER CLOSING ITEMS 1 AND 2 BE CLOSED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND OTHER CLOSING ITEMS 3 THROUGH 5 BE CLOSED WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Miller:

Thank you, can we move on to the next budget?

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - FORESTRY - FIRE SUPPRESSION (101-4196)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-83**

Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst:

The next budget begins on page 33 of the closing document and is the Fire Suppression budget [\[Exhibit C\]](#).

The Forest Fire Suppression budget provides funding to protect public and private land, property, and resources from fires and other disasters. The budget is primarily funded with General Fund appropriations, federal funds, and reimbursements for firefighting and emergency response provided on lands outside of the state's jurisdiction.

There are two Major Closing Issues in this budget. The first is a budget reduction measure. The Governor recommends reducing General Fund appropriations by \$286,660 in each year of the 2021-2023 biennium to reduce operating supply expenditures for fire suppression work.

During the budget hearing, the agency indicated that it did not anticipate the recommended reductions would impact its firefighting operations. It did explain that it ensures firefighting personnel do not respond to incidents without the proper field equipment and supplies. The agency has access to the contingency accounts, and if necessary, it will request additional funding to properly equip its staff to ensure firefighter safety in the event that supplies run out and the funding runs out in this budget.

The decision for the Subcommittees is on page 35. Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation to reduce General Fund appropriations for fire suppression operating supplies by \$286,660 in each year of the 2021-2023 biennium, as a budget reduction measure?

Chair Miller:

Members, do we have any questions? Not seeing any, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE GOVERNOR'S
RECOMMENDATION TO REDUCE GENERAL FUND
APPROPRIATIONS FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATING SUPPLIES
BY \$286,660 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM AS A
BUDGET REDUCTION MEASURE.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Senator Goicoechea:

I will support this motion because, clearly, they have the ability to come to the Interim Finance Committee and restock. Let us hope we do not need it, but chances are we will. Thank you.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next item?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

The next item is on page 35 of the closing document [[Exhibit C](#)]. The Executive Budget includes incident response costs of \$22 million in the base budget, representing an increase of approximately 35 percent compared to the amount approved by the 2019 Legislature.

The 2019 Legislature approve a new methodology to fund fire suppression costs in this budget, budgeting incident response costs and reimbursement revenues based on a five-year average.

As recommended, the personnel and prior year costs categories appear to be overstated based on the five-year average, and the fire suppression costs appear to be understated based on the five-year average. Fiscal Analysis Division staff estimates net expenditure reductions of approximately \$500,000 in each year of the upcoming biennium, with corresponding General Fund reductions, are appropriate in the base budget to align the expenditure categories with the approved methodology.

The table on page 35 summarizes the recommended adjustments. Fiscal staff discussed this issue with Governor's Finance Office and the agency, and both agreed that aligning budgeted expenditures with the methodology that was approved by the 2019 Legislature, would be appropriate. The agency confirmed this during the March 11, 2021, budget hearing.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of adjusting base budget incident response costs to align with the budgeting methodology approved by the 2019 Legislature, with corresponding reductions in the General Fund appropriations of \$500,870 in FY 2022 and \$503,100 in FY 2023, and with authority for Fiscal staff to make technical adjustments as necessary?

Chair Miller:

Members, do we have any questions? Not seeing any, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE ADJUSTING BASE BUDGET INCIDENT RESPONSE COSTS TO ALIGN WITH THE BUDGETING METHODOLOGY APPROVED BY THE 2019 LEGISLATURE, WITH CORRESPONDING REDUCTIONS IN GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$500,870 IN FY 2022 AND \$503,100 IN FY 2023, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Senator Denis:

Just a question. As I am reading the motion, is the \$503,100 for FY 2023?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

I apologize, there is a typo in this box. There should be FY 2023 after the \$503,100.

Chair Miller:

Ms. Coffman, do we need another motion or will this motion suffice?

Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst:

No, that clarification is sufficient.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next budget?

INFRASTRUCTURE

CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES

DCNR - FORESTRY - CONSERVATION CAMPS (101-4198)

BUDGET PAGE DCNR-86

Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst:

The next budget is the Forestry Conservation Camps budget, which begins on page 37 of the closing document [[Exhibit C](#)].

The Forestry Conservation Camp Program coordinates and supervises projects performed by inmates from the Department of Corrections. The prisoners work on forestry and resource conservation projects and provide labor for fire suppression work. The program provides job skills, training, practical work experience, and is funded primarily with General Fund appropriations and revenue generated from the camp projects.

There are two Major Closing Issues in this budget. The first is a budget reduction measure. The Governor recommends reducing uniform expenses for conservation camp personnel by \$99,928, and staff training expenses by \$57,142 over the 2021-2023 biennium. With these recommended reductions, the expenditure authority for uniforms would be reduced by approximately 40 percent and the expenditure authority for training would be reduced by approximately 68 percent in the 2021-2023 biennium.

During the budget hearing, the agency indicated that the funding would still support the necessary training for life and safety. However, in follow-up, the agency indicated it may not be sufficient to support the travel and other related expenses that are incurred by employees that provide some in-house trainings.

With regard to the uniforms, the agency has historically reverted a portion of the budgeted uniform allowances each year in this budget. The average is approximately 30 percent.

As noted previously, employees that are required to wear a uniform must be reimbursed for the expense eventually. This is more of a deferral of cost if the employees are required to purchase their uniforms, eventually they would have to be paid back.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation to reduce funding for uniforms and training by \$157,070, including General Fund savings of \$109,950, over the 2021-2023 biennium as a budget reduction measure?

Chair Miller:

Members, do we have any questions? Not seeing any questions, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO REDUCE FUNDING FOR UNIFORMS AND TRAINING BY \$157,070, INCLUDING GENERAL FUND SAVINGS OF \$109,950, OVER THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM AS A BUDGET REDUCTION MEASURE.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR BROOKS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next item?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

The next Major Closing Item is on page 39. The Ely Conservation Camp has been closed since July 2020, and The Executive Budget recommends funding operating costs of \$150,124 in each year of the 2021-2023 biennium for the forestry program at the Ely Conservation Camp, which equates to approximately 85 percent of the FY 2020 actual costs incurred.

The closure of the Ely Conservation Camp was not discussed during the budget hearing. The agency provided a report as of April 30, 2021, and indicated that it has continued limited camp operations out of its Ely industrial shop using its crew supervisors to conduct camp project work. However, it has not been able to utilize inmates for camp projects or to provide fire crews from the camp since its closure.

Reclassifying the Ely State Prison to a medium security facility was mentioned as a possible solution to the staffing shortage that caused the closure, however, the Governor's Finance Office indicated that reclassifying the prison is not being considered for the 2021-2023 biennium. Therefore, it is uncertain whether the camp will reopen or resume normal operations in the 2021-2023 biennium.

While the activities have been reduced, the agency is still incurring operating costs for the camp. Due to the uncertainty of the timing of the reopening of the camp and the ability of the Division to employ inmates in the upcoming biennium for camp projects and fire crews, the Subcommittees may wish to recommend a letter of intent be issued to the agency to report on a semiannual basis to the Interim Finance Committee during the 2021-2023 biennium on the status of the Ely Conservation Camp operations, including the costs incurred associated with the relocated operations, the agency's ability to employ inmates, conduct camp projects, and provide fire crews, Honor Camp revenues collected, and the status of reopening the Ely Conservation Camp.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation to fund the operation of the Ely Conservation Camp forestry program at \$150,124, including approximately \$105,087 General Fund, per year for the 2021-2023 biennium, and to recommend issuing a letter of intent to the agency to report on a semiannual basis to the Interim Finance Committee during the 2021-2023 biennium on the status of the Ely Conservation Camp operations?

Chair Miller:

Thank you and can we continue on to the Other Closing Items?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

Yes, we have three Other Closing Items. For the third Other Closing Item I would note technical adjustments to align the position being transferred.

Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommends Other Closing Items 1 and 2 be closed as recommended by the Governor, and Other Closing Item 3 be closed with the noted technical adjustments, and requests authority to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Miller:

Members, are there any questions?

Senator Goicoechea:

It is unfortunate that we are not going to find a way to open the Ely Conservation Camp. It does not look like after hearing from the Department of Corrections, it looks like at this time it will not happen. I am afraid we are really going to recognize that huge hole that it puts in eastern and central Nevada, especially when it comes to fire suppression. Those nine crews typically travel all over the west. I am concerned about it, but there is no other recourse other than fund it, and I hope we see a break there. But I just informed the Subcommittees, I do not think it is going to happen. I think the camp is going to stay closed.

Chair Miller:

Thank you, Senator. With that, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO FUND THE OPERATION OF THE ELY CONSERVATION CAMP FORESTRY PROGRAM AT \$150,124, WITH APPROXIMATELY \$105,087 GENERAL FUND PER YEAR, FOR THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM, AND TO RECOMMEND ISSUING A LETTER OF INTENT TO THE AGENCY TO REPORT ON A SEMIANNUAL BASIS TO THE INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE DURING THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM ON THE STATUS OF THE ELY CONSERVATION CAMP OPERATIONS, AND FURTHER, OTHER CLOSING ITEMS 1 AND 2 BE CLOSED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND OTHER CLOSING ITEM 3 BE CLOSED WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR BROOKS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next budget?

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - FORESTRY - WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION PRGM (101-4194)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-92**

Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst:

The next budget begins on page 43 of the closing document [[Exhibit C](#)]. This is the Wildland Fire Protection Program.

The Wildland Fire Protection Program was established as a voluntary cooperative arrangement between the Nevada Division of Forestry and local governments to provide a statewide comprehensive program to reduce the threat of wildfire and to provide a well-trained and equipped wildfire suppression force. The program is primarily funded with fees paid by participating local jurisdictions.

The Major Closing Issue in this budget is the revenue collected from the participants in the program. The Governor recommends county participation fund revenue of \$1.7 million in each year of the upcoming biennium. The agency has adjusted its assessments charged to participants and adjusted its target revenue for the upcoming biennium.

The table on page 46 summarizes the new rates anticipated to be charged to the participants. Based on the current participation and the new rates, Fiscal Analysis Division staff estimates that the annual revenue will total \$1.8 million. Fiscal staff recommends adjusting county participation fund revenues to reflect the anticipated annual receipts of \$1.8 million in each year of the upcoming biennium.

A technical adjustment is shown on the first page of the closing document [[Exhibit C](#)] to increase the county participation fund revenue, and this is an increase of \$49,820 in FY 2022 and \$45,467 in FY 2023, with corresponding increases in reserves to reflect the anticipated annual receipts of \$1.8 million.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval to increase County Participation Fund revenue to \$1.8 million in each year of the 2021-2023 biennium, based on current program participation and updated assessments with the noted technical adjustment, to support the Wildland Fire Protection Program?

Chair Miller:

Thank you, and can you continue on to the Other Closing Items so we can have one motion?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

We have one Other Closing Item. This is a technical adjustment to move vehicle repair costs from this budget to the Forestry budget, where the vehicles are housed.

Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommends the Other Closing Item be closed with the noted technical adjustments and requests authority for Fiscal staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Miller:

Thank you. Members, do we have any questions?

Assemblywoman Titus:

On page 46, just above the table, there is a comment that notes that the nonparticipating jurisdictions do not pay their assessed rate, and therefore, do not receive assistance with incident response costs. But they do receive assistance with response, correct? The Division of Forestry is going to help in whatever way they can, even if they have not paid, but then they will be responsible for the cost, correct?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

That is correct. The agencies will still respond and provide assistance with responding to incidents, however, the nonparticipating jurisdictions have to pay back for the costs.

Chair Miller:

Are there any additional questions? Not seeing any, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE INCREASING COUNTY PARTICIPATION FUND REVENUE TO \$1.8 MILLION IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM, BASED ON CURRENT PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AND UPDATED ASSESSMENTS WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT, TO SUPPORT THE WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION PROGRAM AND THE OTHER CLOSING ITEM BE CLOSED WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR BROOKS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next budget, please?

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - FORESTRY - NURSERIES (257-4235)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-96**

Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst:

The next budget is the Nurseries budget on page 49 [[Exhibit C](#)]. The Nurseries budget is an enterprise fund that supports various forestry programs, including the Nursery program, which offers low-cost native or adapted plant species and the Seedbank program which provides seeds, equipment, and other materials to restore wildland fire-damaged lands and the Forest Products Utilization program, which sells wood chips and other wood products that are harvested during fuel reduction projects. Funding for the programs comes primarily from nursery and seed sales and equipment rental fees.

There is one Major Closing Issue in this budget. The Governor recommends funding 55 deferred maintenance projects at the agency's Washoe Valley and Las Vegas nurseries, funded with reserves of \$340,210 in FY 2022.

During the March 11, 2021, budget hearing, the agency explained that it had a backlog of deferred maintenance projects. In response to follow-up questions, the agency provided an updated list with the anticipated completion timeline for the projects that are recommended in The Executive Budget based on the agency's current capacity. The list identified 15 projects that are either no longer necessary or not anticipated to be completed in the 2021-2023 biennium.

The costs of the 40 remaining projects, which the agency indicates are anticipated to be completed by the end of the biennium, is estimated to total \$220,360. These projects are included in the attachment beginning on page 53. Considering the agency does not anticipate completing all recommended deferred maintenance projects in the 2021-2023 biennium, it would be reasonable to reduce the utilization of reserves for deferred maintenance projects to \$220,360 to fund the 40 projects that are anticipated to be completed, which would increase the projected reserves at the end of the biennium.

Fiscal Analysis Division staff notes if the agency determines at a later date that additional projects can be accomplished, the agency may submit a work program revision to the Interim Finance Committee for consideration to transfer additional reserves to support the additional projects.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval to fund the reduced number of deferred maintenance projects, reducing projects from 55 to 40, at a total cost of \$220,360 in FY 2022, funded with reserves?

Chair Miller:

Thank you. Will you continue on to the Other Closing Items and we will make one motion?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

The Other Closing Items are on page 51. There are four Other Closing Items and the fourth is a technical adjustment to replace nursery sales revenue with reserves in decision unit enhancement (E) 251, which funds additional in-state and out-of-state travel expenses.

Fiscal staff recommends Other Closing Items 1 through 3 be closed as recommended by the Governor, and Other Closing Item 4 be closed with the noted technical adjustments, and requests authority for staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Miller:

Members, do we have any questions?

Assemblywoman Titus:

You may be able to answer this, but we might have to have the Department answer it. I am curious—one of the problems here is that they have not had the nursery sales revenue, and so we have to make up for that. We went out there the other day, hopefully to buy some product from the Eastlake nursery, and it was closed. I am just wondering—and I understand the pandemic—is there an expectation when that is going to be open again so we can start generating some revenue?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

I think the agency will need to speak to that question.

Kacey KC, State Forester Firewarden, Division of Forestry, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:

Yes, we usually open the nursery in May—I think mid-May. This is the time when we are planting all the plants and getting everything ready for sales. We do anticipate opening within the next week. You can call ahead for hours and a private showing if you wished in the interim.

Assemblywoman Titus:

That is available to everybody, right? I do not want in any way to infer that I could call ahead myself and get in.

Kacey KC:

That is available to everyone if the staff is available to assist that day.

Chair Miller:

Thank you for that clarification on the record, Assemblywoman Titus. Any further questions? Not seeing any, I will accept a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE FUNDING THE REDUCED NUMBER OF DEFERRED MAINTENANCE PROJECTS, REDUCING PROJECTS FROM 55 TO 40, AT A TOTAL COST OF \$220,360 IN FISCAL YEAR 2022, FUNDED WITH RESERVES, AND OTHER CLOSING ITEMS 1 THROUGH 3 BE CLOSED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND OTHER CLOSING ITEM 4 BE CLOSED WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next budget?

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION (101-4180)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-198**

Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst:

The next budget begins on page 57 [[Exhibit C](#)]. This is the Division of Outdoor Recreation.

The 2019 Legislature created the Division of Outdoor Recreation within the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to promote outdoor recreation activities and develop the outdoor recreation economy in the state.

The Major Closing Issue in this budget is the transfer in of the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program. The Governor recommends transferring this program from the Division of State Parks budget and this would include one full-time position and associated General Fund appropriations of \$222,797 over the 2021-2023 biennium.

Assembly Bill 331 of the 80th Session created the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program under the Division of State Parks. When this program was introduced in legislation, the Division of Outdoor Recreation did not yet exist.

The agency indicated that a Bill Draft Request (BDR) was proposed, however, according to the Governor's Finance Office, an oversight occurred and a BDR to effectuate the transfer was not submitted.

If the Subcommittees wish to recommend the transfer of the grant program, the Subcommittees should also recommend a bill be introduced to effectuate the transfer of the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program to the Division of Outdoor Recreation.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of the Governor's recommendation to transfer the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program from the Division of State Parks to the Division of Outdoor Recreation, including General Fund appropriations of \$222,797 to support one position and associated operating costs over the 2021-2023 biennium, and to recommend a bill draft be requested to effectuate the transfer of the program from the Division of State Parks?

Chair Miller:

Members, do we have any questions? Not seeing any, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO TRANSFER THE OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND RECREATION GRANT PROGRAM FROM THE DIVISION OF STATE PARKS TO THE DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION, INCLUDING GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$222,797 TO SUPPORT ONE POSITION AND ASSOCIATED OPERATING COSTS OVER THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM, AND TO RECOMMEND A BILL DRAFT BE REQUESTED TO EFFECTUATE THE TRANSFER OF THE PROGRAM FROM THE DIVISION OF STATE PARKS.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR BROOKS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next budget, please?

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - DEP AIR QUALITY (101-3185)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-140**

Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst:

The next 11 budgets that I will be covering are with the Division of Environmental Protection within the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The next budget is the Air Quality budget beginning on page 61 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)].

The Bureau of Air Pollution Control and the Bureau of Air Quality Planning work to maintain air quality and protect health and safety through planning, air quality monitoring, permitting, and compliance assurance. This budget is primarily funded with fees and federal grants.

There are two Major Closing Issues in this budget and the first begins on page 62. The Governor recommends fee revenue totaling \$213,205 over the 2021-2023 biennium, transferred in from the Fund for Cleaning Up Discharges of Petroleum, to fund a new environmental scientist position and associated operating, travel, and equipment costs to support Nevada Climate Initiative efforts.

Senate Bill 254 of the 80th Session added new reporting requirements, requiring the agency to prepare an annual report concerning greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

The agency indicated during the budget hearing that it had staff working on a limited part-time basis on these reporting requirements, but it was using data that is aggregated at the federal level based on national averages, which does not provide state-specific or accurate data for the purposes of reporting. The new position would assist with the effort to gather more current and state-specific data for more accurate reporting and for use in prioritizing areas for action in state policy.

The agency also indicated that the transportation sector is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, therefore the funds from the petroleum fund would be an appropriate funding source for this position.

Assembly Bill 452 would require a transfer of money from the petroleum fund to support the expenses associated with preparing the required report on greenhouse gas emissions, including the personnel costs.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of a new environmental scientist position to support Nevada climate initiative efforts, funded with revenue from the Fund for Cleaning Up Discharges of Petroleum, contingent upon the passage of enabling legislation?

Chair Miller:

Members, do we have any questions? Not seeing any, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST POSITION TO SUPPORT NEVADA CLIMATE INITIATIVE EFFORTS, FUNDED WITH REVENUE FROM THE FUND FOR CLEANING UP DISCHARGES OF PETROLEUM, CONTINGENT UPON THE PASSAGE OF ENABLING LEGISLATION.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR BROOKS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next item, please?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

The next Major Closing Issue is on page 64. This is a budget amendment to reclassify four positions. Budget Amendment A215613185 was received on March 23, 2021. This amendment recommends additional fee revenue transferred in from the Account for the Management of Air Quality and the Chemical Hazard Prevention budgets to reclassify four positions to align the position classifications with the duties and responsibilities performed by those positions.

The amendment includes four decision units. Decision unit enhancement (E) 805 would reclassify an environmental scientist 2 position to an environmental scientist 3. Decision units E-806, E-807, and E-808, would reclassify staff 2 associate engineer positions to professional engineers.

The budget amendment recommends total fee revenue of \$105,641 in FY 2022 and \$111,681 in FY 2023. However, based on supporting documentation attached to the budget amendment, as calculated by Fiscal staff, the additional costs associated with the reclassifications are estimated to be \$97,433 in FY 2022 and \$102,953 in FY 2023.

Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommends technical adjustments to align the costs of these reclassifications.

Do the Subcommittees recommend approval of Budget Amendment A215613185 to reclassify four positions, with the noted technical adjustments, funded with fee revenue of \$200,386 transferred in from the Account for the Management of Air Quality budget and the Chemical Hazard Prevention budget, over the 2021-2023 biennium?

Chair Miller:

Thank you, can you continue on to the Other Closing Items?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

Yes, we have six Other Closing Items on page 65. Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommends all Other Closing Items be closed as recommended by the Governor and requests authority to make technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Miller:

Members, are there any questions? Not seeing any, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT A215613185 TO RECLASSIFY FOUR POSITIONS, WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS, FUNDED WITH FEE REVENUE OF \$200,386 TRANSFERRED IN FROM THE ACCOUNT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF AIR QUALITY BUDGET AND THE CHEMICAL HAZARD PREVENTION BUDGET, OVER THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM, AND ALL OTHER CLOSING ITEMS BE CLOSED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR BROOKS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next budget please?

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - DEP MATERIALS MNGMT & CORRECTV ACTN (101-3187)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-152**

Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst:

The next budget begins on page 67 of the closing document [[Exhibit C](#)]. This is the Materials Management and Corrective Action budget. It supports three bureaus. The Bureau of Corrective Actions is responsible for the analysis and remediation of contaminated sites. The Bureau of Federal Facilities provides oversight of all operational activities and cleanups at the Nevada National Security Site. The Bureau of Waste Management is responsible for ensuring safe management of hazardous waste.

There are three Major Closing Issues in this budget. The first is a new administrative assistant position. The Governor recommends additional funding of \$134,295 over the 2021-2023 biennium comprised of budgetary transfers and federal funds to support a new administrative assistant position and associated costs in the Bureau of Corrective Actions to serve as a central file manager.

During the February 9, 2021, budget hearing, the agency indicated that the Bureau of Corrective Actions receives the most public information requests for file review in the entire Department, but many of its records must be retained indefinitely, meaning the volume of records that the agency must manage grows continually. The agency indicated the recommended position would support electronic records management and efforts to convert files to digital format.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of additional funding of \$134,295 over the 2021-2023 biennium, comprised of budgetary transfers and federal funds, to support a new administrative assistant position to serve as a central file manager?

Chair Miller:

Members, do we have any questions? Not seeing any, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF \$134,295 OVER THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM, COMPRISED OF BUDGETARY TRANSFERS AND FEDERAL FUNDS, TO SUPPORT A NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION TO SERVE AS A CENTRAL FILE MANAGER.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TITUS SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR BROOKS AND
ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO WERE ABSENT FOR THE
VOTE.)

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next item, please?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

The next Major Closing Issue is on page 69 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)]. The Governor recommends additional funding of \$2.5 million over the 2021-2023 biennium, funded with fees transferred in from the Hazardous Waste Management budget, to support ongoing environmental cleanup efforts at the Anaconda Copper Mine site in Lyon County.

Decision unit enhancement (E) 252 contains funding of \$1.8 million over the 2021-2023 biennium for the state cost share specific to a certain portion of the project. Decision unit E-260 contains funding of \$726,790 over the 2021-2023 biennium for regulatory oversight costs including technical assistance, reimbursable by the Atlantic Richfield Company.

During the budget hearing, the agency indicated that it anticipates completing phase one of the cleanup, which is associated with the state cost share, by 2023. It will be continuing the evaluation, including human health risk assessments and remedial investigation for phase two in the upcoming biennium.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of the additional funding of \$2.5 million over the 2021-2023 biennium transferred in from the Hazardous Waste Management budget, for the continuation of the Anaconda Copper Mine site cleanup efforts?

Chair Miller:

Members, do we have any questions?

Assemblyman Watts:

I have a brief question for the agency. I was wondering with the reimbursable spending, how much has been reimbursed by the company, so far?

Greg Lovato, Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:

I do not have that number with me right now. We have been receiving reimbursement since deferral of the site came to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) in February 2018. I believe it has reached close to \$1 million, or above, but we can provide that information to you as follow-up.

Assemblyman Watts:

Thank you, the estimate is fine. Could you also speak to what the timeline is like to turnaround reimbursement once it is submitted?

Greg Lovato:

We ordinarily invoice the company for expenditures that NDEP has spent on a quarterly basis. We ordinarily receive payment within 45 to 60 days, and we have not had any late payments since deferral.

Assemblyman Watts:

Thank you.

Chair Miller:

Any further questions? Let me back up one moment. Please when you submit that information, can you make sure that you submit it to the Subcommittees so that all members have access to it?

Greg Lovato:

Of course, we can submit it to the Subcommittees.

Chair Miller:

With that, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF \$2.5 MILLION OVER THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM, TRANSFERRED FROM THE HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT BUDGET FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE ANACONDA COPPER MINE SITE CLEANUP EFFORTS.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PETERS SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR BROOKS AND ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Miller:

Please continue to the next item.

Kimbra Ellsworth:

The next Major Closing Issue in this budget is on page 71 of the closing document [[Exhibit C](#)]. The Governor recommends additional funding of \$5.1 million over the 2021-2023 biennium funded with fees from the Hazardous Waste Management budget, the Fund for Cleaning Up Discharges of Petroleum, and federal funds to support environmental mitigation assessment and remediation consulting services for specific identified sites throughout the state and on an as-needed basis for emergency cleanups.

During the February 9, 2021, budget hearing the agency explained that the recommended funding would support existing projects involving historical releases for which no viable responsible party has been identified, and provide funding to address hazardous substance releases from spills, mine fluid events, or other long-term events on a contingency basis.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of additional funding of \$5.1 million over the 2021-2023 biennium, comprised of budgetary transfers and federal funds, to support environmental mitigation, assessment, and remediation services?

Chair Miller:

Thank you. Can you continue on to the Other Closing Items?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

We have 11 Other Closing Items beginning on page 72 of your closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)]. Other Closing Items 9 through 11 include technical adjustments.

Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommends Other Closing Items 1 through 8 be closed as recommended by the Governor, and Other Closing Items 9 through 11 be closed with the noted technical adjustments, and requests authority to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Miller:

Members, do we have any questions? Not seeing any I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF \$5.1 MILLION OVER THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM, COMPRISED OF BUDGETARY TRANSFERS AND FEDERAL FUNDS, TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION, ASSESSMENT, AND REMEDIATION SERVICES, AND OTHER CLOSING ITEMS 1 THROUGH 8 BE CLOSED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND OTHER CLOSING ITEMS 9 THROUGH 11 BE CLOSED WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR BROOKS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next budget, please?

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - DEP STATE REVOLVING FUND - ADMIN (746-3189)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-171**

Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst:

The next budget begins on page 75 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)]. This is the State Revolving Fund Administration budget. The State Revolving Loan programs provide low-cost financing for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure improvements that are needed to achieve compliance with applicable environmental standards. This budget is funded primarily with federal grant funds and loan servicing fees and interest.

There are two Major Closing Issues. The first Major Closing Issue is the addition of funding for technical assistance to wastewater systems. The Governor recommends the utilization of loan servicing fee reserves of \$35,000 in each year of the 2021-2023 biennium to support the provision of technical assistance to wastewater systems.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund requires loan applicants prepare a fiscal sustainability plan for construction projects involving repair, replacement, or expansion of publicly owned treatment works, to evaluate the system's infrastructure, replacement costs, and criticality in the event of a failure.

In response to questions following the February 9, 2021, budget hearing, the agency indicated that the recommended funding would support small communities that do not have their own technical expertise or support to develop these plans.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend the utilization of loan servicing fee reserves of \$35,000 in each year of the 2021-2023 biennium to support the provision of technical assistance to wastewater systems.

Chair Miller:

Thank you. Members, are there any questions? Not seeing any questions, I will entertain a motion.'

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE UTILIZATION OF LOAN SERVICING FEE RESERVES OF \$35,000 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM TO SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR BROOKS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Miller:

Please continue to the next item.

Kimbra Ellsworth:

The next Major Closing Issue is on page 77 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)]. The Governor recommends \$149,680 in each year of the 2021-2023 biennium, funded with federal drinking water funds, to provide additional technical assistance to drinking water systems.

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund requires drinking water systems maintain capacity to operate their systems, including technical, managerial, and financial capability, and works with nonprofit organizations to assist systems with building this capacity. The program also provides technical support, such as water sampling, testing, and technical courses and training for water system operators.

During the February 9, 2021, budget hearing, the agency indicated that it was seeing an increased need, particularly in rural communities, and that the recommended funding would increase the amount of assistance that the agency is able to provide to meet the needs of the communities.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend federal drinking water grant funds of \$149,680 in each year of the 2021-2023 biennium to support the provision of additional technical assistance to drinking water systems?

Chair Miller:

Thank you. Can we continue on to the Other Closing Items?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

The Other Closing Items are on page 78 of the closing packet. There are six Other Closing Items. Other Closing Item 5 includes a budget amendment to continue development of a web-based database, and Other Closing Item 6 includes a technical adjustment to align rent costs with the building rent schedule.

Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommends Other Closing Items 1 through 4 be closed as recommended by the Governor, Other Closing Item 5 be closed as recommended by budget amendment A214743189, and Other Closing Item 6 be closed with the noted technical adjustments, and requests authority to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Miller:

Members, do we have any questions? Not seeing any, I will accept a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE FEDERAL DRINKING WATER GRANTS OF \$149,680 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM TO SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS, AND OTHER CLOSING ITEMS 1 THROUGH 4 BE CLOSED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, OTHER CLOSING ITEM 5 BE CLOSED AS RECOMMENDED IN BUDGET AMENDMENT A214743189, AND OTHER CLOSING ITEM 6 BE CLOSED WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR BROOKS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next budget, please?

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - DEP INDUSTRIAL SITE CLEANUP (101-3175)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-191**

Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst:

The next budget is on page 79 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)]. This is the Industrial Site Cleanup budget.

The Bureau of Industrial Site Cleanup is responsible for oversight of the assessment and cleanup of historical hazardous substance releases from five major industrial sites near Henderson, Nevada. The budget contains settlement funds and also includes reimbursements from responsible parties transferred in from the Hazardous Waste Management budget.

There are two Major Closing Issues in this budget and the first begins on page 80. The Governor recommends \$498,325 in each fiscal year of the 2021-2023 biennium funded with transfers from the Hazardous Waste Management budget to support increased contract costs for regulatory oversight of environmental cleanup efforts at the Black Mountain Industrial Complex.

During the February 9, 2021, budget hearing the agency explained that the increased contract authority would support the completion of the technical evaluations associated with the final cleanup decision phases at the different Black Mountain Industrial sites, including groundwater cleanup at the Black Mountain Industrial common area.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend additional funding of \$498,325 in each year of the 2021-2023 biennium, to support technical review services associated with the environmental cleanup efforts at the Black Mountain Industrial Complex?

Chair Miller:

Members, do we have any questions? Not seeing any I will accept a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF \$498,325 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM TO SUPPORT TECHNICAL REVIEW SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP EFFORTS AT THE BLACK MOUNTAIN INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR BROOKS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Miller:

Please proceed to the next item.

Kimbra Ellsworth:

The next Major Closing Issue is on page 81. The Governor recommends \$31,190 in each fiscal year of the 2021-2023 biennium, funded with transfers from the Hazardous Waste Management budget to support increased contract costs associated with the mitigation of perchlorate originating from the Black Mountain Industrial Complex.

The agency has an existing contract with the Desert Research Institute (DRI) to assist with the efforts to remove chemicals from the groundwater entering the Las Vegas Wash from the Nevada Environmental Response Trust site, including reviewing and refining groundwater models.

During the February 9, 2021, budget hearing, the agency explained that the DRI will provide expertise and technical support for groundwater modeling to help inform the final cleanup decisions for the Nevada Environmental Response Trust site groundwater releases.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of additional funding of \$31,190 in each year of the 2021-2023 biennium to support data collection and review associated with the mitigation of perchlorate originating from the Black Mountain Industrial Complex?

Chair Miller:

Thank you, and can you continue on to the Other Closing Items?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

The Other Closing Items are on page 82 of the closing packet. Other Closing Item 3 includes a technical adjustment to reflect the anticipated travel in the upcoming biennium contained in decision unit enhancement (E) 255.

Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommends Other Closing Items 1 and 2 be closed as recommended by the Governor, and Other Closing Item 3 be closed with the noted technical adjustment, and requests authority to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Miller:

Members, do we have any questions? Not seeing any, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF \$31,190 IN EACH YEAR OF THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM TO SUPPORT DATA COLLECTION AND REVIEW ASSOCIATED WITH THE MITIGATION OF PERCHLORATE ORIGINATING FROM THE BLACK MOUNTAIN INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND OTHER CLOSING ITEMS 1 AND 2 BE CLOSED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR, AND OTHER CLOSING ITEM 3 BE CLOSED WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR BROOKS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Miller:

Please continue to the next budget.

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - DEP STATE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (101-4149)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-130**

Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst:

I will now begin presenting the budgets which the Subcommittees have not previously reviewed for the Division of Environmental Protection and for which Fiscal Analysis Division staff is responsible for developing closing recommendations.

I will pause following my presentation of each budget to allow for questions. When I have presented the last budget in this group and questions have been addressed, the Chair may wish to ask for a single motion for closing consideration on all of the budgets for which Fiscal staff is responsible for developing closing recommendations.

The next budget is on page 83 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)]. This is the State Environmental Commission budget. Fiscal staff is responsible for developing closing recommendations for this budget as the Subcommittees have not previously reviewed it.

The State Environmental Commission serves as the primary rulemaking, variance, and appeal body for environmental regulations in Nevada. It consists of 11 members from both

the public and private sector. Funding for the State Environmental Commission is provided through administrative fines and transfers from various Division of Environmental Protection budgets and the Department of Motor Vehicles' Motor Vehicle Pollution Control budget.

There are no Major Closing Issues in this budget and there is one Other Closing Item. Closing recommendations for this budget are included on the summary page in the closing packet.

Chair Miller:

Members, are there any questions? Seeing none, please proceed.

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - DEP ADMINISTRATION (101-3173)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-133**

Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst:

The next budget is the Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) Administration budget on page 85 of your packet [[Exhibit C](#)]. Fiscal Analysis Division staff is responsible for developing closing recommendations for this budget and the Subcommittees have not previously reviewed it.

The Division of Environmental Protection implements and enforces state and federal environmental laws. The DEP Administration budget supports the administrative needs of the Division, including the Division's personnel, information technology, accounting, and fiscal staff. The budget is funded by an indirect cost assessment charged to the various DEP budgets, as well as federal grant funds.

There are no Major Closing Issues in this budget and there are nine Other Closing Items, including a technical adjustment to align federal grant funds transferred to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Administration budget.

Closing recommendations for this budget are included on the summary page in the closing packet.

Chair Miller:

Members, are there any questions? Not seeing any, please proceed.

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - DEP WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (101-3186)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-147**

Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst:

The next budget is on page 87 of your closing packet [\[Exhibit C\]](#). This is the Water Pollution Control budget. Fiscal Analysis Division staff is responsible for developing closing recommendations for this budget. The Subcommittees have not previously reviewed this budget.

The Bureau of Water Pollution Control ensures compliance with federal and state water pollution control laws by issuing permits, inspecting facilities, and reviewing designs of wastewater treatment plants and infrastructure. The budget is primarily funded with revenue from fees and federal grants.

There are no Major Closing Issues in this budget. There are four Other Closing Items, including a budget amendment to reclassify an administrative assistant position to a management analyst position to align the position classifications with the duties and responsibilities performed by the positions.

Closing recommendations for this budget are included on the summary page in the closing packet.

Chair Miller:

Members, are there any questions? Not seeing any, please proceed.

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - DEP MINING REGULATION/RECLAMATION (101-3188)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-164**

Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst:

The next budget is the Mining Regulation/Reclamation budget on page 89 of the closing packet [\[Exhibit C\]](#). Fiscal Analysis Division staff is responsible for developing closing recommendations for this budget. The Subcommittees have not previously reviewed this budget.

The Bureau of Mining Regulations and Reclamation is responsible for the Mining Regulatory Program to protect human health and ground and surface water resources from mining-related contamination, and to ensure that closed mines are reclaimed for productive postmining land use. The budget is funded with fees paid by the mining industry.

There are no Major Closing Issues in this budget. There are seven Other Closing Items.

Closing recommendations for this budget are included on the summary page in the closing packet.

Chair Miller:

Members, are there any questions?

Assemblywoman Titus:

On page 90, I have a question on the reclassification of the engineer. It seems like what the classifications are going to—it is a change in terminology—and that is consistent across several agencies we have seen in the last several budgets. Is that correct?

Kimbra Ellsworth:

My understanding with the position reclassifications here is that the agency is trying to align duties that the position is currently performing with the appropriate classification. They are just trying to align with other professional engineers that are performing similar duties.

Assemblywoman Titus:

Thank you for that, but I just want to make sure that they are not taking a decrease in salary. I am concerned—it looked like there was a cost savings and I just want to make sure we are not causing a decrease in salary.

Kimbra Ellsworth:

In the table on page 90 it shows as negative numbers, but this is because the agency is funding the cost increase with the utilization of reserves. All of the amounts shown in the table are actual increased costs, but they are reflected as negative numbers due to the utilization of reserves.

Assemblywoman Titus:

I see. Thank you.

Chair Miller:

Any additional questions? Seeing no more additional questions, please proceed.

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - DEP WATER QUALITY PLANNING (101-3193)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-177**

Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst:

The next budget is on page 91 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)]. This is the Water Quality Planning budget. Fiscal Analysis Division staff is responsible for developing closing

recommendations for this budget. The Subcommittees have not previously reviewed this budget.

The Bureau of Water Quality Planning implements programs to meet the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act, as well as Nevada's water quality statutes and regulations, to protect and improve the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters within the state. The budget is funded primarily with federal grants and budgetary transfers.

There are no Major Closing Issues in this budget. There are four Other Closing Items. The fourth Other Closing Item includes a budget amendment. This is another reclassification of a position to align the position with the duties and responsibilities performed by that position. The amendment reclassifies an administrative assistant to a management analyst position.

The closing recommendations for this budget are included on the summary page in the closing packet.

Chair Miller:

Are there any questions from members? Not seeing any, please proceed.

INFRASTRUCTURE

CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES

DCNR - DEP SAFE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM (101-3197)

BUDGET PAGE DCNR-183

Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst:

The next budget is the Safe Drinking Water Program budget on page 93 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)]. Fiscal Analysis Division staff is responsible for developing closing recommendations for this budget. The Subcommittees have not previously reviewed this budget.

The Bureau of Safe Drinking Water ensures Nevada's public water systems comply with state and federal drinking water standards by enforcing the sampling and monitoring requirements for water quality and enforcing requirements for surface water treatment and corrosion control. This budget is primarily funded with federal grants, various fees, and budgetary transfers.

There are no Major Closing Issues in this budget. There are five Other Closing Items.

The closing recommendations for this budget are included on the summary page in the closing packet.

Chair Miller:

Members, are there any questions? Not seeing any, please proceed.

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - DEP WATER PLANNING CAP IMPROVEMENT (101-4155)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-189**

Kimbra Ellsworth, Program Analyst:

The last Division of Environmental Protection budget is on page 95 of the closing packet [[Exhibit C](#)]. This is the Water Planning Capital Improvement budget. Fiscal Analysis Division staff is responsible for developing closing recommendations for this budget. The Subcommittees have not previously reviewed it.

The Water Planning Capital Improvement budget funds the administrative expenses of the Board for Financing Water Projects, which awards grants for capital improvements to small public water systems to ensure compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations. The budget is funded primarily with bond proceeds in reserves and administrative fees.

There are no Major Closing Issues in this budget. There is one Other Closing Item on page 96.

The closing recommendations for this budget are included on the summary page in the closing packet.

Chair Miller:

Members, are there any questions? Seeing none, please proceed.

Kimbra Ellsworth:

On page 97 we have the summary page. As previously noted, Fiscal Analysis Division staff is responsible for developing recommendations for the budgets listed on page 97. To assist with the closing, Fiscal staff has identified the budgets that are recommended to be closed as recommended by the Governor, along with recommended technical adjustments that are identified on page 97.

Fiscal staff recommends that the following budgets be closed as recommended by the Governor, with the noted technical adjustments, and requests authority for staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary:

- BA 3173: DCNR—DEP Administration, including the noted technical adjustment to align federal Department of Energy grant funds transferred to the DCNR Administration budget.
- BA 3186: DCNR—DEP Water Pollution Control, including approval of Budget Amendment A215603186 and the noted technical adjustment to reclassify a position.
- BA 3188: DCNR—DEP Mining Regulation/Reclamation.

- BA 3193: DCNR—DEP Water Quality Planning, including approval of Budget Amendment A215623193 and the noted technical adjustment to reclassify a position.
- BA 3197: DCNR—DEP Safe Drinking Water Program.
- BA 4149: DCNR—DEP State Environmental Commission.
- BA 4155: DCNR—DEP Water Planning-Capital Improvement.

Chair Miller:

Thank you. Are there any questions from members? [There were none.] I will accept a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING BUDGETS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS, AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY:

- BA 3173: DCNR—DEP ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT TO ALIGN FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY GRANT FUNDS TRANSFERRED TO THE DCNR ADMINISTRATION BUDGET.
- BA 3186: DCNR—DEP WATER POLLUTION CONTROL, INCLUDING APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT A215603186 AND THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT TO RECLASSIFY A POSITION.
- BA 3188: DCNR—DEP MINING REGULATION/RECLAMATION.
- BA 3193: DCNR—DEP WATER QUALITY PLANNING, INCLUDING APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT A215623193 AND THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT TO RECLASSIFY A POSITION.
- BA 3197: DCNR—DEP SAFE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM.
- BA 4149: DCNR—DEP STATE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION.
- BA 4155: DCNR—DEP WATER PLANNING-CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR BROOKS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next budget?

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - STATE LANDS (101-4173)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-106**

Cathy Crocket, Senior Program Analyst:

The next budget is the Division of State Lands [page 99, [Exhibit C](#)]. This Division disposes of all state lands and interests in lands, except for the Nevada System of Higher Education, the Legislature, and the Department of Transportation.

There is one Major Closing Issue and that is a budget reduction. As budget reductions measures, the Governor recommends reducing information technology (IT) and travel costs for General Fund savings of \$15,454 over the 2021-2023 biennium.

In decision unit enhancement (E) 683, the Governor recommends reducing maintenance support for the agency's Land Management System, which is the agency's central records, project management, mapping, billing, and reporting information system, for General Fund savings of \$12,610 over the 2021-2023 biennium.

In decision unit E-685, the Governor recommends reducing in-state and out-of-state travel, for General Fund savings of \$3,294 over the 2021-2023 biennium. Specific reductions to planned travel have not been identified, but the agency indicates reduced travel could impact its ability to participate in annual conferences and meetings pertaining to Lake Tahoe as well as to address state land use issues.

During the budget hearing, the agency indicated decision unit E-683 contained a calculation error overstating fiscal year (FY) 2023 savings. The Governor's Finance Office confirmed that there was an error. To correct the error, Fiscal staff has completed technical adjustments, shown on the first page of this closing document [page 99], reducing savings in this decision unit by \$8,712, to \$3,448 over the biennium, based on information provided by

the agency. With the technical adjustment, the agency indicates funding is anticipated to be sufficient to support its land management system in the upcoming biennium.

Do the Subcommittees wish to recommend approval of decisions units E-683 and E-685, reducing IT and travel costs, with the noted technical adjustment, for General Fund savings totaling \$6,742 over the 2021-2023 biennium?

If the Subcommittees wished to consider Other Closing Items at the same time, Fiscal Analysis Division staff would recommend items 1 through 3 be closed as recommended by the Governor and Other Closing Item 4 be closed with the noted technical adjustment and requests authority for Fiscal staff to make other technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Miller:

Members, do we have any questions? Not seeing any questions, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE DECISION UNITS E-683 AND E-685, REDUCING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TRAVEL COSTS, WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT, FOR GENERAL FUND SAVINGS OF \$6,742 OVER THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM, AND OTHER CLOSING ITEMS 1 THROUGH 3 BE CLOSED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND OTHER CLOSING ITEM 4 BE CLOSED WITH THE NOTED TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE OTHER TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR BROOKS WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Miller:

Can we move on to the next budget?

**INFRASTRUCTURE
CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES
DCNR - NEVADA TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY (101-4166)
BUDGET PAGE DCNR-113**

Cathy Crocket, Senior Program Analyst:

Thank you, Madam Chair. The final budget for today is the Nevada Tahoe Regional Planning Agency budget. The Agency regulates structures that house gaming establishments

in the Lake Tahoe Basin. This is a staff-closed budget and the Subcommittees have not previously reviewed this budget.

There are no Major Closing Issues. There is one Other Closing Item which appears reasonable.

Fiscal Analysis Division staff recommends this budget be closed as recommended by the Governor and requests authority to make technical adjustments as necessary.

Chair Miller:

Members, do we have any questions? Not seeing any, I will entertain a motion.

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE CLOSING THE BUDGET AS
RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND AUTHORIZE FISCAL
ANALYSIS DIVISION STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS
AS NECESSARY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chair Miller:

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

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR BROOKS WAS ABSENT FOR
THE VOTE.)

Chair Miller:

I believe that is our last budget for the day. Our next item on the agenda is for public comment. [There was no public comment.]

Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Finance
Subcommittees on Public Safety, Natural Resources, and Transportation
May 4, 2021
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I would like to thank all the members and, of course, our tremendous Fiscal Analysis Division staff who are always amazing and keep us going. But just so you know, I mentioned earlier when we first opened that we would work until 10:30 a.m. because the anticipation was that we would not be able to finish, and we had already discussed rolling items over to the next day. So even with the valuable questions and comments that were made on the record, we still finished the entire agenda with 20 minutes to spare. Thank you everyone for your hard work. With that this meeting is adjourned [at 10:11 a.m.]

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Anne Bowen
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Brittney Miller, Chair

DATE: _____

Senator Moises Denis, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

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

[Exhibit C](#) is the closing document for budget accounts within the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, dated May 4, 2021, presented by the staff of the Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.