

Amendment No. 536

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| Assembly Amendment to Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 | (BDR R-349) |
| Proposed by: Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections | |
| Amends: Summary: No Title: No Preamble: No Joint Sponsorship: No Digest: No | |

| ASSEMBLY ACTION | | | | Initial and Date | | SENATE ACTION | | | | Initial and Date | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|------------------|--|---------------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|------------------|--|
| Adopted | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lost | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | | Adopted | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lost | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Concurred In | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | | Concurred In | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Receded | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | | Receded | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |

EXPLANATION: Matter in (1) *blue bold italics* is new language in the original bill; (2) variations of green bold underlining is language proposed to be added in this amendment; (3) ~~red strikethrough~~ is deleted language in the original bill; (4) ~~purple double strikethrough~~ is language proposed to be deleted in this amendment; (5) orange double underlining is deleted language in the original bill proposed to be retained in this amendment.

TJO/ERS



Date: 5/5/2023

S.J.R. No. 3—Urges the United States Bureau of Reclamation to consider certain actions, alternatives and measures for the protection and management of the Colorado River. (BDR R-349)



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3—
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

(ON BEHALF OF THE JOINT INTERIM STANDING
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES)

MARCH 6, 2023

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Urges the United States Bureau of Reclamation to consider certain actions, alternatives and measures for the protection and management of the Colorado River. (BDR R-349)

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

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

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging the United States Bureau of Reclamation to consider certain actions, alternatives and measures for the protection and management of the Colorado River.

1 WHEREAS, The Colorado River is the most vital water source in Nevada and
2 much of the western United States, sustaining the life and livelihood of 7 western
3 states, 22 Indian tribes and Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, The Colorado River supports the needs of 40 million people in the
5 United States and Mexico, irrigates over 5 million acres of land, generates
6 hydropower for several million people and supports recreational and tourism
7 industries; and

8 WHEREAS, Ninety percent of Southern Nevada's water supply comes from the
9 Colorado River via Lake Mead; and

10 WHEREAS, Facing unprecedented drought and aridification, the Colorado River
11 is in crisis with Lake Mead currently at 28 percent capacity; and

12 WHEREAS, The Colorado River is also overallocated with more water
13 committed for use than is available from the Colorado River in an average year
14 resulting in a structural deficit in the Colorado River; and

15 WHEREAS, The seven Colorado River Basin states of Arizona, California,
16 Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming have yet to reach a consensus
17 on a plan to decrease current water use; and

18 WHEREAS, The Federal Government intends to take unilateral action regarding
19 the management of the Colorado River if the Colorado River Basin states do not
20 present a reasonable plan for water management; and

21 WHEREAS, The Southern Nevada Water Authority and the Colorado River
22 Commission, on behalf of the State of Nevada, have urged all users of the Colorado
23 River in every state and sector to work together towards a solution to the water

1 crisis and to reduce water demands to reflect the hydrological reality of the
2 Colorado River Basin; and

3 WHEREAS, In August 2022, the Southern Nevada Water Authority, on behalf of
4 the State of Nevada, submitted a letter to the United States Bureau of Reclamation
5 listing 12 recommendations to address the crisis on the Colorado River, including
6 adopting methods to account for evaporation and system losses in the Colorado
7 River and investing in long-term, durable water conservation to permanently reduce
8 the structural deficit in the Colorado River; and

9 WHEREAS, In November 2022, the United States Bureau of Reclamation
10 announced its intention to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement
11 for the December 2007 Record of Decision entitled “Colorado River Interim
12 Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell
13 and Lake Mead”; and

14 WHEREAS, In December 2022, the Southern Nevada Water Authority and the
15 Colorado River Commission, on behalf of the State of Nevada, submitted a
16 proposed alternative to the United States Bureau of Reclamation for consideration
17 in the supplemental environmental impact statement process that presented
18 recommendations to address the structural deficit in the Colorado River; and

19 WHEREAS, In January 2023, representatives of Nevada joined with the
20 representatives of five other Colorado River Basin states to submit to the United
21 States Bureau of Reclamation a Consensus-Based Modeling Alternative to help
22 stabilize the water levels of Lake Mead and Lake Powell and asked the Bureau to
23 consider and model the Consensus-Based Modeling Alternative in the supplemental
24 environmental impact statement process; and

25 WHEREAS, The recommendations of Nevada and the Consensus-Based
26 Modeling Alternative to address the Colorado River crisis present a solid starting
27 point for further discussions on the management of the Colorado River; and

28 WHEREAS, The current Colorado River crisis is dire but solvable if the
29 Colorado River Basin States, the Federal Government and Mexico cooperate to
30 address the crisis; and

31 WHEREAS, Federal money and other funding mechanisms can aid with short-
32 term water management and prevent the future depletion of the already depleted
33 Colorado River, but the long-term sustainability of the Colorado River system
34 requires the investment of additional money to implement permanent reductions in
35 demand for Colorado River water; now, therefore, be it

36 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY,
37 That the members of the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature strongly support
38 the pursuit of a collaboration-based framework to address the structural deficit in
39 the Colorado River; and be it further

40 RESOLVED, That the members of the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature
41 support the inclusion of mechanisms to account for evaporation and system losses
42 in the Colorado River in the future management of the Colorado River; and be it
43 further

44 RESOLVED, That the members of the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature
45 hereby urge the United States Bureau of Reclamation to amend existing federal
46 regulations to prohibit the inefficient delivery, application or use of any water from
47 the Colorado River by all sectors and users of water from the Colorado River to
48 limit unnecessary water losses on the Colorado River; and be it further

49 ~~[Resolved, That the members of the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature~~
50 ~~hereby urge the United States Bureau of Reclamation to consider and model the~~
51 ~~Consensus Based Modeling Alternative submitted by Arizona, Colorado, Nevada,~~
52 ~~New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming in the supplemental environmental impact~~
53 ~~statement process; and be it further]~~

1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this
2 resolution to the United States Secretary of the Interior, the United States
3 Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Nevada Congressional
4 Delegation; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.