

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Eighty-second Session
May 18, 2023**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources was called to order by Chair Julie Pazina at 3:31 p.m. on Thursday, May 18, 2023, in Room 2144 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Julie Pazina, Chair
Senator Melanie Scheible, Vice Chair
Senator Edgar Flores
Senator Pete Goicoechea
Senator Ira Hansen

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Fabian Doñate, Senatorial District 10
Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert, Senatorial District 15
Assemblyman Howard Watts, Assembly District 15

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alysa Keller, Policy Analyst
Erin Sturdivant, Counsel
Cherie Dittler, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Aaron Ford, Attorney General
Toshi McIntosh
James Settelmeyer, Director, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
J.J. Goicoechea, Director, State Department of Agriculture
Greg Baylor
Andy Belanger, Director of Public Services, Las Vegas Valley Water District
Will Adler

CHAIR PAZINA:

I will open the hearing today with a few words about a very special Committee member who has been a valued member of the Legislature and the Natural Resources family for 20 years. He is serving in his last Session. He will be missed by the entire Legislative Body, especially by members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources where we have been so fortunate to work with him. Senator Pete Goicoechea served his community as a Eureka County Commissioner for 16 years, prior to his election to the Assembly and then the Senate, where we have benefited from his knowledge and kindness on this Committee.

Some of the Senator's friends and colleagues would like to say a few words before the Committee today.

SENATOR HEIDI SEEVERS GANSERT (Senatorial District No. 15):

I want to thank my longtime friend Senator Pete Goicoechea who does not like anyone to call attention to him. He is short, concise and always on point when on the Floor. Senator Goicoechea and I met during the Seventy-third Session when I was first elected in 2005. I was fortunate to sit between him and Dr. Joe Hardy in the very back right corner of the Assembly, and he helped me navigate legislation. Years later, he supported my quest to be the Senate Minority Leader.

There have not been many women on the Republican side of the Legislature. When I was elected, there was only one other woman in our caucus. It was amazing being supported by the Cowboy Caucus, led by John Carpenter and Pete Goicoechea; in fact, it was a life-altering experience. I am so grateful for Senator Goicoechea's mentorship, leadership and friendship.

Senator Goicoechea helps train the Chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources every session because, typically, that Committee is the first assignment a new member will have. Senator Pazina has done an outstanding job as a first-year Senator; Senator Goicoechea has helped train her, and he also helped Senator Yvanna Cancela in the beginning.

Nobody knows water law, agriculture, wild horses and bear hunting like Senator Goicoechea. Every session, he mentors legislators in so many ways. It has been an honor to work with Senator Goicoechea and to have him as a friend. I am eternally grateful for the experiences we have shared, so thank you

for your service Pete. I am so glad you are recognizing him today. It almost sounds like a eulogy but you are still here. Thank goodness, because we have had a couple of scares. There was that one year... well anyway, we are very happy to have you here.

CHAIR PAZINA:

Thank you so much Minority Leader Seevers Gansert. It is so important to acknowledge how much Senator Goicoechea is appreciated, even though it is embarrassing right now. Senator Seevers Gansert mentioned former Chairs of the Committee and I want to recognize one right now.

AARON FORD (Attorney General):

How are you doing, Pete? Before this meeting, Pete saw me in the hallway, and I thought, "Dang, I am trying to sneak in." So, I walked to the committee room door and had to hide around the corner, but I am very happy to be here today. Thank you, Chair Pazina, for reaching out to me, as I could not pass up the opportunity to talk about my good buddy Pete Goicoechea.

The first committee I chaired was the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. Pete may remember the first day when I sat on the dais with him, James Settelmeyer, Mark Manendo and David Parks, who made up the Committee. My first day as Chair, I told everybody in the audience "I do not hunt, I do not fish, I do not camp, I do not hug trees." I said, "Hell, I don't even go outside, and I don't know why they made me the Chair of this Committee." I have no dog in the hunt, pun intended, right? We worked together that year on the 60 plus bills we had to consider. There was so much camaraderie that we ended up with a unanimous vote on every bill before the Committee including trapping, horse tripping and black bear hunts.

Our Committee was cohesive in a very bipartisan way. Much of the cohesiveness was because Senator Goicoechea spoke rationally and educated us about the issues presented that we knew nothing about. We have always appreciated his demeanor and tactful approach. I remember Senator Goicoechea getting mad at me only one time. It was during *sine die* of the Seventieth Session. I forget what happened, but fortunately, Pete got over it. If he does not remember it now, I am good.

The Senator jokingly tried to blackmail me once; he cannot blackmail me anymore; I will tell the story. I had previously told Senator Goicoechea that I did

not ride horses. However, I was on a trip overseas somewhere, and I had a photograph of me sitting bareback on a horse. There was no saddle, no nothing. So, there I am, sitting on a horse, looking terrified and someone took a photograph of me that I saved on my phone. When I showed the photograph to Senator Goicoechea, he took a picture of my photograph with his own phone. Then he said, "Now I gotcha." I know you remember that. Now that I have told the story, you cannot use the photograph anymore, so give it back.

In all seriousness, thank you for your statesmanship and dedication to your district, Elko and the entire State of Nevada. We have always been able to talk to you about issues, and you look for compromise when there is disagreement. You approach conflicts agreeably, cordially, consistently and without animosity, which is often rare in this building. I commend you for your service and thank you for everything you have accomplished.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

The highlight of your chairmanship was traveling to Elko, where we had a big evening at the Star Hotel Basque Dining.

CHAIR PAZINA:

I would like to welcome someone very close to Senator Goicoechea. I asked his Legislative Assistant, Ms. Toshi McIntosh, to speak about their long-term partnership.

TOSHI MCINTOSH:

I will speak to Senator Goicoechea directly. I have been fortunate to work as your Legislative Assistant for seven consecutive sessions. I admire you for your integrity and passion towards rural issues, including water and more. Your commitment and words have always been golden as a Senator. You are humble and charming. You greet everybody by their name, and you gave old-timers nicknames, which they treasure. I thank you for the time I served you and I was honored to do so. I learned so much and I will treasure your care, friendship and love forever.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I cannot thank you enough, Toshi. Everybody contributes to the success of the Legislature, and I could not have done it alone. Toshi has been with me for 14 years and with Senator Seevers Gansert before that. I inherited Toshi as I rose through leadership, and I thank the Senator for the gift because Toshi

made my career successful. She has just been so great, and our friendship goes forever even though we are retiring.

CHAIR PAZINA:

We will now hear from somebody who comes before this Committee from time to time.

JAMES SETTELMAYER (Director, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources):

Thank you for inviting me here so I can give Senator Goicoechea a bad time; which I have been doing since the Seventy-fourth Session when I was first elected to the Senate. I was fortunate to have developed lasting friendships amongst the Cowboy Caucus, who allowed me entrance as a young punk, including John Marvel, John Carpenter, Dean Rhodes and Pete Goicoechea. I am very fortunate to have had their mentorship. Senator Goicoechea has helped me to temper my opinions, which I know is hard to believe. He helped me realize that sometimes you must look in the middle more than too far to the right. Thank you, Pete, for training me and so many others, even the individual who took care of me on a day-to-day basis, Committee Manager Gena Plummer. You helped guide her through the years and she helped guide me too.

During my first session, my father passed away, and in some respects, Senator Goicoechea became my surrogate dad. Thank you for the honor and privilege of speaking here today and it is good to see you, Pete.

CHAIR PAZINA:

I am trying to make our poor colleague cry before the end of the day. I welcome your son J.J. Goicoechea.

J.J. GOICOECHEA (Director, State Department of Agriculture):

I was issued a speeding ticket coming through Washoe Valley today, and I will give it to somebody here in just a bit. Everybody is talking about how long they have known Senator Goicoechea, but I have known him longer. Everybody is talking about what a humble and soft-spoken man he is, but I have some stories that I am not sure we can share in front of the Committee. When I came home in 2000, I knew that he wanted to be a legislator, and he worked hard to accomplish that goal. I thank him for his service to rural Nevada, and rural Nevada should thank him also.

The work Senator Goicoechea has done is amazing. When I was the president of the Cattlemen's Association, I convinced him to put two words in a bill, "horses" and "water" and he said he would "never, ever" do that again; we managed to make it through that incident.

Senator Goicoechea has been a great asset to Nevada. He has taught me how to get along with everybody and to consider all sides of an issue. I appreciate the mentoring he has provided.

I want to present him with something and brought Doug Busselman here to help me present. Everyone talks about him running meetings with a gavel. Being the guy he is, and knowing him for 50 years, I am not sure a gavel will help him run a meeting. We would like to present Senator Goicoechea with a very large mallet. This mallet is a more fitting gavel for Senator Goicoechea.

CHAIR PAZINA:

Just be careful. I do not want him to be hit over the head with it. Both Assemblyman Watts and Senator Doñate would like to speak today.

SENATOR FABIAN DOÑATE (Senatorial District No. 10):

Happy Senator Goicoechea Day. It is amazing to see this room so full because typically, you do not see it that often. Most of the time, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources has five to six spectators in a meeting unless a controversial issue is being addressed. It is sometimes difficult for the public to understand what happens behind the scenes at the Legislature. The relationships legislators make are important and during legislative interactions, Senator Goicoechea displays so much humbleness and sincerity.

Last Session, I was a freshman Senator and served as Chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. When I first met Senator Goicoechea, he asked where my family was from, and I told him they were from Zacatecas, Mexico. He responded that he employed many ranch workers from there and spoke Spanish. His comments brought me a level of comfort.

I had not been in politics before I was elected and did not know many people in this building. I could relate to Senator Goicoechea as he made a point to discuss our commonalities. He also mentioned that he hoped to meet my father from Mexico, and they did meet this Session. Senator Goicoechea is the godfather of

natural resources issues. His legacy will be remembered for his efforts on water, and the representation he has provided rural communities.

Last Session, this Committee considered a bill at the last minute; I think it involved fuel efficiency for tractors. We had to quickly schedule a bill hearing because we were at the end of session, and I had no idea how to handle it and Vice Chair Senator Scheible and Senator Brooks also did not know how to handle it. When I looked over at Senator Goicoechea, he gave me the thumbs up sign to say, "It's okay, we are good" and we can work session this.

We will miss having Senator Goicoechea in the Legislature. Nobody can replace him, and his legacy will be remembered in this building forever. I thank him for his service.

ASSEMBLYMAN HOWARD WATTS (Assembly District No. 15):

I will build on remarks that have come from others who spoke before me. I have worked with Senator Goicoechea in three sessions. I have heard colleagues on the other side of the aisle in both the Senate and Assembly who have sought out his thoughts and guidance on water matters and other issues that affect rural communities. I was familiar with the Senator's work before I entered this Body when I worked to protect water resources in rural and eastern Nevada, issues he has championed.

When I entered the Legislature, Senator Goicoechea taught me the different perspectives of Nevadans in other districts and communities across the State. I appreciate what a straight shooter Senator Goicoechea is, and everyone knows exactly where he is coming from. He identifies if there are opportunities to find a path forward and always looks for that path.

We do not see eye-to-eye on everything, although we do agree on more things than my colleague to my right. At the end of the day, he strives to be open, approachable, and uses humor and humility to help folks from completely different backgrounds to understand issues that are critically important to the State.

It has been a pleasure to serve with Senator Goicoechea and collaborate with him to positively address the future of our State's resources, particularly water resources. I am proud of our work in both legislative Houses and our respective budget committees. We applaud his leadership and the example he has set

representing the interests of his community, while working with folks regardless of party and legislative house. His goal has always been to do what is best for the State.

CHAIR PAZINA:

Senator Hansen has also worked with Senator Goicoechea for a really long time, and he would like to say a few words.

SENATOR HANSEN:

Yes, a long time. That is a true statement. If I did not know Pete so well, I would be very impressed by what everybody has been saying today. I have known the Elko branch of the Goicoechea family since 1980. When I came to the Legislature for the 2005 Session, I remember testifying before the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources; Jerry Claborn was Chair and Pete Goicoechea and John Carpenter were also on the Committee. During the meeting, Pete asked me a bunch of questions on a trapping bill; that was my introduction to testifying before Senator Goicoechea.

When I was reelected to the Assembly in 2010, Pete was aggressively endorsing my opponent, but I was reelected anyway. After the election, we had to vote for our leadership and the choices were John Hambrick and Pete Goicoechea. Not surprisingly, John Hambrick lost. I then met with Pete to get my committee assignments and he asked me what committees I wanted. I told him the committees on Ways and Means, Natural Resources and Commerce and Labor. I was assigned to the Committee on Natural Resources and that was my introduction to working with Pete in committee.

It has been an honor to serve with Pete, the last of a breed. When I was first elected, John Carpenter, Dean Rhodes, James Settelmeyer, Pete Goicoechea and Debbie Smith were united as the Cowboy Caucus. Pete is the last of that line. I am trying to fill their big shoes a little bit, but I do not have the background the other members had. When Pete leaves this building, it will be the end of an era. It is possible that a genuine Nevada rancher from a multi-generational ranching family will join the Legislature in the future, but when Senator Goicoechea leaves the building with *sine die*, it will be the end of a unique era in Nevada history.

Personally, I have enjoyed sitting down with Senator Goicoechea and visiting as we have so many commonalities and interests. We share many experiences and

I almost feel like a dinosaur on the issues we address. During the Seventy-sixth Session, I came to respect Pete as the leader of our caucus. He looked out for us, provided guidance, and gave great advice. He understands certain key issues, especially water rights. When Pete leaves the building for the last time, we will lose the institutional knowledge he has. He loves the State, the Legislative institution, the Legislative process and how to work with the Governor. It will be hard losing Pete as a friend and advisor and his absence will be the end of a truly great era.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve with Senator Goicoechea. We agree on issues about 99 percent of the time, and rarely cross swords, because the few times we did, my position was wrong. I learned that the hard way. Pete, I love you and am going to miss you. You have been there for me throughout my seven sessions. I sincerely and deeply appreciate serving with you. We will all miss your statement "The bottom line is, the bottom line is, the bottom line is."

CHAIR PAZINA:

I am thrilled that you have gone on the record to say that when you disagreed on an issue, you were wrong. I remind you of the State Horse vote.

SENATOR HANSEN:

Except for this Session. That was another thing altogether.

GREG BAYLOR:

I was Senator Goicoechea's caucus director and had the opportunity to work with him for four years; in fact, it was one of the highlights of my career. It is one thing to serve the Senator, and another thing to staff his office. I was honored to work with Pete as we traveled across rural Nevada. I accompanied him on parade routes and assisted him while he made weekly and monthly phone calls with rural Nevadans. Senator Goicoechea kept in constant communication with his constituency and maintained offices in parts of the State that do not traditionally have one. Nevada is going to miss Pete's service and we are all better people for having had the opportunity to work with him. Thank you, sir.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

Can Mr. Baylor do his Pete Goicoechea impression?

MR. BAYLOR:

Sure, "I'm gonna knock some tops off some jugs ... good, good."

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

I admire Senator Goicoechea. When I came to this Body, I thought I cared about rural Nevada, but I did not really know what that meant until I served with him. The way that he cares about and fights for his community is something that I aspire to do. When he leaves the Legislature, someone will have to fill the void and fight for rural communities, and he has inspired me to be one of those voices. I agree with my colleague, Senator Hansen, who said he will never be quite as steeped in it or as authentic as Pete, but he has inspired me to work for rural Nevada.

When I was first elected to the Legislature, I was not yet 30 years old, and people make assumptions about what it is like to be in a Legislative Body. People asked, "Isn't it filled with men? Aren't you going to have to deal with all these old timers who aren't going to be nice to you? How are you going to deal with people who have been around a long time?"

Senator Goicoechea never treated me as anything other than his equal. He treated me with respect, educated me on issues that I did not even know were issues and listened to me when I tried to persuade him to adopt a different position.

In my first session, I walked into his office and felt like I had been there 100 times before. He greeted me like we had worked together for 20 years, even though it was the first time that we had sat down face-to-face. In my first session, I sat between Senator Goicoechea and Senator Hansen on the Floor, and I can attest that Senator Goicoechea is an excellent storyteller; in fact, they both are. When they start telling stories back and forth, being in the middle is an awesome place to be.

SENATOR FLORES:

The first time I served on this Committee was this Session, and the best advice I got prior to Session was to just listen to Pete. I have also had the honor of serving alongside Senator Goicoechea in the Senate Committee on Government Affairs, and no other human can fill the room the way he does. When he leaves the building, we will not experience all the people in the room today who speak so passionately about how much Pete has touched them. Their words are a

testament to the fact that, above all else, Senator Goicoechea is just a great human. Every person in this room feels that his aura, presence and energy make us better people and I want him to know that.

I also want everyone here to know that I will support every bill Senator Goicoechea supports in our work session today. It is like cheating on a test. If I sit next to the smartest kid in class, I will just copy what he does.

I want to present Pete with a gift for his service to the Committee on Government Affairs and the State. There have been times we have driven you to drink, and I want to give you a liquor decanter inscribed with your name to thank you for your service this Session. The decanter is also inscribed "Committee on Government Affairs" because we are the best Committee, but I do not want to get myself in trouble here. I also have a bottle to accompany the decanter. I want to thank Senator Goicoechea who I appreciate and respect and this State is a better place because he is in it.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:
This bottle will build a headache.

CHAIR PAZINA:
I want to thank everyone who came to this meeting for the opportunity to embarrass and pay tribute to Senator Pete Goicoechea; he has been such a kind and wonderful resource to all of us. I also want to thank all the Legislators who came to the meeting today to pay tribute to Senator Goicoechea. It is appreciated.

We will now move to a work session on several bills. Our first bill is Assembly Bill (A.B.) 20.

ASSEMBLY BILL 20: Revises provisions relating to water. (BDR 40-227)

ALYSA KELLER (Policy Analyst):
The bills for consideration by the Committee today are summarized on the work session documents which are available on the Legislative website. I will read the summary of A.B. 20 from the work session document ([Exhibit C](#)).

CHAIR PAZINA:
I will entertain a motion to do pass A.B. 20.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 20.

SENATOR HANSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PAZINA:

We will move to the work session on A.B. 34.

ASSEMBLY BILL 34 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to water. (BDR 48-235)

MS. KELLER:

I will read the summary of A.B. 34 and the amendment from the work session document ([Exhibit D](#)).

CHAIR PAZINA:

I will entertain a motion to amend and do pass as amended.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED
A.B. 34.

SENATOR HANSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PAZINA:

We will move to the work session on A.B. 70.

ASSEMBLY BILL 70 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to the uses of certain fees for a game tag. (BDR 45-342)

MS. KELLER:

I will read the summary of A.B. 70 and the amendment from the work session document ([Exhibit E](#)).

SENATOR HANSEN:

I want to confirm that the intent of the bill is to allow a big game applicant to check the predator control box. That it was a 100 percent available for lethal control.

CHAIR PAZINA:

Can Ms. Sturdivant provide some input?

SENATOR HANSEN:

While she is researching, I will provide the big game application information from the Nevada Department of Wildlife ([Exhibit F](#)) for last season. There were 432,261 big game applications sold that generated about \$1.3 million from the \$3 game tag application process fee. There were only 18,000 tags available for all big game species and that was out of 85,362 licensed sportsmen who applied. There were also almost 5,000 first-time applicants, which is a positive. Unfortunately, the deer herd shrunk to 68,000, the lowest population since the 1940s. In the eye of the sportsman, the need for predator control is warranted, which is why we are happy with the compromise we reached with Assemblyman Howard Watts on this bill.

ERIN STURDIVANT (Counsel):

The two options big game applicants have for that fee include the fund to develop and implement an annual program for lethal removal, and an annual program for habitat improvement, research and management.

SENATOR HANSEN:

That was the answer I was looking for.

CHAIR PAZINA:

I will entertain a motion to amend A.B. 70 and do pass as amended.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 70.

SENATOR HANSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PAZINA:

We will move to the work session on A.B. 86.

ASSEMBLY BILL 86 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to animal welfare.
(BDR 50-203)

MS. KELLER:

I will read the summary of A.B. 86 and the Proposed Amendment 3648 plus and additional amendment by Assemblywoman Hardy from the work session document ([Exhibit G](#)).

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I appreciate the additional amendment which I discussed with stakeholders in Washoe County; they did not sponsor the bill but would be affected by it. If a regional animal services organization offers to help an animal owner who is in violation, and that person declines the help, they would be violating the law. The amendment gives the owner the opportunity to get the best care and grooming for their animal.

CHAIR PAZINA:

I will entertain a motion to amend A.B. 86 and do pass as amended.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED
A.B. 86 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT 3648 WITH CHANGES ON
PAGE 5.

SENATOR FLORES SECONDED THE MOTION.

CHAIR PAZINA:

Is there any discussion on this bill?

SENATOR HANSEN:

I do not support this bill. We are defining how dog houses must be built and requiring animal owners to shear and groom their animals. Even though the amendment provides a positive defense, animal owners living in poverty could

potentially be forced to defend themselves on why they cannot afford to shear or groom their pet, or why their doghouse does not conform to a certain standard. The people who can least afford it are the ones who will be nailed financially by A.B. 86. This bill goes way too far. I believe existing law is adequate.

CHAIR PAZINA:

As there is no more discussion on A.B. 86, I will call for the vote.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATOR HANSEN VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR PAZINA:

We will move to the work session on A.B. 91.

ASSEMBLY BILL 91 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions governing water. (BDR 48-696)

MS. KELLER:

I will read the summary of A.B. 91 from the work session document ([Exhibit H](#)).

CHAIR PAZINA:

I will entertain a motion to do pass A.B. 91.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 91.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PAZINA:

We will move to the work session on A.B. 191.

ASSEMBLY BILL 191 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to water conservation. (BDR 48-697)

MS. KELLER:

I will read the summary of A.B. 191 and the amendment from the work session document ([Exhibit I](#)).

CHAIR PAZINA:

I will entertain a motion to amend A.B. 191 and do pass as amended.

SENATOR HANSEN MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED
A.B. 191.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PAZINA:

We will move to the work session on A.B. 220.

ASSEMBLY BILL 220: Revises provisions relating to water conservation.
(BDR 40-337)

MS. KELLER:

I will read the summary of A.B. 220 and the three amendments from the work session document ([Exhibit J](#)).

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

I did not realize that there were revocable domestic well permits in the Las Vegas Valley. I want to clarify that the new amendment provides that the State Engineer "shall" deny a permit if the proposed well is within 1,250 feet of a service connection.

ANDY BELANGER (Director of Public Services, Las Vegas Valley Water District):

That is an accurate statement. We just had a conversation with the State Engineer on the proposed amendment clarifying the bill and they would prefer section 26 to remain the way it is. I would like to withdraw the second amendment and continue moving the bill through Committee, accompanied by the first amendment proposed by Senator Rochelle Nguyen.

The State Engineer prefers to have the language that is in the first amendment, and we support that.

CHAIR PAZINA:

For the record, the second amendment proposed by the Southern Nevada Water Authority will be deleted, and the first amendment will remain.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

The deletion of the second amendment raises another question. The second amendment, subsection 5, paragraph (b) clarifies that repairs may be made to a well, but the word "domestic" was not originally in the sentence. We may need to add that word or the State Engineer may interpret that sentence as including a commercial or other large-scale well. If we delete the second amendment, we may need to add the word "domestic" elsewhere in the bill.

MR. BELANGER:

Senator Goicoechea is correct. In the first reprint, section 26 requires a 1,250-foot distance for temporary, revocable permits in the Las Vegas Valley, and that if a domestic well is located within 1,250 feet of a service connection, the State Engineer may require the well to be connected to the main Clark County system. The intent is for the protections in existing statute to remain, which includes the 180-foot measurement, and that the well has failed; meaning that a well owner must bring a drill rig on his property to deepen or replace the well. We want to maintain those protections for domestic well owners.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA:

To clarify, we are replacing language that "if a domestic well is within 1,250-feet of a connection" to "if a domestic well is within 180-feet of a connection." Is that accurate?

MR. BELANGER:

Yes.

SENATOR HANSEN:

You addressed my concerns. The word "domestic" ensures small water districts are protected if they have a domestic well and the bill would only apply to residential situations.

MR. BELANGER:
Yes.

MS. STURDIVANT:
I also want to clarify the first amendment before a vote is taken. Does "180-feet" only apply to domestic wells? Does that mean that section 26, subparagraphs 2 and 3 and paragraph (b) of the limitations in the paragraph still apply? The language may need to be clarified.

MR. BELANGER:
The current statute enacted in 1999 only had the modifying language "180-feet" and "if the domestic well failed" to limit the drilling of domestic wells, so it only applied to the third section of the bill and not the first two sections.

CHAIR PAZINA:
I will entertain a motion to amend A.B. 220 and do pass as amended.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED
A.B. 220.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PAZINA:
We will move to the work session on A.B. 424.

ASSEMBLY BILL 424: Revises provisions relating to the issuance of bonds for environmental improvement projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin. (BDR S-388)

MS. KELLER:
I will read the summary of A.B. 424 from the work session document ([Exhibit K](#)).

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CHAIR PAZINA:

I will entertain a motion to do pass A.B. 424.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 424.

SENATOR HANSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANAMOUSLY.

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CHAIR PAZINA:

We will address Assembly Concurrent Resolution (A.C.R.) No. 5 ([Exhibit L](#)). As there are no amendments or discussion, I will entertain a vote.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5: Expresses support for the Lake Tahoe Transportation Action Plan. (BDR R-387)

SENATOR SCHEIBLE MOVED TO DO PASS A.C.R. 5.

SENATOR GOICOECHEA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANAMOUSLY.

* * * * *

CHAIR PAZINA:

We will now hear public comment.

WILL ADLER:

I ditto everything that was said about Senator Goicoechea at the beginning of this meeting. Not only has he assisted other legislators and Legislative employees, but he also educated and trained the lobbyists who enter this building. My first year as a lobbyist, Pete took me in and explained water on paper, and how to apply those concepts in the real world, and how to apply them fairly across the State. I give him much of the credit for the knowledge, experience and background I have acquired. Senator Goicoechea is an amazing man and he will be missed.

CHAIR PAZINA:

I would like to give a special thank you to my amazing staff, who do such a wonderful job every single committee meeting. I am so grateful for everyone here in this room from Ms. Keller and Ms. Sturdivant to Ms. Timothy, who handles our technology and the broadcast team. I also say thank you to our wonderful committee secretaries, Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Dittler, who do a great job transcribing minutes for each meeting, and our Committee Manager, Cameron McClimans, who is standing in the back. And not to forget my appreciation for the inestimable Senator Goicoechea.

SENATOR FLORES:

It has been a pleasure sitting on this Committee with you Chair Pazina. This has been your first session and you have done an exceptional job. We have had many difficult discussions in this Committee and you have managed them well. It has been an honor and pleasure serving alongside you, and I look forward to continuing to work with you and under your leadership, everyone thinks you have done an amazing job and you should be very proud.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

I would also like to thank you for having me as your Vice Chair this year. My job was easy because you did all the work. I have loved serving on this Committee, especially under your leadership. Thank you, everyone.

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CHAIR PAZINA:

Hearing no additional public comment, the meeting is adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Cherie Dittler,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Julie Pazina, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit Letter	Introduced on Minute Report Page No.	Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
	B	1		Attendance Roster
A.B. 20	C	11	Alysa Keller	Work Session Document
A.B. 34	D	12	Alysa Keller	Work Session Document
A.B. 70	E	13	Alysa Keller	Work Session Document
A.B. 70	F	13	Senator Ira Hansen	NDOW Information
A.B. 86	G	14	Alysa Keller	Work Session Document
A.B. 91	H	15	Alysa Keller	Work Session Document
A.B. 191	I	16	Alysa Keller	Work Session Document
A.B. 220	J	16	Alysa Keller	Work Session Document
A.B. 424	K	18	Alysa Keller	Work Session Document
A.C.R. 5	L	19	Alysa Keller	Work Session Document