



Legislative Update

BDR = Bill Draft Requests
NELIS: Resource for Everything
Happening in the Legislature

 **Water Strategy Group**
 Nevada Natural Resource Policy Experts

SB = Senate Bill | AB = Assembly Bill
Legislative Committees
 ➤ [Assembly Natural Resources](#)
 ➤ [Senate Natural Resources](#)

About the Legislative Update

This report, compiled by the Water Strategy Group (WSG) and Meridian Nevada, is regularly updated with current and forthcoming legislative proposals in the 2025 Nevada Legislative Session which may impact the businesses and industries we engage with daily.

Overall Legislative Schedule

Date	Day	Key Legislative Task
24-Feb	Mon	Joint Standing Rule No. 14 BDRs
17-Mar	Mon	Legislators' Bill Introductions
18-Mar	Tue	Agriculture Day at the Legislature
24-Mar	Mon	Joint Standing Rule No. 14 and Other Remaining Bill Introductions
27-Mar	Thu	NvMA Mining Day at the Legislature
1-Apr	Tue	Start Closing Budgets
11-Apr	Fri	Committee Passage (First House)
22-Apr	Tue	First House Passage
1-May	Thu	Economic Forum Report Due
5-May	Mon	Start Resolving Budget Differences
16-May	Fri	Committee Passage (Second House)
17-May	Sat	Finish Budget Differences
23-May	Fri	Second House Passage
28-May	Wed	Budget Bills Introduced and Exempt Bills from Committee

Select Bill Summaries

This section highlights bills of primary interest, as of the date of this report, with a more comprehensive tracking table attached hereto.

[AB9](#)

Under [NRS 533.0243](#), a person is already allowed to temporarily convert agricultural water rights for wildlife purposes or to improve the flow quality of water for up to 3 years, which may be extended in increments of up to 3 years at a time. This bill would allow for temporary conversions of up to 10 years with 5-year extensions.

[AB109](#)

This bill proposes to eliminate the geothermal production exemption (for non-consumptive use water rights) in [NRS 534A](#), shifting the exemption to geothermal exploration only. It would require the State Engineer to review dissolved mineral exploration projects submitted through NDOM.

[SB31](#)

In 2017, [NRS 533.087](#) was adopted to require a date of December 31, 2027 in which a claimant of any vested water right must file proof, otherwise such claim would be considered abandoned. SB31 was (apparently) proposed by the State Engineer to exempt the Federal Government from the deadline for filing reserved or vested claims before the 2027 cutoff.

[AB134](#)

This bill would allow the holder of a perfected water right to file a water conservation plan and establish provisions relating to water conservation plans. It prohibits a person holding a perfected right that is subject to a conservation plan from changing the place of diversion, the manner and place of use of the perfected right during the term of the plan. Lastly, it prohibits abandonment and forfeiture procedures on perfected rights subject to conservation plan.

[AB104](#) / [SB36](#)

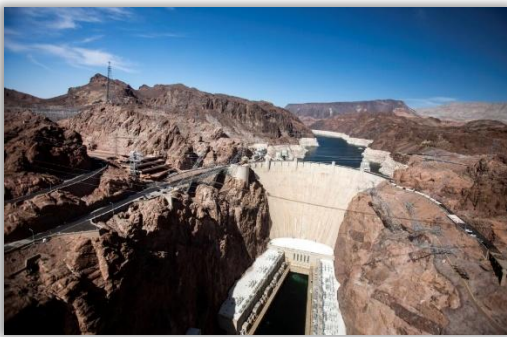
These are related bills that propose the creation of a 'Nevada Water Buy-Back Initiative' and Advisory Committee for retiring water rights with the program sunset in 2035. As written, these bills would require the State Engineer to reject groundwater right applications if the groundwater has been retired, which may apply to the entire basin. See below for more details on AB104.

[AB132](#)

This bill proposes to update requirements for wildlife guzzlers to increase capacity (from 20k gal. to 40k gal.) and max. allowable water conveyance distance from 0.25 mi. to 0.5 mi.

[AB190](#)

This bill seeks to create a fund for Hydrologic Studies in rural counties when the State Engineer determines that such a study is required to support their review of certain water right applications. It would require the State Engineer to make a grant to 'Account for Studies Concerning Water' under [NRS 533.369](#). The applicant may pay the remaining cost of the study or withdraw their application and receive a refund.



Weekly Highlights

The 83rd Nevada Legislative Session began on Monday, February 3, 2025. Each week, WSG will use this section to describe certain developments within and interpretations of select bills that will help each client assess potential implications to their business and to help determine if any WSG client should plan on taking a public position in support of or against a bill and/or proposed amendment.

[Tracking Table](#)

A detailed (hyperlinked) tracking table is attached to this report ([see Exhibit 1](#)). The first few issues of the report will include all BDRs initially targeted for review and consideration as to how they may affect WSG clients. Going forward, as details emerge, some of these bills will be removed from the tracking table unless a client requests them to remain or be added back.

[AB104 Background](#)

During our participation in a legislative stakeholder group that developed the language for this bill, we expressed concern with language in Section 2 that essentially ties the hands of the State Engineer when considering applications in basins where water rights have been retired. Naturally, the Environmental NGOs in this group love the language, but those of us who advocate for maximizing beneficial use see a problem. In our opinion, if a previously over-pumped basin is brought back into balance by retirements and water resources are available for appropriation (i.e. due to new science supporting higher water availability), then the State Engineer should be able to process those applications in accordance with NRS 533.370. Potentially forcing the State Engineer to reject all applications in a basin (post-retirement) is not a good idea.

[AB9 Background](#)

WSG has no problem with special statutory measures to help protect wildlife in certain circumstances. However, temporary conversions are not defined in statute and the State Engineer is supposed to follow applicable statutes. This bill creates uncertainty in terms of how these conversions are to be processed and what happens at the end of the undefined 'conversion' process, among other things. This bill highlights the need for a simple and minor change to [NRS 533.345](#) that would allow for temporary changes to existing water rights for ALL MANNERS OF USE for up to 5 years. This is precisely the change that was being pursued in a proposed amended version of AB90 from the 2023 Legislative Session. Stay tuned on this bill as WSG is contemplating reengaging on the temporary change process we helped develop for AB90 in 2023.

[AB134 Background](#)

This bill allows holders of perfected (i.e. certificated) rights to not use their water for up to 10 years if they submit and receive approval for a 'water conservation plan.' Even worse, those perfected rights not being used under a 'conservation plan' can't file change applications. Typically, when working in basins for a project that needs to acquire existing water rights, one of the first things we examine are perfected rights not being used. If this bill passes as written, WSG is concerned that people can use this 'conservation plan' concept to hold certain areas (with no options to obtain

new water rights) hostage in the name of ‘conservation.’ Again, this is counter to what we believe should be the number one priority of the State Engineer, which is maximizing beneficial use.

AB104 Background

We saw several interesting developments on this bill over the last week. Thanks to the diligent efforts of Chris Mahannah in his role as the only practicing Engineer participating in a Legislative Stakeholder group pushing this bill, we were able to remove the troubling language that would have required the State Engineer to reject all water right applications in basins where water has been retired under this proposed program. The issues with this language are described in the above (bill background), but the Legislative Group is preparing to submit a bill amendment that would eliminate all of Section 2 of this bill, thereby allowing the State Engineer to rely on his existing statutory tools when considering applications under NRS 533.370 (2).

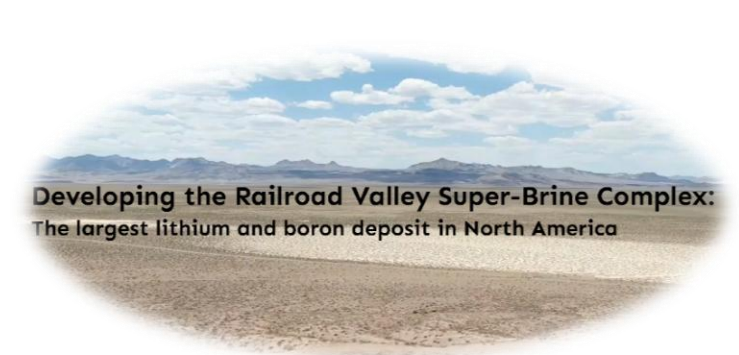
The other interesting development on this bill is that late last week, five fiscal notes were placed on the bill. If the fiscal notes aren’t addressed (with an amendment) the buyback/retirement portion of this bill could be in jeopardy if the bill goes to Ways and Means. However, another opportunity will exist to rectify the program in SB36 (a sister bill in the Senate).

AB109 Background

Last week the Nevada Mining Association met with the bill sponsor who acknowledged that it was a mistake to include the dissolved mineral exploration language in this bill, so WSG expects that portion (requiring the State Engineer to review exemptions for 5 afa exploration projects) to get amended out. This is a positive development for the rapidly evolving dissolved mineral industry in Nevada, but it also places more attention on the troubling language in the rest of this bill as it pertains to the geothermal industry.



Dissolved mineral exploration drilling in Railroad Valley (Feb. 2023)



Outside Links: Recent Media Reporting

Check out this news story from 8 NewsNow.com (KLAS, Las Vegas) regarding AB109, AB9, AB134, and AB104.
<https://www.8newsnow.com/news/politics/nevada-legislature/precious-water-nevada-lawmakers-have-decisions-ahead-on-conservation-bills/amp/>

Upcoming Meetings / Hearings

DATE	DAY	BILL HEARING LINK
24-Feb-25	Mon.	AB9 - Temporary Conversion of Agricultural Water
24-Feb-25	Mon.	AB104 - Revises provisions relating to water rights retirements
27-Feb-25	Thur.	SB6 - Cloud Seeding

Recent Meetings & Hearings

The following hyperlinked table can be used to quickly access meeting and hearing details from the prior week on the Nevada Legislative website. For a summary of each (tracked) bill hearing, summarized notes are provided in Exhibit 2.

DATE	BILL	BILL MEETING & HEARING NOTES (EXHIBIT 2)
18-Feb-25	AB10	Hearing on AB 10 - Repairing water or sewer system owned by common interest community
18-Feb-25	SB43	Hearing on SB43 - Authorizing certain district boards of health to act as a solid waste management authority.
19-Feb-25	AB80	Hearing on AB80 - Soil Health Advisory Board

WSG Clients

WSG strives to avoid conflicts of interest, which requires transparent communications regarding our work in the Legislature and the clients we are representing. Below is a summary of each of the business entities associated with WSG's lobbying activities during the Legislative Session.

[Gold Standard Ventures \(US\) Inc. \(Orla Mining\)](#)

Gold Standard Ventures (US) Inc. (GSV) was acquired by Orla Mining in 2022. Orla Mining (Orla) is an emerging, growth-oriented, low-cost, mid-tier gold producer. GSV/Orla is in the feasibility and permitting stages of an open pit, heap leach project located on the prolific Carlin trend in Elko County Nevada. Specifically, the GSV/Orla team is pursuing development of the South Railroad Project, which is a low-complexity project with robust economics, situated on a highly prospective land package known as the South Carlin Complex that would support open pit mining and heap leach production from the Dark Star and Pinion deposits over an eight-year mine life.

[Mason Resources \(Hudbay Minerals Inc\)](#)

The Mason project is a large greenfield copper deposit located in the historic Yerington District of Nevada and is one of the largest undeveloped copper porphyry deposits in North America. The Mason deposit is a large tonnage, copper-molybdenum deposit and is planned to be a traditional open pit shovel/truck operation with a copper sulphide mineral processing plant producing commercial grade copper and molybdenum concentrate. The plant is designed to operate at a throughput rate of 120,000 tonnes per day.

[Singatse Peak Services \(Lion Copper and Gold\)](#)

Singatse Peak Services (SPS) is a subsidiary of Lion Copper and Gold (LCG) and is in various stages of project exploration, evaluation and permitting a handful of projects within their larger Mason Valley project portfolio, which includes financial backing from Rio Tinto. Mason Valley is the site of a large, historic copper camp in a premier jurisdiction 50 miles southeast of Reno. The MacArthur Project represents the advancement of a large oxide copper deposit. The Yerington Project includes 11 square miles of patented claims and fee mineral properties centered on a former open pit copper mine.

BTAZ Nevada LLC

BTAZ Nevada (BTAZ) is one of the largest agricultural producers in the state, operating within six Nevada counties. BTAZ owns approximately 32,500 acres of private land associated with its farming operations and possesses grazing permits on nearly 3.6 million acres of public (BLM and Forest Service) land. BTAZ manages up to 15,000 head of cattle and maintains nearly 300 active surface and groundwater rights in Nevada.

Flying M Ranch (dba The Rose of Snowville)

The Flying M Ranch is situated in the Lower Humboldt River Region near Imlay. This large ranching operation includes three BLM Grazing Allotments spanning 881 mi² and nearly 23,000 acres of private land supporting up to 2,500 head of cattle. The livestock operation is supported by 68 surface water rights and 39 groundwater rights for stockwater. Additionally, the Flying M Ranch owns 3,527 acre-ft of decreed Humboldt River rights for irrigation on 2,410 acres of land, which includes 2,530 acre-ft of some of the most senior decreed rights on the river with 1863 and 1864 priority dates.



For more background information, please refer to:

[Dixon Hydrologic, PLLC](#)

Meridian Nevada

WSG works closely with [Meridian Nevada](#), which specializes in strategic consulting services for businesses, organizations, and agencies that are looking to thrive and make a lasting impact in the upcoming legislative session. Meridian provides robust experience in navigating the complex legislative process at the local, state, and federal levels. Their expertise in forming and maintaining legislative relationships is invaluable.

Lobbying Approach

WSG was created to provide a unique option for water resource policy advocacy based on decades of actual technical experience in the application of Nevada water policy in the development and management of water resources throughout the State. WSG's positions are driven by science, not politics. Our overarching goal at WSG is to maximize the beneficial use of Nevada's water resources to maintain and grow Nevada's economy while protecting existing rights and environmental resources.

Water resources play a critical role in all the existing businesses and projects being associated with WSG's clients. Our clients generally share many common objectives, which will guide our lobbying efforts during this Legislative Session. These objectives can be summarized as follows:

1. Maintaining a fair and reliable regulatory framework in Nevada that is supportive of the extractive mineral, agricultural, and energy industries.
2. Help develop and support legislation that provides added efficiencies in Nevada's permitting and regulatory processes.
3. Monitor and participate in select legislative proposals and bills that support the companies' project objectives and help modify or eliminate bills that may conflict with those objectives.
4. Remain actively engaged in legislative processes in the promotion of bills that help ensure timely and reliable access to and beneficial use of Nevada's water resources in support of project exploration, development, and operational objectives.

WSG Background

While we are considered 'paid lobbyists', this is not our full-time job. Jay Dixon and his associates are Professional Engineers and Water Rights Specialists who make a living designing and permitting water infrastructure with a focus on the sustainable and beneficial use of Nevada's water resources for maximizing economic output.

Industry Focused



Mining



Agriculture



Energy



Public Works | Municipal

EXHIBIT 1 -
Weekly Legislative Tracking Table

In-Session Tracking (Select Water Bills)

Updated on 2/23/25

BDR	Bill	Sponsor	Bill Description	Overview	Status / Position	BILL STATUS
Water Resources Bills						
17-10	SB143	Senator Nguyen	Provisions relating to water.	Unknown	Will monitor.	Referred to Senate Legislative Operations and Election Committee -- NO HEARING SCHEDULED YET
48-391	AB9	Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources (NRS 218E.320)	Revises provisions governing the temporary conversion of agricultural water.	Under existing law, a person or entity may apply to temporarily convert agricultural water rights for wildlife purposes or to improve the quality or flow of water for a duration not to exceed 3 years and a temporary conversion may be extended in increments not to exceed 3 years in duration each. (NRS 533.0243) This bill instead provides that a temporary conversion of agricultural water rights may not exceed 10 years in duration and may be extended in increments that may not exceed 5 years in duration each.	As explained in this week's report, WSG is preparing to testify against this bill with a recommended change. Stay tuned.	Referred to Assembly Natural Resources -- SCHEDULED FOR HEARING ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025
22-407	AB10	Assembly Committee on Government Affairs	Revises provisions relating to local improvement projects.	Related to local improvement projects; authorizing any county, city or town to repair a private water or sewer system that is owned by a common-interest community as part of a neighborhood improvement project; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.	Casually monitoring.	Referred to Assembly Government Affairs -- HEARD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024
48-212	AB109	Assembly-woman La Rue Hatch	Provisions relating to water.	Relating to water; revising provisions governing the appropriation of water for geothermal wells or dissolved mineral resources; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.	BAD BILL! Proposes to eliminate geothermal <u>production</u> exemption (for non-consumptive use water rights) shifting exemption to geothermal <u>exploration</u> only. Requires State Engineer review of dissolved mineral exploration projects submitted through NDOM.	Referred to Assembly Natural Resources -- NO HEARING SCHEDULED YET *** Bill already given an exemption meaning it is not subject to deadlines
48-260	SB31	Division of Water Resources	Revises provisions relating to the adjudication of vested water rights	Seeks to exempt federal agencies from filing claims of vested rights from requirement to file proof of the claim on or before a certain date; revising requirements relating to a notice of pending adjudication of certain water rights; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.	BAD BILL!! Based on WSG conversation with State Engineer, this bill seems to be based legal advice that he has been given suggesting that under the McCarran Act, the Feds. are exempt based on federal law to comply with Nevada statutory deadline for filing claims. WSG DISAGREES WITH THIS ASSERTION.	Referred to Senate Natural Resources -- NO HEARING SCHEDULED YET

BDR	Bill	Sponsor	Bill Description	Overview	Status / Position	BILL STATUS
Water Resources Bills						
48-261	AB26	Division of Water Resources	Revises various provisions relating to dams.	Proposes exemption from liability for certain damages, revises provisions relating to construction or alteration of certain dams, exempts certain works under certain Federal jurisdictions, requires certain dam applications be made available to NDOW, authorizes State Engineer to enter certain parcels, revises provisions relating to dam removal and removal of certain animals interfering with flow, provides certain penalties relating thereto.	Evaluating and monitoring.	Referred to Assembly Natural Resources -- HEARD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025
48-379	AB134	Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources (NRS 218E.320)	Makes certain changes relating to water conservation.	AN ACT relating to water; authorizing the holder of a perfected water right to file a water conservation plan and establishing provisions relating to water conservation plans. Prohibits a person holding a perfected right that is subject to a conservation plan from changing the place of diversion, manner and place of use of perfected right during term of the plan. Prohibits abandonment and forfeiture procedures on perfected rights subject to conversation plan.	<u>This will effect many WSG clients.</u> While WSG promotes maximizing beneficial, we are supportive of water conservation in certain cases. This bill creates concern that a water conservation plan could be leveraged to prevent other beneficial uses in an area where a holder of a perfected right could be subject to forfeiture (with appropriate notification). This creates potential for abuse of water law.	Referred to Assembly Natural Resources -- NO HEARING SCHEDULED YET
48-383	AB104	Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources (NRS 218E.320)	Revises provisions relating to water right retirements.	Would require the State Engineer to retire certain water rights; revising provisions relating temporary permits to appropriate groundwater; creating the Nevada Conservation and Recreation Program; creating the Account for Retiring Water Rights; establishing the Nevada Voluntary Water Rights Retirement Program and the Advisory Committee for the Nevada Voluntary Water Rights Retirement Program.	As explained in this week's report, WSG was able to broker a major (fix) to this bill with the removal of Section 2. As of right now this bill has 5 fiscal notes so it's fate is uncertain.	Referred to Assembly Natural Resources -- HEARING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025

BDR	Bill	Sponsor	Bill Description	Overview	Status / Position	BILL STATUS
Water Resources Bills						
48-384	SB36	Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources (NRS 218E.320)	Establishes provisions relating to the conservation of groundwater.	Nevada Water Buy-Back Initiative and the Advisory Committee for the Nevada Water Buy-Back Initiative; requiring the Director of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to purchase certain water rights for the purpose of retiring the water rights; creating the Nevada Conservation and Recreation Program; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.	WSG is proposing an amendment that removes the requirement for State Engineer to reject applications (within entire basin) after program retirements. As written, this bill could close a basin to new groundwater appropriations forever where retirements have occurred. WSG believes the State Engineer should rely on existing authority under NRS 533.370 (2) when considering all applications.	Referred to Senate Natural Resources -- NO HEARING SCHEDULED YET
48-385	n/a	Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources (NRS 218E.320)	Revises provisions relating to groundwater boards.	Being monitored by WSG via access to a Legislative Water Working Group. Similar bill that has failed in the prior two Sessions.	Will monitor.	still no bill number or language for this BDR
48-386	n/a	Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources (NRS 218E.320)	Revises provisions relating to water.	Being monitored by WSG via access to a Legislative Water Working Group.	Will monitor.	still no bill number or language for this BDR
S-389	SB6	Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources (NRS 218E.320)	Cloud seeding	Makes an appropriation from the State General Fund to the Desert Research Institute of the Nevada System of Higher Education to support the Nevada State Cloud Seeding Program.	Will monitor.	Referred to Senate Natural Resources -- HEARING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025
48-586	AB132	Assemblyman Yurek	Revises provisions relating to water.	Proposes to update requirements for wildlife guzzlers to increase capacity (from 20k gal. to 40k gal. and max. allowable pipeline distance from 0.25 to 0.5 miles.	WSG met with bill sponsor on 1/24. He was unaware of the potential to expand feral horse range, but agreed with our concern. He is reaching out to entity who brought the bill to him. WSG meeting with Yurek on 2/11.	Referred to Assembly Natural Resources -- NO HEARING SCHEDULED YET

BDR	Bill	Sponsor	Bill Description	Overview	Status / Position	BILL STATUS
Water Resources Bills						
48-736	n/a	Assemblyman DeLong	Revises provisions relating to applications concerning water rights.	Based on a meeting with Sponsor in December, the intent for this bill is supposed to require the State Engineer to follow the Administrative Procedures Act.	WSG has reviewed pre-LCB draft. Seeks to remove to remove the State Engineer exemption under the Administrative Procedures Act. Proposes to require State Engineer to provide tentative rulings with required timelines. WSG is evaluating and will monitor closely. WSG met with bill sponsor. Working on removing likely fiscal note.	still no bill number or language for this BDR
48-886	AB190	Assemblyman Gurr	Revises provisions relating to water.	Seeks to create a fund for Hydrologic Studies in rural counties when the State Engineer determines that such a study is required to support their review of certain water right applications.	WSG is supportive of intent, but this will require a potentially large fiscal note. This bill may be viewed as a way for certain project proponents to gain access to public funds when they are seeking to obtain water rights for large prospective developments that would require hydrologic studies.	Referred to Assembly Natural Resources -- NO HEARING SCHEDULED YET
48-887	AB265	Assemblyman Gurr	Revises provisions relating to water.	Proposes strict time limits on the State Engineer to process applications, extensions of time, proof of completion/beneficial use and processing of reports of conveyance.	WSG is supportive but this bill presents enormous challenges for the State Engineer (to comply) without significantly more resources	

In-Session Tracking (Select Natural Resources Bills)

Updated on 2/23/25

BDR	Bill	Sponsor	Bill Description	Overview	Status / Position	BILL STATUS
Select Environmental & Natural Resources Bills						
40-264	SB43	Division of Environmental Protection	Revises provisions relating to environmental protection	AN ACT relating to environmental protection; authorizing certain district boards of health to act as a solid waste management authority under certain circumstances; removing the authority of certain district boards of health to administer the collection and disposal of solid waste; authorizing certain district boards of health to issue certain permits and administer and enforce certain provisions relating to public water systems under certain circumstances; removing the authority of certain district boards of health to administer certain provisions relating to public water systems; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.	Evaluating and Monitoring.	This is a Senate HHS bill that is assigned to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. NO HEARING SCHEDULED YET
42-265	AB40	Division of Environmental Protection	Revises various provisions relating to environmental hazards.	Revising provisions governing mining reclamation to include the stabilization of process fluids; revising certain requirements for a permit to engage in a mining operation or exploration project; requiring the State Environmental Commission to adopt regulations relating to the requirements for the owner or operator of a municipal solid waste landfill or solid waste management facility to provide certain evidence of financial responsibility.	Monitoring through NvMA. Seeks to provide NDEP with resources to be proactive in responding to mining emergency situations. Proposes changes to bonding issues relative to bankruptcy courts to ensure the NDEP is first in line to collect.	Assigned to Assembly Natural Resources Committee. NO HEARING SCHEDULED YET.
49-387	AB80	Assembly Committee on Natural Resources	Establishes provisions relating to soil health.	Seeks to establish the 'Soil Health Advisory Board within State Conservation Commission. Would create bill creates the Healthy Soils Initiative within the Commission, which must: (1) encourage the adoption of soil health practices by <u>agricultural producers</u> ; (2) promote and advance the understanding of the environmental and economic benefits of soil health practices; and (3) support and advance scientific research into soil health. Proposes various funding mechanisms.	Evaluating and Monitoring.	Assigned to Assembly Natural Resources Committee. HEARD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025. ***Bill given an exemption meaning it is not subject to deadlines

BDR	Bill	Sponsor	Bill Description	Overview	Status / Position	BILL STATUS
Select Environmental & Natural Resources Bills						
18-214	AB242	Assemblyman DeLong	Revises provisions relating to the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council.	Seeks to place existing Sagebrush Ecosystem Council rules pertaining to sage grouse credits/debits into regulation.	WSG met with bill sponsor. Working on getting it into the Natural Resources committee (where it belongs), removing fiscal note. Agreed to work with WSG to get Democratic co-sponsor.	Assigned to Assembly Government Affairs. NO HEARING SCHEDULED YET.
15-114 (not 26-114)	n/a	Senator Hansen	Revises provisions relating to public lands.	Unknown	Will monitor.	still no bill number or language for this BDR
26-392	n/a	Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources (NRS 218E.320)	Established state policy relating to tribal expertise and knowledge of public lands.	Unknown	Will monitor.	still no bill number or language for this BDR
48-750	n/a	Senator Hansen	Revises provisions governing environmental justice.	Unknown	Could be supportive for business and industry. Will monitor.	still no bill number or language for this BDR
216	n/a	Senator Scheible	Revises provisions relating to natural resources.	Unknown	Will monitor.	still no bill number or language for this BDR
R-380	SJR4	Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources (NRS 218E.320)	JR: Urges the Federal Government to support and recognize certain land use planning principles when conducting projects in this State.	Nevada Legislature hereby urges the Fed. Govt. to support and recognize the following land use principles when conducting projects in this State: 1) Actions on public lands in the State of Nevada should be led 40 and driven by the impacted local communities, 2) There must be coordination between federal, state, tribal and 42 local governments, including, without limitation, federal agencies, 3) Public lands must be managed for multiple uses while also 12 providing for the economic, social and environmental sustainability 13 of public lands.	Worthy of support.	Assigned to Senate Natural Resources. NO HEARING SCHEDULED YET.

BDR	Bill	Sponsor	Bill Description	Overview	Status / Position	BILL STATUS
Select Environmental & Natural Resources Bills						
R-388	n/a	Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources (NRS 218E.320)	JR: Declares support of Legislature for certain principles of solar development in this State.	Unknown	Will monitor.	still no bill number or language for this BDR
679	n/a	Assembly Committee on Natural Resources	Revises provisions relating to natural resources.	Unknown	Will monitor.	still no bill number or language for this BDR
940	n/a	Senator Ohrenschall	Revises provisions relating to natural resources.	Unknown	Will monitor.	still no bill number or language for this BDR

EXHIBIT 2 – Hearing & Meeting Notes

AB10 Summary

Heard in Assembly Government Affairs on February 18, 2025

Assembly Bill 10 (AB10) was presented by **David Cherry**, the Government Affairs Manager for the City of Henderson. The bill seeks to provide local governments with the flexibility to address failing water and sewer systems in common interest communities (CICs) by allowing the creation of Neighborhood Improvement Districts (NIDs) specifically for the repair or replacement of these private systems.

AB10 is a response to a situation in Henderson at **Somerset Park**, an 85-unit community with a failing private water system that caused a million gallons of water to leak per month. This resulted in significant damage to the property and created health and safety concerns for residents. The City of Henderson intervened and provided public funding for the replacement of the water system, with the repayment required from residents spread over a multi-year period. AB10 aims to formalize such processes, giving local governments the option to step in and help prevent similar situations from escalating into public crises. The bill is designed to provide local governments with tools to address water or sewer infrastructure issues without requiring consent from individual property owners, though property owners will be required to repay the costs over time.

Key Provisions of AB10:

- It modifies existing NID provisions to include the improvement of water or sewer systems in CICs.
- It allows local governing bodies (city councils or county commissions) to create an NID at their discretion for such improvements.
- It removes the requirement for property owner consent in the creation of the NID, though they will still be responsible for repaying the costs through assessments over a multi-year period.

Support for AB10:

- **Warren Hardy** (Urban Consortium)
- **Jennifer Berthume** (Nevada Association of Counties)
- **Nick Schneider** (Vegas Chamber)
- **Wesley Harper** (City of North Las Vegas)

- **Kathy Flanigan** (Las Vegas Valley Water District)
- **Kelly McNeel** (Nevada League of Cities)
- **David Cherry** (City of Henderson, reiterating support)

Opposition to AB10:

- **Laura McWain** (President of the Water Fairness Coalition) expressed opposition, citing concerns about the bill not doing enough to protect existing residents, air quality, or address the heat trajectory in Southern Nevada. She argued that the bill doesn't adequately address the environmental consequences of urban development and water management practices.

Neutral:

- **Chandra Shat** (Administrator for the Real Estate Division)
- **Son Maryweather** (Ombudsman for Common Interest Communities)

AB10 is seen as a tool to help prevent emergencies like the one in Somerset Park, where residents were at risk of displacement due to the failure of their water system. It's a narrow and flexible solution aimed at avoiding public crises, while providing local governments with a new option to manage infrastructure issues when CICs are unable to resolve them on their own. The bill does not mandate local governments to act but gives them the option to do so when necessary.

AB80 Summary

Heard in Assembly Natural Resources on February 19, 2025

Assembly Bill 80 seeks to create a Nevada Healthy Soils Initiative designed to promote and support regenerative agricultural practices, improve overall soil health, and boost water retention through voluntary, incentive-based programs. During the hearing, Assemblymember Selena La Rue Hatch (District 25) introduced the measure, detailing its emphasis on leveraging federal funds and creating a Soil Health Advisory Board to guide implementation. She was joined by Jake Tibbits, Natural Resource Manager for Eureka County, who underscored the readiness of Nevada's conservation districts to administer the program, and Joseph Fry, a farmer and rancher who described his own successes using regenerative farming techniques.

Key Provisions of AB80:

Soil Health Advisory Board

- Nine members, including state agencies (Agriculture, Environmental Protection, and Public & Behavioral Health), four producers (dairy, ranching, specialty crops, irrigated crops), one tribal representative, and one person engaged in soil health research.
- Members would serve without compensation or travel reimbursement to reduce fiscal impact.

Voluntary Grant Program

- Designed to assist agricultural producers in transitioning to healthy soil practices.
- Includes a *voluntary* framework, explicitly stating it cannot mandate participation or soil health actions.

Funding

- Creates a dedicated fund within the state treasury to accept federal grants, donations, and private funding (no direct state appropriation under the current amendment).
- Removal of direct state funding (\$250,000) to address fiscal concerns and eliminate the bill's fiscal note.

Confidentiality

- Protects identity and data of participants; their information would not be publicly disclosed.

Support for AB80:

- Nevada Farm Bureau: Supports voluntary, incentive-based soil conservation practices.
- Carson Water Subconservancy District: Sees benefits in water quality and improved infiltration.
- Sierra Club (Toiyabe Chapter): General support for regenerative practices and environmental benefits.
- Nevada Association of Counties (NACO): Appreciates the locally driven approach.
- The Nature Conservancy: Cited the importance of healthy soils for water storage and carbon benefits.
- Western Resource Advocates: Views the bill as crucial for protecting lands and reducing impacts on water and air.
- Nevada Association of Conservation Districts: Supports creating a coordinating entity for soil health.
- Nevada Cattlemen's Association: Expressed strong support.
- University of Nevada, Reno: Strong endorsement of the initiative.

Opposition to AB80:

- No one testified in opposition to the bill.
- No letters or statements of opposition were presented.

Neutral:

- Nevada Department of Agriculture
 - Worked with the sponsor on amendments; now neutral with no concerns following the removal of the direct appropriation.
- Water Fairness Coalition
 - Neutral; raised a concern about ensuring the bill addresses urban environments, especially in southern Nevada.

Additional Details

- Amendments:
 - Removed direct state funding to eliminate any fiscal note.

- Clarified that “producer” is defined by existing statute.
 - Stressed the voluntary nature and the reliance on federal or private funding sources.
- Urban vs. Rural:
 - Sponsors clarified that any producer, even in urban settings (small farms or community gardens), can participate.
- Legislative History:
 - A similar bill passed out of committee unanimously in a previous session (AB108 in 2021), demonstrating broad bipartisan support for soil health initiatives.