



**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES**

901 South Stewart Street, Suite 2002

Carson City, Nevada 89701-5250

(775) 684-2800 • Fax (775) 684-2811

<http://water.nv.gov>

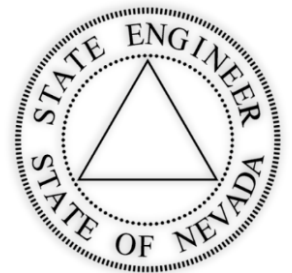
BULLETIN

July 11, 2017

To: Water Right Professionals
From: Nevada Division of Water Resources
Re: 2017 Legislative Session

The attached PDF document highlights the water law bills, both those that passed into law and those that did not, from the 2017 legislative session. The "Bill #" field in the tables are hyperlinked to the bills themselves for your convenience. We STRONGLY encourage you to read the bills in their entirety in order to understand all the nuances of the language changes. If after reading the bills, you have questions about them, please do not hesitate to call our office with any questions. We have also put a link to the document on our homepage for downloading.

2017 Legislation

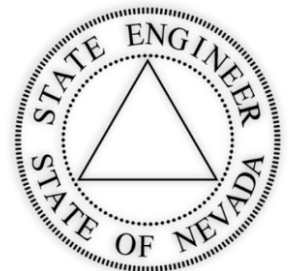


Bills That Passed

Bill #	Topic	Sponsor	Effective
SB 47	Housekeeping + New Requirements	DWR	Passage 6/9/17
SB 51	Adjudication Modernization	DWR	Passage 5/26/17
AB 52	Dissolved Mineral Exploration (Lithium)	Minerals	1/1/18
SB 74	Water Conservation Plans	DWR	Passage 6/9/17
AB 138	Rain Barrels & Guzzlers (also SB74)	Carlton	7/1/17
AB 209	Forfeiture	Oscarson	7/1/17
SB 270	Vested Claim Sunset Date	Interim Water Committee	7/1/17
SB 503	Channel Clearance Replenishment	DWR	Passage 6/8/17
SB 513	Humboldt Assessment Cap	DWR	7/1/17
SB 514	General Fund and South Fork	DWR	7/1/17

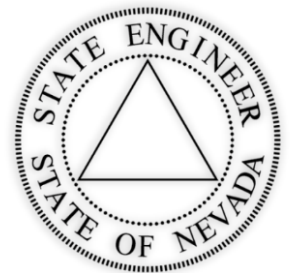
SB 47

- Basin Inventory
 - Perennial Yield
 - Groundwater committed including domestic wells
 - Estimate of available groundwater available for appropriations
- Legislative Declaration to conjunctively manage all waters of the state
- Forfeiture
 - Must send 4 year non-use before forfeiting
 - 30 day notice akin to cancellation notices
- All water users **may** request up to 5 years in an extension for POC's and PBU's
- **Numerous** language amendments



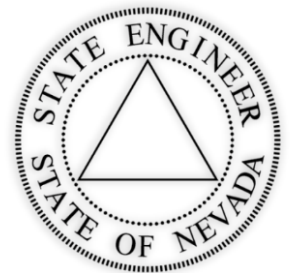
SB 51

- Additional vested claim information requirements
- Timeframe cleanup
- Better mapping
- Use of website for preliminary orders of determination copies
- Waiver for hearing on objections
- Numerous language clean-up



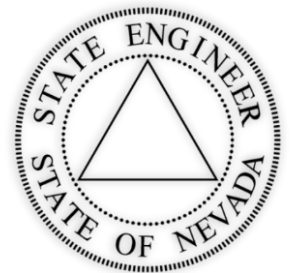
AB 52

- Dissolved mineral exploration to be handled through NDOM
- Dissolved mineral boreholes MUST be drilled by a licensed water well driller
- 5 AF max per exploration project w/out benefit of permit
- Regulations to be promulgated
 - Joint effort between NDOM, NDEP and DWR
- Doesn't go into effect until 1/1/18, but regulations process can begin now



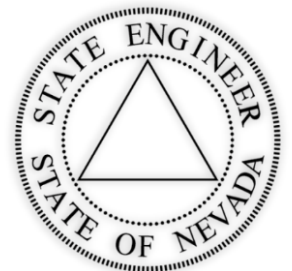
SB 74

- Water Conservation Plan review extended to 120 days from 30 days
- Water Conservation Plans need to address
 - How the supplier of water will progress towards the installation of meters
 - Standards for water efficiency for new development
 - Tiered rate structures
 - Water restrictions based on time of day and day of week
- Removes one non-voting member from the Water Planning Commission



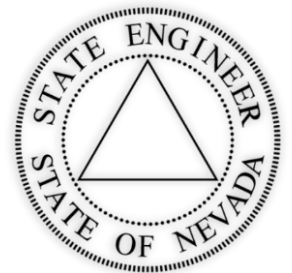
AB 138

- Capturing precipitation from rooftops of single-family dwellings for non-potable domestic use is legal – NO volume limitation
- Guzzlers used for the watering of wildlife are legal
 - 20,000 gallon maximum
 - Capture area of 1 acre maximum
 - Pipe length of $\frac{1}{4}$ mile maximum
 - Developed by a state or federal agency responsible for wildlife management in consultation with NDOW



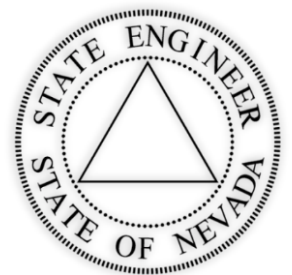
AB 209

- Adds to the list of reasons DWR shall consider in review extensions of time to prevent the working of a forfeiture
 - Drought Declaration
 - Whether the holder has demonstrated efforts to conserve water which have resulted in a reduction in water consumption
 - Whether the water right is in a Critical Management Area or in a basin where withdrawals of groundwater consistently exceed the perennial yield
- DWR may grant an extension to prevent the working of a forfeiture up to 3 years in those basins that are either CMA's or consistently overpumped.



AB 270

- Sunset date for filing claims of vested rights by December 31, 2027
- DWR must publish this notification on an annual basis for 4 consecutive weeks in at least one newspaper of general circulation within the boundaries of each groundwater basin throughout the State (basically all newspapers).
- DWR must also post this notification on our website.



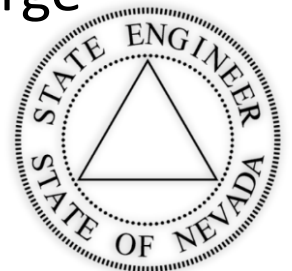
Budget Bills

SB 503 – Replenishes the channel clearance account in the amount of \$250,000

SB 513 – Raises the cap on the amount DWR can assess on Humboldt River Decreed water users from \$.30/AF to \$1.00/AF.

- Committed to raise to \$.50/AF immediately but probably no more for 10 years

SB 514 – DWR will return to being State General Funded. Additionally, monies to be spent on South Fork Dam O&M will be allowed to carry over several years without reversion in order to accommodate large construction projects.



Bills That Did Not Pass

Bill #	Topic	Sponsor
SB 73	Conjunctive Management and CMA/GMP	DWR
SB 134	3M	Interim Water Committee
AB 159	Ban of Fracking	Swank/Brooks
SB 231	Inventories (see SB47)	Great Basin Research Watch
SB 269	CMA & GMP	Interim Water Committee
SB 271	Domestic Well Curtailment	Interim Water Committee
SB 272	Domestic Wells .5 AF in CMA or consistently over pumped basins	Interim Water Committee
AB 298	3M	SNWA

