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R. Michael Turnipseed

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**MEETING URBAN WATER DEMANDS IN NEVADA:
THE LAS VEGAS PROPOSAL**

**E. Michael Turnipseed
Nevada State Engineer
Division of Water Resources
Carson City, Nevada**

**UNCOVERING THE HIDDEN RESOURCE:
GROUNDWATER LAW, HYDROLOGY AND POLICY LAW
IN THE 1990s**

**Natural Resources Law Center
University of Colorado
School of Law
Boulder, Colorado**

June 15-17, 1992

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OUTLINE

R. MICHAEL TURNIPSRED, P.E.
NEVADA STATE ENGINEER

GROUNDWATER LAW, HYDROLOGY AND POLICY IN THE 1990'S
JUNE 15-17, 1992
BOULDER, COLORADO

I. DUTIES OF THE STATE ENGINEER

- A. Appropriation - Surface since 1905, groundwater since 1939
- B. Adjudication - Grandfathered Water Rights
- C. Distribution - Decreed Streams
- D. Dam Safety - All dams 10 feet and 10 acre-feet

II. APPROPRIATION

- A. For all practical purposes, all surface water is appropriated
- B. Majority of groundwater is not near populated areas
- C. Over 50% State Engineer appropriation process deals with change applications
- D. Marketing constitutes major reapportionment to higher beneficial uses

III. ADJUDICATION

- A. 50 on-going
- B. 4 active
- C. Reserved rights
 - 1. Negotiated settlement
 - 2. Off reservation storage
 - 3. abandonment
 - 4. Rebuttable presumption
 - 5. Forfeiture - retro

IV. DISTRIBUTION

- A. All decreed streams
- B. Except Truckee, Carson, Walker & Colorado
 - 1. Truckee & Carson - Federal Water Master
 - 2. Walker - U. S. Board of Commissioners
 - 3. Colorado River - Secretary of the Interior

V. DAM SAFETY

- A. Ten feet high or 10 acre-feet, needs a permit
- B. Inspection, 36' high hazard dam
- C. 400 + all dams

VI. WATER FOR A GROWING NEVADA

- A. Conservation
- B. Conversion of existing rights to municipal use
- C. Importation

VII. INTERBASIN TRANSFERS

- A. Existing
 - 1. Marlette-Hobart, Carson, Virginia City, Dayton & back
 - 2. Wendover
 - 3. Tonopah
 - 4. Las Vegas
 - 5. Carson, Groundwater for Carson Valley & Dayton segment
- B. Interstate
 - 1. Wildhorse - Duck Valley
 - 2. Boca, Tahoe, Truckee Meadows, Fallon
 - 3. Mesquite
- C. Proposed
 - 1. Honey Lake, 12 days of hearings - 136 exhibits
 - 2. Las Vegas Valley Water District (Nov 1992)
 - 3. Eco-Vision
 - 4. Mesquite

VIII. OTHER ISSUES

- A. Yucca Mountain
- B. Mine Dewatering
- C. Abandonment - who's burden?
- D. Forfeiture - retroactivity