

# Budget Brief – Division of Water Rights

NUMBER: NRAS-BB-07-18

## SUMMARY

Administered by the State Engineer, the Division is responsible for the measurement, appropriation, apportionment, and distribution of water in the state. The State Engineer and his staff oversee dam safety, stream channel alterations and water well drilling. The Division is the only division in the Department of Natural Resources that does not have an oversight board. For detailed information on this line item, please see Compendium of Budget Information for the 2007 General Session, pages 133-144.

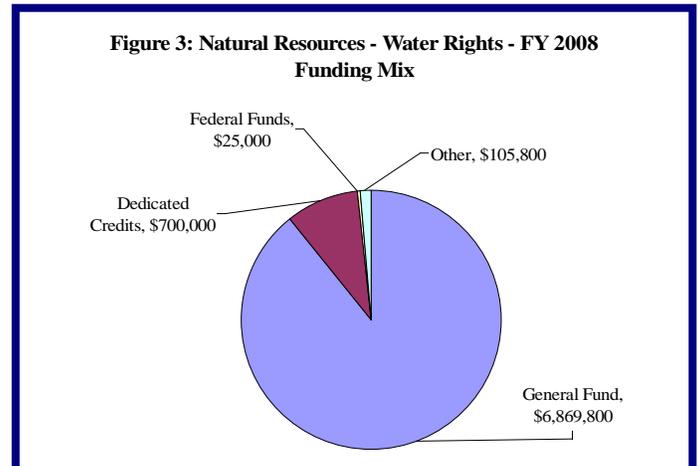
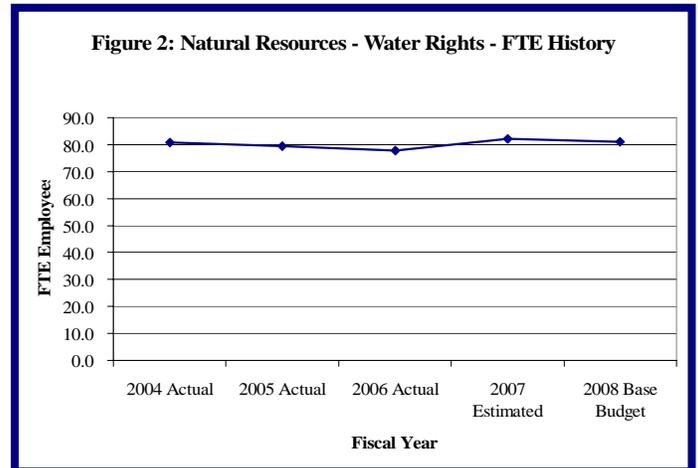
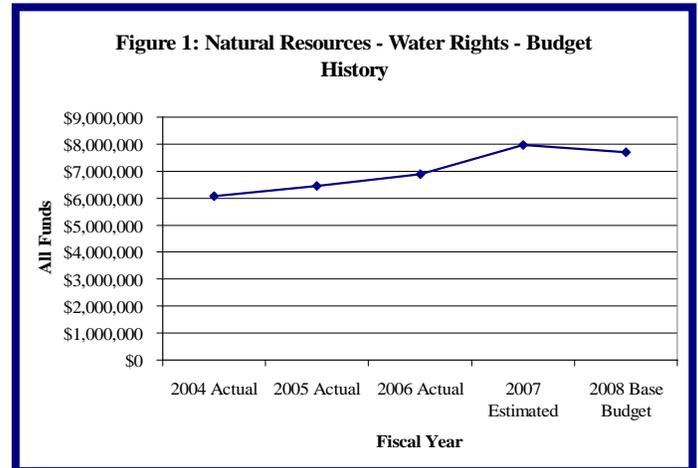
## ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### *Title Specialist*

The growth in Utah population has increased the number of changes in water rights ownership, which has impacted the workload on Division staff. In the past five years the number of Water Rights Conveyances has increased by 10 percent per year but the Division staff level has remained the same. In order to meet the increased demand, the Division is requesting funding to hire an additional Engineering Technician. The Analyst recommends the Committee appropriate ongoing \$65,000 from Dedicated Credits for the new position.

### *Snake Valley Project*

The Southern Nevada Water Authority, which supplies with water the fast growing area around Las Vegas, is planning a ground-water pumping project to divert 25,000 acre-feet from Snake Valley, which is on the Nevada/Utah border. Federal legislation requires the two states to enter into an agreement before any water is taken out of the basin. In FY 2007 the Division of Water Rights was directed to provide all available resources and help Utah protect its existing water rights. In this process the Division has incurred additional expenses and is requesting a supplemental appropriation. The Analyst recommends the Committee consider placing on its funding priority list a request for \$60,000 from the General Fund as a supplemental appropriation for FY 2007.



**BUDGET DETAIL*****Budget Recommendation***

The Analyst recommends for the Division of Water Rights for FY 2007 base budget appropriation of \$7,700,600, with \$6,869,800 from the General Fund (see Budget Detail Table). The Analyst also recommends a \$65,000 ongoing appropriation from Dedicated Credits for a Title Specialist.

At this time the Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC) has not allocated any General Funds beyond the agencies' base budgets. The Analyst recommends the Subcommittee consider placing the request for \$60,000 supplemental appropriation from the General Fund for the Snake Valley Project on the funding priority list for the EAC.

None of the requests for funding increase are built in the tables and charts of this Budget Brief.

**BUDGET DETAIL TABLE**

Natural Resources - Water Rights						
Sources of Finance	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Appropriated	Changes	FY 2007 Revised	Changes	FY 2008* Base Budget
General Fund	6,450,600	6,869,800	0	6,869,800	0	6,869,800
General Fund, One-time	356,000	87,200	0	87,200	(87,200)	0
Federal Funds	49,800	25,000	0	25,000	0	25,000
Dedicated Credits Revenue	325,000	342,500	357,500	700,000	0	700,000
Beginning Nonlapsing	98,200	0	394,500	394,500	(288,700)	105,800
Closing Nonlapsing	(394,500)	0	(105,800)	(105,800)	105,800	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,885,100</b>	<b>\$7,324,500</b>	<b>\$646,200</b>	<b>\$7,970,700</b>	<b>(\$270,100)</b>	<b>\$7,700,600</b>
<b>Programs</b>						
Administration	704,200	712,900	144,100	857,000	25,300	882,300
Applications and Records	811,200	876,600	(14,900)	861,700	6,100	867,800
Dam Safety	650,600	696,700	(32,800)	663,900	2,300	666,200
Field Services	1,061,400	1,075,400	95,800	1,171,200	(59,900)	1,111,300
Cooperative Studies	418,700	394,400	356,100	750,500	(283,700)	466,800
Technical Services	656,300	664,400	156,600	821,000	17,200	838,200
Advertising	150,000	150,000	0	150,000	0	150,000
Regional Offices	2,432,700	2,754,100	(58,700)	2,695,400	22,600	2,718,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,885,100</b>	<b>\$7,324,500</b>	<b>\$646,200</b>	<b>\$7,970,700</b>	<b>(\$270,100)</b>	<b>\$7,700,600</b>
<b>Categories of Expenditure</b>						
Personal Services	5,488,500	6,070,800	59,400	6,130,200	(50,400)	6,079,800
In-State Travel	38,600	36,000	4,100	40,100	2,000	42,100
Out of State Travel	11,300	11,000	600	11,600	800	12,400
Current Expense	799,900	740,100	262,900	1,003,000	(253,000)	750,000
DP Current Expense	148,800	142,600	243,200	385,800	30,500	416,300
Capital Outlay	13,300	0	0	0	0	0
Other Charges/Pass Thru	384,700	324,000	76,000	400,000	0	400,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,885,100</b>	<b>\$7,324,500</b>	<b>\$646,200</b>	<b>\$7,970,700</b>	<b>(\$270,100)</b>	<b>\$7,700,600</b>
<b>Other Data</b>						
Budgeted FTE	77.9	85.0	(2.9)	82.1	(1.0)	81.1

\*Does not include amounts in excess of subcommittee's state fund allocation that may be recommended by the Fiscal Analyst.