

April 9, 2025

To: Assembly Committee on Natural Resources

Re: Committee Hearing Exhibit – AB419

This correspondence is being submitted to the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources regarding Assembly Bill 419 (“AB419”), which is scheduled for a hearing on April 9, 2025. This letter represents the opinion of Water Strategy Group, LLC (“WSG”) based on the author’s 27 years of work experience as an Engineer in developing and managing water rights throughout Nevada.

In consideration of AB419, we thought it might be useful for the Committee to refer to Water Resources Bulletin 46, portions of which are included herein.

<https://images.water.nv.gov/images/publications/water%20resources%20bulletins/Bulletin46.pdf>

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

**EVOLUTION OF NEVADA'S WATER LAWS,
AS RELATED TO THE
DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION
OF THE
STATE'S WATER RESOURCES,
FROM 1866 TO ABOUT 1960**

By
HUGH A. SHAMBERGER

WATER-RESOURCES BULLETIN 46

Pages 49 and 50 of this Bulletin explain the basic duties of the Office of the State Engineer, which have been implied in statute for nearly 125 years:

However, the basic function of the office remained the same, although, as noted above, the work was greatly increased. These functions are:

1. Processing water-right applications.
2. Adjudication of vested water rights.
3. Distribution of water on adjudicated streams.
4. Related and miscellaneous work.

Existing and future economies in Nevada depend on the execution of these basic duties in the Office of the State Engineer. When these functions aren’t being carried out in a timely and consistent manner, it becomes necessary to consider proposals such as AB419. While WSG acknowledges the substantial burden AB419 would place on NDWR as proposed and amended, we remain optimistic that some of these proposals (and others) can be further developed for consideration in a future Legislative Session to support the Office of State Engineer in carrying out these basic duties.