R-109-2002

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF STATEWIDE QUESTION NO. 1 REGARDING THE ISSUANCE OF STATE BONDS FOR CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE PROTECTION

WHEREAS, in 2001, during the 17th Special Session of the Nevada Legislature, the Legislature adopted Assembly Bill No. 9, directing the submission to the voters of a ballot question regarding the issuance of State bonds for conservation and resource protection; and

WHEREAS, that question will appear as Question No.1 on the ballot for the general election to be held in November, 2002; and

WHEREAS, Question No. 1 reads as follows:

> Shall the State of Nevada be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed $200 million in order to preserve water quality; protect open space, lakes, rivers, wetlands, and wildlife habitat; and restore and improve parks, recreational areas, and historic and cultural resources?

and

WHEREAS, the text of Question No. 1, along with its corresponding explanation, arguments for passage, arguments against passage, and fiscal note appear on the document attached to this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Las Vegas desires to express its support for the passage of this ballot question in order to provide the necessary funding for several conservation and resource protection projects that will benefit the residents of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY

. . .

. . .

. . .

. . .

. . .

. . .

. . .

. . .

OF LAS VEGAS that the City Council supports the passage of Question No. 1, relating to conservation and resource protection.

PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED this 2ND day of October, 2002.

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

By ______________________
OSCAR B. GOODMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

____
BARBARA JO RONEMUS, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Val Steed 9-20-02
Date

QUESTION NO. 1

Proposal to Issue Bonds for Conservation and Resource Protection

Assembly Bill No. 9 of the 17th Special Session

CONDENSATION (ballot question)

Shall the State of Nevada be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed $200 million in order to preserve water quality; protect open space, lakes, rivers, wetlands, and wildlife habitat; and restore and improve parks, recreational areas, and historic and cultural resources?

Yes .... ☐
No .... ☐

EXPLANATION

If this proposal is approved, the State of Nevada would be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount of not more than $200 million to protect, preserve, and obtain the benefits of the property and natural resources of this state. Of the total bond issue, funding allocations would be made as follows:

1. $27 million to Nevada's Division of State Parks for property acquisition or capital improvements and renovations;

2. $27.5 million to Nevada's Division of Wildlife for property acquisition, facility development and renovation, or wildlife habitat improvements;

3. $25 million to the Las Vegas Springs Preserve in Clark County for planning and developing the preserve, providing wildlife habitat, and constructing support facilities;

4. $10 million to Clark County for development of a regional wetlands park at the Las Vegas Wash;

5. $35 million to Nevada's Department of Cultural Affairs to establish a museum at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve;

6. $10 million to Washoe County for enhancement and restoration of the Truckee River corridor; and

7. $65.5 million to Nevada's Division of State Lands to provide grants for state agencies, local governments, or qualifying private nonprofit organizations for various programs including recreational trails, urban parks, habitat conservation, open spaces, and general natural resource protection projects.

ARGUMENTS FOR PASSAGE

Nevada has been the fastest-growing state in the nation for several decades, and this rapid growth is expected to continue well into the future. Continued growth will impact Nevada's water quality, air quality and open space. This bond measure will prepare for this growth and preserve the state's quality of life for future generations. It will do so by protecting rivers, lakes, and wetlands that are critical to clean drinking water supplies; preserving forests and other natural vegetation that help provide clean air; protecting fish and wildlife habitat; protecting groundwater from contamination; preserving open space; and restoring historic, natural and cultural resources.

It has been 12 years since Nevada last passed a conservation bond, and the money raised by that measure has been spent. This bond issue, and the matching funds it will bring in, will provide additional funds necessary to further protect Nevada's land, air and water.

A "Yes" vote is a vote to approve the issuance of the bonds.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST PASSAGE

Bonds are debts that must be repaid. The bonds would be repaid with state tax revenue. While conservation projects may be needed, tax revenue should not be used for this purpose during times of financial uncertainty.

A "No" vote is a vote to disapprove the issuance of the bonds.

FISCAL NOTE

Financial Impact—Yes.

Approval of this proposal would allow the State of Nevada to incur a bonded indebtedness of up to $200 million that must be repaid, with interest, by public funds over several years. The exact financial effect in any given year will be determined by the timing and amounts of the bonds issued, the interest rates, and the method of repayment. If the indebtedness is repaid as other bonds are retired and assessed valuation increases, a tax increase may not be required. If, however, a statewide property tax were imposed in addition to the current rate to repay the bonds, a tax rate of up to 2.6 cents per $100 of assessed value may be required. This tax rate would decline over time as total state assessed value increases. A 2.6-cent tax rate on a $200,000 home is $18.20 annually. If the bonds are not all sold immediately, but rather on an "as needed" basis, the required tax rate would be less than 2.6 cents per $100 of assessed value.