

and clarify the language of the bill which the Legislature passed in LB 198 in 1983. LB 198 recognized the beneficial uses of stored underground water. Some sections of the bill were subject to varying interpretation, therefore, we introduced LB 488 to try to resolve and clarify those provisions. First of all, the committee amendment clarifies that incidentally stored underground water may not be unilaterally recovered by the holder of the appropriation. In other words, this clarifies that Tri-County cannot go into some farmer's land in Phelps County and pump water from that landowner's land back into the Tri-County canal. In addition, the committee amendments provide that the application fee for approval for authority to levy fees need only be paid at the time of the original application. Also it clarifies what information is required when applying for approval of authority to levy fees with the Department of Water Resources. Then it also provides that the applicant may recover costs associated with securing approval of application for a fee from the Department of Water Resources. Another amendment provides and clarifies that beneficiaries of intentional underground water storage may be assessed prior to the operation of the project. It also states that the Department of Water Resources will not adjust fees pledged to the repayment of project financing. And finally the amendment eliminates some unneeded internal references in the bill. I would urge you to adopt the committee amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendments to LB 488, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The committee amendments are adopted. Do you have anything else on it, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Yes, I have two amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit, we have two amendments. Did you wish to talk about the bill or should we take up the two amendments first?

SENATOR SCHMIT: It is Senator Vickers' bill, Mr. President. Why don't you let Senator Vickers (interruption)...