

have an opportunity to correct one of those faults. I was impressed, Senator Schmit indicated the Director of the Natural Resource Commission apparently told him, I assume, the last day or two that it was not necessary to override this amount, and as I indicated earlier, it is my understanding that there is no need to override this amount for those projects currently underway, but I also pointed out that there will be only 100,000 in the continuation base. It is going to take at least eight or nine hundred thousand for these same projects next year on top of the continuation base, and then there is a series of other projects which will appropriately need funding next year, something in excess of around 2 million. Notwithstanding that, it seems to me on this issue for this year, we do not need to make this override but we need to understand that these projects are, in fact, an obligation that will be a priority funding next year and I understand when Senator Schmit said we have said that before. But I will say this, that we are so thin now on water and conservation appropriations that there is no choice next year but to provide the funding. So I urge that you would not override the veto.

PRESIDENT: Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, we have to continue these funds. If we are not going to protect the resources of our state, how are we going to be able to pay the necessary funds to operate the state? I think it is very, very important that we continue these funds so that the State Commission has something to work with. As Senator Schmit stated, we passed several bills this year requiring the Natural Resources Districts to even do more work with very limited funds, and as you all are aware of, they only have the ability to have one mill of taxation against the property, and many of them are up to the limit. So they are going to be hampered of doing any additional projects. I feel that we have to have these funds here available so that when the projects are there that they can go, and that they know they are there so it is a continuing thing. The development of even our land treatment program has to go on because that always has to be done before a project can be built. You need to get the land treatment on the land so that the project when you do build it, it is feasible and defensible, and that you won't just throw your money away. So this is a continuing program, and if we back off now, are we going to be assured that we are going to get the money in the following year? So again, even though we have spent a lot of money this year, I feel there is room for this and I feel that