



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AB 54 Amendment Facts

AB 54 is a bill **sponsored by Washoe County, Nevada to give the County more financial tools to help homeowners** make a necessary conversion off a private well or septic system to a community system more affordable.

The bill was introduced because **the County currently does not have a flexible program that would assist property owners with the funding for the improvements needed to convert to a community water or sewer system** as well as abandon private property owners' on-site facilities.

An amendment to the bill's language was made to ensure the original language is clear that the conversion is not mandatory. Conversion to a community water or sewer system would occur only if, 1) it is desired by the homeowners, or 2) it is required by a state or local regulatory agency when public health, safety or welfare is threatened.

The proposed amendment to AB 54 **enables the County to develop and distribute grants and other sources of funds to help mitigate the cost to property owners of connecting to a community water or sewer system** which can be anywhere from \$5,000 to \$30,000 depending on the system.

The **County will not use any general fund tax dollars to assist homeowners in well and septic system conversions**, and any loan or financial assistance that is provided, except for grant funds, would be wholly reimbursed to the County.

The amendment to AB 54 would **also authorize the use of revenues received by the Truckee River Flood Management Project** for grants or loans to assist residents and businesses in flood proofing buildings in a floodplain. Floodproofing projects are often far less expensive than construction of flood walls and levees designed to achieve the same public protection goal. Floodproofing is environmentally friendly, less intrusive to the landscape, and frequently much preferred by residents.