



# Gibbons signs Washoe flood control bill

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## Law creates joint board to set fees, raise funds

the power to raise fees to meet that local match and use the county credit rating to sell bonds.

Gov. Jim Gibbons signed into law Monday a measure allowing Washoe County to create a new flood control authority with the power to raise fees necessary to continue work on a \$1.5 billion flood management project.

Senate Bill 175, a high priority for local flood control planners, was passed out of the Legislature on the final day of the session after being freed of a hostile amendment that many feared would prompt the governor to veto the measure.

Local flood control planners have hired a consultant to recommend a fee structure. Duert said those who benefit directly from flood control projects likely would bear higher fees than those who benefit indirectly. Most Washoe County would help raise the local match money, Duert said.

"The people who flood would probably pay more than those who don't flood," Duert said.

The project would protect access to the airport, recreational projects within the flood management area and maintain commerce in the event of the flood, she added.

Before the fee structure is decided, officials from each municipal government will spend about six months writing the joint powers agreement creating the flood management authority.

The law allows Washoe and Storey counties to join with Reno, Sparks and the University of Nevada, Reno to form a new governing board with

Work on the \$1.5 billion Truckee River Flood Control Project, to be funded mostly by the Army Corps of Engineers, began shortly after the devastating 1997 flood. Local officials must raise about \$400 million to match the federal dollars being spent on the project.