

SB195_L.006

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AMENDMENT
Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources.

SB14-195 be amended as follows:

1 Amend reengrossed bill, page 2, after line 1 insert:

2 "SECTION 1. **Legislative declaration.** (1) The general
3 assembly hereby finds and declares that:

4 (a) The September 2013 flood caused extensive damage along the
5 South Platte river, including the saturation of soils and exacerbation of
6 damaging high groundwater conditions that existed in certain areas before
7 the flood;

8 (b) The relationship between high groundwater levels and the
9 proliferation of invasive phreatophytes in riparian corridors and wetlands
10 is well known. Basin-specific contributing factors, impacts, and possible
11 mitigation measures involved in this relationship warrant further study;

12 (c) In the South Platte river basin, the nonbeneficial consumption
13 of as much as two hundred fifty thousand acre-feet of water per year is
14 attributed to invasive phreatophytes and this nonbeneficial consumption
15 is estimated to have increased by thirty-five percent over the previous
16 twenty years; and

17 (d) The Colorado water institute previously conducted a study of
18 phreatophyte growth as part of a major investigation commissioned under
19 House Bill 12-1278, enacted in 2012. The results of the Colorado water
20 institute's study are documented in its report, the "HB 1278 Study of the
21 South Platte River Alluvial Aquifer", dated December 31, 2013. The
22 study report and its appendix thirteen contain extensive information
23 concerning phreatophyte growth in the South Platte river basin."

24 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

25 Page 2, line 19, after "PROGRAM" insert "AND THE COLORADO WATER
26 INSTITUTE".

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