

**IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER
OF THE STATE OF NEVADA**

SE 'S EXHIBITS <u>25</u>
DATE: _____

**IN THE MATTER OF PROTESTED APPLICATION)
80700 FILE BY THE NATIONAL FISH AND)
WILDLIFE FOUNDATION TO CHANGE THE PLACE)
USE AND MANNER OF USE OF THE DECREED)
SURFACE WATER OF THE WALKER RIVER,)
MASON VALLEY HYDROGRAPHIC BASIN (108))
LYON COUNTY, NEVADA.)**

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**Outline of Witness Testimony of
Ms. Catherine Wilson, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs**

Ms. Wilson is the program manager for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Western Region, Division of Natural Resources. She provides staff support for policy and program issues relating to the administration of the Walker Decree affecting the Walker River Indian Reservation (Reservation). Ms. Wilson will explain the nature of the BIA's protests of Application No. 80700 and its development of a spreadsheet accounting system to track water approved for non-diversion under Application 80700 from the Yerington Weir through the Reservation to Walker Lake. An outline of Ms. Wilson's testimony is provided below.

1. BIA's Protests of Application No. 80700
 - a. The Application does not provide sufficient information for a full understanding of the proposed change.
 - i. The Application does not address the movement of the water after the Federal Watermaster delivers it to the Yerington Weir.
 1. Transit gains and losses.
 2. Other water being delivered to the West Hyland or other ditches.

3. The Applicant proposes to have a place of use of the water that extends for miles.
 - ii. The Application does not address issues that will likely affect the conveyance of water through the Reservation.
 1. Cow Camp gage.
 2. Management of water in Weber Reservoir.
 3. Diversions of Reservation Water into Canals 1 and 2.
- b. The proposed use of water under the Application may conflict with the Reservation's Water Rights.
 - i. Without a system for administering the conveyance of water through the Reservation, either the Reservation's water or the Applicant's water may be circumscribed.
 - ii. The Application refers to a conveyance agreement with the Tribe and BIA, but no such agreement currently exists.
 - iii. Administering the Applicant's water complicates the BIA's current management of water from Wabuska downstream to Little Dam.
 1. Management of the Applicant's water through the Reservation, other than straight pass-through, will require new operating procedures for the Walker River Irrigation Project.
 2. Additional gages will be necessary to accurately account for Reservation water and the Applicant's water.

2. BIA's Spreadsheet Accounting System

- a. Development of accounting system.
- b. Factors important to BIA in an accounting system.
 - i. Simplicity
 - ii. Transparency
 - iii. Use of available public data where possible