

GREAT BASIN WATER NETWORK

1755 E. Plumb Lane, #170

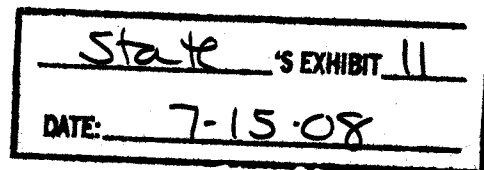
Reno, NV 89502

775-786-9955

June 16, 2008

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BY HAND DELIVERY



Tracy Taylor, P.E., State Engineer
c/o Susan Joseph Taylor
Nevada Division of Water Resources
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 2002
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: Recognition as Interested Person – Application Nos. 54022 – 54030, inclusive

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Pursuant to NAC §533.100, Great Basin Water Network (GBWN) hereby requests recognition as an Interested Person with respect to Application Nos. 54022 – 54030, inclusive. Enclosed is the \$25.00 fee for each Application #54022-54030 as required by NAC §533.100 (\$225 total).

Pursuant to NAC §533.100(2), Great Basin Water Network hereby sets forth the following grounds in support of a showing of extreme circumstances that prevented the Network from filing a protest to Application Nos. 54022 – 54030 in a timely manner:

1. GBWN, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the Great Basin's water resources for current and future uses, has coordinated efforts within the Great Basin to assist protestants to the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) proposed massive groundwater export project. GBWN has educated and informed affected parties, including counties, tribes, ranchers, and rural communities about their rights to speak, write, testify and provide their own personal experiences relating to water and the potential impacts that the SNWA's proposed project may have on them. GBWN represents a larger Nevada/Utah public interest in water for all needs.
2. While GBWN does not claim any water rights, many of its participants do, and they can only defend their rights with the support of GBWN. Many are fighting to defend their livelihoods, families, and communities against the threat of disruption that SNWA's project poses. Many depend on vested, certificated or supplemental groundwater rights that SNWA's project threatens. The project may deprive them of their water, force them to drill new wells, or make water so expensive by forcing deeper pumping that they will be driven out of business.

Most do not have the means to hire legal services or technical experts by themselves, nor do they have the means to miss work and drive to Carson City for a 2-3 week hearing.

3. GBWN is deeply concerned about the economic impacts to rural families and communities that are dependent on private and public lands for agriculture, water, scenery, hunting and fishing, and tourism.
4. GBWN is also concerned about the impacts to Great Basin National Park in Nevada and National Wildlife Refuges and State of Nevada and State of Utah wildlife resources such as the Bonneville cutthroat trout, elk, deer, and migratory birds.
5. GBWN was informally formed 5 years ago, about 15 years after the original SNWA applications were filed. GBWN incorporated in 2005. Hence GBWN could not be an original protestant as it did not exist at that time the applications were filed.
6. Furthermore, at the time the applications were filed, many environmental groups were unaware of the proposed project's existence, or magnitude of potential impacts to publicly owned lands and resources such as wildlife refuges and resources, a national park, or public land grazing that relies on springs and seeps for livestock and more.
7. The Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) is the successor in interest to the Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD), the entity that filed Application Nos. 54022 – 54030.
8. SNWA and the LVVWD delayed the consideration of Application Nos. 54022 – 54030 for almost 20 years, during which time it has become clear that the water table in Snake Valley already is declining and that the export of water from Snake Valley by SNWA would devastate the economy and environment of Snake Valley. This delay clearly constitutes an extreme circumstance warranting recognition of the Network as an Interested Person for the Snake Valley Hearing.
9. SNWA Application Nos. 54022 - 54030 seek a quantity of water that would substantially impact the springs and stream flows upon which all Snake Valley residents and wildlife depend. The unprecedented magnitude of the proposed water project and its potential impact also supports a finding of extreme circumstances.
10. At the Snake Valley Hearing, GBWN intends to discuss the proposed project's potential impacts on water use, ecological health, and future growth in Snake Valley. Additionally we aim to supply expertise on the effects that groundwater withdrawal will have on vegetation reduction and air quality.

