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STATE ENGINEER OFFICE

Ms. Susan Joseph-Taylor
Chief Hearing Officer,
Office of the State Engineer
901 S. Stewart St. #2002
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Ms. Joseph-Taylor;

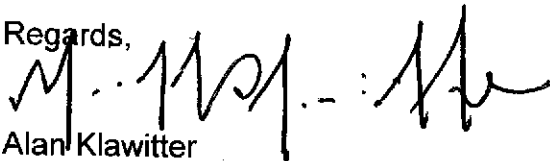
I am writing to present my comments in regard to the State hearings concerning the proposed water pipeline from Las Vegas to the counties in northeastern Nevada by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA).

United States Geological Survey (USGS) Professional Paper #1628, "Regional Ground-Water Evapo-transpiration and Ground-Water Budgets, Great Basin, Nevada" clearly show that the water budget of the valleys of eastern Nevada are presently in equilibrium; e.g., there is no excess water (see Tables C11 and C15). USGS papers are produced by reputable scientists based on facts and are politically neutral. Based upon this report, any substantial withdrawal of water from the aquifers of eastern Nevada will have detrimental, short and long-term, ecological and environmental consequences. Recharge and evaporation data for eastern Nevada and western Utah basins illustrate that the proposed SNWA plan is ill-conceived and unsustainable. These conclusions are also noted or inferred in the Bureau of Land Management Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the SNWA groundwater development project.

Additionally, John L. Smith points out in his article in the Las Vegas Review Journal on October 2, 2011 that the final costs associated with this proposed project could be 7 or 8 times the original SNWA estimates of 2 billion dollars. Even if these ballpark figures are slightly askew, the costs do not justify this stop-gap project strictly on economic rationale.

Based on these considerations, I recommend that the State of Nevada investigate other more permanent alternatives to the proposed SNWA pipeline project.

Regards,



Alan Klawitter
Registered Professional Geologist #3141
State of Wyoming

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