



Water Pipeling Comments <nsepipelinecomments@gmail.com>

# Please deny the demand from the Southern Nevada Water Authority for groundwater rights in White Pine and Lincoln counties.

1 message

Ann Brauer <bluelupine@gmail.com>  
Reply-To: Ann Brauer <bluelupine@gmail.com>  
To: nsepipelinecomments@gmail.com

Wed, Nov 30, 2011 at 9:39 PM

Nov 30, 2011

Jason King  
NV

Dear King,

We believe the scientific information is overwhelming: Draining 50 billion gallons of groundwater from the Great Basin would devastate Native American communities, rural economies and wildlife habitat over a huge area.

Further, the families and small businesses of Las Vegas, recovering from a brutal recession, cannot afford the huge price tag for this project.

Economically, the project would encumber not only residents, rate-payers and taxpayers in Clark County, but the entire state, long into the future. The dollar cost of the project exceeds the budget of the state and the ability of southern Nevada to pay. It is NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST to expect the State to commit itself to this project which will most assuredly be the case when SNWA is unable to pay for the project.

SNWA is structured in such a way that there is no transparency in its operations and finances. It has spent rate-payer and tax-payer money on an unprecedented scale on things that are far outside their purview, such as buying up ranches to remove and silence opposition to their water exportation plans. They have been ruthless in their pursuit of this project and their attempts to silence opposition.

The Las Vegas Valley does not need additional water at the present time, or for the foreseeable future. Growth has reversed, population decreased, and, with increased conservation, there's enough water to last for a long time into the future. Cities must live according to their means, and not expect other areas to sacrifice themselves. Las Vegas could do MUCH, MUCH more to conserve water. But at present there is no incentive to do so. And, SNWA has not adopted a rate schedule that encourages conservation.

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Environmentally Nevada cannot afford this project. No amount of managing, monitoring, and mitigating can replace the water, or reverse the environmental consequences of such monstrous withdrawals of groundwater. This area is a desert, water is the vital resource, and should be left where it is to be used by the environment and also wisely by the people who live there. It is NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST to conduct this type of environmental experiment with a resource vital to the survival of the area.

Using the water wisely for agriculture is in the interest of Nevada and Nevadans. The State will benefit from the diversity in its economy. People will always need food, but gaming and tourism are not necessities.

Just because the plant succession might be able to be "managed" as the groundwater is withdrawn does not mean it should be. Without a thorough knowledge of the soils and soil chemistry, and how they will be affected by the withdrawal, it is impossible to predict what the plant succession will be. Once the damage begins, it will be too late to reverse the process. Nevada cannot afford this type of environmental experimentation.

The science presented during the just concluded hearings point to a great deal of uncertainty about the long term consequences of such a project. What the project appears to be is a gigantic experiment in water removal and exportation of an unprecedented magnitude. Attempting such an experiment in a desert, without any real protection against long term, unforeseen, and irreversible consequences is NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

I urge you to deny the applications filed by the Southern Nevada Water Authority and support the best interests of all of Nevada.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ann Brauer  
PO Box 108  
Indian Springs, NV 89018-0108

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