

Bevan Lister  
P.O. Box 124  
Pioche, NV 89043  
17 Oct 2011

Mrs. Susan Joseph-Taylor, Hearing Officer  
Nevada Division of Water Resources  
901 S. Stewart St, Ste 2002  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Mrs. Joseph-Taylor:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer public comment on your current hearing of the Southern Nevada Water Authority applications in Delmar, Dry Lake, Cave and Spring Valleys. It has been an interesting experience to facilitate the group here in Caliente, as well as to hear the other comments from around the state.

Please find enclosed the sign up list from the Caliente site, as well as two written comments. If I can be of service to you in the future, please feel free to let me know.

Thank you,

Bevan Lister

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STATE OF NEVADA  
 DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES  
 IN THE MATTER OF SNWA APPLICATIONS 53987-53992, 54003-54021  
 October 7, 2011

PUBLIC COMMENT  
 SIGN IN SHEET  
 PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

NAME	PUBLIC COMMENT	PRESENTING PUBLIC COMMENT	
		Yes	No
Pete T. Delmure		X	
James G. Hensbeck		X	
GEORGE T. ROWE		X	
John Wadsworth		X	
Ed Kligbee		X	
Glenn G. Glick		X	
Louis Benzet		X	
Kevin Phillips		X	
Bill Brown		X	
Connie Simkins		X	
Keith Stever		X	
Keith Pearson		X	
Kathy C. Hoyer		X	
Janae C. Hoyer		X	
Patricia M. Cole		X	

STATE ENGINEERS OFFICE  
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PROJECT



**PROTESTING THE WATER APPLICATIONS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA  
WATER AUTHORITY IN LINCOLN COUNTY.**

**PROTEST SUBMITTED BY: RONDA HORNBECK ON October 8, 2011**

More than 20 years ago, Southern Nevada Water Authority filed hundreds of water applications asking the Nevada State Water Engineer to grant them thousands of acre feet of water to be transferred from several rural counties down to Clark County. If granted, the taking of these waters will do to the rural communities what Las Vegas says they are trying to avoid in their own community. Las Vegas says it needs the water in order to grow. Southern Nevada Water Authority, by taking the water in other counties, potentially takes away the ability of the smaller counties to continue to grow and prosper. Lincoln county does not have the same amount of people that Clark County does, but the people who live in Lincoln County, live and breathe, earn a living, have families, just the same as the people in Clark County. Why is it okay to destroy one community to save another?

Clark County says that it needs more water in order to grow bigger and have a better economy. Clark County used to be a rail road depot and has continued to grow. It has outgrown their own water sources and by coming into their neighboring counties and taking the water, it will effectively limit the opportunity of those counties to grow and prosper. Lincoln County has not grown nearly as fast as Clark, but that should not give Clark County the right to take the water that our county needs for future growth. Why it is okay to put my county in the same situation as Clark is in now.

**Why will it be okay to pump until there is no longer enough water for either county?**

**The State Water Engineer states that if the water is granted and there are impacts to the existing water rights and ecosystems, Southern Nevada Water Authority will have to stop pumping. By the time pumping impacts are noticed it will be too late. Billions of dollars will have been spent and all the new growth in Clark County will have been established and dependant on that water. Turning off the pumps will be a political and social impossibility. Once the water table is down so low the destruction to the land and people in our county will be irreversible. Why is that okay?**

**These water applications, if granted, have the potential to affect over 300 springs, over 100 miles of streams, and at least 8000 acres of wetlands.**

**The requested appropriation of water will not only hinder the future economy of Lincoln County, but threaten the springs, seeps and streams that provide water to habitat that is critical to the survival of wildlife and grazing livestock. The very existence of our plants and animals depends on the water. Just because Southern Nevada Water Authority says it is taking only the deep water, doesn't guarantee that it will not affect the entire system. I know that there is science out there that tells which direction the water might be flowing and which basin it is flowing in, but there are no guarantees of how much water can be pumped before there is irreparable damage.**

**2.**

I live in a place called Eagle Valley. Above this valley about 20 miles, a developer came in and bought land so he could have the water rights. They had a water right to the land, but the well had only been pumped for stock water and not been used for years. The State Engineers office did not check the past use and the developer has since put in two large pivots. They have been pumping for around three years, and there are noticeable differences in the springs above the pivots. This year all the springs are running high, except for the springs above the pivots. Some of those are now completely dry. This is a very small scale compared to what Southern Nevada Water Authority is planning to do.

This pipeline and water grab is just a band aid for Clark County's need for water. Why not find a permanent solution now instead of depleting everyone's water source. The more Clark County grows, the more dependant they will be on all the water sources around them. I ask that you actually listen to the people who live in the communities that will be affected. Please take into consideration that the people who live in Lincoln County are just as important as those living in Clark County.

I ask that you reconsider the amount of water that you granted to Southern Nevada Water Authority the first time. I ask that you leave more water in the basins of origin, grant less water to the water authority and require that stringent water monitoring be put in place before pumping begins. I ask that a committee be formed to make recommendations on the mitigation measures that will need to be in place before any pumping beings. I ask that this committee be made up of decision makers from the counties that will be affected, some water right holders and some from the water authority.

3.

Please be conscious of the needs of **ALL** the users of the waters that flow under us.

You have a tremendous responsibility and I appreciate the opportunity you are giving us to be heard.

Ronda Hornbeck

HC 74 Box 200

Pioche, Nevada 89043

775-962-5202

Testimony of Connie Simkins, private citizen, land and water rights owner, P.O. Box 333, Panaca, Nevada  
Hearing before State Water Engineer Jason King re the applications of Southern Nevada Water Authority  
for resources in Cave Valley, Delamar Valley, Dry Lake Valley, and Spring Valley in Eastern Nevada.

Caliente Nevada, Friday, October 7, 2011

Based on my personal knowledge and 67 years of experiences in these valleys, I certainly urge you to deny each one of these applications. My family has been ranching and farming here for five generations. From a public perspective, please note most local residents oppose this project. Only one of the five current LC Commissioners voted on the Agreement with SNWA, and that Commissioner Voted NO.

We look at the science that reveals that these water basins are interconnected and we can foresee the devastation that will occur to our family ranching operation on Winz Creek some 30 miles north of Pioche. We have studied the EIS prepared by BLM for this pipeline project right of way, especially Chapter Four that discusses "Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitments of Resources" that includes 22 topics with water at the head of this list along with: air, geology, soil, vegetation, wildlife, aquatic biological, minerals, rangeland, horses, land uses, special designations, recreation, transportation, visual resources, cultural resources, native American values, socioeconomics, environmental justice, hazardous materials, and groundwater pumping. All these things are directly connected to the impacts of this project.

Significantly more attention must be paid to the cumulative impacts of this project, which has to be considered along with current projects such as the ONLine transmission line, and scores of likely-to-be-built renewable energy projects for solar, wind, biomass, geothermal as well as NV Energy's Renewable Transmission Initiative, and TransWest Express transmission line. If even part of these become reality, negative impacts will be dramatic and far reaching.

I support a statement by White Pine County Commissioner Laurie Carson that "our water is finite, we are the stewards of our resources". I would add that it is every person's privilege and obligation to take good care of these resources God has given us. People of Lincoln County have taken this responsibility seriously over these many years. We are the practicing environmentalists and should not be shoved aside because of the unknown future need of an urban area.

Long term draw down – for the past 47 years I have owned a 16 acre sub-irrigated pasture in the Panaca valley. When I first bought the field the ground was so wet we had difficulty using a tractor to harvest the hay. Then as sprinkler systems came into common use in the valley, the water table dropped as soon as the irrigation pumps were turned on in the spring, the pasture became so dry I had to haul water to my cows, then four months later, in the fall when the farmers had turned off the pumps the water table raises again. This is only a micro version of what will happen if this project removes water all year long from these basins. Only the water will be gone forever, never to return.

The impacts of this proposed project are unpredictable, unreliable, uncontrollable and unethical. I believe the Las Vegas Valley Water District/Southern Nevada Water Authority has designed this project under the mis-conception that they are too big to fail. That is the very reason that Director King should just say NO to these applications.