

September 19, 2011

Jason King, P.E.
State Engineer
Attention: Susan Joseph-Taylor
Chief Hearing Officer
901 S. Stewart St., Suite 2002
Carson City, NV 89701-5250

Dear Mr. King,

Southern Nevada's role in the state's overall economic picture cannot be overstated. The region generates more than 70 percent of the State of Nevada's gross domestic product, while tax revenues originating from businesses in Southern Nevada are shared by communities throughout the state. In the case of Southern Nevada's economic output and its relationship to the rest of the state, the aphorism "a rising tide lifts all boats" certainly applies.

However, the sluggish economy has left a profound imprint on Southern Nevada and as a consequence, all of Nevada. It is my belief that in order for Southern Nevada's economy to be rejuvenated through the addition of new jobs and investments by outside companies, the region must have access to adequate water supplies that are not at the whim of the ongoing drought.

Under current state water law, undeveloped groundwater resources are and can be transferred to where they are needed *most* – and where they will provide the greatest benefit. That is why these unused resources in eastern Nevada should be used to jump-start the moribund business climate in Clark County. When that happens, major employers and investors will once again look to the region as fertile territory for growth and prosperity.

If we are to rebound from our current fiscal challenges, Southern Nevada must have the ability to attract new businesses and preserve those who are weathering the economic maelstrom. But all of that will be at risk if we fail to allow the region to manage future droughts and provide for business growth.

Sincerely,



Brian Unguren