

September 30, 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,

I am writing to convey my support for the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) Groundwater Development Project and the associated water rights applications in Lincoln and White Pine counties.

Although our community has long been able to rely on the Colorado River as a dependable source of water, the severe and sustained drought and the record-setting low levels that Lake Mead has experienced, serve as an ominous warning that our water resources must be diversified. In order to maintain our water supply's reliability, there has to be a more balanced mix of Colorado River water and non-Colorado River water.

The fundamental concept of Nevada's water law is that the state's unused water belongs to all of the people of Nevada. Therefore, the unappropriated groundwater in our state should be utilized where it is needed most—and that is Southern Nevada. Additionally, Nevada water law simply would not allow the SNWA to develop this resource at the detriment of others. That fact, combined with the SNWA's long-standing record of environmental stewardship, guarantees that the SNWA will develop and utilize these resources in a responsible and equitable manner. Moreover, it is important to remember that the water generated from this project is not intended to replace the Colorado River as Southern Nevada's primary water source, but merely to supplement it.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable ruling be made on the SNWA's groundwater applications.

Sincerely,

  
Chyler Rapp