

Susan Joseph-Taylor,  
Chief Hearing Officer  
Office of the State Engineer  
901 South Stewart Street  
Suite 2002  
Carson City, Nevada 899701

November 18, 2011

Dear Ms. Susan Joseph-Taylor, Chief Hearing Officer:

I am expressing my opposition to Southern Nevada Water Authority plan to build a pipeline network across more than 300 miles of Eastern Nevada.

My opposition to the Southern Nevada Water pipeline project relates to three main issues:

- 1) Environment
- 2) Economic
- 3) Our Future

Quoting from a letter written to Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons and Utah Governor Jon Huntsman on March 18, 2009. Deacon, James E., PHD, Distinguished Emeritus Professor, UNLV Department of Environmental Studies and Biology, Las Vegas, NV. stated, "SNWA proposes to remove ~198,000 acre-feet per year from the groundwater aquifers of Southeastern Nevada and western Utah. The scientific consensus, based on a rich and diverse literature in groundwater hydrology developed over the past 50 years, demonstrates that the volume of water cannot be removed without substantially lowering the groundwater table. As the groundwater table drops, cost of pumping for present rural users will increase—resulting in diminished returns on investment"

Rebecca Mills, former superintendent of Great Basin National Park, and current Superintendent Andy Ferguson, have voiced concerns regarding the pipeline project. Mills said it could

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take decades for the effects of pumping to become apparent. If and when the monitoring reveals a significant impact, it would then be too late to mitigate the impact." Great Basin is the only national park wholly located in Nevada. The park was established IN 1986, to represent the entire Great Basin, 200,000-square-miles area without a single river or stream that reaches the ocean.

Having camped 2 years ago at Great Basin, the beauty, air quality and magnificence have never left me. I agree with Mills', it is impossible to quantify the value of this raw beauty and importance on the future of Nevada. How can we place a dollar value on a 5,000-year-old Bristlecone, Lehman Caves, 13,063ft Wheeler Mt. or a memory of a family camping trip?

This project will diminish livelihoods in 16 rural counties in Nevada, not to mention the vegetation and wildlife for the trade off of more golf courses, and an already approved 25-acre Splash Canyon water park, (which is suppose to employ ABOUT 500, SEASONAL workers).

The Southern Nevada Water Authority asserts that they have a very effective water conservation program; an overall per capita daily water use will decline from 264 gallons in 2006 to 245 in 2035. The 165/ gallon per day for a single-family residential use is unimpressive compared to 110-120 gallons per day achieved by other southwest desert American cities. The SNWA has encouraged a decrease in residential water usage and has rewarded us by increasing our monthly water bill, thus maintaining their revenue flow in conjunction with decreasing water consumption by cooperating citizens. The impressive list of financiers' and \$500/hr lawyers will also be passed onto Southern Nevada working families via our monthly water bill. The price tag for the pipeline is currently \$15 billion dollars, \$7.3 billion plus \$8 billion in interest. Who will be paying for that, and who is fooling whom?

A band-aid with unknown consequences will not fix our future. Other solutions might include indirect potable water reuse systems, purchasing water from nearby states,

desalination, or better yet a better water conservation program. Let's become leaders in an effective water conservation program for the southwest, not the most wasteful state.

We have a wonderful opportunity to be known as Nevada the trendsetter in America, the leader in conserving the most precious resource - water. I am strongly opposed to approving this major expenditure requested by the Southern Nevada Water Authority and its very damaging associated indebtedness.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Kantor MD  
Lynn M. Kantor  
2816 Vista Del Sol Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV. 89120

CC: Jason King, Nevada State Engineer