

5074 Mascaro Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89122
e-mail: stein525@hotmail.com
November 16, 2011

Susan Joseph-Taylor, Chief Hearing Officer
Office of the State Engineer
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 2002,
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Ms. Joseph-Taylor,

I have been a resident of Las Vegas since 2002. Prior to 2002, I was a resident (for nearly 30 years) of the eastern part of California. While residing in California, I spent considerable time hiking and backpacking in the area from Ridgecrest to Mammoth Lakes. During those years, I drove past Owens Lake many times.

My concern is that the same thing that happened to Owens Lake will befall Northern Nevada. Although assurances have been given that such concerns are unwarranted, I am fully aware of the law of unintended consequences. I am also aware that relentless pressure from the politicians and developers may overwhelm the best of intentions of responsible government officials and result in significantly more than planned amounts of water being sent south. That combined with the knowledge that Las Vegas consumes vast quantities of water for non-essential purposes (mostly decorative landscaping and water features) leads me to conclude that before the proposed project is undertaken, the people in Southern Nevada must dramatically decrease their use of water. Until that is done, I am opposed to any project that will move water from the northern counties to Las Vegas.

The Southern Nevada Water Authority has it right in their advertising: "It's a desert out there." Unless and until the people of Southern Nevada live within their means (at least as it applies to water), the proposed project should not be approved.

Thanks for your attention to my views.

Sincerely,



Gerald Stein, Esq.

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