

Indian Springs Civic Association
Post Office Box 1
Indian Springs, Nevada 89018



December 2, 2011

Jason King, Nevada State Engineer
901 S. Stewart St., Suite 2002
Carson City NV 89701

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DEC 02 2011

Dear Mr. King:

LAS VEGAS OFFICE

The SNWA applications in Spring, Cave, Dry Lake and Delamar Valleys should be denied because they are NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST for the following reasons:

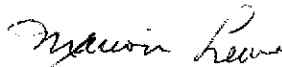
1. **Science:** The scientific evidence presented during the hearings show that the withdrawal of this amount of groundwater for export is not sustainable. It will change the very character of the land and the species it supports. The dust resulting from changing the character of the land will reach far to the east, carried by winds and affecting environmental and human health. We cannot afford this experiment that will disrupt the natural balance. No amount of monitoring, managing or mitigating will solve the problems created by lowering of the water table. There are no provisions in place to protect the future.
2. **Economics:** Las Vegas must develop ways of promoting smarter growth and water efficiency. This temporary infusion of water will not rebuild the devastated economy of southern Nevada. Rate-payers and tax-payers cannot afford the cost of the SNWA exportation project, conservatively estimated at 15 billion dollars. The projected rise in water rates will place a terrible burden on a population already hit hard by the economic downturn.
3. **Diversity:** Nevada needs economic diversity, and agriculture contributes to that needed diversity. This vast area also provides a different kind of tourism that attracts visitors to our state. Without water, both of these activities will be eliminated. And, to suggest that without this water southern Nevada will die is simply fear mongering. Water did not cause the economic problems, and will not cure them.

4. Conservation: The conservation effort in southern Nevada has shown some results, but the area is still far behind other western cities. In fact, SNWA is now reversing the turf program, allowing property owners to buy back their grass if they wish. Indoor conservation measures are woefully inadequate. And the exploration of alternative sources (other than mining groundwater) is non-existent.
5. Environment: People have the power to destroy the environment, as well as the power to protect it. We must be good stewards of Nevada's water, and therefore Nevada's future, and reject efforts to experiment with massive groundwater withdrawals in one area to temporarily benefit another. In addition, there are no stringent, binding environmental protections in the stipulated agreements that have been carried over from the previous hearings process. It is imperative that Great Basin National Park, national wildlife refuges, state wildlife areas, and state parks be protected now and into the future.
6. Need: SNWA has maintained that this project will not go forward for many years because there presently is not a need for the water. If the water is not needed, the water rights should not be granted.
7. Future: Granting the water rights will encumber the future of the area in the four valleys, and possibly down gradient basins as well. With no more water available, the valleys have no opportunity for future development.

WATER IS THE LIMITING RESOURCE FOR ALL LIVING THINGS IN A DESERT. It should be used wisely where it occurs.

It is in the public interest to deny all the SNWA applications that were the subject of the recent hearings.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Marion Lewis, President

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