

October 6, 2011

Susan Joseph-Taylor, Chief Hearing Officer
Nevada Division of Water Resources,
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 2002
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: SNWA Hearings on Water Exportation Plans from Rural Nevada

Dear Ms. Joseph-Taylor,

Hello. I am deeply opposed to the proposed plan by the SNWA to export water from rural areas in Northern Nevada. There isn't any scientific justification for this exploitation of natural resources from other areas that don't have the means to fight a large entity such as SNWA. SNWA should take care of its water needs closer to home. This is simply an inequitable use of vast sums of money to make up for poor resource planning and management in Southern Nevada.

The cost to the public commons in terms of environmental, economical and resource distribution degradation is enormous and in some cases, environmentally irreversible. The fact that SNWA is working to overrun existing protections to make this project happen only points out how misguided their efforts are.

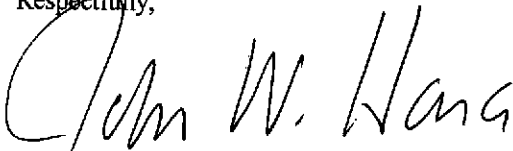
I'm not sure why our public representatives would waste the public taxpayers' dime to even entertain this exploitive tactic when there are other options available. The cost of this idea is already racking-up sums of money in small communities that can ill afford any loss of precious dollars or water.

SNWA should spend a fraction of the proposed billions of dollars on smart growth and resource planning instead of trying to steal what is not theirs. Las Vegas should become a community renown for water conservation and smart growth but instead, they set a low bar without making the proper decisions that would ensure a sustainable future. The sprawl that Las Vegas has become is not likely to end if they can continue to extend their tentacles to grab natural resources outside of their region whenever they're thirsty.

I lived at Mammoth Lakes and know from first hand experience how this same scenario has impacted communities and the environment in the Eastern Sierra. It's not pretty and the effects, after decades, are still negatively impacting the Owens Valley.

I often believe public hearings are a token gesture to open meeting laws and transparency. My cynicism is born out of years of experience watching the public commons take a back seat to vested interests and corporate pressure. I urge you to use these hearings as a means to truly make a decision based on what's best for the public. Odds are good that there will be overwhelming public testimony, scientific evidence and communities coming together to oppose this exploitive attempt by SNWA to steal resources that do not belong to them. There's wisdom there.

Respectfully,



John Hara
65 Woodchuck Ct.
Reno, NV 89519

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