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STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

Office of the State Engineer  
Attn: Susan Joseph-Taylor, Chief Hearing Officer  
901 So. Stewart St, #2002  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Ms Joseph-Taylor:

The Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) is advocating a water grab from Northern Nevada. It says the pipeline will cost \$3.2 billion dollars in spite of a reported price tag in excess of \$15 billion dollars per a study commissioned by SNWA. That report estimates a tripling of our water rates to cover these costs.

The SNWA is a "cooperative" agency formed by the various water districts servicing Southern Nevada charged with acquiring and managing water resources for Southern Nevada. It is unclear to me who keeps this agency of agencies in check. A 15 billion dollar price tag for a project required to maintain the status quo of growth which has been allowed to spiral out of control in an unsustainable manner is highly objectionable to me. Who is charged with promoting responsible water use? Who gave SNWA the authority to decide that we need to sustain growth and live such an irresponsible way?

We only need look to our neighbors to the west to understand the troubles that come with a water grab. The City of Los Angeles took water from rural eastern California and built their aqueduct in the early 1900's. That project, just as our proposed project will, took from rural areas and fueled explosive growth in a distant city beyond its natural capacity. The Owens River dried up, as did Owens Lake. Local agriculture disappeared and the rural economy was destroyed, all for the benefit of the excesses of LA.

One has to wonder if LA would have been better off if its growth was limited to a more natural and sustainable level. Do we really need to live in such a condensed environment? Is that un-natural congestion the underlying cause of the troubles faced in LA? Is that what we want for Las Vegas?

The mission of the Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR) is to conserve, protect, manage and enhance the State's water resources for Nevada's citizens through the appropriation and reallocation of the public waters. No one has the right to destroy our resources. The NDWR needs to step up and stop the SNWA in its tracks and protect the water resources and life-style not only of rural Nevadans, but for all Nevadans. Don't kid yourself; this pipeline will change the life of Southern Nevadans too. It will not maintain life as we know it, but rather will allow for continued irresponsible growth to the detriment of all Nevadans.

***As the SNWA's ads say – It's a desert out there.***

***We need to live responsibly.***

***I for one say we need to walk the talk.***

***Say no to the pipeline.***

