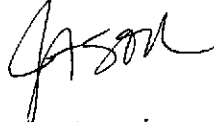


7870 Castle Pines Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89113
September 19, 2011

Jason King, P.E.
State Engineer
Division of Water Resources
State of Nevada
901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 2002
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Mr. King:


I am writing to you to voice my support for the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) Groundwater Development Project.

As a former chairman of the Colorado River Commission, I am well versed in Nevada's water issues and the environmental concerns this project raises. As your office weighs the arguments at hand, I urge you to carefully consider some of the following issues related to the Colorado River.

First, it is unrealistic to believe the drought-ridden Colorado River, which currently serves more than 25 million people, can continue to provide Southern Nevada with 90 percent of its drinking water in the future.

Next, the SNWA is not seeking to make groundwater Southern Nevada's primary water resource. Instead, in-state groundwater resources are intended only to provide Southern Nevada with a more balanced mix of Colorado River and non-Colorado River water than currently exists.

Finally, the SNWA has a longstanding history of sustainably managing resources, and Southern Nevada has been an exemplary steward of the water it consumes. By way of example, the SNWA's aggressive water-conservation campaign resulted in Southern Nevada decreasing its annual water consumption by nearly 32 billion gallons between 2002 and 2010, despite a population increase of 420,000 during that time span.

The SNWA's Groundwater Development Project is necessary to alleviate Southern Nevada's dependence on a water supply that can no longer sustain itself. For this reason, I urge you to approve the SNWA's groundwater rights applications so that the SNWA can diversify its water resources portfolio and protect Southern Nevada's future.

Sincerely,



Richard Bunker