

September 30, 2011

Jason King, P.E.
State Engineer
Attention: Susan Joseph-Taylor
Chief Hearing Officer
901 S. Stewart St., Suite 2002
Carson City, NV 89701-5250

Dear Mr. King,

I am writing to express my support for the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) plans to develop unused water resources in Spring, Dry Lake, Delamar and Cave Valleys. A diverse water supply is essential for Southern Nevada to continue rebuilding from the economic challenges facing the state. Without one, investors and tourists will lose confidence in the community.

I am mostly concerned with the negative economic impact it will create if the permit is not granted. The state has a responsibility to take a proactive approach to supplying water, and not just for Southern Nevada. The Las Vegas metro area is not only the largest consumer in the state, but it's the center of the state's economic engine. If the basic need of supplying water is not met, it would have a crippling ripple effect throughout the state. It ultimately would result in a loss of more jobs and revenue. Nobody can afford this loss.

Like many residents in rural Nevada, I believe in sustainability and the protection of the plants and animals. There is always an impact on the environment with any development project, not just groundwater projects. However, I am satisfied that SNWA has done extensive environmental impact studies and is prepared to implement a plan that will protect the desert lands.

Finally, Nevada water law will not allow one area of Nevada to develop water resources at the expense of another. I support the SNWA's project and urge the State Engineer to approve all of its applications in these valleys.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Ballard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rodney Ballard
Las Vegas Resident