

7714 Robindale Circle
Las Vegas, NV 89123
November 19, 2011

Susan Joseph-Taylor, Chief Hearing Officer
Office of the State Engineer
901 S. Stewart St., Suite 2002
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Ms. Joseph-Taylor,

Enclosed are my comments regarding the SNWA's plan to pipe water from four valleys in Lincoln and White Pine counties for use in Southern Nevada.

The capacity estimated for the aquifers represents water that was deposited over thousands of years. Furthermore, water recharge rates for the aquifers in these valleys have been calculated using data obtained in wet years, years representing a small wet cycle in a prolonged drought. Climate scientists predict even lower precipitation in the coming decades.

I attended one of the first public meetings in Las Vegas to learn more about the proposed pipeline and its environmental impacts. Information presented at this meeting made it clear that there is a considerable degree of uncertainty regarding the actual amount of sustainable water available. Given the history of poorly controlled growth in Southern Nevada there is a high probability that the aquifers will not recharge fast enough to keep the water table at its current level. As the water table drops, the Great Basin farmers lose their livelihood and the Great Basin plants and wildlife suffer extinction.

My family loves the Great Basin. We have made several summer trips there to camp and explore. We are sad and angry that the SNWA would so easily decide to destroy this natural treasure to continue unsustainable water use in Las Vegas.

I am strongly opposed to the plan to pipe water from the Great Basin to Las Vegas.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Hillyard

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STATE OF NEVADA
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STATE ENGINEER