

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,

As resident of Southern Nevada, I am writing this letter to urge you to approve the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) applications for unused water in Spring, Dry Lake, Delamar and Cave Valleys.

In Southern Nevada, drought – in concert with a weakened economy – has debilitated the local business community. Job loss attributable to the recession is exacerbated by the decade-long water shortage on the Colorado River, which supplies about 90 percent of Southern Nevada's water.

This over-reliance on a single source of water is unhealthy for any metropolitan area, let alone one in the middle of North America's driest desert. There's only so much water to go around, and as elevations at Lake Mead continue to plummet, the likelihood that revenue-generating employers will stay in the community is negligible.

At the same time, this shortage of our most critical resource may be preventing major corporations, investors, and other leading employers from relocating to Southern Nevada. Without a stable water resource, Southern Nevada finds itself at a disadvantage as it tries to recruit businesses to the community.

That is why the Southern Nevada Water Authority's proposed Groundwater Development Project must proceed. Not only will bringing unused water resources from sparsely-populated basins in eastern Nevada protect Southern Nevada from future effects of drought, it also will act as an insurance policy for businesses that, to this point, have cited water scarcity as a pretext for not moving to Clark County.

Development of these water resources makes sense both from a drought response and an economic development standpoint. The SNWA must be given a green light to move forward with this project to create a more sustainable community.

Sincerely,



Sheila Macias

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STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE