



Southern Nevada Building & Construction Trades Council

Affiliated with the Building & Construction Trades Department — AFL-CIO

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September 14, 2011

Mr. 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 write to you today as the President of the Southern Nevada Building and Construction Trades Council and as a life-long Las Vegas resident in support of the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) applications for unallocated groundwater.

The recession has been devastating to Nevada, and nowhere is this more apparent than within the state's most hard-hit industry—building and construction. Despite forecasts that Nevada's economy will experience slow growth through 2012, the construction industry remains lifeless. Over the last three years, construction employment is down nearly 67,000 jobs. It is estimated that construction, design and development workers account for roughly one in three unemployed Nevada jobseekers.

Construction projects, such the SNWA's Groundwater Development Project, are needed to put Nevada's construction and development workers back to work. Additionally, providing Southern Nevada with a reliable and dependable water supply will position the state for economic recovery by re-establishing Las Vegas as a viable place to live, work and play. Southern Nevada generates the largest portion of this state's tax revenue. It will only be able to provide this revenue in the future if it is able to attract and retain businesses, revive the construction industry and promise a stable and sustainable future for its residents.

The Southern Nevada Building and Construction Trades Council is relying on a favorable ruling on the SNWA's applications—not just for the recovery of our state's construction industry, but for benefit of the entire state.

Sincerely,

Rick Johnson
President