

THE PAIUTE INDIAN TRIBE OF UTAH

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STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

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

November 22, 2011

Dear Susan,

The cross basin transfer of water from the Eastern Nevada and Western Utah shared basin to the Las Vegas area would cause environmental damage more far reaching than just the basins where the water is to be depleted.

We recognize the devastating effect the transfer will have on those living within the basins the water could be drawn from and we support their effort to protect their future and the future of their children and grandchildren. There will be land subsidence, free flowing springs will dry up, plant and animal life currently associated with those springs will die a miserable death. The spirit of mother earth will be scarred forever.

We also recognize the danger associated with turning those basins into complete deserts with associated dust storms reaching far beyond the point of origin and the destruction of life that will occur if the precious source of life is taken.

By dropping water tables and reducing the amount of wetlands in the extraction area there will also be a decrease in evapo-transpiration from that area and the moisture that would normally enter the atmosphere as humidity would also be depleted. This would reduce the rainfall to thousands of square miles of already water short land lying in the atmospheric shadow or rain shadow to the east, the Paiute homeland.

The Paiute people have long been deprived of their birthright. Their land and water that was passed from many generations over thousands of years has been slowly taken from them. This attempt to take water once again will have a draining effect on Paiute water resources and must not be allowed to happen.

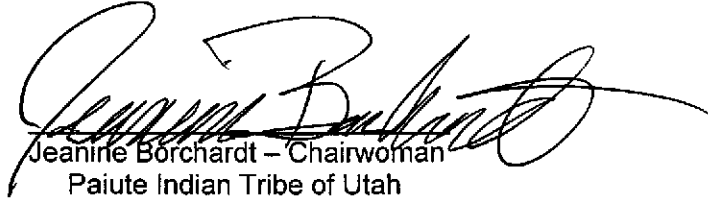
The Earth has established a natural balance for millions of years and the plants and animals living on the Earth have adapted to that balance. Trans-basin transfer of water is certain to upset and change that balance. The final results of such change cannot be fully analyzed or predicted, but certainly there will be change if the transfer takes place. The risk is far too great and the reward much too small to take that chance.

Allowing the destruction of an entire ecosystem just to facilitate the growth of a few more homes and businesses in one desert city is beyond reprehensible, in fact it borders on

criminal and must not happen. We urge you and those in your office with the power to stop this action and the continued waste of time, money, and effort to do the right thing and make the decision that the water must remain within the basin it is being pumped from. If you establish a precedent for trans basin water movement you will tread on very dangerous ground for future water deals.

You have the opportunity to do the right thing for the good of the earth, we hope you will consider the greater good here and deny the request for water to go out of the basin.

Respectfully,



Jeanine Borchardt - Chairwoman
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah

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