



September 29, 2011

Mr. Jason King, PE  
State Engineer  
Nevada Division of Water Resource  
901 S. Stewart Street  
Suite 2002  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

RE: SNWA Groundwater Development Project

Dear Mr. King,

As you know, tourism-related businesses make up the largest sector of Nevada's economy. In addition to being the state's largest employer, the hotel-casino industry is also the state's largest tax contributor. By every measure—jobs, tax revenue, capital investment, community involvement, etc.—the casino industry provides Nevada with a great deal of economic benefit.

Southern Nevada's economy is dependent on the hotel, gaming and convention industry and the viability of the economy in Clark County is dependent upon the volume of visitors to the region. A water shortage in Southern Nevada would have a devastating impact on the gaming and resorts industry and, as a result, the entire state's economy. This is why the Nevada Resort Association, which represents the gaming and resort industry, is contacting you to express our support for the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) Groundwater Development Project.

I attended the hearing held in Henderson last month on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project and heard many concerns expressed by those who attended. It is critically important that the impacts of the project are properly mitigated. Identifying the impacts and more importantly the mitigation measures is key requirement of an EIS under NEPA. We do not believe that other feasible alternatives are available and urge your support of the SNWA's groundwater application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia Bax-Valentine".

Virginia Bax-Valentine, PE 6755  
President  
Nevada Resort Association

STATE ENGINEERS OFFICE

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