



SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY

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March 17, 2016

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Dear Mr. King and Delamar, Dry Lake and Cave Valley Stipulation Executive Committee:

SUBJECT: DELAMAR, DRY LAKE AND CAVE VALLEY BIOLOGICAL MONITORING PLAN 2015 STATUS AND DATA SUMMARY

Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) hereby submits a summary of 2015 biological data collection efforts and the status of the *Biological Monitoring Plan for the Delamar, Dry Lake and Cave Valley Stipulation* (Plan) (BRT 2011). This summary satisfies the biological data reporting requirements of Nevada State Engineer (NSE) Rulings 6165-6167, which granted SNWA groundwater rights in the Delamar, Dry Lake, and Cave Valley Hydrographic Areas 180-182 (DDC) upon compliance with the Plan and any amendments to the Plan that the NSE requires pursuant to his authority under Nevada water law (NSE 2012a-c). This summary also satisfies the biological data reporting requirements of the 2008 DDC Stipulation for Withdrawal of Protests between SNWA and the U.S. Department of the Interior regarding SNWA groundwater applications 53987-53992 in DDC (Stipulation 2008 at Exhibit A).

The Plan identifies that a minimum of three years of baseline biological data will be collected prior to SNWA groundwater withdrawal from DDC (BRT 2011 at page 2-2). To meet Plan objectives, SNWA will initiate full biological monitoring at least three years prior to projected SNWA groundwater withdrawal from DDC.

The Plan integrates Nevada Department of Wildlife's (NDOW) regular and on-going monitoring of native fish populations, a program activity of the Nevada State's Native Aquatic Species Program (BRT 2011 at page 5-21). Current fish monitoring efforts include: 1) White River springfish (*Crenichthys baileyi baileyi*) at Ash Spring; 2) Hiko White River springfish (*Crenichthys baileyi grandis*) at Hiko and Crystal springs; 3) White River spinedace

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(*Lepidomeda albivallis*) at Flag Springs; 4) White River speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus* spp.) at Butterfield Spring; 5) Moorman White River springfish (*Crenichthys baileyi thermophilus*) at Moorman and Hot Creek springs; and 6) Pahrnagat roundtail chub (*Gila robusta jordani*) in the lower outflow channel of Ash Spring (Pahrnagat Ditch). To support Plan activities, and as a participant of the Pahrnagat Valley and White River Valley Native Fishes Recovery Implementation Teams (RIT), SNWA assists with these efforts. NDOW plans to continue routine fish sampling at these locations, which is often conducted on an annual or bi-annual basis (BRT 2011 at page 5-21). Survey reports are available through NDOW.

If you have any questions regarding this summary, please contact Nancy Beecher at (702) 822-3351.

Sincerely,



Zane L. Marshall
Director, Resources & Facilities

ZLM:NB:dg

cc: Rick Felling, Nevada Division of Water Resources
Adam Sullivan, Nevada Division of Water Resources

References

- BRT [Biologic Resources Team]. 2011. Biological monitoring plan for the Delamar, Dry Lake and Cave Valley Stipulation. January.
- NSE [Nevada State Engineer]. 2012a. Ruling #6165, In the matter of applications 53987 and 53988 filed to appropriate the underground waters of the Cave Valley Hydrographic Basin (180), Lincoln County, Nevada. March 22.
- NSE. 2012b. Ruling #6166, In the matter of applications 53989 and 53990 filed to appropriate the underground waters of the Dry Lake Valley Hydrographic Basin (181), Lincoln County, Nevada. March 22.
- NSE. 2012c. Ruling #6167, In the matter of applications 53991 and 53992 filed to appropriate the underground waters of the Delamar Valley Hydrographic Basin (182), Lincoln County, Nevada. March 22.
- Stipulation. 2008. Stipulation for Withdrawal of Protests: U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Southern Nevada Water Authority, 2008. Regarding SNWA groundwater applications (#53987-53992) in Delamar, Dry Lake, and Cave Valley hydrographic areas (#180-182). January 9.