

October 12, 2017

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

Dear Ms. Joseph-Taylor,

On behalf of my family, five of whom are Native Nevadans, and one, who while not a Native of our State, has spent his whole career and retirement dedicated to the conservation of natural resources and waterfowl/wildlife in Nevada, I am writing to you on the matter of the Southern Nevada Water Authority water rights application.

Our State is the most arid of the United States. Safeguarding and maintaining a healthy recharge of groundwater aquifers is vital to keep our State and resources healthy and supportive of the many flora and fauna that depend on this scarce commodity. From what we read, SNWA is not showing a confidence-building scenario that encourages one to put the trust of the citizens of Nevada into this proposal.

The fact that the Final EIS does not meet the stringent requirements for a project such as this and is being returned to the BLM sets off immediate warning bells. And it should signal the demise of the water rights application. Too much of this project is based on what the SNWA "says" and "will evaluate". The lands of Nevada are not a testing ground for water mismanagement. There is a fine line in Nevada between drought and adequate water. With climate change not only at our doorstep but in the living room, we cannot afford to play roulette with our aquifers.

Ranchers and communities that eke their living from the vastness of Nevada are for the most part conscientious guardians of the land and water. They know from experience how to use these resources so that they will continue for the next generations. SNWA has no stake in the land outside of their immediate domain for which they provide water. Perhaps it is time for southern Nevada to put the skids on growth and make do with what they have in their own vicinity instead of "robbing Peter to pay Paul". Southern Nevada is being progressive in certain areas dealing with water management and water waste, but more can and should be done. This project is meant to relieve SNWA's water concerns of Colorado River availability during drought years. Yet taking water from these beautiful valleys and areas of Nevada will impact all Nevadans, and impact the plants, birds and all forms of animal life and indeed impose a manmade drought on these valleys. How is southern Nevada more important than Spring, Cave, Dry Lake and Delmar Valleys??

As is stated, what we are addressing now is only Phase One. Please...do not allow this project to go forward and open door for more projects. As we speak, our federal government is undermining so many laws and protections that were put into place to protect our air and water and land. Please, let's show Washington D.C. that in our great State of Nevada we put our children first and all the Nevada generations to come and we protect our resources.

Thank you,

Luanne C. Hansen

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