

P.O. Box 150

Baker, NV 89311

October 13, 2017

To the State Engineer:

I am writing you to encourage you to apply the District Court's decision and Nevada's water law to SNWA's Groundwater Development Project (GDP), thereby denying SNWA's applications. I am opposed to SNWA's groundwater exportation project for so many reasons it is difficult to list them all, but I will try.

I live in Snake Valley. I have gone on Dean Baker's water tour, and I have seen the springs that have dried up simply as a result of his pumping water out of the ground to irrigate his fields. Once Dean saw what happened, he abandoned those fields, because there was simply not enough water to sustain the expansion of his fields. Given that this relatively small increase in pumping dried up surface springs, SNWA cannot say with any certainty that its plans will not adversely and catastrophically affect available water for domestic, agricultural, and wildlife use.

The adverse impacts [and there are no other kind in this situation] of the huge amount of water that SNWA proposes to export from our northern valleys cannot be predicted with any certainty, except that we know that once the water is pumped out and on its way south, it will not be replaced for thousands of years. It is gone.

No amount of mitigation can make up for dried -up vegetation, loss of livelihood, dead wildlife, dying ancient swamp cedars, dust filling our pristine air....the list of awful effects truly goes on and on. It is hubris on our parts to imagine that we can know in advance all that will occur when the water level is drawn down. The effects can be observed and can possibly be monitored, but they can't be managed and they certainly can't be mitigated. This project would be disastrous to our area, and I do not think our area could ever recover.

John McPhee wrote that in our area we are using water from the time of the dinosaurs—that's how slow the recharge rate is in the Great Basin, which is, of course, a desert with less than 10 inches of rain in a normal water year. Given such a slow recharge, SNWA's groundwater mining project will devastate our landscape and our environment. It negates the rights of senior water rights holders. It upends Nevada water law. SNWA's recent attempts to push legislation through the Nevada legislature was an inexcusable attempt at an end run to get what it wants no matter what the cost: "Hey, if it's illegal, let's just change the laws to make it legal." This

plan was morally bankrupt and does nothing to reassure me as to SNWA's ability to be a good, decent neighbor and a caring steward for our land.

To summarize, please look at the inability of SNWA to predict what the effects of its groundwater development project will be; how those effects cannot really be managed/monitored/mitigated with any certainty; how this plan is ruinous to our beautiful Great Basin landscape and way of life; how little rain falls to recharge our aquifer; how Nevada water law is upended and legal precedents are ignored in the implementation of this plan....

In short, please, do the right thing and apply the District Court's decision and Nevada water law, and deny SNWA's applications.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Wetmore". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Susan Wetmore

Baker, Nevada