



NEVADA
RESORT
ASSOCIATION

October 16, 2017

Jason King, Nevada State Engineer
Division of Water Resources
State of Nevada
901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 2002
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Mr. King,

On behalf of Nevada Resort Association, I am writing to express my support of the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) applications for unused groundwater in eastern Nevada.


Tourism-related businesses make up the largest sector of Nevada's economy accounting for 22 percent of the state's workforce. 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, taxes paid, capital investment, community involvement, etc.—the leisure and hospitality industry is far and wide the largest contributor to the quality of life Nevada offers, all while using less than one percent of the state's water allotment. 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.

For this reason, the Nevada Resort Association fully supports the SNWA's monitoring, management and mitigation (3M) plans, which include reasonable triggers for investigation and mitigation actions based upon review of observed data for groundwater levels or spring flow, rather than uncertain modeling projections.

Southern Nevada has one of the most comprehensive water conservation programs in the country, yet it needs a viable alternate source of water besides the Colorado River. The water resources associated with 3M plans will protect southern Nevada against the negative effects of future drought and climate change by ensuring that southern Nevada can continue to thrive. For these reasons our organization greatly supports the SNWA's groundwater applications and requests a favorable determination from the State Engineer's office.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 702-735-4888.

Sincerely,


Virginia Valentine
President

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