

October 18, 2017

Office of the State Engineer
901 S. Stewart St., Suite 2002
Carson City, NV. 89701

Attn: Susan Joseph-Taylor

Dear Ms. Joseph-Taylor:

Re: RE: Applications 53987-53992 and 54003-54021
SNWA Water Applications to Extract Water from Spring, Cave, Dry Lake, and Delamar valleys.

This is a second letter drawing on my many years of interest in and support for desert fish, springs in general, and as essential stopping points for big game, birds, sage grouse, for instance, and many plants which, in turn, host various insects and wildlife.

SNWA pumping and drawing down a water table or exhausting it cannot mitigate a lost spring. While sportsmen are placing guzzlers throughout the state, these guzzlers do not provide riparian habitat nor spring habitat for fish or invertebrates. Springs are repositories of ecosystems at least several thousand years old. A fish species placed in aquaria eventually evolves into another species. The context, the environment is lost, and eventually so will some of the criteria which defined that fish species. Riparian habitat for flowers, bees, dragonflies, etc., valuable in its own right also serves as food sources for other species.

Springs and streams have long been called "islands in the desert" because migrating birds have to fly over miles of desert to find them. Agriculture lowered and sometimes destroyed springs, but agricultural lands to some extent provided alternative water and food sources within a nearby location. With the SNWA applications, we are on the verge of losing that substitute as well since maintaining of agriculture use, is temporary with the goal of transferring the water to Las Vegas. In Las Vegas "efficiencies" will provide very little wildlife habitat and that habitat will be concentrated.

SNWA will also limit development in any of the locations where it has wells by opposing new users and also by forcing any current user to dig deeply for water, not once but probably more than once as SNWA deepens its own wells while promising to monitor and mitigate.

These water applications are on the forefront of destroying rural Nevada economies and its natural resources.

Please do not let this happen.

Sincerely,



Tina Nappe

RECEIVED
2017 OCT 19 AM 11:59
STATE ENGINEERS OFFICE