

October 13, 2017

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

Dear Mr. King,

I am writing to you from Baker, NV in White Pine County. My home is near the entrance to Great Basin National Park. I am an administrator at EskDale High School near Garrison, UT. A lack of water would destroy our communities and the schools, businesses, livelihoods within them. Many of us have chosen not to live in an urban environment and have opted to live in a place with clean air, clean water, open space and dark night skies. Please don't take this way of living from us. I want my son to be able to grow up and live in this healthy environment.

I plead with you to apply the District Court's decision and Nevada water law and deny SNWA's applications. SNWA has not demonstrated that it can effectively mitigate the widespread, destructive impacts that its proposed Groundwater Development Project pumping would cause to senior water rights and the environment.

SNWA said that the project's environmental impacts, and their monitoring and mitigation plan, have been fully evaluated and approved by the federal agencies in the EIS for their main pipeline right of way. But that isn't true, and SNWA is trying to mislead us all by claiming otherwise.

The feds have said they can't evaluate the actual impacts until SNWA does basin-specific modeling, and are counting on the State Engineer to fully consider the project's actual impacts as part of deciding how much water can be appropriated. Also, the Final EIS for this project has been overruled and sent back to the BLM for a failure to provide adequate mitigation measures.

SNWA's own evidence shows that pumping from the points of diversion in its actual applications to the State Engineer will result in massive groundwater mining, causing devastating long-term impacts to senior water rights holders and the environment in Spring Valley.

I believe Las Vegas can do a better job of conserving their own water and limiting the growth of industries which utilize the unnecessary use of water for things like golf courses and water fountains in the middle of the desert.

I beg of you to do the right thing and save our communities.

I thank you for your consideration,

Nomi Sheppard
Dr. Nomi Sheppard
Baker, NV
White Pine County

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