

James and Donna Bath
570 First Street
Ely, Nevada 89301

October 12, 2017

Office of the State Engineer
ATT: Susan Joseph-Taylor
901 S. Stewart Street Suite 2002
Carson City, Nevada 89701

MS. Joseph-Taylor:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the State Engineer Hearings on SNWA's Water Right Applications. We are both 3rd generation White Pine County residents, our children and grandchildren have chosen to make White Pine County their home as well, so our family has a five generation investment and concern in what happens to this county and the landscape that we love and take care of.

White Pine County and most of Eastern Nevada has limited resources mostly because of the limited amount of water available in the high desert. Our landscape is very fragile and great care has to be taken to not overgraze or change the water table due to overuse of water such as pumping. The landscape reacts to these negative changes by introducing and being taken over by less than desirable vegetation such as cheat grass and other noxious weeds. We have seen firsthand the negative effect of over pumping in our neighboring counties and the possibility of willingly and knowingly allowing this to happen in White Pine County is simply criminal.

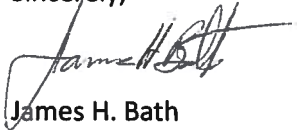
According to testimony presented by staff of USGS, the exact relationship between the alluvial aquifer and the carbonite in this area it is not yet fully understood. However it has been shown that over pumping the carbonite aquifer not only affects the valley that you are pumping out of but also has a direct affect on other valleys in close proximity.

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It is our hope that your office will look at this from a scientific and ecological view point and ignore the political clout and pressure of SNWA. By the time the monitoring data is analyzed, the severe damage will already be done. With the limited precipitation in the areas targeted by SNWA, it is ridiculous to even think that the affected areas will be able to repair the damage once it is documented.

It is additionally our hope that your office will work with SNWA and force them look for a long term solution that would sustain the rate of growth that Las Vegas desires without with a "water grab" that would destroy the smaller, less political areas of the State of Nevada.

Sincerely,



James H. Bath

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775-296-0282

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