



October 12, 2017

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

RE: Southern Nevada Water Authority water rights applications

Dear Ms. Joseph-Taylor;

Trout Unlimited appreciates your consideration of impacts to all Nevadans and wildlife, in support of protecting our water resources.

As you know, Nevada is the driest state in the nation, meaning that annual precipitation is very low and cannot be expected to replenish vast quantities of ground water extraction without net loss.

Pumping valleys dry and moving groundwater to another watershed is a consumptive use that has irreparable effects. Water is the lifeblood for ecological systems and when taken away, the consequences are immense. Affected people's lands will hold no value and wildlife will die off without a viable groundwater component.

If the State chooses this action, compensation to all Americans for loss of fish and wildlife on affected federal lands and loss of value for private holdings must be accounted for. It is unclear how compensation can be assigned a monetary figure for future damages for such an irrevocable act.

We urge you to deny this application because of the severe impacts it will cause if implemented.

Sincerely,

Pam Harrington
Northern Nevada Field Coordinator
Trout Unlimited

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