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Office of the State Engineer  
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To Whom It May Concern:

I grew up in Baker, in the Snake Valley of eastern Nevada. I still own property there and hope to one day come back. But if SNWA gets its way, there won't be much to come back to.

The area where my property is located already struggles to get access to water. Many of the neighboring properties have to get surface water from the nearby streams. The few that have tried to go the well route have struggled to find water, often either having to dig multiple wells or trucking in water. I can't imagine how much more difficult this will be if the groundwater systems are tapped on a large-scale basis by SNWA.

The ecosystem is so fragile already. Having seen the damage that years of drought took on this area when I was growing up, I can't imagine the permanent damage that would be caused by tapping into the groundwater. There is not enough precipitation to recharge the groundwater reserves.

Water rights in the western states, where water truly is life, have always been a contentious topic. The senior water rights need to be protected and that should be the State Engineer's top priority. Giving SNWA permission to tap these water resources is not inline with that viewpoint.

I question the supposition of SNWA that the underground water sources can recharge given the volume of water that SNWA wants to pipe to Las Vegas.

I love where I grew up and I want it to be preserved. It is such a unique area, both biologically, as evidenced by the National Park declaration of Great Basin, and historically with the National Heritage area. I am heartbroken to think that SNWA and the piping of water to Las Vegas will destroy this.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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