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STATE ENGINEERS OFFICE

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August 8, 2006

Mr. Tracy Taylor
State of Nevada Division of Water Resources
Office of the State Engineer
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 2002
Carson City, NV 89701

State	'S EXHIBIT 59
DATE:	9-11-06

Dear Mr. Taylor:

RE: In support of the Petition for Declaratory Order to Re-Notice
Southern Nevada Water Authority's 16 Year Old
Groundwater Applications

I am writing as a concerned citizen of White Pine County (WPC) and the great state of Nevada. My primary residence is located in Ely and I also own property in the town of Baker, located in the Snake Valley. Since I did not become a permanent resident until 2003, I was not able to enter an official protest 16 years ago. Please consider this letter my protest against Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) groundwater applications in the Spring and Snake Valleys.

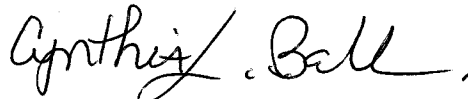
After having seen the devastation to parts of California from the Los Angeles Water Authority's water withdrawal/transport system, I am most concerned about what could happen to WPC should SNWA withdraw/transport water via the proposed pumping & pipeline connected to these groundwater applications. I have attended the public SNWA info sessions, monthly WPC Water Advisory Committee meetings since their inception and public U.S.G.S. BARCASS meetings, besides speaking with several scientists from the Desert Research Institute. And, I'm still not convinced that it is safe for SNWA to pump water from beautiful WPC to remedy potential water shortages in Las Vegas and Clark County. None of the scientists I've spoken with or listened to at public meetings will commit—the research has not been completed; the facts are not in; the impacts and results of such pumping too unknown at this time to begin such a project. Desalination should be instituted immediately, instead of being proposed as a "way-up-the-road", after WPC has been drained, future project.

WPC is growing leaps and bounds and will need its water to maintain its own integrity.

The delicate balance that exists today in both Spring and Snake Valleys allows for a good quality of life for flora and fauna (mankind included); Nevada needs its rural places as well as its booming metropolis. Tourists from many places, near and far, visit not only the mega-fun casinos in the city; they also travel Hwy. 50 and visit Great Basin National Park, Lehman Caves and the Ward Charcoal Ovens. In my volunteer work at the WPC Library in downtown Ely, I encounter folks from all over the world and am always impressed by their amazement and delight at all the GREEN in WPC. Not to forget the hard-working ranchers and farmers in both Spring & Snake Valleys, who represent the heart and soul of Nevada and need their water to continue their livelihoods. Their seasonal water use has maintained a good balance and kept WPC the desirable place it is.

Thank you for your consideration in this most important matter. I know you will study and examine all contingencies before making your decision, which will so affect the future of the entire state of Nevada and the Great Basin desert in which we all live.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia L. Bell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Cynthia L. Bell