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STATE ENGINEERS OFFICE

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 60
DATE:	9-11-06

Dear Tracy:

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

I am very concerned about Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) groundwater applications in White Pine County (WPC), because not enough is known about the effects of a "long range sustainable pumping project" and the irreparable damage to the ecosystems that will be the consequence from such a massive depletion of the aquifers, both surface and carbonate. The recharge will not happen, because the water will leave the basin, creating a tipping point, where the balance/equilibrium will be lost. The flora and fauna will suffer and die off.

SNWA looks at WPC water resources as if they were like Lake Mead and the Colorado River. It is a completely different "animal." Ours is not a lake; rather it is part of the Colorado flow system, in U.S.G.S. terms. All federal agencies seem to say the same thing: NO to the pumping project. All federal agencies warn of dire consequences; to deplete Spring and Snake Valley aquifers of such huge quantities will negatively impact all other basins, since U.S.G.S. experts have given testimony that all are interconnected vertically and horizontally—east/west, north/south flows.

Nevada water law was not intended to sacrifice one area of the state for the benefit of another (inter-basin transfer), but that is exactly what will happen.

Nevada water law needs to be revised to protect the state from itself. WPC water should be kept in reserve, to be used only as a last resort, not the first resort (e.g. U.S. strategic oil reserves.) SNWA should consider a desalination program NOW, get serious about conservation and buy water rights closer to home. WPC needs its water for its future growth and development. If the water is not here, our children and grandchildren will be very upset with you, especially since the SNWA project is just a band-aid, not a cure-all. SNWA needs to stop now before they end up ruining our entire state. If SNWA were serious about conserving water, they would set a limit on usage at 100 gallons per person per day, period, end of story! Multiply the population of Southern Nevada times 100 gallons per person per day and see the total figures; it's an eye-opener for sure.

I know this works because my wife and I lived on 10 acres in Northern California, 1-1/2 miles in from the ocean. Our source of water was a small spring dug from the hillside and gravity flowed from a steep canyon to a 330 gallon stock tank, then pressure pumped through a pressure tank 600 feet back up to our house. For 25 years we checked the spring often and never took our water supply for granted. It never "dried-up" because we treated it with respect, since our very lives depended upon it. Nearby wells went dry each summer and had to have artificial recharge by tanker trucks. This, despite the fact, that the coast had 50"-100" of rain & fog precipitation annually.

People need to be educated about how precious water resources are today. I have tried to do my part in serving WPC as an assistant well water level monitor to Mr. Bill Butts, in helping to establish a baseline (proof) of approximately 100 wells in various valleys in WPC, to have in case litigation should ever be necessary in the future. This data is all certified by the 2006 U.S.G.S. I also am an active member, at large, of the WPC water advisory committee and sit on the WPC/SNWA ad hoc "talking" committee.

I strongly urge you and your department to base your decision on the evidence and expert testimony of witnesses who live with the resource in complete harmony, year in and year out, within the basins of origin. Theory is not good enough. Let common sense guide you. Thank you for your consideration and good luck and best wishes as our new state engineer. I know you will be decent and fair.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward John Bell III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "E" and "B".