



***WHITE PINE COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES PLAN***

***WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION
WHITE PINE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
WHITE PINE COUNTY WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

AUGUST, 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Resolution, White Pine County Commission

Resolution, White Pine County Regional Planning Commission

CHAPTER 1: Overview Goals, Guidelines

1

Introduction

Statement of Purpose

Goals and Objectives

Institutional Framework

Development Process

1999 Water Resources Plan

2006 Water Resources Plan

Relationship to Other Plans

State Water Plan

Other Resource Management Plans, Planning Documents

CHAPTER 2: White Pine County Economic Trends, Projections And Water Use

8

Introduction

Economic History

Historic Water Demand

Current Economic Conditions

Mining, Industrial Activity

Agriculture

Tourism, Travel, Retirement and Leisure

Employment Patterns

Population

Current Water Demand and Commitments

On-Going Economic Development and Population Growth, 2006-2056

Potential Economic Development, 2006-2056

Primary Basins

Steptoe Valley

Spring Valley

Snake Valley

Butte Valley

White River Valley

Secondary Basins

CHAPTER 3: Water Resources Issues, Goals and Objectives

Issues

Physical Environment/Geological Setting

Climate

Legal and Regulatory Framework

Available Data

Planning Context

Economic Development Trends, Strategies, White Pine County

Factors Outside White Pine County

Goals and Objectives

Objectives and Strategies

Policies

Water Quality, Public Health and Safety

Conservation and Reuse

Drought Conditions

Water Supply and Allocation

Designated Basins

Inter-Basin Transfers

Monitoring and Mitigation

Administrative Structures

Recommendations

Evaluation and Implementation

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Statutory and Regulatory Framework

Attachment 2: 2006 Demographic Profile, Detailed Review of Socio-Economic Trends, Projections

Attachment 3: Water Resource Assessment

Attachment 4: Monitoring Protocol and Mitigation Procedures

Attachment 5: 2006 Water Resource Action Plan

Attachment 6: Water Resources Bibliography

Attachment 7: Glossary of Common Water Resources Terms

TABLE OF FIGURES

Table 1	<i>Guiding Principles for the Development of the White Pine County Water Resources Plan</i>	Page 2
Table 2	<i>1999 Nevada State Water Resources Plan Recommendations</i>	Page 6
Table 3	<i>Historic Water Demand, White Pine County</i>	Page 10
Table 3-2	<i>Surface Water Commitments</i>	Page 15
Table 3-3	<i>Groundwater Commitments</i>	Page 16
Table 4	<i>Estimated Current Water Demand</i>	Page 17
Table 5	<i>Estimated Current Water Commitments, Underground And Surface Water, White Pine County 2005</i>	Page 18
Table 6	<i>Potential Employment, Population, Water Demand</i>	Page 21-22
Table 7	<i>Long Term Potential Beneficial Use of Water in White Pine County</i>	Page 35

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2006 WHITE PINE COUNTY WATER RESOURCES PLAN

The 2006 White Pine County Water Resources Plan has been prepared to guide the development, management, and use of water resources within the County during the next fifty years. Decision makers in White Pine County can use the information in the Plan to achieve the goals of: 1) maintaining and improving environmental quality in White Pine County and 2) maintaining and improving quality of life for the residents of White Pine County. The 2006 White Pine County Water Resources Plan identifies the goals and objectives and the institutional framework for the planning process, the guiding principles, and the Water Resources Plan's relationship to other planning documents. The plan details the County's economic history; current conditions and water use; on-going development and water use based on projects underway, in development, or under discussion; and potential future economic development. The Plan concludes with a discussion of the issues, goals and objectives, policies, and strategies for management of water resources. The Attachments to the Water Resources Plan provide additional detail on the statutory and regulatory setting, basic hydrographic information, an annotated bibliography on related topics, and the workbook for the GIS database. In addition, the Attachments provide an annually updated demographic profile, an annual evaluation of the progress made in accomplishing the County's water resource goals, and the White Pine County Water Resources Annual Action Plan to implement the Plan's recommendations.

The 2006 Water Resource Plan has been developed in a manner consistent with Nevada State water law and with the assistance and guidance of the state's Water Resource Planning Section.

The Plan envisions growth in the next five to ten years in traditional economic sectors including mining, agriculture, and tourism (which is based largely on outdoor recreational opportunities in the County). In addition it projects growth due to development of the White Pine Energy Station proposed by LS Power, the Ely Energy Center proposed by Sierra Pacific Power, proposed wind energy projects, residential growth including second and retirement homes, new facilities to accommodate increased tourist and business travel, growth of new small industrial firms locating in the area due to the quality of life, and industrial growth due to reinstatement of rail freight service. The Plan projects potential economic development over the next fifty years in agriculture, mining and oil exploration and production, residential development, tourism, and industrial development based on the location, known resources, climate and soil conditions, existing land uses, and transportation and transmission corridors. The Plan identifies Steptoe, Spring, Snake, Butte, and White River Valleys as the primary basins for development in the County. Newark, Railroad, Long, Jakes, Tippet, and Pleasant Valleys support agriculture as well as some mining and oil exploration activity and have been identified as secondary basins. Small portions of Huntington, Ruby, Antelope, Deep Creek, Hamlin, Cave, Lake, and Little Smokey Valleys are located in White Pine County but their economic development and water use are tied to development in neighboring Counties. Steptoe Valley currently houses the primary municipal, commercial, and industrial sectors for the County plus historical use for agriculture, wildlife, and tourism. The development potential in Steptoe Valley may exceed its available water resources and the County has identified the need to consider future intra-county, inter-basin transfers of water to accommodate its potential for growth.

The County has identified the need to integrate its planning efforts including water resources, land use, economic development and community development. It identifies a critical concern that potential exportation of water to southern Nevada through the Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine County Groundwater Development project proposed by Southern Nevada Water Authority as well as the emergence of private water purveyors who view water as a commodity to be delivered to distant urban markets may conflict with the County's ability to accomplish its goals of maintaining and improving the area's environmental quality and quality of life for White Pine County residents. The need to respond to internal development pressures as well as those from outside the County prompted the plan's focus on an active approach to understanding and managing its water resources for White Pine's future generations. The Plan outlines strategies for conservation, importation and exportation of water resources, water quality, drought protection, monitoring and mitigation, and administrative structures.

The Water Resources Plan is not a static document. It is meant to be used, evaluated, and revised. The Plan calls for annual review of the progress toward accomplishing the goals and objectives; revision of the Plan's recommendations; and establishment of an annual Action Plan. Each annual evaluation and annual work plan will be included as part of Attachment 5. The Plan will be completely revised at least once every five years to incorporate the annual changes in conditions, projections, and recommendations.

The 2006 Water Resources Plan has been developed through the efforts of the White Pine County Water Advisory Committee and reviewed in open public meetings from mid-2005 through mid 2006. The largely volunteer effort has been supplemented by a grant funded through the Nevada State Water Rights Technical Assistance Fund which allowed the County to employ Lumos & Associates to provide the technical information and assistance needed for the socio-economic and hydrology portions of the plan. The Committee also relied on the assistance of Kurt Suchsland from the Nevada State Division of Water Resources, Water Planning Section, as well as Alan Welch and Jon Wilson from USGS and its BARCASS project to assist with review of the 1999 Water Resources Plan and collection and evaluation of the data for the 2006 plan.

The Water Advisory Committee presented its preliminary recommendations to the County Commission at its meeting on June 28. The full Draft Plan was reviewed at the Water Advisory Committee meetings on July 20 and public comments were reviewed on August 22. The Draft Plan was made available for public review and sent to the Division of Water Resources, Water Planning Section for review and comment. It was reviewed in public meetings by the County Commission on July 26, Regional Planning Commission on August 2, Public Land Users Advisory Council on August 8, Ely City Council on August 10, and a Water Advisory Committee sponsored public workshop on August 16. Public hearings were held on August 21 by the Regional Planning Commission and on August 23 by the White Pine County Commission. and both Boards approved resolutions adopting the 2006 Water Resources Plan as part of the County's Comprehensive Master Plan on August 21, by the Regional Planning Commission and August 23 by the County Commission.

John A. Chachas, *Commissioner*
Brent Eldridge, *Commissioner*
David Pound, *Commissioner*
Gary Perea, *Commissioner*
Raymond Urrizaga, *Commissioner*
Donna M. Bath, *Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board*

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White Pine County
Board of County Commissioners

RESOLUTION 2006- 16

ADOPTING THE 2006 WHITE PINE COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES PLAN ELEMENT TO THE
WHITE PINE COUNTY MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, N.R.S. 278.150 to 278.210, inclusive, requires the White Pine County Commission to prepare, conduct hearings on, and adopt a Comprehensive plan for the physical development and orderly management of the growth of the County⁷ and

WHEREAS, the White Pine County Commission, on the 23rd day of August, 2006, in cooperation with the White Pine County Regional Planning Commission and Water Advisory Committee and after conduct of two years of public meetings and hearings has now completed its deliberations on the water resources element; and

WHEREAS, the White Pine County Commission believes that the White Pine County Water Resources Plan as contained in document and map form is properly drafted to represent the long term interests of the residents of White Pine County; and

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2006, the Regional Planning Commission voted to adopt the White Pine County Water Resources Plan as an element to the County's master plan by an affirmative majority of its members; and on August 23, the White Pine County Commission voted to adopt the White Pine County Water Resources Plan as an element to the County's master plan by an affirmative majority of its members; and

WHEREAS, the White Pine County Commission finds, pursuant to N.R.S. 278-020, that the White Pine County Land Use Plan promotes the health, safety, and general welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, the maps, findings, and policies contained within the water resources plans are severable and if any portion thereof is found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the Commission finds that the remaining elements and policies are intended to survive and remain in effect;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the White Pine County Commission does hereby find that the White Pine County Water Resource Plan is in conformance with N.R.S, 278-150 to N.R.S. 278.210, inclusive, and the same shall be, and hereby is, adopted.

Adopted this 23 day of August 2006.

VOTE: AYES: Brent Ewing
David Paul
Phil Chachas

NAYES Ø

ABSENT Kenneth Heinbaugh

Brent Ewing 8-23-06
Chairman, Regional Planning Commission Date
wp00

ATTEST:

Donna M. Bath
Clerk of Said Board, Date

RESOLUTION 2006- /

ADOPTING THE 2006 WHITE PINE COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES PLAN ELEMENT TO THE
WHITE PINE COUNTY MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, N.R.S. 278.150 to 278.210, inclusive, requires the Regional Planning Commission to prepare, conduct hearings on, and adopt a Comprehensive plan for the physical development and orderly management of the growth of the County' and

WHEREAS, the Regional Planning Commission, on the 21st day of August, 2006, In cooperation with the White Pine County Water Advisory Committee and after conduct of two years of public meetings and hearings has now completed its deliberations on the water resources element; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Planning Commission believes that the White Pine County Water Resources Plan as contained in document and map form is property drafted to represent the long term interests of the residents of White Pine County; and

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2006, the Regional Planning Commission voted to adopt the White Pine County Water Resources Plan as an element to the County's master plan by an affirmative majority of its members; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Planning Commission finds, pursuant to N.R.S. 278-020, that the White Pine County Land Use Plan promotes the health, safety, and general welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, the maps, findings, and policies contained within the water resources plans are severable and if any portion thereof is found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the Commission finds that the remaining elements and policies are intended to survive and remain in effect;

WHITE PINE COUNTY
WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

VOTING MEMBERS

William Butts
Domestic Well Owner

Robin Bell
Member at Large

Doug Carson
Lund/Preston Irrigation

Jo Anne Garrett
Baker Area

Norris Hendrix
Public Water System Operator

Rod McKenzie
Lund/Preston Irrigation Company

Don Phillips
Steptoe Valley Irrigation

Genevieve Fields
Goshute Tribe

Gary Lane
Member at Large

Sally McLeod
Mining

Dean Baker
Snake Valley Irrigation

Steve Campbell Alternate
McGill/Ruth
General Improvement District

Dave Baker
Public Land Use Advisory Committee

Pete Haraden
USDA Forest Service

Ron Mills
Steptoe Valley Wildlife
Management Area

Dan Netcher Bureau of Land
Management

Bridgette Nielson
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Tracy Taylor
Nevada State Water Engineer

Timothy Stack
Natural Resource
Conservation Service

Allen Welch
Associate District, USGS

Gary Perea
County Commission

Kevin Robinson
Mt. Wheeler Power

NON-VOTING MEMBERS