

Susan Joseph-Taylor  
Chief Hearing Officer  
Office of the State Engineer  
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 2002  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

November 29, 2011

Dear Ms. Joseph-Taylor,

I'm writing to express my concern that the Southern Nevada Water Authority may be granted their applications to pipe water from Lincoln and White Pine counties as well as a small corner of Elko County. I've read the environmental impact report and have discussed the 30-year climatic model on which it is based with the consultants and am very concerned that the project is not environmentally sound. Although the consultants appear to be well-qualified and the report is well-written, the model is based only on the last 30 years while the potential impacts could last considerably longer.

Here are my concerns: 1) thirty years is just too short a time to model future climatic change, especially when that future is expected to get warmer due to global warming effects; 2) the Great Basin is located at the edge of both La Nina and El Nino climatic effects and so predicting water recharge rates is very difficult at best; and 3) drawing down the water table will severely impact the native animal and plant communities as well as the ranchers who live there.

I am a fifth generation Nevadan. My ancestors settled the Wadsworth area when it was a booming railroad town in the mid-1800's. At that time, Lake Winnemucca supported a viable commercial fishery but by the turn of the century, the lake dried up and has not had water in it since then. Do we know why or how that happened and could we have even predicted it, knowing what we know now but based on only 30 years of earlier data? I think not.

I urge you to deny this application to transfer water between basins. It is environmentally unsound and will likely draw down the water table with severe and lasting impacts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cathy Fulkerson  
943 Bronco Drive  
Spring Creek, NV 89815

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