

THE VISTA GROUP



December 5, 2011

Jason King, P.E.
State Engineer
Attention: Susan Joseph-Taylor
Chief Hearing Officer
901 S. Stewart St., Suite 2002
Carson City, NV 89701-5250

Dear Mr. King,

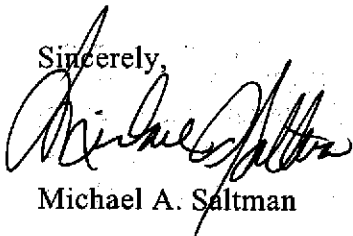
As a Southern Nevada resident, I am writing in full support of the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) Groundwater Development Project and the associated applications for unused water resources in Spring, Dry Lake, Delamar and Cave Valleys.

Southern Nevada has relied upon the Colorado River as its main water supply for more than 30 years. Shared by seven western states, the Colorado River is fully allocated. Moreover, of the lower basin states, Nevada receives the smallest portion of that allocation. This small apportionment, combined with severe and sustained drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin, means that Southern Nevada can no longer rely upon the Colorado River as its only significant water source.

As drought conditions continue to impact Colorado River snow pack and water flows, it is imperative that local water managers diversify the community's water resource options. Having a diverse selection of available water supplies will provide greater protection from future drought, and unkmown implications from expected climate variation. The project will allow current and future resources to be more responsibly managed.

It is in the public interest that these applications are approved and that the water be developed. Our state's unused groundwater, regardless of where it is, should be used where it is needed most-in Southern Nevada. For these and many other reasons, I encourage you to approve the SNWA's applications for water. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to submit comments on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Saltman

STATE ENGINEER
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