

Shari L. Buck
Mayor



REC'D - BLM - NSO
9:00 OCT 11 2011
A.M.

Your Community of Choice

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September 7, 2011

Penny Woods, BLM Project Manager
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520

Dear Ms. Woods:

As chairwoman of the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) Board of Directors, I am writing this letter to express my support the Bureau of Land Management's proposed action as the preferred alternative for the SNWA's Clark, Lincoln and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project.

I have served on the SNWA Board of Directors since 1999 and since during time, I have seen firsthand the considerable water resource challenges facing Southern Nevada. Beginning in 2000, the Colorado River system began experiencing some of the lowest inflows since the river's recorded history, which if not addressed, would spell out significant consequences for the river's users. As a governing board, we reacted quickly. We worked with staff to implement one of the most aggressive conservation programs in the nation that inspired residents and businesses alike to reduce use. Even during the boom of our community experienced in the mid-2000s, we continued to consume less water despite the addition of hundreds of thousands of residents and millions of visitors.

As the river continues to experience highly variable inflows, the SNWA's board refuses to sit idly by while we "weather the storm." Beyond conservation, we are working closely with the seven other Colorado River users to execute agreements that protect the all users. The Lower Colorado River Basin's Shortage Sharing agreement – just one example of such agreements – will protect Lake Mead's critical elevations in the event drought further reduces the basin. This agreement is intended to protect Southern Nevada's users – if Lake Mead levels fall critically low, our community loses access to a water supply that we are 90 percent dependent.

It is imperative that the necessary rights-of-way be granted to the SNWA. Their approval is a key factor in guaranteeing a diverse water resource portfolio for Southern Nevada, and a step towards rebuilding Southern Nevada's prosperity for our community, our residents, our visitors and our great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shari Buck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shari L. Buck
Mayor