Stewart-Nevada Enterprises

P.O. Box 777400, Henderson, NV 89077

August 31, 2011

RECD - BLM - NSO
9:00 A.M. OCT 11 2011

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

Dear Ms. Woods,

As a fourth-generation Nevadan, I appreciate the importance of a reliable water supply and support the Southern Nevada Water Authority and its plans to develop unused water resources in Spring Valley.

My great-grandfather settled Alamo in 1901. My father and uncles homesteaded 2,000 acres near Hiko following World War II. Today, my family ranches and farms at Crystal Springs and has more than 600 acres of alfalfa, corn and other crops in production at Hiko. I have worked with the State Engineer's office for more than 30 years relative to my family's groundwater rights.

Additionally, as an engineer and developer, and as a committee member on multiple water-related committees in Southern Nevada, I have an understanding of hydrology and water-related disciplines. I also understand the issues surrounding SNWA's groundwater applications and Nevada Water Law.

The SNWA's plans have many facets – including renewing economic development and insulating Southern Nevada from the ongoing effects of drought on the Colorado River. While these factors can be addressed individually, they are in fact interconnected.

During the most recent legislative session, our state officials found themselves making significant sacrifices made necessary by drastically reduced budgets impacted by the severe recession in Southern Nevada. With most of the state's fiscal fortunes tied to the condition of Southern Nevada's economic health, legislators had little choice but to find creative ways of developing alternative revenue streams.

Likewise, the Southern Nevada Water Authority – which for years has implemented myriad conservation programs and other innovative methods of dealing with the decade-long drought – is seeking alternative sources of water to complement Lake Mead. Without access to the unused groundwater in eastern Nevada, the SNWA's job will be made even more

difficult. At the same time, Southern Nevada's economy will remain stagnant without this resource and the jobs and tax revenues it creates.

Coming from a rural background, I know the lifestyle in the rural counties. As much as I want to see Nevada's economy thrive, this prosperity cannot come at the expense of traditional rural lifestyles. I believe that both lifestyles—that of the dynamic metropolitan areas and that of the traditional rural areas—can and must co-exist. Through determined cooperation between all stakeholders and involved parties, this objective can be met. The answer is not all or nothing; the answer is working together in a spirit of cooperation that respects and benefits all Nevadans. I believe that the Southern Nevada Water Authority can and will develop their existing groundwater rights in a way that will benefit all Nevadans, and I have confidence in your office's ability to ensure those water rights are responsibly managed.

Approval of a dependable water supply for Southern Nevada is an immense responsibility. When considering the SNWA's project, be sure to keep in mind the businesses and citizens who call Clark County home and the considerable fiscal support they provide for the entire Silver State.

Sincerely,

Dan H. Stewart
Stewart-Nevada Enterprises