

## BLM\_NV\_NVSO\_GWProjects

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**From:** John Weisheit <john.weisheit@gmail.com> on behalf of John Weisheit <john@livingrivers.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 11, 2011 7:06 AM  
**To:** BLM\_NV\_NVSO\_GWProjects  
**Cc:** John Weisheit  
**Subject:** Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project

October 11, 2011

Penny Woods  
Project Manager  
BLM Nevada Groundwater Projects Office  
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Reno, NV 89520  
Via fax: 775-861-6689  
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Dear Ms. Woods

Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper is a non-profit environmental protection organization based along the Colorado River in Moab, Utah. We have reviewed the draft EIS and are prepared to make the following comments:

**The EIS as presented should be terminated because the need and purpose is speculative.**

When this public process began in 2005, the state of the world economy was very different. However, long before the markets fell in 2008 independent economists warned the public that the economy as designed was not sustainable. Unfortunately, these warnings were ignored and when the fall finally did grip the world economy the solution embraced did not include any measures of real reform. Therefore, this designer economy remains illusionary and unsustainable, and the decades ahead will be austere.

It is not unreasonable to declare that the projected growth, as announced by Clark County, is also illusionary. It makes more sense to use what investment money is available to initiate water conservation and efficiency programs for southern Nevada. We strongly suggest that the Department of Interior take a position to terminate this EIS and encourage the Southern Nevada Water Authority to rethink and reevaluate its water needs for the future.

We strongly encourage SNWA to entirely abandon their plan to import water from distant aquifers in the Basin and Range, because it will harm people and sensitive ecosystems. The leadership of Southern Nevada needs to realize that its community has already exceeded the limits of water-based growth and should make appropriate and realistic adjustments in their strategic plan.

In fact, SNWA should embrace a leadership role to transform the entire Colorado River basin into a system of water resilience. Implementing expensive water augmentation infrastructure will only induce financial burdens and increase system vulnerability. It will also increase congestion, pollution, and encourage the excessive consumption of limited natural resources.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in this public process.

Sincerely yours,

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