

## **Comments - Ground Water Development Draft EIS**

**I would like to offer some comments based on my involvement with LADWP'S project to pump and export groundwater from the Owens Valley during the early 1980's.**

**My involvement began when I was appointed to serve as Alpine County's representative on an Inyo, Mono, Alpine, air pollution control board. I see many similarities between the two projects and the potential for disastrous negative impacts on local communities unless rigid groundwater pumping controls are incorporated into the project before pumping starts.**

**A comprehensive network of monitoring wells and computerized data collection must be installed well in advance of pumping to accurately determine the existing water table elevation and seasonal variations. Unless this is done in exacting detail, when over pumping begins to draw down the water table, cash strapped local communities can look forward to endless time consuming ,costly legal battles with an exporter who has enormous political and financial power.**

**While the lawyers argue, pumping continues and irreparable environmental damage occurs. Over pumping can drop the water table several feet a year. In a desert environment where rainfall is a few inches per year, it could take a decade or more to restore the water table to its pre existing condition. In the end when the water table falls around 6 feet all native grasses die. At 40 feet trees, bushes, and all other vegetation die, and you have the beginning of a wasteland like the Owens Valley. There must be inflexible regulations to stop over pumping when it occurs.**

**Local communities are entitled to generous payment for every acre foot of water exported from their area, to compensate for the loss of resources and potential for irreparable environmental damage. It should be remembered exported water is only one of an exporters water sources but it's the only one available to a local community.**

**Refer to the video "The Making of a Wasteland" for a detailed graphic presentation of environmental damage caused by over pumping in the Owens Valley.**

**Thank you for considering my comments.**

**Sincerely, Jerry Purdy, retired civil engineer**



# Written Comment Sheet



## Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comment Form

We want your comments! If you have any issues, concerns, or questions related to the Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project Draft EIS, please complete and submit this comment form. Detach this page from the newsletter, fold the comment sheet on the lines with the return address showing, tape it closed, affix postage, and mail. You may include additional pages. Please refer to the project website for the comment closing date. For your comments to be effective, the BLM suggests the following guidelines:

- Keep your comments focused on the proposed project and alternatives;
- Make your comments specific and actionable; and
- Remember that the EIS process is not a vote for or against the project; base your comments on the analysis, the data, the impacts or resources, etc.

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED SHEET.

*Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address or any other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.*

Name: GERALD PURDY Title: CITIZEN

Organization: NONE

Mailing address: 3141 PLATTE RIVER DRIVE

City, State, ZIP code: RENO NEVADA 89503

E-mail: jerry.purdy@sbcglobal.net Phone: 775-746-5329

**Thank you for your interest and participation!**

Mr. Gerald Purdy  
3141 Platte River Dr  
Reno, NV 89503

RENO NV 895

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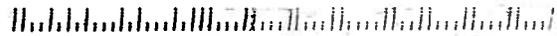
REC'D - BLM - NSO

JUN 01 2011

9:00 A.M.

Bureau of Land Management  
Groundwater Projects Office  
P.O. Box 12000  
Reno, NV 89520-0006

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**Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project Mailing List**

To have your name removed from our mailing list or to update your address information for this project, please check the appropriate box and complete the contact information section on page 7. If changes are needed, check the box below. If you do not ask us to remove your name from our mailing list, we will send you future EIS-related correspondence.

- Please remove my name from your mailing list
- Please correct/modify my contact information