October 10,2011

TO: Bureau of Land Management
Penny Woods, Project Manager
BLM Nevada State Office (NV-910-2)
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520-0006

REC'D - BLM - NSO
9:00 A.M. OCT 14 2011

From: Terry and Debbie Steadman
P.O. Box 117
Baker, NV 89311

RE: DEIS

Penny,

In response to the BLM DEIS, the Great Basin Business and Tourism Council OPPOSES the SNWA Ground Water Development Project and SUPPORTS the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE for the following reasons:

The BLM must select the "NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE" and DENY the ROW to fulfill its obligation to protect the public trust resources under its management. The NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE is the only one that conforms to the BLM's mission. "To sustain the health diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

Most of the impacts from the proposed action are deemed IRREVERSIBLE and IRRETRIEVABLE (Chapter 4, page 4-2, to 4-4)

There is substantial INCOMPLETE or UNAVAILABLE INFORMATION (See Chapter 3, pages 3-4,5)

The BLM's analysis shows the project would eventually destroy fishing in the area, and jeopardize hundreds of thousands of acres of winter and summer habitat for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, and sage grouse.

DEIS fails to disclose project costs and sources and cost of funding.

DEIS fails to adequately assess the purpose and need for project.

DEIS fails to analyze potential environmental effects due to climate change

All of the action alternatives will result in future efforts by SNWA to fill the 96 inch pipe with water from Snake Valley, the rest of White Pine County, Eureka County, Elko County and beyond.

DEIS fails to analyze environmental impacts of actual well locations for "distributed pumping"

Predicted massive land subsidence are of 5 ft. + is an unacceptable irreversible impact of unlawful groundwater mining.

DEIS projects unacceptable adverse impacts on hundreds of existing surface and groundwater rights.

DEIS doe not consider a sufficient range of alternatives.

DEIS provides inadequate analysis of socioeconomic impacts but still shows that impacts will put ranchers out of business and depopulate rural areas.

DEIS has inadequate, ineffective or missing mitigation measures.

DEIS inadequately analyzes impacts to sacred site, cultural resources of American Indian Tribes.

DEIS fails to take a hard look at indirect & cumulative impacts, including future local development.

Proposed action would lead to major loss of game species; extinction of rare plant & animal species.

DEIS provide insufficient information on impacts to Fish Springs NWR and Deep Creek Valley.

DEIS provides insufficient information on impacts to Steptoe Valley.

DEIS fails to adequately analyze adverse impacts on and mitigation for: ranching, wildlife habitat, local businesses, and wild horses.

DEIS provides insufficient justification for failing to study drawdowns of less than 10 feet and impacts only to 200 years after build-out when the SNWA Pipeline Project is intended to operate indefinitely.

In addition to the aforementioned, we request a 90 day extension on DEIS Comment Period (it took the BLM six years to prepare this document. The public deserves an adequate response time). Further, we demand a SUPPLEMENTAL EIS that addresses impacts from specific well locations, and request the BLM to delay decisions because of "unknowns" and "uncertainties".

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the BLM DEIS and look forward providing input on the final EIS.

Sincerely,

Terry Steadman
Debbie Steadman

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