

TO: BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

FROM: GENEVIEVE MCNEILL CEBE

DATE: JULY 16, 2011

RE: EIS COMMENTS FOR SNWA PIPELINE PLAN TO BRING WATER FROM CLARK, LINCOLN AND WHITE PINE COUNTIES TO SOUTHERN NEVADA

I am opposed to the SNWA pipeline plan for the following reasons:

I believe that the SNWA has been duplicitous in its public comments for many years. I felt incredulous when, years ago, they announced that they had no plan for how to accommodate future water needs in this valley. I reread the Las Vegas Review Journal article several times to see if I'd missed a caveat; I had not. How can an agency charged with this responsibility not have a plan? I believe they did, but they knew how unpopular it would be and so decided not to publish it until the time was more propitious.

I don't believe an agency spends tens of millions of dollars on studies, preliminary designs and legal work just for a safety net. Their intent is to build this project.

There is much about Southern Nevada hydrology that is not known. What has been most studied is the hydrology around Yucca Mountain. The hydrologists at the Yucca Mountain Project used to have difficulty finding enough knowledgeable hydrologists in this kind of hydrology to do peer reviews.

If we adversely affect those counties from which we are taking water, we cannot give it back. We cannot return their environments to their natural condition. It is irrelevant that we bought the land and the water rights. We are risking permanently wrecking their way of life because we will not alter our own.

If this valley insists on growing when all indications are that we cannot sustain life with the water we have; only when we take our natural consequences will we become realistic.

The only way we can continue to honorably sustain such a population in a desert is to desalinate water. If we are to build a high speed rail line from southern California to here, use the land appropriated and the EIS process to build a water pipeline on the land beside the rail lines to bring desalinated water here. Yes it is very expensive but then that is the kind of realistic natural consequence that developers need to curb their plans.

According to current projections, ocean levels are rising and will continue to rise. There will be plenty of water for desalinization. We may even be helping other areas by doing so.

To take water from rural Nevada is a kind of cowardly, bullying thing that rich, bigger entities do to smaller, poorer entities. It shows no caring for the environments and life styles of rural Nevadans. It sickens me. Moreover, where will we stop? By what mechanism will we stop?